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RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE MAIN DIRECTIONS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Nizomiddinkhujayev Otabek

Basic Doctoral Student, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, Uzbekistan.

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Abstract

The article analyzes the role and tasks of the United Nations in supporting the development of civil society institutions in Uzbekistan, the large-scale socio-political, socio-economic, judicial, legal, democratic reforms and transformations carried out in the country. In Uzbekistan, human rights protection is seen as one of the priorities of interaction with the UN. At present, country has established a stable political system that meets modern criteria of democracy and human rights, the legislative, executive and judicial authorities of all levels are actively working. But most importantly, respect for the principles of the rule of law and human rights is being established in society.

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Introduction:-

Democratic reform process was carried out in accordance with the Action Strategy for the five priority directions of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, Messages of the President of the country to the Parliament, relevant legislative acts [2]. The Action Strategy has become a roadmap that can be implemented in five stages Uzbekistan for the implementation of the Goals sustainable development of the United Nations. This document determines the development of civil society today, in particular, in terms of improvement of public control, countermeasure systems crime and crime prevention, increasing the social activity of young people in the process of deepening democratic reforms, a number of others spheres [3].

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) opened its office in Uzbekistan in January 1993 and has been actively supporting the country's development ever since. UNDP conducts a wide range of activities aimed at assisting the Government of Uzbekistan, civil society institutions, and ordinary people in overcoming numerous difficulties of the country's transition period. UNDP helps governmental and non-governmental institutions gain access to knowledge, experience and resources that are necessary for the successful implementation of economic and social reforms as well as the well-being of Uzbek people [7].

In Uzbekistan, UNDP's assistance under the current Country Programme Action Plan (2016-2020) focuses on two interrelated objectives. These objectives are to support the Government in implementing economic and democratic reforms, and to expand as well as foster the participation of civil society institutions in the development process at the national and local levels. UNDP's work in Uzbekistan focuses on two subject areas, namely good governance and sustainable development [2].

UNDP maintains mutually beneficial relations with many government ministries of Uzbekistan in the areas of environment and energy, public administration and economic management. UNDP is active in supporting the

Corresponding Author:- Nizomiddinkhujayev Otabek

Address:- Basic Doctoral Student, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, Uzbekistan.

Government in creating an enabling environment for small businesses, in particular, UNDP assists in establishing Business Support Centers and One Stop Shops to provide public services to the population.

In the public administration sector, UNDP contributes to improving the efficiency, transparency and accessibility of public services at the national, regional and local levels. UNDP plays an important role in creating an e-government system in Uzbekistan, particularly through the development of a national electronic document management system, thereby enhancing the quality of public services. The agency also advocates for the adoption of the WHO protocol on the introduction of antiretroviral therapy (ART) by the Government of Uzbekistan, ensuring access to treatment for an additional 3,000 people with HIV [10].

Moreover, UNDP implements projects aimed at solving environmental problems and advocates for the rational use of energy resources in the country. UNDP plays an important role in drafting the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Water and Water Use", which embodies an important transition of the country from a fragmented to an integrated approach to water resources management. Over the last decade, UNDP has been actively supporting the creation of Uzbekistan's first biosphere reserve. UNDP has also assessed and mapped the unique flora and fauna of the republic on the Ustyurt plateau.

In today's complex circumstances, while the pandemic increases in its scope, threatening peace and stability, the role and responsibility of the UN increases as it is a universal international organization designed to bring member states together to promote peace and security, stability, protection of human rights, and sustainable development[6].

In Uzbekistan, human rights protection is seen as one of the priorities of interaction with the UN. At present, our country has established a stable political system that meets modern criteria of democracy and human rights, the legislative, executive and judicial authorities of all levels are actively working. But most importantly, respect for the principles of the rule of law and human rights is being established in society.

One of the most important priorities of state policy is increasing the culture of tolerance and humanism, strengthening inter-ethnic and civil understanding as well as harmony. Today, representatives of more than 130 nations and nationalities live in Uzbekistan as one family. In the country, religious organizations of 16 denominations operate freely. State educational institutions teach in seven languages, the National TV and Radio Company broadcasts its programmes in 12 languages, whereas newspapers and magazines are published in more than ten languages.

Uzbekistan highly appreciates the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to strengthen the protection of human rights around the world, as without ensuring human rights it is impossible to solve the problems of socio-economic and spiritual as well as humanitarian development of the state.

Any society can achieve social progress and prosperity only when it is based on peace, the observance and protection of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

Civil society institutions are playing an ever-increasing role in ensuring human rights. It is impossible to imagine a modern, open, strong civil society without a developed system of stable and effective political parties that represent the interests of various social groups and broad segments of the population, non-state non-profit organizations, independent mass media, and other civil society institutions [4].

Currently in Uzbekistan there are more than 9,000 non-governmental organizations, 2,239 religious organizations, and 1,400 media outlets. These figures clearly demonstrate the role played by civil institutions in the life of our society.

The key motives leading to all ongoing reforms in the country are clearly education and enlightenment. Uzbekistan has been actively participating in the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education. All government agencies, civil society institutions, media outlets and educational institutions are involved in the process of disseminating universal ideals and values as well as the principles of respect and observance of human rights among the population.

It is not a coincidence that 7 percent of the country's state budget goes to education. In 2016, the Parliament passed a new Law "On State Youth Policy" to deepen our involvement in this area [2].

The texts on human rights of the main international documents of the UN, ILO, and UNESCO have been translated into the state language and are widely used in school, specialized secondary, vocational, and higher educational systems. Human rights classes are held during the preparation and advanced training of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, jurists, law enforcement officers, military personnel, and representatives of the business community.

Uzbekistan joined the United Nations (UN) as a new, sovereign, independent state in 1992. A year later, a UN office opened in Tashkent. Currently, the UN country team in Uzbekistan consists of 24 UN agencies, funds, and programs that work together to advance national development priorities in accordance with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals[5].

Cooperation between UN agencies and the Republic of Uzbekistan is carried out within the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020, aligned with the national Action Strategy 2017-2021. Priority areas of cooperation are:

1. Inclusive economic development with a focus on employment and social protection;
2. High-quality health care and education for the full realization of human potential;
3. Environmental protection to ensure sustainable development;
4. Good governance to improve the quality of public services and the protection of rights.

In September 2020, the UN Insurance Team finalized the UN Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development (2021-2025). The Cooperation Framework articulates the UN's collective response to support Uzbekistan in achieving the national SDGs with a focus on ensuring that no one is left behind. The Cooperation Framework is the main tool for planning and implementing all UN development activities in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan. It was prepared in close consultation with the Government, Parliament, and civil society of Uzbekistan [11].

The Sustainable Development Goals are a global call to action to eradicate poverty, protect the earth's environment and climate, as well as to ensure that people all over the world can enjoy peace and prosperity. Goals that the UN is working toward in Uzbekistan are: [1]

1. Poverty Eradication: The widespread eradication of poverty in all its forms;
2. Good Health and Well-Being: Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for people of all ages;
3. Gender Equality: Ensuring gender equality and the empowering all women and girls;
4. Quality Education: Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for everyone;
5. Reducing inequalities: Reducing inequalities within and among countries;
6. Decent Work and Growth: Promoting progressive, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for everyone;
7. Partnership for Sustainable Development: Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development;
8. Peace, justice and effective institutions: Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for everyone and building effective, accountable and participatory institutions at all levels.

Therefore, one can confidently say that over the past 29 years the relations between Uzbekistan and the UN have been full of significant events and are dynamically developing in all directions. The world community fully supported all proposals put forward by Uzbekistan within the framework of the United Nations, and today they make a tangible, practical contribution to global peace, stability and sustainable development. Our country remains committed to continue expanding and deepening mutually beneficial cooperation with the UN [3].

The period under consideration was characterized by the organization of meetings, round tables, surveys, expert and public discussions with broad participation of representatives of civil society institutions, media outlets, academia, and foreign specialists.

Some of the most significant international scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical events of 2017-2019 include events on the topics as follows: "Combating terrorism: cooperation without borders", "The role of women in the democratic renewal and modernization of the country: the experience of Uzbekistan and international practice", "Improvement of electoral legislation and democratic elections: the experience of Uzbekistan and international practice", "Ensuring decent employment in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals: international practice and experience of Uzbekistan", "The role of citizens' self-government in strengthening families and raising the younger generation", "Action strategy and strong social policy: international practice and experience of Uzbekistan", "The role of youth in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism", "Preservation of tangible and intangible heritage: current problems and strategies for their solution", and numerous of other topics [9].

These events were held with the participation of experts from the UN, the OSCE, and other authoritative international organizations, scientists as well as specialists from the United States, the EU, the CIS, and developed democratic countries [11].

It is important to take into account the proposals expressed by the foreign participants of the aforementioned events and also in the publications of authoritative foreign academic publications on the following topics: empowerment of women in the agricultural sector; "master-student" relations in production processes; mental tools of stability; empowerment of youth to study abroad; Islamic education; growth of youth self-identification as a result of the spread of advanced ICTs; attitude towards the facts of world history, etc.

According to experts it is necessary to expand the range of discussed topics, the number of participants and their geography, to use interactive methods in the organization, to create a bank of expressed suggestions and comments, and to cover these events more widely in the media [12].

As it is known, informing society about the activities of state and economic management bodies, ensuring their accountability to the population is a necessary condition for implementing the norm of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan stating that "The people are the only source of state power". The concept put forward by the President Sh. M. Mirziyoyev conveys that "Not the people must serve state bodies, but state bodies must serve the people" [8].

An objective and critical analysis of the civil society condition reveals that the course of democratic reforms was generally based on the implementation of the most important constitutional norms that are social justice, continuous dialogue with the people, the openness of public administration, and the development of the mass media as the "fourth estate".

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