

SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND GREAT BRITAIN

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Abstract. This article analyzes the stages and priorities of the development of security, political, economic and international cooperation relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom. In particular, the issues of ensuring security, combating terrorism, strengthening regional stability, expanding economic and diplomatic ties between the two countries are highlighted. Also, the importance and prospects of cooperation in the context of modern global threats are analyzed on a scientific basis.

Keywords: international cooperation, security, diplomacy, combating terrorism, regional stability, economic relations, strategic partnership.

In today's globalization, cooperation between states is not limited only to economic interests, but also becomes a complex system that includes security, political stability and strategic interests. The increasing complexity of international relations, the intensification of new types of threats - in particular, terrorism, extremism, cybercrime - are encouraging states to cooperate closely and effectively. From this perspective, relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom are of great importance not only in terms of bilateral interests, but also in terms of ensuring regional and global security.

After gaining independence, Uzbekistan began to conduct its foreign policy based on the principles of openness, mutual benefit and pragmatism. As a result, cooperative relations were established with leading countries of the world. In particular, relations with the United Kingdom have developed consistently in a short

period of time. The establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992 created a solid foundation for political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries. The United Kingdom was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Uzbekistan, which contributed to the early formation of mutual trust and cooperation.

Today, relations between Tashkent and London are developing further through regular political consultations, high-level meetings and joint projects in various fields. In particular, in recent years, Uzbekistan's openness in foreign policy and its reform-oriented strategy have brought cooperation with the UK to a new level. This has strengthened trust between the two countries and created a favorable environment for the formation of a long-term strategic partnership. The security sector is one of the most important and priority areas of bilateral cooperation. The global nature of modern threats requires countries to act together. In this regard, the fight against terrorism and extremism stands out as one of the main areas of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the UK. Today, terrorism has become a factor that threatens the security of not only individual states, but also the entire international community. Therefore, the role of international cooperation in combating this threat is invaluable.

The UK has extensive experience in this area and is actively cooperating with Uzbekistan in developing security systems, exchanging intelligence and training specialists. This will strengthen Uzbekistan's national security system and expand its capabilities to effectively combat modern threats. Uzbekistan, in turn, plays an important role in ensuring peace and stability in Central Asia. The policy pursued in the region to maintain security, protect borders and prevent the spread of radical ideas is highly appreciated by international partners [1].

Also, in the current era of rapid development of digital technologies, the issue of cybersecurity is gaining urgent importance. Along with the widespread use of the Internet and information technologies, cyberattacks, data theft and other digital threats are also increasing. Therefore, Uzbekistan and the UK are consistently expanding cooperation in this area.

As a country with advanced technologies and developed cybersecurity systems, the UK provides technical and methodological assistance to Uzbekistan. Within the framework of this cooperation, work is being carried out to protect information systems, ensure the security of public and private sector infrastructure, as well as exchange experiences in combating cybercrime. As a result, the level of digital security in Uzbekistan is increasing and the stability of the national information space is being ensured. Cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom is emerging as a mutually beneficial and strategically important relationship in today's era of globalization. In particular, cooperation in the security sector is further strengthening ties between the two countries and ensuring regional and global stability. In the future, further expanding this cooperation, developing new areas, and deepening mutual exchange of experience will remain an important task for both sides.

Cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom is developing consistently not only in political and economic areas, but also in the military and defense sectors. Relations in this area are mainly carried out through joint trainings and seminars aimed at exchanging mutual experience, training military specialists, and improving modern knowledge and skills. This cooperation, while strengthening trust between the two countries, serves to further improve security systems.

The United Kingdom, based on its advanced military experience and advanced technologies, provides advice and practical assistance to the modernization of the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan, increasing their level of professional training and increasing their adaptability to modern security threats. In particular, cooperation in the areas of improving military command systems, strengthening strategic planning and developing the military education system is of great importance in strengthening Uzbekistan's defense potential. As a result, the country's national security system is gaining the opportunity to operate more stably and effectively.

Regional and global security issues are also one of the important areas of cooperation between the two countries. Due to its geographical location, Uzbekistan is a strategically important country in Central Asia and plays an active role in ensuring

peace and stability in the region. The United Kingdom, on the other hand, participates as one of the leading countries in initiatives aimed at ensuring security, resolving conflicts and strengthening peace in the international arena. Therefore, the interests of the two countries in this area are largely common.

In particular, the situation in Afghanistan occupies a special place in the cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom. Political and social instability in this country can directly affect the security of Central Asia. Therefore, the two countries are developing cooperation in ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan, supporting economic recovery processes, and providing humanitarian assistance. This serves not only to ensure regional, but also global security.

Economic cooperation is also one of the important factors in strengthening security. After all, in countries with a high level of economic stability and development, social problems decrease, which, in turn, has a positive impact on security. Trade and economic relations between Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom have been expanding significantly in recent years. The United Kingdom is one of the important partners investing in the economy of Uzbekistan.

Joint projects implemented in priority areas such as energy, finance, infrastructure and education, while strengthening mutual trust between the two countries, serve to ensure long-term sustainable development. In particular, cooperation in the field of energy, the introduction of modern technologies, improving the financial system and developing infrastructure helps to increase the country's economic potential. This, in turn, has a direct positive impact on ensuring internal and external security.

Educational and cultural cooperation is also an important component of relations between the two countries. The UK higher education system occupies one of the highest positions in the world and creates wide opportunities for Uzbek students. Through various scholarship programs, academic exchange projects and joint educational programs, Uzbek youth have the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience at the international level.

In addition, cooperation in the field of scientific research is also expanding. Joint scientific projects, conferences and innovative research are strengthening ties between scientists of the two countries and creating the basis for the creation of new knowledge and technologies. This serves not only the development of the education system, but also the formation of an innovative economy [3].

Cultural cooperation plays an important role in strengthening mutual respect, understanding and trust between peoples. Through various cultural events, art festivals, exhibitions and creative exchanges, the two peoples are getting to know each other's rich cultural heritage. This creates a solid social foundation for long-term cooperation.

Cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom is not limited to bilateral relations, but is also consistently developing within international organizations. In today's globalization, many problems go beyond national borders, so multilateral cooperation is of particular importance in solving them. In this regard, mutual cooperation between the two countries within international institutions plays an important role in ensuring global stability.

In particular, Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom have been actively cooperating within the framework of the United Nations. This organization is an important platform for implementing priority tasks such as strengthening global security, maintaining international peace, protecting human rights and ensuring sustainable development. The two countries are strengthening their cooperation by supporting various resolutions within the UN, participating in peacekeeping initiatives and forming a common position on pressing global issues. Cooperation within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is also of particular importance. This organization operates in the areas of security, democracy, the rule of law and ensuring human rights. Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom have been cooperating through this platform on issues such as improving electoral processes, developing civil society and exchanging experience in the security sector. This clearly demonstrates the aspirations of the two countries to strengthen democratic institutions and build an open society.

In addition, the two countries are developing their relations within other international and regional institutions. It is worth noting that this cooperation is yielding significant results in addressing global challenges such as poverty reduction, addressing environmental issues, developing the healthcare system, and improving the quality of education. In particular, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom are achieving effective results through the exchange of experience, the introduction of innovative approaches, and the implementation of joint projects.

In the modern era, the factors threatening international security are becoming increasingly complex and their scope is expanding. Along with traditional threats, new types of threats - cybercrime, transnational crime, illegal migration, climate change, and environmental problems - are also seriously affecting global security. This requires closer, systematic, and long-term cooperation between states. Cybercrime is recognized as one of the fastest growing threats today. With the widespread introduction of digital technologies, the number of illegal access to information systems, data theft and cyberattacks is increasing. Therefore, Uzbekistan and the UK need to strengthen cooperation in ensuring cybersecurity, introducing modern protection systems and training specialists. The UK's advanced experience in this area is of great importance for Uzbekistan, and the prospects for cooperation in this area are broad.

Cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom within international organizations and joint efforts to combat modern threats serve to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries. In the future, further deepening this cooperation, developing new areas and actively participating in solving global problems will remain a priority for both sides. This will have a positive impact not only on the interests of the two countries, but also on the security of the entire region and the world [5].

In conclusion, security and international cooperation between Uzbekistan and the UK is multifaceted and of strategic importance. Cooperation between the two

countries serves not only bilateral interests, but also regional and global stability. The fight against terrorism, cybersecurity, economic relations and cooperation in the field of education are the main areas of these relations. Further development of this cooperation in the future will be in the interests of both countries and will serve to strengthen global security.

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