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THE HISTORY OF THE LEGAL FOUNDATIONS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARAB STATES OF THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Abstract. This article examines the historical development and current legal foundations of cooperation between the Arab States of the Persian Gulf and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The study analyzes the bilateral and multilateral legal instruments that form the basis for diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural relations between the two sides. It also highlights Uzbekistan's foreign policy priorities, strategic interests, and the role of international law and national legislation in shaping these partnerships. Special attention is given to the impact of regional and international organizations, as well as recent multilateral initiatives that further deepen these relations.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, Persian Gulf, Arab States, foreign policy, international law, legal foundations, bilateral agreements, multilateral cooperation, international organizations.

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ИСТОРИЯ ПРАВОВЫХ ОСНОВ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА МЕЖДУ АРАБСКИМИ ГОСУДАРСТВАМИ ПЕРСИДСКОГО ЗАЛИВА И РЕСПУБЛИКОЙ УЗБЕКИСТАН

Аннотация. В статье рассматривается историческое развитие и современные правовые основы сотрудничества между арабскими государствами Персидского залива и Республикой Узбекистан. В исследовании анализируются двусторонние и многосторонние правовые инструменты, которые формируют базу для дипломатических, политических, экономических и культурных отношений между сторонами. Особое внимание уделяется внешнеполитическим приоритетам Узбекистана, его стратегическим интересам, а также роли международного права и национального законодательства в формировании данных партнерств. Отдельно подчеркивается влияние региональных и международных организаций, а также последних многосторонних инициатив, которые способствуют дальнейшему углублению данных отношений.

Ключевые слова: Узбекистан, Персидский залив, арабские государства, внешняя политика, международное право, правовые основы, двусторонние соглашения, многостороннее сотрудничество, международные организации.

Introduction In the present era, the cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Arab states of the Persian Gulf is entering a new stage. Against the backdrop of global political and economic developments, the growth of ties between these two regions is becoming increasingly important not only for their bilateral interests but also for international security, stability, and development. From this perspective, this article will explore the legal foundations of cooperation

between Uzbekistan and the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, as well as their mutual relations within the framework of international and regional legal systems.

The relevance of this topic is linked, on the one hand, to Uzbekistan's recent open and constructive foreign policy course, and on the other hand, to the growing interest of Gulf states in the Central Asian region. The alignment of mutual interests, shared aspirations for political stability and economic cooperation, and the closeness of religious and spiritual values create favorable conditions for deepening this partnership.

This article analyzes the main areas of cooperation shaped by bilateral and multilateral agreements, legal documents within international organizations, and intergovernmental accords. It also provides a detailed overview of Uzbekistan's foreign policy principles, its national interests, and its approach within the framework of international legal norms.

Literature Review. The study of this topic significantly relies on key scholarly literature in the fields of international law and foreign policy theory. In particular, the works of Dr. Mahinnora and N. Mirkhamidova [1] on international law, as well as those by Uzbek researchers such as K. Rashidov [2], Yunusova M [3], and N. Abduraimova [4], provide a solid foundation for both theoretical and practical analysis of the subject. Primary legal documents such as the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the Charter of the United Nations, and conventions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) serve as essential practical sources. Moreover, the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the national legislative framework offer a comprehensive view of the domestic legal foundation relevant to the topic.

Methodology This study is based on the historical-legal analysis method. The primary objects of analysis were international treaties, intergovernmental and interagency agreements, conventions, and memorandums that have shaped and developed the cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Arab states of the Persian Gulf.

In addition, the research employed content analysis of legal documents, comparative legal analysis, a systematic approach, and normative legal methods. Throughout the study, key sources included the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law "On International Treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan," and legal documents from international organizations such as the UN, OIC, LAS, and GCC, as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements [5].

Furthermore, official documents signed in recent years between Uzbekistan and the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, statistical data, and statements from international conferences and summits were also used as research materials.

The main goal of the methodology was to systematically and scientifically analyze the legal foundations of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to identify the current achievements, and to assess future prospects.

Results. The formation and development of bilateral cooperation between the Arab States of the Persian Gulf and the Republic of Uzbekistan are significantly influenced by their shared foreign policy approaches and the closeness of their religious and spiritual values. These factors contribute to the strengthening of mutual understanding, trust, and strategic partnership in their bilateral relations.

Since gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has recognized the necessity of pursuing an active and consistent foreign policy to ensure the country's economic development and regional security. Therefore, the Republic has developed a foreign policy strategy aimed at securing a worthy place in the international community, promoting, and protecting its national interests on the global stage. This strategy envisages establishing mutually beneficial cooperation with developed foreign countries and reputable international organizations.

The legal foundations of foreign policy are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, particularly through its relevant articles, which define the fundamental principles and directions of the state's international relations [6].

It is worth noting that the Republic of Uzbekistan possesses a number of favorable factors in conducting its foreign policy and establishing diplomatic relations. First of all, the country's geostrategic location significantly enhances its importance in international cooperation. Additionally, Uzbekistan's territory is rich in natural resources, particularly minerals and raw materials, which create a solid foundation for economic relations. Furthermore, internal stability, consistent socio-economic reforms, and a foreign policy based on the norms of international law contribute to the country's effective engagement in foreign relations [7, pp.91]. These factors play an important role in strengthening Uzbekistan's position in the international community.

Based on these factors, the Republic of Uzbekistan has paid special attention to developing the legal framework in the field of foreign policy. In particular, laws and subordinate legal acts regulating foreign policy activities have been developed and implemented based on the principles of openness, constructiveness, and mutual benefit, while prioritizing national interests.

As one of the priorities of its foreign policy, Uzbekistan has devoted special attention to developing diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural relations with Muslim countries, particularly the Arab states of the Persian Gulf. The creation of a legal and normative framework has become one of the key factors in strengthening relations with these states. The legal foundations have been formed through bilateral and multilateral agreements, treaties, memorandums, and other international legal documents.

Thus, by 2022, more than 90 bilateral documents, including agreements and memorandums of understanding, have been signed between the Arab states of the Persian Gulf and the Republic of Uzbekistan [8, pp.447]. The majority of these documents consist of intergovernmental, interdepartmental, and economic cooperation agreements. Analyzing the dynamics of their conclusion shows that many agreements in the economic sphere were signed from the early years of independence up to 2015. This demonstrates that Uzbekistan's foreign policy efforts to develop trade and economic relations with the countries of this region have been implemented gradually.

The cooperation relations between the Arab states of the Persian Gulf and the Republic of Uzbekistan have been formed on the basis of universally recognized principles and norms of international law and have been consolidated through bilateral official documents. This legal framework serves to ensure the stable development of mutual relations between these countries, as well as to consistently advance cooperation in various fields.

The legal foundations of this cooperation are based, on the one hand, on the norms of international law, and on the other hand, on the foreign policy principles of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In particular, these principles are reflected in the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law "On International Treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan [9]," the Law "On Defense [10]," the Military Doctrine of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the principles and objectives of international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). In addition, obligations arising from international treaties and agreements ratified by the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan also constitute the legal basis of this cooperation [11].

The Republic of Uzbekistan conducts its foreign policy in an open, mutually beneficial, and constructive manner, with the primary goals of ensuring national interests, safeguarding state independence and sovereignty, and strengthening its position and role on the international stage. Furthermore, one of the priorities of the country's foreign policy is to ensure regional security, reinforce stability, and develop good-neighborly relations. At the same time, the Republic of Uzbekistan strictly adheres to the policy of not joining military-political blocs, not allowing foreign military bases and facilities on its territory, and not permitting its military personnel to participate in military operations or conflicts abroad.

Relying on the universally recognized principles of international law and the norms of national legislation, the Republic of Uzbekistan has established mutually beneficial and constructive cooperative relations with foreign countries and international organizations, including the Arab states of the Persian Gulf. The formation of such cooperation is closely linked to the main directions of Uzbekistan's foreign policy and its national interests, ensuring the pursuit of a stable, open, and balanced political course in the international arena.

In the legal analysis of cooperation relations between the Arab states of the Persian Gulf and the Republic of Uzbekistan, the documents regulating these relations may be classified under the current legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan into three categories: interstate, intergovernmental, and interdepartmental agreements. This classification is based on the subjects and content of the legal documents.

Interstate treaties — agreements concluded between two or more states, as well as other subjects of international law, which establish mutual rights and obligations in political, economic, cultural, or other fields. These treaties are recognized as one of the primary sources of international law. They may be formalized under various titles — treaty, agreement, convention, pact, declaration, memorandum, statute, protocol, charter, statement, and other forms.

Intergovernmental agreements are concluded directly between the governments of states and typically regulate cooperation in the fields of trade and economy, finance and technology, investment, as well as transport and logistics. Interagency agreements, on the other hand, are concluded between ministries, agencies, or other relevant state bodies, and serve to facilitate information exchange, capacity building, and the implementation of joint projects within specific sectors.

These legal foundations create the basis for the stable and consistent development of relations between the Gulf Arab states and Uzbekistan, as well as for the legal consolidation of their cooperation.

The international cooperation between the Gulf Arab states and Uzbekistan is regulated legally on the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements. These agreements define the main directions of interstate cooperation and establish a legal framework for their mutual relations in the international arena. There exists a long-standing experience of cooperation between the Gulf Arab states and Uzbekistan on the international level. The parties have engaged in mutual cooperation in areas such as security, trade and economic relations, and social development.

In addition to bilateral agreements, the Gulf Arab states and Uzbekistan are also parties to a number of multilateral international treaties. These multilateral documents are usually concluded within the framework of international organizations and serve as an important legal basis for regulating bilateral relations. Such agreements are aimed at strengthening cooperation in the fields of international politics, economy, culture, and security.

The main multilateral agreements in which the Gulf Arab states and Uzbekistan participate include the following:

- Conventions and declarations within the framework of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC);
- Global conventions of the United Nations (UN) (such as those on combating corruption, environmental protection, climate change, counter-terrorism, and others);
- Regional forums and related documents on cooperation between Arab states and Central Asia;
- Multilateral programs within the framework of UNESCO and other international organizations in the fields of cultural heritage protection, education, and science;
- Financial and economic cooperation agreements signed within the framework of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB);
- The Central Asia - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summits.

Such multilateral agreements not only contribute to the expansion of bilateral relations, but also serve to strengthen sustainable development, security, and mutual trust throughout the region. In particular, Uzbekistan's open foreign policy in recent years and the active involvement of Gulf countries in regional political and economic processes further increase the significance of these agreements. For instance, cooperation has been established between Uzbekistan and the UAE within the framework of the Arab Coordination Group. During the Group's meeting held in Tashkent in July 2007, representatives of the Abu Dhabi Development Fund, a UAE member of the group, participated. At this conference, more than twenty projects related to Uzbekistan's education, healthcare, agriculture and water management, energy, chemical industry, public utilities, construction, and metallurgy sectors were reviewed, and several documents were signed.

The mutual relations between the Gulf Arab states and Uzbekistan have been formed on the basis of both parties' national legal systems and universally recognized international legal principles. The legal foundation of these relations consists of bilateral agreements, treaties, and international legal norms. This legal basis regulates bilateral cooperation in political, economic, security, cultural, and other fields.

Conclusion. The cooperation between Uzbekistan and the Arab States of the Persian Gulf is firmly grounded in international law and supported by a growing body of bilateral and multilateral legal instruments. These legal frameworks provide a solid foundation for expanding diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties while ensuring that the cooperation remains balanced, mutually beneficial, and aligned with the national interests of Uzbekistan and its partners in the Gulf region.

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