



**THE ROLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN DEVELOPING COOPERATION
WITH COUNTRIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
INDEPENDENT STATES IN THE XXI CENTURY**

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Abstract

The acquisition of state independence by the Republic of Uzbekistan necessitated the development of an independent foreign policy activity of the state and its integration into the system of world politics. One of the directions of this process is the development of direct and multilateral relations with the countries that form the Commonwealth of Independent States (hereinafter referred to as the CIS, the Commonwealth). This Commonwealth was established on December 21, 1991 in Alma-Ata, where 11 leaders of independent states signed a declaration on the interaction of the members of the Commonwealth. Uzbekistan supported the idea of the Commonwealth and became one of its founders. For the states of the Commonwealth, multilateral and bilateral treaty relations based on equal partnership are a natural process. This process is based not only on the territorial proximity and economic interconnectedness of the Commonwealth countries, but also on deep historical roots, cultural and spiritual ties, and the common destinies of peoples over a long historical period.

In the book of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov “Uzbekistan on the threshold of the 21st century . Security Threats, Conditions and Guarantees of Progress” emphasizes that it is necessary to note true integration from “artificially” imposed political integration “... **the question is not to choose between independence and integration, but to harmonize these two directions**”¹.

From the moment of gaining independence to the present day, in the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, special attention is paid to the issues of comprehensive development and deepening of bilateral cooperation with the CIS countries, which is due not only to natural geographical and geopolitical factors , but also to the presence of well-established trade, economic, inter-economic and cultural and humanitarian ties.

Speaking about the activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan within the framework of the Commonwealth, it is necessary to note the sequence of foreign policy initiatives aimed at sustainable development in the CIS. We propose to divide the evolution of interaction between the Republic of Uzbekistan within the framework of the CIS into three stages.

The first stage (1991-2000). The first decade after independence, the policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan can be characterized as a desire to create security in the country and economic stability through cooperation within the CIS.

¹Karimov, I.A. Uzbekistan on the threshold of the 21st century: security threats, conditions and guarantees of progress / I.A. Karimov. - T.: Uzbekistan, - 1997. - P. 47.



1. Since the formation of the Commonwealth, the Republic of Uzbekistan has been among those states that advocated deepening economic integration, maintaining economic ties on a new basis, without politicizing these processes. In this case, one cannot ignore the fact that this was largely facilitated by the assignment of the state to the leading role in reforming the economic, political and social systems. At least the fact that the GDP of the Republic of Uzbekistan was the first among other CIS countries to exceed the level of 1991 by 2001 speaks volumes, and in recent years economic growth has been characterized at the level of 8-9% ².
2. The concept of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan is associated with the norms and generally recognized principles of international law, namely the sovereign equality of states, the non-use of force or the threat of force, the inviolability of borders, the peaceful resolution of disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states³. Fulfilling these principles, Uzbekistan advocated the creation of a system of interstate agreements, including within the framework of the CIS, which would make it possible to create an effective political space, a ring of security, trust and good neighborliness ⁴.

In this regard, in 1992, the Republic of Uzbekistan supported the decision to form the Council of CIS Defense Ministers, which is engaged in the development of a unified military policy to ensure security within the CIS and is a collective military structure. In addition, in the same year, Uzbekistan ratified the Agreement on the organization of the activities of the High Command of the Joint Armed Forces under the Council of Defense Ministers, which was later reorganized into the Headquarters for Coordinating Military Cooperation of the CIS Member States. Also in May 1992, a “Collective Security Treaty” was signed in Tashkent within the framework of the CIS. It entered into force a little later, but it is important to note here that a few years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, this was the first agreement on the formation of a collective security system in the post - Soviet space.

3. One of the most significant achievements of the integration process in the field of military security was the agreements adopted in 1995 “On the establishment of the Joint Air Defense System of the CIS” and “On the establishment of a military-technical committee under the CIS Council of Defense”. ⁵Today, we can rightly say that from that moment the process of real integration and the formation of close allied relations in the military field between the CIS countries began, and interaction in the field of air defense became one of the most important areas of cooperation in the military sphere. In accordance with this agreement, a system of combat duty was created, which

²The international cooperation. Foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan // Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan. - <https://mfa.uz/ru/cooperation/>

³Adilkhodzhaeva, S.M. On the role and place of the category “state strategy” in the theory of state and law / S.M. Adilkhodzhaeva // Social sciences in Uzbekistan. - 2003. - No. 3. - P.37-44.

⁴The concept of the main principles of foreign policy activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan // National database of legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. - <https://www.lex.uz/ru/docs/-39149?otherlang=1>.

⁵Information on the results of the activities of the Council of Ministers of Defense of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States and its working bodies in 2013. – <https://e-cis.info/cooperation/3167/78305>.



makes it possible to reliably protect the air borders and control the airspace of the post-Soviet states.

4. The military - political situation in Afghanistan at that time was a security threat for the entire region of Central Asia and the CIS countries. In this regard, in 1998, for the military-political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan proposed a number of measures (cessation of hostilities, an arms embargo and the creation of a coalition government in the country) and the main initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan was the further use of the international mechanism under the auspices of the UN, contact group “6 + 2” for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan. 6 countries directly bordering Afghanistan, Iran, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, as well as the USA and Russia were invited to this group.⁶

Thus, for more than 9 years, the CIS countries have formed a structure of joint actions and, in some way, an integration process. But along with this, there were many problems related to security in the region, the threat of a civil war, the penetration of terrorist groups into the CIS countries, as well as the likelihood of a repetition of color revolutions. New negotiating platforms for coordinating their actions on the main problems of the CIS countries made it possible to cooperate more effectively in the new decade.

Second stage (2000-2016). The strategy of the next stage of interaction of the Republic of Uzbekistan within the framework of the CIS followed the principles in the field of ensuring international peace and security, namely: Creation of a nuclear-free zone in Central Asia; the imposition of an arms embargo on Afghanistan; the creation of a “6+3” group to resolve the situation in Afghanistan; creation of the International Center for Combating Terrorism.

1. Thus, on the eve of the new century, there was an increase in the activities of international terrorist organizations. Under such circumstances, it was necessary to consolidate the forces of the CIS countries in the face of these threats⁷. In this context, Uzbekistan takes its own position in the work of the “CIS Anti-Terrorist Center”, created in June 2000, designed to coordinate the interaction of the bodies of the Commonwealth states in the field of combating terrorism and other manifestations of extremism. Uzbekistan participates in exercises conducted by the Center (for example, YugAntiterror-2001). Analyzing in detail the activities of the Commonwealth and its institutions over the past 20 years since its inception, the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov in December 2011, speaking at a meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the

⁶Gilyazhdinov, R.T. The role of Uzbekistan in resolving the military conflict in Afghanistan / R.T. Gilyazhdinov // Military conflicts of our time: content and lessons learned: materials of the international scientific and practical conference, Tashkent, October 15, 2019 / Academy of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, OSCE. - T.: Academy of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2020. - P. 61.

⁷Samarov, R.S. Modern world: global geopolitical transformation / R.S. Samarov // Modern security approaches: conflicts and their localization // Proceedings of the international conference, November 17-18, 2021. - T.: Academy of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2021. - P.16-22.



Commonwealth, emphasized : role in the painless dismantling of an obsolete system. Since the formation of the Commonwealth, Uzbekistan has consistently advocated that it become an association of practical action and a reliable platform for multilateral cooperation of a new type ⁸.

2. Thus, after the events of September 11, 2001 in New York and the start of the US and NATO international military operation in Afghanistan, which has a common border with the CIS member states, in order to create a reliable security system for the CIS region, as well as to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan, the First President of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov put forward a new initiative to restore the existing contact group “6 + 2” on Afghanistan, transforming it into the “6 + 3” format, while including it, taking into account modern realities, along with the states neighbors, Russia, the US and NATO ⁹. This group, consisting of 4 members of the CIS, was supposed to become an advisory body of the international community, operating under the auspices of the UN, and be an important tool for achieving the goals of stabilizing and restoring the situation in Afghanistan ¹⁰.

In June 2015, the Republic of Uzbekistan hosted a meeting between the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the government of the country. The UN Secretary General emphasized the contribution of the Republic of Uzbekistan to efforts aimed at achieving stability and development in Afghanistan through the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan “6 + 3”. The cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan in strengthening partnerships in Central Asia was also appreciated, which in turn helps the economic growth of all CIS countries ¹¹.

3. After the leaders of the CIS states of the Central Asian region signed a declaration on the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region in 2006, in the city of Semipalatinsk, the Presidents of the Central Asian region signed an agreement “On the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia” and on 21 March 2009 it entered into force. Undoubtedly, the appearance of this document contributes to strengthening the security of the CIS countries.

In May 2014, the “nuclear five” countries signed the Protocol on Security Assurances for the Central Asian Countries, thus committing themselves to respect the non-nuclear status of the Central Asian countries. The initiative to create a nuclear- free zone was proposed by the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov at the 48th session of the UN General Assembly. It is worth noting that the protocol did not concern the development of a peaceful atom in the energy sector ¹².

⁸The President of Uzbekistan took part in the CSTO and CIS summits. - <http://mfa.uz/rus/pressa>.

⁹Rashidov, R. Influence of international and regional processes on the formation of the Afghan statehood // Author's abstract ... thesis .. candidate ... political .. sciences. - T.: TGIV, 2018. - 48 p.

¹⁰High appreciation of the initiatives of Uzbekistan. <http://moip.viperson.ru/articles/vysokaya-otsenka-initsiativ-uzbekistana> <http://www.press-service.uz>.

¹¹The meeting between President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov and the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. - <https://www.un.int/uzbekistan/uzbekistan/uzbekistan-and-un>.

¹² The five nuclear states signed the Protocol on security guarantees for the countries of Central Asia. - <https://news.un.org/ru/story/2014/05/1242551>.



4. Republic of Uzbekistan joins the CSTO structure in August 2006, at the same time, based on the basic principles of foreign policy, the Republic of Uzbekistan has maintained its own balanced view of interaction within the CIS on security issues ¹³.

In 2012, Uzbekistan approved a new concept of the country's foreign policy, which reflected new milestones of cooperation. In particular, the Republic of Uzbekistan reserves the right to enter into unions and interstate formations, as well as withdraw from them, guided by the highest interests of the state and people. As a result, the Republic of Uzbekistan in the same year suspends membership in the CSTO and thus shows commitment to its new foreign policy of peaceful coexistence.

5. The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan took part in the development of the Concept of military cooperation between the CIS countries, as a result of which this document was signed by the heads of defense departments of the CIS member countries on October 16, 2015 in Almaty ¹⁴. The concept of military cooperation of the CIS countries provided for the issues of multifaceted partnership cooperation in the military and military-technical sphere, on issues of ensuring regional security and further integration of the defense departments of the Commonwealth countries.

Thus, the approaches of the Republic of Uzbekistan of this stage in the development of relations of the participating state in the integration interaction of the Commonwealth are aimed at improving the entire system of peace and security in the post-Soviet space, which positively influenced the provision of international security.

Third stage (2016–present) characterized by a fundamentally new dynamics of comprehensive cooperation between Uzbekistan and the CIS countries in the socio-economic, military-political, environmental, transport, information and other areas of interaction. It should be noted that among the distinctive features of the country's new external course towards the CIS, the leading role belongs to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev .

1. So, since 2016, Uzbekistan has stepped up its participation in the integration processes in the CIS. Based on historical, fraternal ties with the Commonwealth states, Tashkent began to pursue a policy aimed at further strengthening multilateral and bilateral cooperation within the CIS. So, at present, out of 84 CIS bodies, Uzbekistan participates in the activities of 39, the targets of which meet national interests ¹⁵. From 2016 to 2019, Uzbekistan joined the work of the CIS Economic Council, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth and other 18 sectoral bodies of the CIS.

During this period, the foreign trade turnover of Uzbekistan with the CIS countries increased by almost 60%, and the share of the CIS countries in the total trade turnover averages 30%. The main trading partners of Uzbekistan in foreign trade with the CIS countries are Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan,

¹³ Samarov R.S. Methodological foundations of security / Monograph. R.S. Samarov. - T.: Academy, 2010. - 256 p.

¹⁴The concept of military cooperation between the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States until 2020 // SMO CIS - <https://mil.ru/smosng/about/concept2020.htm>.

¹⁵The international cooperation. Foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan // Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan. – <https://mfa.uz/ru/cooperation>.



which in 2019 accounted for 53%, 27% and 6.6%, respectively, of the total trade turnover with the CIS countries ¹⁶.

It should be noted that, along with trade, an important indicator in foreign trade is also the volume of Uzbekistan's exports to the CIS countries, which increased in 2017-2019. from 3.7 to 5.3 billion dollars, or by 43.2%, and the share of the CIS countries in total exports averaged 30%. At the end of 2020, compared to the same period last year, exports to the CIS countries decreased from 4.8 to 3.5 billion dollars, or by 27.1%, and the share of CIS countries in total exports was 26%. The main trading partners for exports to the CIS countries were also Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, which accounted for 80% of all exports to the CIS countries ¹⁷.

Thus, about 30% of the total export of goods of Uzbekistan falls on the CIS countries, and if you do not take into account raw materials in the total export volume, then the share occupied by the CIS states in Uzbekistan's foreign trade will be much higher.

2. In 2017, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev defined the “Strategy of Action in Priority Areas”, where special attention was paid to “people's diplomacy” between the countries. ¹⁸The vector of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan did not acquire radical changes or revision of initiatives, but by and large put the continuation of the foreign policy strategy of 2012 at the forefront. This is also confirmed by the words of the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan A. Kamilov at the 23rd meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, where he stressed that “The Central Asian region remains the main priority of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Namely, pursuing an open, benevolent and pragmatic policy towards its closest neighbors ¹⁹. The neutrality of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the region contributes to the possibility of creating a coordinating center for a ceasefire and a peaceful settlement within the CIS.

3. In 2019, Uzbekistan assumed the chairmanship of the CIS. In order to effectively fulfill the functions of chairmanship in the CIS by Uzbekistan, the Uzbek side developed the **Concept of Chairmanship in the Commonwealth**, as well as the Action Plan for the implementation of this Concept. Despite quarantine restrictions, Uzbekistan has successfully carried out all the planned activities in priority areas of cooperation within the organization during the difficult 2020.

In particular, more than 200 different events were held within the CIS and at the bilateral level with the Commonwealth countries during 2020, including meetings of the CIS Economic Council, one of which was held in Moscow (March 13) and two via video link (June 30 and June 15); meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers (May 12, December 10), the Council for Cooperation in the Field of Health (July 30, October 28); “Week of business initiatives” (September 9-15); Economic Forum of the CIS (March 13 and September 9); meeting of the Council for Interregional and Border Cooperation (September 10) and other meetings.

¹⁶ Nematov, A. New Uzbekistan - A New Model of Foreign Policy / A. Nematov // Big Asia. - 2021. - February 2. - P. 2.

¹⁷ Year of the chairmanship of Uzbekistan. – <https://www.cer.uz/uz/post/publication/god-predsedatelstva-uzbekistana>.

¹⁸ Action strategy in five priority areas of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021. - <http://strategy.gov.uz/ru>.

¹⁹ Speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov at the 23rd meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council. - <https://www.uzbekistan.de/ru/nachrichten/nachrichten>.



More than 70 important multilateral documents have been adopted. Among the approved international agreements, the updated **Concept for the Further Development of the CIS , the Strategy for the Economic Development of the Commonwealth until 2030 and the Concept for Interregional and Border Cooperation of the CIS until 2030**, as well as 9 policy documents in the areas of military and border cooperation, innovation, transport, culture and sports , tourism and youth ²⁰.

In addition, Uzbekistan has joined three bodies of the CIS: the Council for Youth Affairs, the Advisory Council for Labor, Employment and Social Protection of the Population, the Advisory Council for Consumer Rights Protection, expanding the range of its interaction with the Commonwealth member states.

4. Uzbekistan as a chairman in the CIS, represented the Commonwealth in the international arena and introduced, within the framework of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, held on September 22-29, 2020 in the format of a videoconference, a special resolution **“Cooperation between the UN and the CIS”**, which was unanimously supported by all member states UN. The resolution, reaffirming the importance of strengthening interaction and coordination between these two organizations, invites specialized agencies and other organizations, programs and funds of the UN system, as well as international financial institutions to develop partnerships with the CIS ²¹.

5. Another positive result can be considered that in the context of the pandemic and the serious economic downturn that followed it, the operation of agreements in the field of trade cooperation was essential in almost the entire space of the organization. In this regard, Uzbekistan has taken active steps within the CIS in order to maintain the pace and volume of mutual trade with other member countries. The active foreign policy of Tashkent, which is based on the “zero problems with neighbors” approaches, maintaining mutually beneficial and trusting relations, contributed to the compliance by the countries-participants of the Agreement on a free trade zone in the CIS, the preservation of Ukraine's membership and compliance with its obligations under this agreement. Despite the existence of political disagreements between Kyiv and individual CIS countries, its participation in this agreement as an important and major economic partner was in the interests of all members of the organization.

6. Uzbekistan initiated the development of a conceptual agreement on Priority areas of cooperation between the CIS member states **in the field of transport** for the period up to 2030, approved by the Commonwealth Council of Heads of Government in May 2021 ²². In the context of the pandemic and the accompanying economic crisis, it was labor migrants who were among the most vulnerable segments of the population. In this regard, the Uzbek side initiated consideration within the framework of the Commonwealth of the issues of the immediate resumption of air traffic between the

²⁰ Year of the chairmanship of Uzbekistan. – <https://www.cer.uz/uz/post/publication/god-predsedatelstva-uzbekistana>.

²¹Speech by the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. // Press service of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, September 22, 2020 - <http://president.uz/ru/lists/view/1063>.

²²On the activities of the Consultative Council on Labour, Employment and Social Protection of the Population of the CIS Member States in 2017–2021. <https://cis.minsk.by/news/22855>



CIS members, the recognition on a reciprocal basis of documents of labor migrants and the adoption of a cooperation program on labor migration issues.

At present, Tashkent is actively promoting the issues of improving the legal framework of the Commonwealth, which creates favorable conditions for the work of labor migrants throughout the CIS, as well as the protection of their rights and interests.

7. The President of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev made an official visit to Azerbaijan in October 2019, where he simultaneously took part in the work of the Summit of the Heads of State of the Turkic Council, four of the five members of which are current members of the CIS ²³. This example shows that the head of Uzbekistan brought successful ideas to the development of new areas of multilateral cooperation of the CIS. Uzbekistan has also demonstrated a flexible approach to its membership in multidisciplinary international organizations, through which it is possible to develop not only bilateral, but also regional economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation, based on sincere friendship and mutual interests.

8. In the message of Oliy Majlis ²⁴, speaking about the strategy of the country's first chairmanship in the CIS in 2020, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev noted: "We will use every opportunity to expand economic cooperation in the Commonwealth, increase the effectiveness of the decisions taken by the organization and further strengthen humanitarian ties between the participating countries". To date, Uzbekistan has raised the level of its national coordinator in the CIS from Deputy Foreign Minister to Deputy Prime Minister, and resumed its participation in **the CIS Economic Council** ²⁵.

9. The organization of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the promotion of disease prevention once again confirmed the importance of international cooperation in solving the complex challenges of our time. A significant part of the efforts was focused on providing mutual support in the fight against coronavirus within the framework of the CIS cooperation. Successes in this area are a natural result of the national policy pursued by Uzbekistan and based on humanism and universal values. Chairman of the CIS Executive Committee - Executive Secretary Sergei Lebedev noted that Uzbekistan, which, in terms of the number and ratio of deaths as a result of this disease, showed the most positive indicators not only in the CIS, but also globally, serves as an example in effectively combating the epidemic and mitigating the negative impact of the pandemic on the country's economy.

10. Uzbekistan has put forward a number of important initiatives aimed at deepening mutually beneficial cooperation within the Commonwealth in a number of areas in the field of environmental safety. In particular, at the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev , a "Road Map" was adopted to unite the efforts of the CIS countries aimed at linking national industrialization plans with the common goals of "green" development.

²³Pashaeva, G. Uzbekistan has formed new approaches to cooperation in the CIS / G. Pashaeva // –<https://isrs.uz/ru/xorijiy-ekspertlar-fikri/gulsan-pasaeva-uzbekistan-sformiroval-novye-podhody-k-sotrudnicestvu-v-sng>.

²⁴ Oliy Majlis is the main legislative body of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

²⁵ Mirziyoyev , Sh.M. Message from the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev Oliy Majlis . - <https://president.uz/ru/lists/view/4057>.



In particular, issues of environmental protection and adaptation to the consequences of climate change were raised by Uzbekistan during its chairmanship in the CIS in 2020 and were reflected in the program documents of the Commonwealth. For example, the updated **Concept for the Further Development of the CIS until 2030** notes the need for interaction in the field of environmental protection, including those aimed at combating climate change, as well as rational nature management. Moreover, **the CIS Economic Development Strategy until 2030** provides for cooperation between the Commonwealth countries in the field of resources and energy conservation. It is planned to introduce resource-saving technologies, develop systems for the protection of water resources and improve the quality of drinking water, as well as an increase in the use of waste at all stages of production ²⁶.

The most important aspect of Uzbekistan's climate agenda is a phased transition to a "green" economy. Measures are being taken to increase the energy efficiency of the economy, reduce the use of hydrocarbons, and increase the share of renewable energy sources. Thus, by 2030, energy efficiency is expected to double and the carbon intensity of GDP to decrease.

11. The President of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev, participating and speaking at high-level international forums, puts forward global ideas and initiatives aimed, on the one hand, at joint development, on the other hand, at finding ways to address key issues on the global and regional agenda. One of these areas is the development of transport and communication links.

As part of the development of transport policy in the CIS system, Uzbekistan initiated the adoption of a number of strategic documents in the transport sector, including the decision of the Council of CIS Heads of Government **“On Priority Areas of Cooperation between the CIS Member States in the field of transport for the period up to 2030”**, the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for ensuring transport security in the territories of the CIS member states in the implementation of transportation in international traffic for the period 2020-2025, the Concept for the further development of the CIS and the Plan of the main measures for its implementation, etc.

The implementation of the identified priority tasks in these strategic documents in the future will provide significant assistance in improving the legal framework for cooperation in the field of transport, increasing the efficiency of implementing the transit potential of the CIS member states, developing international transport corridors in the CIS space, and increasing the effectiveness of the agreed tariff policy in the field of international rail transportation and the implementation of a coordinated policy in the field of transport security, as well as solving problematic issues in this area.

12. Uzbekistan, actively participating in the activities of the CIS, along with other member states of the Commonwealth, determines a further strategy for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation within the association, including **in the field of security** ²⁷. It is worth emphasizing here

²⁶Umarov, A. Results of the chairmanship of Uzbekistan in the CIS: main priorities, achievements and difficulties / A. Umarov // - <https://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/1419>.

²⁷ Samarov, R.S. Modern threats to military security and methods of their diagnosis / R.S. Samarov // Applied aspects of scientific activity in the field of defense and state security. Abstracts of the reports of the International military-scientific conference. - Minsk, 2021. - P.29-30.



that out of more than 60 sectoral bodies of the Commonwealth, 20 operate in the field of security. In this regard, it is necessary to separately note the contribution of Uzbekistan to the development of cooperation among the CIS countries in the field of military security:

a) As part of the chairmanship of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the association adopted such important documents as the “**Concept of military cooperation between the CIS member states until 2025**” and the “**Program of cooperation between the CIS member states in strengthening border security at external borders for 2021-2025**”, as well as “**The concept of interregional and cross-border cooperation of the CIS until 2030**”²⁸.

b) A stable interaction of the CIS member states has been established through the special services, defense and border agencies, through the exchange of operational information, joint exercises at the border, training of military personnel, and expansion of cooperation in the military-technical field.

In particular, the Republic of Uzbekistan conducts systematic monitoring of the situation on the border with Afghanistan and promptly informs special services and law enforcement agencies of significant information regarding the emerging military-political situation in neighboring Afghanistan. On a regular basis, **joint preventive, operational-search activities** and special operations are carried out by authorized bodies of the CIS member states ²⁹.

c) The Republic of Uzbekistan, on a bilateral and multilateral basis with the CIS member states, systematically organizes **military exercises** on various aspects of security. On the basis of modeling various scenarios for the development of the situation, military command and control units and military formations of law enforcement agencies exchange practical experience in countering terrorism, as well as increase the level of coherence and coherence in the preparation and conduct of joint military operations with armed formations of international terrorist organizations. At the same time, it should be noted that, in general, joint military-tactical exercises are systematically conducted with the armed forces of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan.

d) In the sphere of solving common tasks to ensure the security of the entire CIS space, the Republic of Uzbekistan proposed to expand the practice of cooperation in the field of training, retraining and **advanced training of military personnel** , as well as scientific support for the activities of all interested state bodies and services of the CIS member states.

In this context, it should be noted that the system of the Ministry of Defense is carrying out consistent work on the development of military science, including through international military cooperation in the field of education and science among CIS member states (training of scientific and pedagogical personnel of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the research Institute of the

²⁸Uzbekistan has carried out fruitful and effective work within the framework of the Commonwealth. – <https://xs.uz/ru/post/uzbekistan-provel-plodotvornuyu-i-effektivnuyu-rabotu-v-ramkakh-community> .

²⁹Alimov, A.Yu. Military-political situation in the world and the region / A.Yu. Alimov // Experience in the use of the Turkish Armed Forces in modern military conflicts against the backdrop of the emerging situation in Afghanistan and the Middle East: materials of int. military scientific conf ., Tashkent, November 13, 2019 - T .: Academy of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2019. - P. 14-19.



Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus study at the postgraduate correspondence course; training of military personnel of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan in higher military educational institutions of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation; Agreement between the Academy of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Military Academy of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan on cooperation in the field of military education; Memorandum of cooperation between the Academy of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the National Defense University named after. first President of the Republic of Kazakhstan).

As a result of the large-scale involvement of international and national specialists in the field of science and art in the military education system, at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev , the military historical society “In Search of Ancestors” was formed, which performs the function of systematic study and promotion of military heritage Uzbekistan. In addition, it is worth noting that over the past few years, the number of military personnel with academic degrees and academic ranks has increased to 137 people and currently 211 people continue their research work ³⁰.

e) In 2019, the **Program of Cooperation of the CIS Member States in Combating Terrorism and Other Violent Manifestations of Extremism for 2020-2022 was adopted** ³¹. This document did not reflect measures of cooperation to de- radicalize persons involved in extremist activities. Therefore, the issues of counteracting radical ideology, as well as the prevention and rehabilitation of persons convicted of extremism and terrorism, were not on the agenda of the CIS. Suggested by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev the proposal within the framework of the Council of CIS Heads of State eliminates this gap in the matter of ensuring common security.

f) In addition, a very popular and relevant initiative of Uzbekistan was the development on the basis of the CIS Anti-Terrorism Center of the **“Program of cooperation in the field of de-radicalization in the CIS space”**, including persons returning from zones of armed conflicts, their reintegration into civilian life ³². This is due to the fact that at present and in the foreseeable future, extremism and terrorism remain one of the main global threats to peace and security. The problems of combating extremism and terrorism are also relevant in the light of the coronavirus pandemic, which creates fertile ground for both self- radicalization and the recruitment of accomplices.

As a result, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Tajikistan repatriated more than a thousand citizens from Syria and Iraq. Further cooperation in this area makes it possible to develop effective and coordinated practical measures for the prevention and social adaptation of persons who have renounced extremist activities.

³⁰ Kurbanov, B.N. Strict discipline and strong execution are the basis of increasing the country's defense potential and high combat readiness / B.N. Kurbonov // Yangi Uzbekiston. - 2022. - August 2. - P. 2.

³¹The program of cooperation of the CIS member states in the fight against terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism for 2020-2022. – <https://www.cisatc.org/1291/1334>.

³²Akhmedov, T. Experience of the Republic of Uzbekistan in combating terrorism and international cooperation / T. Akhmedov // ISMI RUz . – <https://uzdaily.uz/ru/post/61090>.



There are 16 intersectoral bodies in the field of security functioning in the CIS space. As part of the interaction, the law enforcement agencies of the Commonwealth countries, as well as with direct coordination by the Republic of Uzbekistan during its chairmanship in 2020 alone, **jointly eliminated 22 cells of international terrorist organizations** ³³that recruited people for training in the ranks of militants abroad.

g) Timely and relevant was the proposal of Uzbekistan to join forces in the field of **ensuring information and ideological security**. As noted, "... the CIS needed new mechanisms, forms of interaction and common approaches. The Commonwealth is an excellent platform for consolidating efforts and increasing the effectiveness of cooperation between the CIS member states in the field of information security, creating secure information systems for various applications"³⁴.

Deepening cooperation in the development of the digital economy and digital skills are identified as one of the most sought-after areas of interaction. In this regard, an important place is given to ensuring information security and combating crimes using ICT.

As part of the implementation of the above initiative, on June 29, 2021, the **CIS International Expert Forum** on Information Security was held in Tashkent ³⁵. As a result of the discussions, the final document of the CIS International Expert Forum on Information Security was adopted, containing practical recommendations for improving the legal framework and institutional mechanisms for cooperation in the field of information security within the Commonwealth.

In addition, the first steps have been taken to develop a "Comprehensive Program for Industrial Cooperation of the CIS Countries", which provides, in particular, for the creation of joint clusters in the agro-industrial sector, in the field of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, light and food industries, pharmaceuticals and other priority sectors.

Conclusion

It should be noted that the CIS remains a backbone platform for interaction in the post-Soviet space, cooperation within which meets the priority tasks of development of all member states. The current foreign policy activity of Uzbekistan contributes to the formation of a positive atmosphere within the CIS and creates a new energy for deepening partnerships in mutually beneficial directions. Following the results of Tashkent's chairmanship in 2020, the importance of the Commonwealth, which played a key role in maintaining vital political, socio-economic, cultural and humanitarian contacts between the former republics of the USSR after its collapse, is again updated in modern realities.

Current challenges and threats to the security and sustainable development of the CIS countries, especially during the global pandemic and ongoing armed clashes, as well as ongoing attempts to organize color revolutions, the so-called. "third forces" in the post-Soviet space dictate the need to

³³Information on the results of the activities of the CIS sectoral cooperation bodies in 2020 // SMO CIS. – <https://e-cis.info/news/566/91486>.

³⁴ Speech by the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. // Press service of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, September 22, 2020 - <http://president.uz/ru/lists/view/1063>.

³⁵Tashkent hosted the International Expert Forum of the CIS on the issues of ensuring information security// EC CMO CIS.



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expand and deepen equal cooperation between member countries in search of effective solutions. In this context, it is important for the Commonwealth to develop effective measures to adapt to rapidly changing conditions and configurations of international relations, to show flexibility in determining development priorities, as well as a readiness to quickly respond to crisis situations and consolidate the efforts of the participating states to overcome them.