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**UZBEKISTAN'S POLICY IN ENSURING THE
INVIOABILITY AND SECURITY OF BORDERS
BETWEEN CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES**

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Abstract: The article highlights the importance of Uzbekistan's policy in ensuring border security between Central Asian countries, cooperation in ensuring regional security, Uzbekistan's initiatives to strengthen these ties and ensuring border security in the region. It also analyzed new agreements between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan border issues.

Key words: regional security, border security, border delimitation, border demarcation, Tashkent Declaration on security, regional partnership, inter-regional cooperation, military cooperation.

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Today, one of the priorities of our country's foreign policy is to conduct multilateral practical cooperation with Central Asian countries. One of the most important priorities of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is to carry out the peaceful, multifaceted negotiations with Central Asian countries and strengthening these relations with new treaties.

A major Agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, based on the principles of international law on the territorial integrity and inviolability of the state boundaries, on the basis of the Treaty on Eternal Friendship between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, signed on 24 December 1996, to strive for supporting the co-operation between them on the provision of a State border regime, and developing neighborhood relationships, with the recognition of the inalienable right

of the two independent states to take measures on protecting the State borders, and to involve border guards to participate in the prevention of cross-border conflicts and disputes, and in case of their immediate investigation and resolution. This agreement represents a mutual trust and a solid security guarantee on the borders of the two countries.

On September 5, 2017, in Bishkek, an agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the activities of border agencies". This Agreement regulates the activities of the parties on border disputes and settlement of disputes on the State border [1].

In accordance with the items of this Agreement, the Parties monitor the observance of the terms of the mutual agreement, and take measures to prevent crossing of the border in violation of the established procedure. Under the terms of the agreement, the competent authorities of the two countries take the necessary measures to deport illegal migrants and struggle against smuggling, also provide control over the conduct of economic activities on the State border and the compliance with the rules of using frontier water, hunting and fishing.

They inform each other the risks of fires, epidemics, epizooties and threats of spread of agricultural pests through state borders on time. The entry into force of this bilateral document will serve as an additional legal mechanism for the timely resolution of issues on the State border.

The President of Uzbekistan ShavkatMirziyoev noted at several conferences that the provision of security of Central Asian region is the main strategic goal of Uzbekistan. In particular, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.Mirziyoev came out with the initiative named "Strong cooperation for security and stability" at the international conference entitled "Central Asia: single history and common future, partnership for sustainable development and progress" held in Samarkand on November 10-11, 2017under the priority of the UNO.

While recognizing the need to further strengthen practical cooperation to ensure security and stability in Central Asia, the head of our state paid attention that today all the countries of the region are facing threats of terrorism, religious extremism, transnational crime and drug trafficking, so effective counteraction against these threats could be only together, within the framework of mechanisms of practical cooperation between the countries of the region [1].

The President also made considerable initiatives to strengthen cooperation in the area of international development and regional prosperity. Addressing to the participants of the International Transport Confederation meeting,

he noted: "Cooperative aspiration for sustainable development and a solid guarantee for the prosperity of the region have become the responsibility of the common future of all Central Asian states. I consider that aspiration to partnership and responsibility can guarantee the welfare to Central Asian countries" the President of Uzbekistan said. Thanks to the efforts of the leaders of Central Asian countries, a new political atmosphere of trust and good neighborliness have formed between the countries in a short period of time. Historically important steps have been taken to establish mutually beneficial cooperation by President Shavkat Mirziyoev. "Life itself shows that these measures are not enough. Taken into account the strategic location of the region, which links the vast international markets, the efforts of our countries are crucial to boost regional integration in the international transport corridors." he emphasized [2].

It should be noted that, due to the lack of access to large ports, the countries of the region are facing serious costs. These costs are 70-80% of the cost of exported products. In this case, the reduction of border barriers between countries, and the miniaturization of the mutual customs system will expand the economic capabilities of all countries.

In September 2017, the Government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed a mutual Agreement on "Interregional Cooperation". This Agreement was ratified by the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan № 3307, dated October 2, 2017 "On Approval of International Agreements".

Significant changes have been made in this Agreement on the free transfer of commodities and raw materials.

It should be noted that significant agreements have been reached between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Tajikistan. There is also a great deal of cooperation in the elimination of threats in border areas and the ensuring of border security have been dealt. This mutual trust serves to prevent the threat of terrorism and religious extremism.

At the same time, at the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan №133, on February 21, 2018 "On Measures for the Reinstatement of Some Posts of the Uzbek-Tajik State Border" restored the services of the border posts between the two countries. This has created great conveniences and opportunities for the citizens of the two states. Also it provided settlements and markets in border areas of Uzbekistan with investment.

On September 19-22, 2018, military exercises which were held in collaboration with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan aimed at elimination of suspected terrorists located in the settlement where is at field study territory

near the border areas of Tajikistan's Soghd province was a clear proof of the cooperation. Tajik Defense Minister Sherali Mirzo said that such joint military exercises which were held for the first time would serve to strengthen security and stability in the Central Asian region. The three-day practical exercises served to strengthen military cooperation between the two countries, enhance security in border areas, and boost practical skills of the two countries' military. The issue of conducting large-scale military cooperation with the neighboring Republics and its further acceleration has become one of the main directions of the policy of Uzbekistan in today's security.

It should be noted that the transformation of Uzbekistan's policy with Central Asian countries has contributed to the alteration and development of the socio-economic life of the neighboring Republics. For example, in the first eight months of 2018, Tajikistan's trade with Central Asian and CIS countries amounted to \$ 1.5 billion. Compared to the same period of the previous year, it increased by 17.8 percent.

Commodity turnover increased 2.3 times with the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2.2 times with Azerbaijan, and by 2.1 times in Kyrgyzstan. This led to the revival of the Tajik economy and the growth of the gross national product. Trade turnover between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan for the first eight months of 2018 amounted higher than \$ 192.6 million. Of these, \$11.8 million is imported products. Exported products have exceeded more than \$ 80.8 million.

Also, the trade turnover between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan is accounted 4.3 million and with Azerbaijan 4.4 million dollar [3].

In these positive changes, the role of the agreements on border inviolability with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is important.

Without ensuring the security of our southern neighbors Afghanistan, it cannot be achieved to security in Central Asia.

On March 26-27, 2018, high level Tashkent international conference on "Peace Process, Security Cooperation and Regional Partnership" dedicated to the issues of Afghanistan was held in Tashkent. Speaking at this international conference on Afghanistan, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized that the Afghan people are tired of war and need.

"At worst, in the conditions of armed conflict and violence in Afghanistan, a whole generation has grown up. But, as some experts say unkindly, this is not a "lost generation". They are just people who are tired of war, need, and trouble. They want and endeavor to put an end to their mutual conflict and return to a peaceful life, to their creative work that leads their country to prosperity "[4] he pointed out.

"The security of Afghanistan is the security of Uzbekistan, a guarantee of the stability and development of entire Central and southern Asian region" [5]the President said.

The security and stability of every point in Central Asia is a priority for Uzbekistan's security policy as it is also a peace and stability of Uzbekistan.

Referenges

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