

THE ROLE OF STRATEGIES IN PROTECTING AGAINST GLOBAL THREATS IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

Nowadays, enterprises are faced with many global economic threats that can threaten their operations and stability. This article analyzes strategies for adapting to global economic threats and their factors.

Keywords: global threats, economic uncertainty, digital technologies, economy.

Introduction

In recent years, Uzbekistan has emerged as a nation actively navigating the complex landscape of global threats, ranging from environmental issues to security challenges posed by terrorism and geopolitical tensions. The role of strategic planning in addressing these threats cannot be overstated. A well-structured strategy not only enhances national security but also fosters economic stability and social cohesion. Central to Uzbekistan's approach is the recognition of the interconnectedness of global threats. Environmental challenges, such as climate change, can exacerbate social and economic vulnerabilities. Therefore, Uzbekistan has adopted integrated strategies that promote sustainable development while addressing ecological issues. Water scarcity is a pressing concern in this arid region, prompting the government to engage in regional cooperation with neighboring countries to manage shared water resources effectively.¹

MAIN PART

In the realm of security, Uzbekistan has prioritized developing a robust defense strategy that responds to both internal and external threats. The region has historically experienced conflict and instability, particularly in neighboring Afghanistan. This has led Uzbekistan to enhance its border security and invest in military modernization. Strategic partnerships, especially with Central Asian nations and key global powers, have been established to bolster collective security efforts against terrorism and organized crime.² One feature of President Mirziyoyev's

¹ WORK, G. Q. (2024). REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN (Doctoral dissertation, MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION).

² Paramonov, V., Stokov, A., Khoshnazarov, S., Abdurazakov, A., Abdujabborov, A., Nishonboev, K., ... & Ergashev, B. (2006). Regional cooperation in central Asia: A view from Uzbekistan (II). Problems of Economic Transition, 49(5), 3-93.



strategy is its drastic departure from Karimov-era foreign policy. Islam Karimov's policy during his reign from 1991 to 2016 placed primary importance on not giving in to the ambitions of dominance characterized by large international players, such as Russia, the United States or China. Conversely, Karimov attempted to avoid falling into isolation, as exemplified by the declared neutrality of Turkmenistan. In attempting to draw a balance between global players while establishing Uzbekistan as the leading player in the Central Asia (CA) region, Karimov attempted to place Uzbekistan on a global geopolitical map. To this end, Karimov's goal was to build a foreign policy of global significance in which both global and regional players take into consideration the special role and position of Uzbekistan on various issues. These highly varied issues included the global war on terrorism, the international campaign in Afghanistan, US efforts to contain Russia, and the development of the China-led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). In this sense, geopolitical issues in foreign policy decision-making played one of the most significant and important roles during the Karimov era. President Karimov advocated that these approaches follow a pragmatic course dictated by Uzbek national interests. Moreover, Uzbekistan recognizes that economic stability is crucial for mitigating global threats. The government has implemented various economic reforms to attract foreign investment and stimulate domestic industries. By diversifying the economy and reducing reliance on single sectors, Uzbekistan enhances its resilience against economic shocks that could arise from global fluctuations or regional destabilization. Cultural and social strategies also play an integral role in Uzbekistan's approach to global threats. The government actively promotes national identity and social cohesion as protective mechanisms against radicalization and extremism. Educational reforms aimed at fostering tolerance and inclusivity are pivotal in equipping the younger generation with critical thinking skills and a sense of belonging within a diverse society. The role of international cooperation cannot be overlooked in Uzbekistan's strategic planning. By participating in various international forums and organizations, Uzbekistan not only shares its own experiences but also learns from global best practices. This engagement allows the country to stay aligned with international norms and standards, enhancing its legitimacy and capacity to tackle global challenges collectively. With the election of President Mirziyoyev, the Uzbek government displayed a departure from such an approach, instead moving towards new foreign policy agenda setting. In contrast to the Karimov-era policy, Uzbekistan shows signs of downgrading the importance of global issues in its foreign policy objectives in favour of focusing on a problem-solving approach within the CA region under Mirziyoyev's presidency. Mirziyoyev prioritized the economic rebuilding of Uzbekistan and directed the foreign policy of his administration to serve this task. Mirziyoyev's policy was first aimed towards rebuilding troubled relations with Uzbekistan's neighbour in order to both stabilize and maximize the economic potential of these relations. This policy also aimed to increase the efficiency of Uzbekistan's interactions with non-regional partners, especially in economic areas. In this sense, Mirziyoyev's foreign policy distinguished itself from Karimov's era in that it prioritized economic versus political issues in terms of setting the agenda for foreign policy interactions.

Cybersecurity presents a new frontier in global threats, and Uzbekistan has recognized the need for comprehensive strategies to protect its digital infrastructure. With increasing reliance on



technology, the government has initiated programs to strengthen cybersecurity protocols, develop skilled professionals, and promote awareness among citizens. This multifaceted approach is essential for safeguarding vital national interests in an era where cyber threats are ever-evolving. Additionally, Uzbekistan's public health strategies have been reinvigorated in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating the necessity of preparedness against global health threats. Strengthening healthcare systems and increasing investments in research and technology have become priorities. The focus on public health not only shields the population from current threats but also strengthens resilience against future health crises.³

Employment strategies are also intertwined with national security policies. By creating job opportunities and addressing unemployment, Uzbekistan aims to diminish the appeal of extremist ideologies that often thrive in economically deprived environments. Vocational training programs and entrepreneurship initiatives are integral to this strategy, empowering individuals and communities.

Uzbekistan's geographic position as a landlocked country incentivizes the development of transportation and trade strategies. Efforts to improve connectivity within Central Asia and beyond are crucial in enhancing trade relationships and economic stability. A robust transport network not only facilitates economic growth but also serves as a tool for regional diplomacy, reducing tensions that could lead to conflict.

Public awareness campaigns form another cornerstone of Uzbekistan's strategy in protecting against global threats. Educating citizens on issues ranging from climate change to cybersecurity helps foster a proactive rather than reactive approach to threats. Community engagement and participation in decision-making processes further empower citizens, creating a more resilient society overall.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the role of strategies in protecting against global threats in Uzbekistan is multifaceted and dynamic, encompassing security, economic stability, environmental sustainability, and social cohesion. By addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities and investing in comprehensive strategies, Uzbekistan positions itself as a proactive player in the global arena, ready to confront the challenges of the 21st century while ensuring the safety and prosperity of its citizens.

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