UZBEKISTAN-CHINA ON THE PATH OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CREATION

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Abstract. *The paper focuses on Uzbek-Chinese relations, which are acquiring new vectors of development. The significance of the «Belt and Road» initiative based on the principles of mutual benefit and cooperation is emphasized. A wide range of areas contributing to the implementation of political dialogue, trade, logistics, investment, education, and culture is presented.*

Keywords: *Uzbekistan, China, cooperation, Belt and Road, sustainable development.*

Modern Uzbek-Chinese cooperation is based not only on economic interests but also on centuries-old experience of interaction between the peoples of Central Asia and China. It was through the territory of Central Asia that the main trade routes between East and West passed, facilitating the exchange of goods, technologies, and cultural values. For the Republic of Uzbekistan, participation in the «Belt and Road» initiative is of particular importance due to its favorable geographical location and the historical role of the country's territory in the functioning of the Great Silk Road [1].

In the studies of Wang Yiwei [2], the «Belt and Road» initiative is viewed as a new model of international cooperation based on the principles of mutual benefit and joint development. Attention is focused on the role of Uzbekistan as an important transport hub in Central Asia and a promising partner for China. Despite a significant number of works on economic interaction, the historical aspect of Uzbek-Chinese relations in the context of the «Belt and Road» initiative requires further comprehensive research.

For Uzbekistan, participation in the project opens up a number of strategic opportunities, namely: the development of international transport corridors; increasing the volume of foreign trade; attracting foreign investment; modernization of industry; and strengthening the country's transit potential. One of the most large-scale projects is the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway corridor, which is set to become part of a new Eurasian transport system [3]. Speaking in Beijing at the signing of the trilateral agreement on cooperation in the joint promotion of the railway project, President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev emphasized that «the start of the implementation of this

crucial infrastructure project is a truly historic event» and noted that this railway line will become the shortest overland route connecting China with our region [4].

In recent years, there has been a steady growth of Chinese investments in the economy of Uzbekistan. Joint projects are being actively implemented in the fields of energy, oil and gas industry, chemical production, and digital technologies. Chinese companies participate in the construction of industrial enterprises and transport infrastructure [5].

With the proclamation of independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1991, a new stage in the development of bilateral relations with China began. Diplomatic relations between the countries were established in January 1992. Subsequently, cooperation covered a wide range of areas: political dialogue, trade, logistics, investment, education, and culture. The year 2016 was marked by the vitalization of economic reforms in Uzbekistan, which facilitated the expansion of investment cooperation with China. Chinese companies began to participate in the implementation of major infrastructure and industrial projects on the territory of the republic.

Currently, the People's Republic of China is implementing the Action Plan for Cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation within the framework of the «Belt and Road» initiative. In cooperation with partner states, the promotion of four key areas is envisaged: the development of scientific, technical, and humanitarian exchange; the creation of joint research laboratories; interaction in the formation of technology parks; and the development of technology transfer mechanisms.

At the same time, for the successful implementation of the tasks set, it is necessary to ensure the further development of human capital and expand youth access to quality education. The introduction of advanced methods for training qualified specialists through the exchange of experience, organization of professional internships, and practical training at modern high-tech enterprises is becoming particularly relevant. The creation of educational and production hubs with the participation of leading universities of the Silk Road countries can contribute to the solution of these and a number of other tasks. The University Alliance of the New Silk Road, which already unites 151 universities from 38 states, can play a significant role in this process.

It should be emphasized that the «Belt and Road» initiative meets the interests of not only China but also all participating states. Its implementation contributes to the strengthening of economic ties, infrastructure development, and expansion of international cooperation, bringing tangible benefits to countries and peoples located along the project routes. In the context of modern global challenges and risks, China expresses its readiness for further interaction with the international community to

achieve mutually beneficial cooperation, stimulate development, and jointly share the results of this initiative's implementation [6].

Uzbek-Chinese relations in 2026 are marked by a transition to a qualitatively new level, where the key themes have become the strengthening of an «all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership», the development of large-scale investments, and the implementation of infrastructure projects.

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