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OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN THE ACTIVITIES OF SHANKHAY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION: INITIATIVES AND PROSPECTS

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Abstract

Analyzes the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the institutional legal basis of its organization, the participation of Uzbekistan in the framework of the organization, its initiatives, and the prospects expected from it. Scientific research of the SCO and prediction of its future are gaining urgent importance in today's rapidly changing system of international relations. Factors such as expansion of the organization's geopolitical map due to the increase in the number of members, as well as a high level of economic potential, open wide opportunities for the developing countries of the SCO. From this point of view, Uzbekistan, which is considered a full member, is promoting many initiatives and gaining opportunities to make the most of such opportunities. depend on the effectiveness of such initiatives and proposals. During the analysis, we discuss Uzbekistan's participation in the organization, its economic goals and geopolitical strategies.

Keywords SCO, Qingdao Summit, geopolitics, strategy, one space, one road, green belt, Afghanistan, Iran, India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, East-West, North-South, geographical o Transport and logistics.

INTRODUCTION

As one of the founding countries of the SCO, Uzbekistan is interested in fully revealing its potential by increasing practical cooperation in promising directions that meet the vital interests of all participating countries.

The main reason for Uzbekistan's joining this organization was the ongoing civil war in the region bordering Afghanistan, the turbulent situation in Tajikistan, and the expansion of the territory of subversive activities of various terrorist groups covering almost all countries. In addition, the Republic's desire to expand and develop full-fledged trade and economic relations with the Central Asian countries and the Eurasian continent in order to develop its economy served

as the main motive for this . To date, investment, tourism and trade-economic cooperation within the SCO have a positive effect on the development of the economy of Uzbekistan .

With the election of Shavkat Mirziyoyev as the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in December 2016, fundamental changes took place in the country's foreign policy. First of all, the direction of Uzbek diplomacy towards Central Asia has undergone positive changes.

President Sh. M. Mirziyoyev identified Central Asia as the main priority of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Stability, cooperation, strengthening of good neighborliness and positive resolution of existing disputes with neighboring countries have become the main goals of the new regional direction of Tashkent .

The main part

Uzbekistan's foreign policy are reflected in its multilateral diplomacy. In the following years, Tashkent significantly strengthened its participation in international and regional structures. Undoubtedly, this trend also applies to the SCO. In this regard, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in January 2020 in his Address to the Parliament of Uzbekistan stated as follows "..... Development of relations with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will remain an important direction of Uzbekistan's foreign policy.

of Tashkent within the framework of the Organization in recent years, we can highlight the following new features.

First, for Uzbekistan , the SCO should remain an important multilateral platform for ensuring stability and broad cooperation in Central Asia. Tashkent expresses confidence that Central Asia should remain the "geographical axis " of the SCO despite the expansion of the Organization at the expense of India and Pakistan in 2017 .

Also, Uzbekistan 's regional attention can be clearly seen in the desire of the SCO to strengthen the attention of the SCO on the issue of Afghanistan in the context of the more active participation of the IRA in the regional processes . That is, the "regionalism" in his pragmatic foreign policy is clearly expressed in his updated "SCO course" .

Secondly, constructivism has significantly increased in Tashkent's approaches to the SCO. Undoubtedly, a change to thematic areas from which the country previously distanced itself. Thus, recently the representatives of the republic have been fully participating in the joint anti-terrorist and military exercises of the SCO. In particular, on June 27, 2007, Uzbekistan signed the agreement of August 28, 2008 "On the procedure for organizing and conducting joint anti-terrorism training exercises of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization" and the agreement "On conducting joint military exercises of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization" added.

Thirdly, initiative and pragmatism are becoming bright elements of Uzbekistan's multilateral

diplomacy, including within the SCO. The proposals put forward by Tashkent on expanding multilateral cooperation that meet the national interests of our country are in line with the priorities of strengthening stability and cooperation in the region .

Uzbekistan has taken the initiative to launch new cooperation platforms within the SCO, including the SCO Public Diplomacy Center in Tashkent, the meeting mechanism of the heads of railway administrations, the Silk Road International Tourism Institute in Samarkand, and others. .

In general, during the last six years, the Uzbek side has put forward more than 40 initiatives. This is a very serious and important indicator .

Fourthly , Uzbekistan supports the effective use of the great potential of multilateral cooperation at its disposal, recognizing many achievements in the development of the Organization.

Uzbekistan, the construction of a trans-Afghan railway that will pass through Afghanistan and connect Central Asia and China with Iran and Pakistan will be of great interest to Uzbekistan. The concept of mutual cooperation of the railway administrations of the SCO member states in the field of railway transport, presented two years ago, occupies an important place in the field of trade and economic relations. It is noteworthy that this document was prepared at the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The document provides for the improvement of the efficiency of the use of existing railway lines and the construction of new ones, as well as the further increase of the volume of mutual and transit cargo transportation .

In this regard, it is envisaged that the " Uzbekistan -Kyrgyzstan-China" railway will become an important link of the regional transport network within the framework of the "East-West" project. The "North-South" project allows all the geographically closed countries of Central Asia to access the ports of Europe, East and South-East Asia, the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea. According to experts, transportation of at least 5 million tons per year can fully cover the costs of its construction .

place in the context of growing conflicts, threats and dangers in the world . Therefore, Tashkent is already preparing to implement the most important topic of SCO development - ensuring security and stability in its space . This direction is of particular importance in the activity of the organization .

At the same time, it should be noted that there is no obligation on joint defense in the SCO Charter. The organization has absolutely no attributes of a military bloc, and accordingly , its organizational structure does not include command or coordination structures in the field of defense. The main thing here is the collective political will of its participants, the ability of the presiding state to focus the attention of the SCO member states on what is most relevant today .

Tashkent has proven that it can do it, paying attention to the successes of Uzbek diplomacy in the direction of Afghanistan is a clear proof of this. Shavkat Mirziyoyev was one of the first on the international stage to put forward the formula "establishment of peace in Afghanistan is possible through the creative activities of the Afghan society with international support." Tashkent was one of the first to offer serious joint economic and cultural projects to the warring parties.

Kabul , the government is undergoing a difficult process of formation of a new government, many things have not yet been resolved, the situation is difficult, but the interest in Uzbekistan's economic proposals has not disappeared anywhere. As Kabul recently stated, firstly, it is interested in the construction of a power grid from Surkhan in Uzbekistan to Puli-Khumri in Afghanistan. It is known that the main production of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan depends on the supply of electricity from Uzbekistan . From this point of view, it is clear that the Surkhan-Puli-Khumri power transmission line project is beneficial for Uzbekistan. The 200-kilometer-long line, worth about 110 million dollars , aims to increase the export of electricity from Uzbekistan by 70% . Secondly, the continuation of the railway from Tashkent to the city of Termiz bordering Uzbekistan is planned to be extended to Pakistan's Peshawar through Afghanistan's Mazari Sharif and

Kabul. The appearance of such a railway means that the Central Asian countries will reach Pakistan and the Indian Ocean. This strategic project is considered by Tashkent as the main element of its concept of strengthening interregional interconnection between Central and South Asia.

If we add to these projects what China and other SCO members offer to Afghanistan, it becomes clear that in the near future the main problem and security threat in Central Asia will be seriously reduced, if not completely eliminated .

In particular, Tashkent paid special attention to its importance through internal trade. Elimination of trade barriers , convergence of technical regulations, digitization of customs procedures, adoption of the SCO industrial cooperation program, development of transport links - all this will allow full use of transit potential and increase the efficiency of cooperation. East- West and North-South transport corridor system. This is strategic in the current geo-economic environment.

DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis of Uzbekistan's participation in the SCO, we can draw the following conclusions . Being a member of the SCO , the Republic is fighting against various threats, terrorism, religious extremism and separatism arising from conflict points, using the opportunities of this organization and its members. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, with the participation of Uzbekistan , is trying to find possible ways to solve the problem of Afghanistan.

connecting different types of transport , modernization of existing networks and road structures, harmonizing and unifying processes of standards in the field of transport, as well as phytosanitary rules, should be the focus of the SCO member states. are fields. The program for the development of environmental well-being of the cities of the SCO member states, which provides for the creation of a platform for the exchange of experience and technologies and the improvement of the environment in cities, became an important addition to this project .

In order to determine the main goals and tasks of the new consultative-expert mechanism - the SCO

Consortium of Economic Analysis Centers, the government leaders plan to approve its Charter. The consortium is engaged in establishing mutual cooperation on economic issues between research institutions and analytical centers of the SCO countries. The initiatives and ideas put forward by the leaders of the member states at the summits of the SCO are aimed at stimulating the multilateral cooperation of the member countries of the organization and serve as an indicator of the growing dynamics and the opening of new directions of cooperation or the improvement of the existing mechanisms of cooperation.

During the SCO Bishkek summit, along with other heads of state, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev put forward a number of relevant initiatives, some of which include the development and adoption of the following projects:

Cooperation strategies of the SCO member states on the development of interdependence, effective economic and transport corridors;

- the concept of mutual cooperation of the SCO member states in the field of introducing "smart" agriculture and agro-innovations;

- Green belt program of the SCO in order to widely introduce modern resource-saving and environmentally friendly technologies in the countries of the organization;

on issues of cyber security.

In addition, Sh. Mirziyoyev proposed the following at the Summit: launch the mechanism of regular meetings of the heads of the departments responsible for the development of information technologies of the SCO member countries; Establishing the practice of holding the Economic Forum every year in the territory of the SCO chairman state with the proposal to organize the first such forum in the city of Samarkand in 2022; Within the framework of the SCO, proposals were put forward, such as the introduction of the practice of declaring one of the cities of the member states that preside over the SCO as the "tourist and cultural capital of the SCO" every year.

All these initiatives were put forward in order to further develop multilateral trade and economic relations and are aimed at solving the current

problems of expanding the horizons of multilateral cooperation in the space of the organization.

It is known that currently, in order to implement the initiatives announced by the head of Uzbekistan, expert groups have been established in the relevant ministries and agencies of the republic, and they are actively working, they are preparing specific program documents that provide for appropriate measures. Cooperation in the field of transport and communication is getting stronger in the context of the implementation of the large-scale initiative of the official Beijing "One Belt, One Road", which aims to unite the efforts of the countries of the three continents. Combining the "One Belt, One Road" initiative with the national economic development strategies of the SCO countries will open wide opportunities for direct access to seaports and turning the region into a crossroads from East to West and from North to South.

The new stage of the new development of Uzbekistan, which began in 2017, had a positive effect on the development of cultural relations within the SCO and the growth of its organization. The legal basis for this is the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On State Support Measures for the Establishment of the People's Diplomacy Center of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan" which defined the center's tasks and activities. In particular, issues of cultural cooperation are defined among them.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his speech at the nineteenth meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held on June 13 in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, put forward the idea of developing the "SCO development concept". The first criterion for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation within the SCO President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev is the economy, the second is ecology, the third is the information sector, the fourth is humanitarian cooperation, and finally, the fifth is security.

It is known that the tourism industry is an integral part of cultural life and this industry. Another important conceptual initiative put forward by the President of Uzbekistan was the issue of humanitarian cooperation within the SCO. This is

the implementation of various programs in the field of tourism and culture, as well as wider use of the opportunities of "people's diplomacy".

of Uzbekistan proposed to establish another good tradition. This is an initiative to annually declare one of the cities of the country presiding over the Organization as the "Tourism and Culture Capital of the SCO". As the President noted, "it is important to popularize the historical and cultural heritage of the cities and districts of the SCO member states, to fully demonstrate their tourist potential ."

This initiated the initiatives of the President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev on cultural cooperation, which has become one of the main directions of relations between the member countries . Because the deepening of relations between peoples and peoples with different cultures and arts in this vast region , especially in the field of tourism, creates the ground for the development of these countries.

between SCO member states were created in a historically short period of time . Based on them, cultural relations within the SCO have turned from episodic events into a traditional and integral part of cooperation.

Sh. M. Mirzeev put forward the following promising initiatives at the summit dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Dushanbe:

- Continue efforts to further strengthen the SCO's capacity and influence. Preparation of a comprehensive program for the implementation of the agreement on long-term good neighborliness , friendship and cooperation for the next five years.

- Developing a joint action plan for the development of SCO interregional trade. According to him, it is necessary to introduce joint measures to eliminate trade barriers, approximate technical regulations, digitize customs procedures, and facilitate mutual access to markets.

- Adoption of the SCO industrial cooperation program.

In this initiative, the establishment of Industrial Cooperation Centers in our countries will become a practical mechanism for its implementation.

Next year, Uzbekistan will hold the week of industrial innovations of the Economic Forum and

the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

- Adoption of the SCO strategy for the development of transport links will allow full use of the transit potential of these countries and increase the efficiency of the East-West and North-South corridor system .

- An initiative to jointly prepare a long-term program of infrastructure development in the SCO space, which includes cross-border projects in the fields of energy, communications, "green" development .

- poverty alleviation and food security issues. Launching a mechanism of regular ministerial meetings and expert consultations in these areas.

- improvement of security threats and mechanisms for combating threats, including the implementation of the Resolution on the full use of the potential of the SCO MATT, and activation of efforts to ensure peace and stability in the SCO territory. According to him , the initiatives reflected in this document will strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime, as well as cyber security.

Revival of the meeting of the ministers of internal affairs and public security of our countries .

establishment of the SCO Expert Forum in the field of information security, which will allow for the development of agreed measures to adequately respond to modern threats and threats in cyberspace .

- Establishing the SCO Goodwill Ambassador Institute. This initiative accelerates the development of multifaceted cooperation between the regions of the SCO member states, the holding of joint cultural, scientific, educational, sports and other events.

- Preparation of an intergovernmental agreement on tourism cooperation between our countries.

adoption of the "Roadmap" for cooperation on prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, rehabilitation after COVID, mutual recognition of vaccination certificates .

Uzbekistan intends to actively involve observers

and dialogue partners in cooperation projects within the SCO. Sh. M. Mirziyoyev emphasized that we welcome today's decision to start the process of accepting the Islamic Republic of Iran as a member of the SCO, to grant dialogue status to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Qatar. partners .

fill the activities of Shanghai G8 with new content , to expand its agenda through promising directions such as the creation of interregional transport-transit corridors, innovative and digital development, the search for new points of economic growth, and the strengthening of cooperation.

puts issues related to the development of science, culture and education in one of the main places. The SCO has all the opportunities to become a modern international leader in the formation of a new humanitarian environment in its space based on the principles of "prosperity in unity" based on deep scientific principles .

One thing should be understood - Tashkent is not just throwing away ideas . It's very simple, ask anyone - everyone will vote for the principle "for all good against all evil". Uzbekistan describes each of its proposals in detail: we must do this - we will get this as a product. Uzbek diplomacy is very unique, it explains its advantages to everyone, that is why it is becoming more and more popular and in demand in our unstable times. Uzbekistan is interested and ready to make a constructive contribution to the formation of a new agenda in order to increase the practical importance and international influence of the SCO .

Documents signed at the end of the Samarkand summit:

- Memorandum on obligations of Iran to obtain the status of a member state of the SCO.
- Agreement on cooperation in the field of tourism between the governments of SCO member states.
- Infrastructural development program of SCO countries.
- SCO program for development of digital literacy.

- Memorandum between the secretariats of the SCO and the League of Arab States.
- A memorandum of understanding and other documents were signed between the Secretariat of the SCO and the United Nations (UNESCO) on Education, Science and Culture.

From the above analysis, we can conclude that Uzbekistan's new foreign policy strategy for the last five years is clearly reflected in the activities of the SCO. Within the framework of the organization, our country is putting forward many relevant initiatives and proposals that serve to increase its prestige in the international arena, which correspond to the priority directions of socio-economic development , and is actively serving to enrich the existing agenda.

It can be said that the strategy implemented in the SCO space under the leadership of Shavkat Mirziyoyev is based on the basic principles of constructiveness, pragmatism and initiative.

Firstly, in the last five years, the attitude of our country towards this Organization has changed constructively. Official Tashkent actively participates in cooperation processes in all directions of the SCO. For example, until 2017, representatives of the republic did not fully participate in some activities of the Organization in the field of security, in particular, in joint military and anti-terrorist training exercises, as well as in some cultural and educational programs. At the moment, our country not only influences the development of various directions within the structure , but also fully supports the proposals that meet the common current interests put forward by other SCO member states.

It can be said that with its activities, Uzbekistan is contributing to the implementation of the principles of solidarity in accordance with the "Shanghai Spirit", which is the basis of the SCO.

"If each of us is strong, the SCO will be strong" - this statement of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the 2020 summit of the SCO fully reveals the essence of our country's constructive approach to work within this structure.

Secondly, foreign policy pragmatism expressed in multilateral diplomatic platforms also applies to

Uzbekistan's participation in the SCO . The initiatives put forward by the republic reflect the national interests and the priority directions of our country's development, and fully correspond to the main tasks aimed at the sustainable development of the region . Therefore, these initiatives are widely supported by all members of the Organization .

Thirdly, recently, Uzbekistan has become one of the most enterprising members of the SCO. This can be called the result of the above-mentioned strategy based on constructivism and pragmatism. That is, the desire to strengthen the activities of the Organization in important directions, to enrich the agenda through new topical directions, is clearly manifested in the clear and large-scale initiatives promoted by our country.

seen from the analysis , in 2017-2021, the head of our state put forward about 50 important and relevant initiatives at the SCO summits. This is a very high rate . Most importantly, these proposals are consistently implemented in the form of " roadmaps ", regulatory, political and conceptual documents, as well as a new mechanism of cooperation.

CONCLUSIONS

During its twenty-year development, the SCO became an integral part of world political processes and was even recognized as an alternative to NATO. The Samarkand summit of 2022 opened a wide way for the development of this approach. The following conclusions were reached after studying the activities and perspectives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in this graduation thesis:

First, the study of non-state actors of international relations gained momentum in the second half of the 20th century and their classification was formed: intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, transnational corporations and other social forces operating in the international arena. International organizations that are considered non-state actors are distinguished from other actors by three main characteristics:

- constituent documents are recorded, political

aspiration for cooperation;

- the existence of a permanent apparatus that ensures the sequence of succession in the development of the organization;

- independence of authority and decisions.

Secondly, The SCO is an international intergovernmental organization established on June 15, 2001. It has great potential. Currently, eight countries are members of the organization, two of which are two permanent members of the UN Security Council - Russia and China. Four member states have nuclear capabilities - Russia, China, India and Pakistan. This is directly important for the economic and social development and security system of the Central Asian countries.

Thirdly the influence and importance of any international organization is determined by the attention given to it in the world and the effectiveness of its activities. The SCO has become an influential international organization in a relatively short time. It should be noted that, including the observer countries, the SCO unites half of the world's population. This increases its potential in its main areas of activity - development of economic cooperation and strengthening of regional security. Particular emphasis is placed on these two priorities. After all, the main goal of the organization is to develop cooperation through security and achieve common development.

Fourthly, the main achievement of the SCO in ensuring regional security and stability is the fight against terrorism, extremism and separatism. Analyzing the activities of the SCO in the fight against international terrorism so far, the following specific aspects and achievements can be observed: 1) a single agreement between the member states in the fight against international terrorism - the Shanghai Convention - has been developed. 2) Establishment of the Regional Anti-terrorist Organization (MATT-RATS) in the city of Tashkent as a permanent body within the framework of the SCO.

Fifthly, Today, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is the world's largest intergovernmental organization in terms of its

political, economic and military potential. The SCO Samarkand Summit, held on September 14-15, 2022, became the first meeting of heads of state and government of nine member states. Its geopolitical importance has been shown in the following: a) SCO has further increased its potential and expanded its geographical influence. b) For the first time in the history of the organization, countries with nuclear potential and at the same time rivals - India and Pakistan - officially participated as full members; s) China-India-Pakistan cooperation axis, whose historical and economic interests are not always compatible, was formed; d) a new format of China-India-Russia axis was formed; e) Within the framework of the SCO, a violation of harmony in economic matters began to be observed. In particular, it became clear that China's huge economic initiative - the "One Place One Road" megaproject will not be warmly welcomed by India.

Sixthly, The SCO organization is being formed as a non-Western global governance institution and is becoming a new paradigm of international relations. On September 14-15, 2022, at the summit held under the chairmanship of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the development of political, trade-economic and humanitarian cooperation between the SCO member states, terrorism, religious extremism, narcotics and weapons issues of joint fight against arms smuggling, strengthening of regional security and stability were widely discussed

From the seventh, Uzbekistan regularly actively participates in the SCO summits and promotes initiatives considered relevant for Central Asia. In particular, Uzbekistan's 4-time chairmanship of the SCO was of great importance in the development of the organization. At the Samarkand summit held on September 14-15, 2022, the President of Uzbekistan put forward five main proposals and initiatives for the future development of the organization. Initiatives that clearly stand out are youth issues, economic, transport-transit, innovative projects and tourism issues.

Eighthly, The importance of the SCO for the states of the region in terms of the formation of a new balance of power in Central Asia and the provision

of the geostrategic interests of the leading countries in the region can be assessed as follows:

- the states of the region joined the SCO framework in order to maintain the balance in their domestic and foreign policies;
- wider use of the potential of the leading member states to fight against global threats, eliminate the danger of religious extremism and terrorism, fight against organized crime and drug trafficking, and expand opportunities for economic development;
- The difference between the SCO and the CIS is the presence of China, which balances against Russia, which strives to keep the countries of the region within its sphere of influence;
- The interests of the member states in ensuring stability in Afghanistan can be listed.

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