

A NEW APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF AFGHANISTAN

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**Annotation:** The scientific article provides information about the benefits of maintaining a peaceful and stable situation in Afghanistan for the region and everyone's equal responsibility for it.

**Key words:** Taliban, United Nations, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, United States of America

Our country has always been a supporter of stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan, establishing and strengthening good neighborly relations. In recent years, it has been recognized in international circles that Uzbekistan is showing its position based on a completely different approach in relations with the neighboring country and that bilateral cooperation is developing based on new views.

Uzbekistan's position on Afghanistan is gaining the attention of the world community as it is based on peacekeeping, aimed at resolving all issues within the country through consistent dialogue, as well as improving the daily living conditions of the Afghan people. Over the years, the fact that our country has been putting forward promising proposals and initiatives for Afghanistan in the activities of several international and regional organizations, starting with the United Nations Organization, and taking practical steps in their immediate implementation, has been in the attention of everyone.

The unique aspects of Uzbekistan's new vision and approach to relations with Afghanistan are reflected in a number of factors. Firstly, the issue of Afghanistan has become the main topic in the international relations of our country. In particular, in the last five years, Uzbekistan has been discussing cooperation with neighboring countries at all meetings, forums and meetings of leading international and regional organizations.

In this regard, it is worth noting the opinions, suggestions and initiatives expressed by the President three times at the meeting of the UN General Assemblies, five times at the summits of the leaders of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as well as at the consultative meetings of the leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Economic Cooperation Organization, and the Central Asian countries. At the same time, the fact that separate international level conferences and meetings on the topic of Afghanistan are being organized and held at a high level on the initiative of Uzbekistan should be evaluated as a result of the significant efforts of Uzbek diplomacy in the direction of Afghanistan. The high-level

international conference on Afghanistan "Peace process, security cooperation and regional partnership" held in Tashkent on March 26-27, 2018, and the "Central and South Asia: Regional Conference" held in Tashkent on July 15-16, 2021 interdependence. The international conference on "Threats and opportunities" is one of them. The Uzbek side shows its commitment to deepening relations with regional countries, partner countries and Afghanistan in all priority areas and to continue cooperation in the implementation of large infrastructural projects aimed at improving the living standards of the Afghan people. This is in the interest of all parties involved and will be an important foundation for the future development of the entire region.

At the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, the head of state put forward a proposal to build a new "Mazari Sharif - Kabul - Peshawar" railway from the city of Mazari Sharif to the ports of the Indian Ocean in order to ensure stable development of Afghanistan and integrate the country into regional economic processes. This initiative of the President was recognized as a new and internationally interesting project. The construction of this strategic railway leading to international seaports through the territory of Pakistan will greatly contribute to the overall development of Uzbekistan and Pakistan, as well as many countries in the Central and South Asian region. Therefore, this initiative was supported at the international level, and at the same time, practical efforts are being made to implement this large-scale project.

The "Taliban" movement, which came to power in Afghanistan in August 2021, announced that it wants to continue close neighborly relations and previous cooperative relations with all countries in the region, including Uzbekistan. This showed that the Taliban are not indifferent to the regional processes, and that they are friendly to mutual cooperation and relations. It is noteworthy that mutual relations between the Uzbek side and the "Taliban" movement are being conducted in a new context and scale. Over the past year, several meetings and dialogues have been held at the level of the governments and ministries of both sides, which shows the interest of the parties in continuing mutual cooperation. It should be noted that Uzbekistan was one of the first countries to promote relations with the Taliban after they came to power in front of the world community.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev said today that a new reality has formed in Afghanistan and that the Taliban have come to power is a fact that has been fulfilled. In this regard, the President of Uzbekistan mentioned the importance of developing a unified approach to the situation in Afghanistan. The importance of following the following basic principles in interactions with the new Afghan government was emphasized:

- to ensure broad participation of all layers of Afghan society in state administration;
- preventing Afghanistan from becoming a source of threats of terrorism and drug business;

- ensuring the rights of women and ethnic minorities.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized that it is necessary to continue social and economic assistance to Afghanistan, as well as consider the removal of restrictions on state assets located in foreign banks. put forward the initiative to hold regular high-level meetings within the framework of the SCO for the purpose of discussion and proposed to organize its first meeting in Tashkent. and we can see that it is based on understanding.

The peace that was lost as a result of the colonial policy of the authoritarian Soviet system in the hard-working Afghan country has not been restored for more than 40 years. Geographically, the northern part of the territory of Afghanistan is located in Central Asia, and the rest is located in the south of Asia, that is, it is a country between two subregions. But until now, Afghanistan and the Afghan conflict have not been a bridge connecting these two sub-regions, on the contrary, it has served as a gap, a huge barrier, separating them from each other.

In this regard, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his initiative, proposes to look at the Afghan issue from a completely different point of view, that is, it is necessary to turn this geographical situation of Afghanistan into its geopolitical and geoeconomic advantage. This, in turn, sets the task of resolving the Afghan conflict as soon as possible. If this goal is achieved, the Afghan land will get rid of the terrible status of a territory that poses a danger to everyone, and will become an important bridge that will closely connect the Central and South Asian subregions and ensure unity between them.

If the plan proposed by Shavkat Mirziyoyev is implemented, the door of unprecedented opportunities will be opened in terms of achieving stable peace, getting rid of poverty and economic and social growth in the area where nearly 2 billion people live, a completely different geopolitical situation and positive prospects. Therefore, Uzbekistan can never remain indifferent to the processes taking place in Afghanistan. Especially recently, the events observed in the life of this fragile country, military operations, and the situation at the borders call for vigilance not only in other countries of the region. In many ways, this is directly related to the future actions of the Taliban movement.

In February 2020, negotiations between the USA and the Taliban were held in Doha, Qatar, and the Peace Treaty was signed. The Americans made a condition for the Taliban to cease cooperation with Al-Qaeda and other similar extremist groups, stop fighting and start peaceful negotiations with the Afghan government. In addition, the Taliban is expected to enter into peace talks with the official government in Kabul and other Afghan political forces, and together with them, start the process of reconciliation in the country and consider the issues of forming a coalition government.

In turn, the Taliban asked the United States for international recognition of the Taliban movement, the withdrawal of US troops from the country by May 1, 2021 (but

this has been postponed - the new deadline is September 2021), and several thousand people held in official government prisons of the Taliban. they set basic conditions such as releasing their members. If peace is established in Afghanistan, first of all, the way to the south will be opened for Uzbekistan and other neighboring countries, that is, for them direct access to the markets of Pakistan, India and the Middle East through new trade routes. an opportunity to penetrate properly appears.

From this point of view, the Mazari-Sharif-Kabul-Peshowar railway construction project, promoted by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and widely supported by the world community, will fundamentally change the economic and social image of the Central and South Asian regions and will have an unprecedented impact on their development. can lead to enormous positive results in unprecedented ways.

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