

Interethnic harmony and friendship is an important factor in the peace and prosperity of our country

Mirziyotov I.M.

Phd, International Islamic academy of Uzbekistan

The annotation. This article reveals several matters on the national self-awareness of various ethnic groups, who live in Uzbekistan during the years of independence, regarding the rehabilitation of languages, national customs and traditions, conditions, which have created for the strengthening of these very habits and traditions.

The key words: nation, the international relations, the coexistence; solidarity, peace and stability, religion, tolerance, the strategy of actions, the confessions.

Today there are the representatives of more than 130 nationalities, who live in peace and solidarity as a unique single family. They were united for the sake of the common house for the prosperity of Uzbekistan and they work hard in all spheres and branches, contributing greatly to the construction of the democratic state, based on the market economy and the strong civil society [7, p. 1].

Shavkat Mirziyoev,

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The independence opened unique possibilities for the representatives of all nations, who live in Uzbekistan, without the consideration of the national and religious belonging, the social status, as well as the restoration of the human-beings dignity, traditions and values to provide an upbringing of the growing generation in the spirit of national and common comprehensive values.

In fact, the state chose the only single way for Uzbekistan, and to be more precisely, “the step by step” development, which follows the well-thought, overwhelming and further-going policy, it proves its confirmation in the real life as well.

With regard to this, during 25 years of independence, a considerable effort on the multilateral development of the country was made, created remarkable opportunities for the people and future generations, and also regarding the further increase of the authority and image of Uzbekistan on the international arena. As a result, the immaculate results were achieved. These achievements serve as the prosperity of our motherland and its people.

Peace and stability, tolerance, the international solidarity, and coexistence among citizens play their great role. During the recent 28 years, a freedom of international spiritual and cultural relations, and an inter-cultural tolerance were provided within the political-lawful and in the well-organized plan.

The first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov declared the Independence on the 31th of August, 1991. The world communities recognized Uzbekistan as an equal among the equals.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted on the 8th of December. The country adopted more than 1800 laws in accordance with the international norms, and introduced the changes and amendments to the laws [5, p. 2]. Uzbekistan has also ratified and joined to more than 300 international agreements [12, p. 1].

Uzbekistan became as an equal member of the UN in 1992, and established diplomatic relations with 140 countries of the world. Embassies and Diplomatic Corpses of the Republic of Uzbekistan served to strengthening of the collaboration with more than 50 countries of the world. More than 50 Embassies and Consulates of foreign states work and 20 international organizations and Representative Offices, and also the financial and diplomatic Representative Offices of Foreign states are available in Tashkent [12, p. 1].

The international consolidation of the people, living on the Earth has very deep historical roots. During the centuries, people lived with various cultures, languages, traditions and the styles of life and with the different religious faith. This identified that independent Uzbekistan became the multi-ethnic and multi-confessional state, the Uzbek people possess the qualities, such as tolerance towards other nations, religions and cultures.

No one surprises that since the ancient times, the conversations in different languages have been heard in eastern crowded markets, from the beginning of our era there were Zoroastrian and Buddhist temples in this territory, and later Jewish synagogues, Christian churches, and Muslim mosques.

According to the statistics, the population of Uzbekistan in 1991 was composed of 20, 6 million people, and nowadays, the population is composed of 32 million people [11, p. 1]. Approximately 27 million of them are the Uzbeks, 708 thousand of them are Kara-kalpaks [4, p. 1]. At the same time, approximately 14 percentage of the population of Uzbekistan is composed of the representatives of more than 130 nations, such as Tadjiks, Kazakhs, Russians, Kyrgyz people, the Ukrainians, Tatars, Turkmens, Korean people, etc. Kara-kalpaks, Tajiks, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz people and Turkmens, according to their culture and traditions lived neighboring the Uzbeks. Other nations arrived to this country and they settled as a result of various political and social processes. During the First World War, refugees came to Uzbekistan from Poland, Ukraine, Belorussia, and from the western parts of Russia and the Baltic countries. After the October's revolution of 1917, around one hundred specialists moved to Turkestan in 2017 with the aim to complete reforming of various spheres, and a great number of them stayed to live here forever.

During the deportation in 1930 of the 40th years, thousands of Bulgarians, Greeks, Ingushes, Kalmyks, Koreans, the Crimean Tatars, Kurds, Turks-Mesetians, Germans, and the Chechens were brought to the Republic.

During the Second World War, the inhabitants of Uzbekistan comprised more than one million of people, who stayed without shelter in the near-war-based regions and they demonstrated the high human-based qualities. Many of the builders, who came to Tashkent to go through the consequences of Tashkent's earthquake of 1966 from various parts of the former Soviet Union, and they also stayed forever to live in Tashkent.

Nowadays, the number of people of our country is composed of the single family, which consists of more than 130 nations. There more than 138 national-cultural centers operate to preserve, develop and transfer traditions, customs of various ethnic groups work. Their active work was organized from the first years of independence of the country, and to be exact from the January of 1992, it is coordinated by the Republican International Cultural Center.

With the aim of providing of the necessary conditions for the realization of the active work of the center, the expanding of opportunities and wide scope, and also the strengthening of the mutual understanding and consolidation between the people, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoev, #5046 and dated 19th May 2017 on "The measures of improvement of the international relations and the friendly connections with the foreign countries", on the basis of the Republican International Cultural Center, a Committee for International Relations and Friendly Connections with the Foreign Countries was formed under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

As a result, the ability of the state to conduct the national policy in this sphere has achieved a higher level.

During the years of independence, the state always supported and improved the actions and efforts of the Republican International Cultural Center and the National Cultural Centers on the issues of strengthening of the international consolidation.

In particular, in 2002, there were commemorated the tenth anniversary in 2002, and it was as well celebrated the 15th anniversary in 2012 году – and finally the 25-th anniversary of the foundation of the Republican International Cultural Center, and more than 150 people out of 10 various national cultural centers were awarded with the state prizes, 14 people from various nations were awarded with high prizes such as ‘The Hero of Uzbekistan’.

Ethnic features have been developing and international relations are being strengthened. Moreover, 138 national-cultural centers serve to the development of the culture of language, the people’s handicraft’s, the mutual enrichment of various cultures, and also adjusting of the feeling of the multi-national family to each citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Since 2017, the Republican International Cultural Center acts as a Committee, coordinating its activities, providing practical and methodological assistance to cultural centers.

The center (Committee), according to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoev, enriched the cultural and social life, based on the bright events in all spheres in all parts of the country and strengthened the relations of friendship and consolidation between the representatives of various people and nations, who live in Uzbekistan. It is remarkable that such structure of that period was created only in Uzbekistan among the CIS countries.

It all proves that the country conducts a right policy on the development of the international relations, that the aim is clearly set. (Aimed). The Committee greatly contributes to the formation of the unique system of the non-governmental organizations in the area of the international relations.

Indeed, the multifaceted activity of national cultural centers serves to ensure a peaceful and prosperous life, the solution of important cultural and social problems, as well as the development of cooperation with foreign countries.

After gaining independence, in 1992 Uzbekistan ratified a number of international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Uzbekistan was one of the first Central Asian states to accede to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to sign international covenants on civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights. The Republic has acceded to more than 80 international human rights treaties.

Today, in different parts of the planet, interethnic and inter-religious tension have been actively intensified, the aggressive nationalism and religious intolerance are increasing. Such incidents contribute to the disintegration of society from within and turn society into an ideological base for radical groups and movements. In such a difficult situation, the strengthening of friendship and harmony between people of different religions and nationalities in the country is crucial. This is a reliable guarantee of peace and tranquility in Uzbekistan.

Over the years of independence, Uzbekistan has been recognized as a state of peaceful coexistence of people of different nationalities, a state that ensures freedom of religion for representatives of 16 religious faiths. National relations in the republic were carried out taking into account the ethno-national and ethno-cultural characteristics of each nation.

For this reason, from the first years of independence, a legal framework was created in the country to ensure interethnic harmony, peace and stability. The Basic Law of the State – the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that the people of Uzbekistan are citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regardless of their nationality, and all citizens have the same rights and freedoms, that they are all equal before the law,

regardless of gender, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, beliefs, personality, and social status. Everyone has the right to profess any religion or not to profess any religion. The forced inculcation of religious beliefs is not allowed.

In order to ensure freedom of religion of citizens of different nationalities, hundreds of mosques, dozens of churches, synagogues and temples have been built and renovated, which today serve to strengthen the faith. In particular, along with the Islamic religion practiced by the indigenous population, prayer and educational institutions were built for representatives of more than 15 religious denominations. Among them are the Orthodox churches in Tashkent, Samarkand and Navoi, the Catholic and Buddhist churches in Tashkent, the Armenian-Apostolic churches in Samarkand and Tashkent.

In order to harmonize relations between the state and religion, a special body has been created under the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan - the Committee on Religious Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers. Higher and secondary special Islamic educational institutions, Orthodox and Protestant seminaries for the younger generation operate in the Republic, in the city of Tashkent and in the regions, so that they receive religious knowledge.

In recent years, the Center for Islamic Civilization, the Islamic Academy, the Higher Madrasah Mir Arab, international research centers named after Imam Bukhari and Imam Termizi, established in Uzbekistan, serve to study and promote our rich scientific and historical heritage.

In accordance with the initiatives of the President Shavkat Mirziyoev and the Resolution #5416, dated by the 16th of April, 2018, on the basis of Tashkent Islamic University it was founded the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan- is a leading educational and research institution specializing in religious and secular education, training qualified personnel in the field of studying the Holy Quran, hadiths, Islamic law, "akida," Sufism, Islamic economy and finance, international relations, foreign languages (Arabic, Persian, English, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, etc.), as well as in the field of training for which there is a need for an international scale, the creation of a unified system of medium about the special education, higher and postgraduate education, continuing education at the stages of advanced training, preservation and in-depth study of a rich scientific heritage.

This is evidenced by the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted in October 2018 "On Ratification of the Charter of the Institute of Standards and Metrology of Islamic Countries and Rules" and "On Ratification of Amendments to the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation." The higher and secondary education in the republic is provided in seven languages - Uzbek, Karakalpak, Russian, Tajik, Kazakh, Turkmen and Kyrgyz. The publication of textbooks for schools and higher education institutions is funded by the government. At the same time, in most national cultural centers, Sunday schools operate where native and other languages, culture, art and traditions of peoples are studied. One of the languages that are widely used for the international exchange of information — English, Russian, French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, etc., is studied in schools and higher educational institutions.

The National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan broadcasts in 12 languages. Programs are being broadcast about the life and work of national-cultural centers uniting representatives of different nationalities.

Articles dedicated to the ideas of national independence, interethnic harmony and the promotion of religious tolerance are published in more than 10 languages (Uzbek, Karakalpak, Armenian, Russian, Tajik, Kazakh, Turkmen, Korean, French, Persian, English, etc.) contribute to cohesion between ethnic groups and faiths.

In order to educate young people in the spirit of patriotism and devotion to the ideas of national independence, conducting practical seminars and round tables on the themes "Peace, prosperity of the Motherland – and its Well-being", "The role of national and spiritual values in the formation of a harmoniously developed generation", "One goal, one idea, One Motherland", "Our power in unity and solidarity", "We are the children of one land and one time", "In this sacred Motherland - people are held in high esteem", "The role

and place of national-cultural centers and other civil society institutions in educating young people in the spirit of interethnic harmony” has become a tradition.

The higher education institutions organize lectures on the topic: “The Interethnic harmony, tolerance - a factor of stability”, “Socio-political stability and interethnic harmony - an important factor in building a democratic society in Uzbekistan”;

The documentaries reflecting the unique national policy pursued by the state such as “Uzbekistan is our common home”, “In a single family”, “Uzbekistan is a country of tolerance”, “Our home – Uzbekistan”, “Country of friendship and harmony”, “Multinational Uzbekistan”, “In a friendly family”, “We are your children, Uzbekistan”, “Uzbekistan is a country of peace and harmony” as well as the conditions created in all areas for representatives of various ethnic groups are always in the center of public attention in the country. The friendship and culture festival “Uzbekistan is our common home” has been held at the highest level since 2003. According to the regulations, the seventh festival was held in honor of the 28th anniversary of the country's independence in 2019 in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and the city of Tashkent.

In order to promote the essence and content of interethnic harmony and friendship between nations, to familiarize the public with the consequences of national and religious conflicts taking place around the world, photo exhibitions and exhibitions of fine art “Uzbekistan - our common home”, “Our strength in unity and harmony”, “One goal, one idea, One motherland”, “Our power - in unity and solidarity”, “The role of national values in raising health of children”, “We are the children of one family”, “People of honor, homeland is sacred” are held in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, cities, border areas and Tashkent.

To strengthen interethnic harmony and friendship between nations with the participation of representatives of various ethnic groups and our compatriots abroad, Independence Day, Navruz holiday, Memorial and Honor Day, Constitution Day, round tables dedicated to these significant dates, concerts are held. In addition, the Committee with the support of diplomatic missions of Uzbekistan abroad organizes national holidays, conferences and meetings.

The atmosphere of friendship and solidarity prevailing in the country serves to enhance the prestige of Uzbekistan in the international arena. Indeed, as the Head of State Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted, during the years of independence, a new stage begins in the development of interethnic relations in the country. The development of a culture of tolerance, humanity, the strengthening of interethnic and civil harmony and friendship, the upbringing of the younger generation in the spirit of love and devotion to the motherland, were identified as one of the most important priorities of the state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. All this is fully reflected in real life.

“The strategies for the further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021”, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, dated by 7th February 2017, #UP-4947, emphasized security, religious tolerance and interethnic harmony as priority areas in the field of deep, mutually beneficial and effective external politicians .

According to this, the following measures are identified as the main tasks to ensure the development:

- protection of the constitutional system, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- ensuring information security protection and improving the information security system, ensuring timely appropriate measures to counter information threats;
- strengthening civil, interethnic and interfaith harmony;
- strengthening the sovereignty of the state, strengthening the role and place of the country as a full-fledged subject of international relations, becoming a developed democratic states, creating a region of security, stability and good neighborliness around Uzbekistan;

- strengthening of the international authority of the Republic of Uzbekistan, providing objective information to the international community about current reforms in the country;
- Improvement of the regulatory framework of foreign economic activity and the legal framework of international cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

So, each citizen of Uzbekistan, independent to national belonging, religious awareness or social status must keep the constitutional system, sovereignty and the territorial unity of the state, to fight timely against various informational threats, to contribute greatly to the strengthening of the ethnic and inter-confessional agreements, regarding the issue of an increase of the role of the country in the international community, and the rise of its role as the region of nice neighbourhood, safety and prosperity.

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