

## COOPERATION WITH UNESCO AS A SPECIAL DIRECTION OF MODERN DIPLOMACY OF UZBEKISTAN

Alisherkhujayeva Mamurakhon

Doctoral Student Of Tashkent State University Of Oriental Studies, Uzbekistan

**ABSTRACT:** It is known that Uzbekistan carries out its foreign policy and diplomacy to the requirements and unique challenges of modern international relations. The new era of the country, which began in 2016, is the focus of the attention of scientists, and since this period there must be new trends in many fields and the creation of scientific foundations for their further development. Including the acceleration of multilateral diplomacy, which is considered one of the achievements of the new era of the diplomatic sphere of Uzbekistan. Confirmation of the strengthening of Uzbekistan's diplomacy in the most important areas within the framework of international organizations is, first, active cooperation with UNESCO. The article specifically explores the multilateral, cultural, and heritage diplomacy of Uzbekistan within the framework of UNESCO.

**KEYWORDS:** Uzbekistan, UNESCO, new era, diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, heritage diplomacy.

### INTRODUCTION

Uzbekistan is one of the countries that have established its permanent representation at UNESCO, where the permanent representative of the country conducts his activities in various fields. This is another factor that testifies to the closeness of relations between the organization and Uzbekistan. The United Nations Specialized Agency in the field of science, education, and culture, an organization considered the "conscience of mankind", in the words of Jawaharlal Nehru, the main task of UNESCO is to promote broad cooperation between peoples in these areas to ensure justice, law, respect for human rights, bring peace to the minds of people, consists in planting ideas and universal values. Relations between Uzbekistan and the organization officially began on October 26, 1993, but according to scientists, in fact, these relations date back to an earlier period. We propose to divide the formation and development of relations between Uzbekistan and UNESCO into three periods. The first period covers relationships from 1972 to 1991, the second period from 1991 to 2016, and the third period from 2016 to the present. During these periods, cooperation between UNESCO and Uzbekistan in many areas really reflected multilateral diplomacy. As proof of this, it can be mentioned that multilateral diplomacy is a special

diplomatic direction of Uzbekistan and is a requirement of the modern era. So, “the fruits” of cooperation between Uzbekistan and UNESCO in the context of cultural diplomacy are:

- Anniversary celebrations of ancestors and lexicographers that began in the 1970s.
- Holding anniversaries of historical cities.
- Traditional international music festivals “Sharq taronalari” and “Art of Bakhshi” are held every two years.
- Cooperation aimed to preserve and popularize the natural, tangible, and intangible cultural heritage of Uzbekistan – examples included in the UNESCO list of masterpieces of the natural, tangible, and intangible heritage of mankind and a number of other achievements can be noted. Mutual achievements in various fields determine the importance of cooperation between Uzbekistan and UNESCO for the foreign policy of the state. It is known that one of the main principles of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is the establishment and maintenance of mutually beneficial multilateral relations, and cooperation within the framework of international organizations indicates that this task is being implemented. Being the cradle of several civilizations, the preservation and popularization of cultural values, as well as the creation of a positive image of the state in the world community were important for the young country. Cooperation with the Organization was essential for the implementation of the above. Multilateral diplomacy of Uzbekistan with UNESCO is carried out in accordance with Article 1 of the Charter of the organization, that is, “The main task is a cooperation between countries in the field of education, science, and culture in order to maintain peace and security ...”. And according to the Memorandum signed on August 26, 1995, relations between UNESCO and Uzbekistan are built based on close cooperation in such areas as the implementation of democratic reforms, the preservation of cultural and natural monuments, the use of the latest and most reliable updates achieved in the world in the field of science and education, and the use of the potential of UNESCO’s rulemaking in the formation of international legal principles.

This memorandum is the first cooperation implementation plan signed between the parties, and through data analysis, it was observed that almost most of the projects envisaged by this plan have been implemented. The formation of cooperation and its subsequent stages were formed in accordance with the requirements of the time. After the signing of the above memorandum came into force, the UNESCO conventions were ratified, and the UNESCO office in Tashkent and the National Commission for UNESCO began their work. At the same time, the International Institute for Central Asian Studies began its activities in the city of Samarkand, and the goal of developing research in various fields and implementing the opinions and publications of specialists, outlined at the beginning of the work of UNESCO-Uzbekistan, was also realized - the International Institute began to publish a periodical scientific journal Bulletin of IICAS. UNESCO is a specialized organization of the United Nations, which occupies the position of a laboratory of ideas, which has set as its highest goal the development of education, science, and culture, the protection and promotion of cultural heritage, the means of accelerating cooperation in international relations and on the world stage. As part of the 77-year activity of the organization, 193 member countries, and 11 associated countries have established cooperation, and this is the

most advanced and unique organization in these areas. This is determined by the fact that it includes almost the entire Earth and ensures the absolute equality of each member in the sphere of its activity. Three years after the accession of Uzbekistan, the opening of the UNESCO office in Tashkent can be described as an important date for the official beginning of the history of multilateral diplomacy and close relations between the two sides. On April 23, 1996, an agreement was reached between the parties to open a representative office of the organization based on a contract in Paris, thanks to which Uzbekistan got the opportunity to closely cooperate in the areas of responsibility of UNESCO and carry out multilateral diplomatic relations. in the foreign policy area.

Thus, it became clear that the opening of a UNESCO office, the election of Uzbekistan to the governing body, and then the opening of the National Commission for UNESCO in the Republic of Uzbekistan are not ordinary dates, but very important in the formation and development of state diplomacy within the organization. The term “New Uzbekistan”, which is found in the scientific literature and receiving its confirmation, is increasingly developing in practice. From 1991 to 2016 Uzbekistan experienced a difficult period in its foreign policy sphere, such as the establishment and full formation of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy with the other states of the world, then in subsequent years, a completely new era is observed. In 2018, President Sh. Mirziyoyev’s visit to the French Senate on inter-parliamentary cooperation began with his arrival at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. It illuminates that cooperation with UNESCO is one of the most important issues for Uzbekistan’s modern diplomacy, and most importantly, the “Joint Action Program of Uzbekistan and UNESCO for 2018-2021” was signed in order to adapt it to the modern era. Therefore, further cooperation between UNESCO and Uzbekistan will be established based on the Action Plan between Uzbekistan and UNESCO for 2018-2021, signed during the historic visit of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to UNESCO headquarters in October 2018.

The next important stage was the official visit of the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, to Samarkand and Bukhara on August 26-28, 2019. The third pillar is the project “International Dimension of the Year of European Cultural Heritage – Silk Road Cultural Heritage Corridors in Afghanistan, Central Asia and Iran”, implemented by UNESCO in 2018. The project was carried out in cooperation with the European Union, which provided a total of 3,400,000 US dollars. Thus, the vector of UNESCO in the foreign policy of Uzbekistan is primarily associated with the legislation of Uzbekistan (the Constitution, Decrees of the President, decisions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, decisions of relevant ministries and committees), the concept of foreign policy activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the “Action Strategy for the Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 ” and further “In accordance with the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026.

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