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## FORMATION STAGES OF UZBEK-KAZAKH RELATIONS

### *Abstract*

Bilateral cooperation between the Republics of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are discussed in the article. The Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan are on the threshold of a new relationship, which will be aimed at creating a stable economic situation throughout Central Asia, which will make us an economically powerful region of the world. Also, in the article the economic and human potential of both states are analyzed, common historical roots and long-standing friendship are examined. The authors come to the conclusion that the main task of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to maximize the potential of Kazakh-Uzbek cooperation to achieve strategic benefits for the two countries.

**Keywords:** Republic of Uzbekistan, I. Karimov, Kazakhstan, foreign policy.

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## ӨЗБЕК-ҚАЗАҚСТАН ҚАТЫНАСЫНЫҢ ҚАЛЫПТАСУ КЕЗЕҢДЕРІ

### *Аңдатпа*

Мақала Өзбекстан Республикасы мен Қазақстан арасындағы екіжақты ынтымақтастыққа арналған. Өзбекстан Республикасы мен Қазақстан Республикасы бізді бүкіл әлем бойынша экономикалық қуатты аймаққа айналдыратын бүкіл Орталық Азияда тұрақты экономикалық ахуал құруға бағытталған жаңа қатынастардың табалдырығында тұр. Бұл Өзбекстанның сыртқы саясатындағы басым бағыттардың бірі. Екі мемлекет айтарлықтай экономикалық және адами әлеуетке ие, тарихи тамыры бір, ежелден достық қарым-қатынаста. Өзбекстан Республикасының негізгі міндеті - екі елдің стратегиялық пайдасына қол жеткізу үшін Қазақстан-Өзбек ынтымақтастығының әлеуетін барынша арттыру.

**Түйінді сөздер:** Өзбекстан Республикасы, И. Каримов, Қазақстан, сыртқы саясат.

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## ЭТАПЫ СТАНОВЛЕНИЯ УЗБЕКСКО-КАЗАХСКИХ ОТНОШЕНИЙ

### *Аннотация*

В статье рассматривается двустороннее сотрудничество Республик Узбекистан и Казахстан. Республика Узбекистан и Республика Казахстан находятся у порога новых взаимоотношений, которые будут направлены на создание стабильного экономического положения во всей Центральной Азии, что сделает нас экономически

мощным регионом мира. Также в статье анализируются экономический и человеческий потенциал обоих государств, рассматриваются общие исторические корни и давние дружеские связи. Авторы приходят к выводу, что основной задачей Республики Узбекистан является максимальное использование потенциала казахстанско-узбекского сотрудничества для достижения стратегической выгоды двух стран.

**Ключевые слова:** Республика Узбекистан, И.Каримов, Казахстан, внешняя политика.

An important aspect of international relations in the Central Asian region are relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. These two states have common historical processes, language and religion, and both states support a secular form of government, adhere to common methods of communication and have huge reserves of hydrocarbons and other types of raw materials. The geopolitical position of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan is a great strategic importance for Central Asia. These states are among the leading companies in the region in various positions [1].

On November 23, 1992, diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan were established. On June 24, 1992, the key principles of bilateral relations were established on the basis of the Treaty between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Over the next years, the Heads of States determined for themselves equal and mutually beneficial directions and this cooperation continues to this day. Together with regional proximity, partnership relations between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan since the early 1990s have developed on the basis of historical and cultural common between fraternal peoples. In addition, we should not forget that one of the important criteria for the importance of Kazakh-Uzbek relations is the need for joint work in ensuring stability and security in Central Asia.

From the first days, the economic relations of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were quite successful. This is confirmed by statistics. It was in 1992 that the largest volume of trade was recorded since the countries gained independence. But in the future, since 1993, the pace of integration of the economies of the two neighboring states has slowed. It should be noted that this situation does not stop to this day. Today, stagnation in the economy takes place, in particular in the field of trade, there is a decrease in the work of general enterprises, in the field of industrial cooperation and economic integration between countries. The rapid reduction in the annual volume of bilateral trade has led to the fact that in 1999, according to reliable statistics from the customs statistics of Uzbekistan, they decreased down to 249.1 million US dollars. So, in comparison with 1992, the size of bilateral trade fell more than 10 times [2].

In January 1994, the states signed an agreement on the creation of a common economic space between the two republics; later, the Kyrgyz Republic and then the Republic of Tajikistan joined this agreement. The agreement signed between neighboring states had a distinct integration focus. For example, it involved the independent movement of goods, services, cash from the workforce, and also provided conditions for an agreed banking settlement, budget, tax, pricing, customs, and monetary policy.

In 1996, fundamental progress in the supply of products from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan was monitored, but at the same time, the supply of Uzbek products for the domestic market in Kazakhstan decreased by about half.

An important event in relations between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan was the official visit of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Elbasy N. Nazarbayev to the Republic of Uzbekistan on October 30-31, 1998, during which issues of bilateral cooperation were discussed and 8 documents were signed: an agreement on eternal friendship, an agreement on deepening economic cooperation for 1998-2007; economic cooperation program for 1998-2007; agreement on cooperation in the field of prospecting, exploration and development of oil and gas fields; on trade and economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation between the capital akimat and the "hokimiyat" of the Uzbek capital.

Over the years, cooperation between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan has received a new impetus for development. An important step in further deepening the economic unification of the region was the visit of the Heads of State to Tashkent in 1998 and 2000 and to Kazakhstan in 1997 and 2006. More than 170 interstate and intergovernmental documents have been signed over these years of cooperation. Turnover between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan is increasing. At the same time, the leading place is occupied by the sectors of transport and communications, engineering and agricultural production. If in 2002 the commodity circulation of both countries amounted to 263.3 million dollars, then in 2006 it reached half a billion dollars. Of course, the ongoing dialogue and the expansion of trade and economic ties between neighboring countries are consistent with the strategic goals and national interests of both countries. In addition, the format of such relations contributes to the deepening of bilateral cooperation [3,56p.].

In the early 1990s, imports of Uzbek goods to Kazakhstan increased - these are agricultural products, natural gas, some types of industrial products and imported cars constructed in Uzbekistan. However, this republic is characterized by a decline in trade with CIS countries due to an increase in trade with other countries. In 2005, the number of enterprises created with the participation of Kazakh and Uzbek capital increased significantly. At the beginning of 2006, Kazakhstan had 87 enterprises with the participation of citizens of Uzbekistan and 73 enterprises with Kazakhstani investments in Uzbekistan. However, both sides recognize that there is great potential for the development of mutually beneficial trade and economic relations. The presidents of both countries instructed state bodies to take the necessary measures to remove trade barriers. Despite the fact that some work has been done during this time, there are still many open nuances in this matter. In particular, this concerns the simplification of procedures and the unification of the rules of customs clearance and customs control of goods and vehicles at internal borders, the organization of transit through the territory of Kazakhstan and the mutual supply of goods. Of particular note is the growing importance of cooperation in the transport sector, since intensive trade growth leads to an increase in freight traffic. Thus, the transit of Kazakhstani goods south through Uzbekistan over the past three years has increased by almost 20% [4, p. 35].

In January 2006, at a meeting of leaders of the two states, confidence was expressed that mutual cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in various fields would continue to develop, as well as a commitment to comprehensively

deepen and expand regional cooperation in Central Asia. The stable development of the economy of states, which has recently been demonstrating impressive growth rates, strongly indicates the need to strengthen trade and economic ties and production ties between enterprises. Over the past three years, the volume of foreign trade turnover of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan has steadily increased. In Uzbekistan alone, its annual growth averages 20%. At the same time, there is a significant driving force for the growth of mutual trade, which over the past two years increased by almost 75%. It is characteristic that the negative balance of bilateral trade last year practically stabilized. At the meeting of the SCO Heads of Government on October 30, 2008 N.A. Nazarbayev noted that the pace of the global economy has slowed as a result of the global financial crisis and that major global banks and financial institutions are spending \$ 1 billion. Efforts should be directed towards the development of systematic measures to overcome the crisis at minimal cost. Elbasy also emphasized the importance of expanding investment cooperation. For its development, it is necessary to remove all possible obstacles. Mutual investments in the economies of the countries of the organization will contribute to the development of infrastructure, the formation of modern industries and the creation of new jobs.

At the same time, Uzbekistan, in the person of its first president I. Karimov, repeatedly opposed the initiatives of Kazakhstan. So, in April 2008, during the latter's visit to Astana, N. Nazarbayev presented "the idea of creating a union of Central Asian states". The President of Uzbekistan did not take this initiative, citing the fact that regional integration could harm the countries of Central Asia due to significant differences in their socio-economic development. In 2010, Kazakhstan prioritized the organization of the summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Astana. The meeting of leading world leaders in their capital has become not only a matter of great prestige, but also very important from the point of view of the integration transformations that Kazakhstan is carrying out throughout Central Asia. When the very idea of holding an OSCE summit in Kazakhstan was discussed in Vienna, only one country did not agree with it - Uzbekistan. But here the parties came to a diplomatic compromise. I. Karimov supported the idea of holding an OSCE summit in 2010 in Astana. In response, Kazakhstan supported the position of Uzbekistan, which opposed the construction of the Rogun hydropower plant in Tajikistan and the Kambarata hydropower plant in Kyrgyzstan without a preliminary international assessment of these projects. In addition, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan agreed to increase mutual trade [5].

It should be noted that trade and economic relations between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in the period from the 1990s to the middle of the 21st century were at a relatively low level for many objective and subjective reasons. During the visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Astana, Islam Karimov and Nursultan Nazarbayev signed an agreement to create a free trade zone between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and in subsequent years, foreign trade between the countries increased significantly. In 2012, it amounted to more than 2.5 billion US dollars, and exports from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan amounted to 1.374 billion US dollars, and imports from Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan - 817 million US dollars.

Today, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have a solid contractual basis in their relations. In particular, more than 170 bilateral documents in various areas of cooperation have been signed between the republics. The main documents are the Agreement on eternal friendship between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan (1998) and the Strategic Partnership (2013).

The strategic partnership agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan was signed by the heads of state during the visit of President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev to Uzbekistan in June 2013. It contains the basic principles and priority areas in the fields of politics, trade, economics, transport and communications, water management and energy, ecology, culture, humanitarian, military and other areas of bilateral cooperation. During the visit, documents on cooperation between the ministries of internal affairs and the customs services of both countries were also signed. The Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan adopted the Program of Cooperation in the Field of Culture for 2013-2015. In addition, the presidents attended the opening of the new building of the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tashkent and the monument to the great Kazakh poet and thinker Abay Kunanbayev.

On November 24-25, 2014, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov made an official visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan at the invitation of the President of Kazakhstan. During the meeting, mutual interest was expressed in expanding cooperation between the two countries on a wide range of issues, including trade, economic and investment partnerships. In particular, the parties confirmed the need for timely and high-quality implementation of the provisions of the Strategy for Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2007-2016, as well as the expansion of mutually beneficial partnerships in the field of transport and transport communications and the use of the huge transit potential of the two countries. In order to coordinate and intensify practical cooperation in the priority areas of bilateral partnership, the Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Bilateral Cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan operates. There are 151 enterprises in Kazakhstan, 206 enterprises in Uzbekistan with the participation of entrepreneurs from both republics, including more than 170 joint ventures.

In 2015, trade between countries exceeded \$ 3.2 billion. And this, of course, is not the limit. There are great opportunities for the development of economic relations. For example, Uzbekistan has large export reserves to Kazakhstan for cars and trucks, buses, agricultural machinery, finished textiles, products of the electrical and light industry, building materials, glass, etc. For its part, Kazakhstan can expand the range of products supplied to Uzbekistan, including the rental of metals, ferroalloys, wood. Countries have significant potential for expanding cooperation in areas such as agriculture, light and heavy industries, construction, engineering, communications in the transport, oil and gas industries, etc.

A priority area of mutually beneficial cooperation between states is also the sphere of transport and transit transportation. One of the key issues is the provision of mutual tariff and non-tariff preferences in the transit and delivery of goods, for example, from Uzbekistan to Russia through Kazakhstan or from Kazakhstan to various Asian countries

through Uzbekistan. In 2015, the transit of Uzbek goods through the territory of Kazakhstan amounted to more than 2 million tons, and the transit of Kazakh goods through the territory of Uzbekistan amounted to more than 3 million tons. A significant increase in transit indicators of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan is expected due to the launch of a number of new international communication projects that will connect Central Asia with other regions.

Since 2016, relations between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have risen to a new level. An open discussion of problematic issues, a sincere desire to solve them and the establishment of new relations based on mutual respect and trust allowed us to bring cooperation to a new stage.

Following the meeting in Tashkent on April 14-15, 2016, Nursultan Nazarbayev and Islam Karimov agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation on many regional and international problems and threats, including the fight against terrorism, extremism, the trade in drugs and weapons, etc. The parties noted significant potential for strengthening cooperation and expressing the desire for further development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan within the framework of authoritative international and regional organizations, institutions and forums.

Summing up, it should be noted that in general, cooperation between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan has a positive trend. The legal framework of Kazakh-Uzbek relations covers almost all aspects of cooperation. The trade turnover between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan is quite stable. The two states have one goal - to maintain stability and peace in the region and comprehensively develop close good-neighborly ties. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as two important countries of the Central Asian region have great potential for the development of political, economic, cultural and humanitarian relations.

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