

Uzbekistan: Responsibility For Sustainable Development And Intensity Of Rapid Changes

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It can be said that the content analysis of political and economic processes, events and changes that have occurred globally in the last three years and have been observed with particular interest by the international community has demonstrated the following:

1. The historic meeting of the US and North Korean leaders;
2. The defeat of ISIS, which has discredited the entire Islamic world in the Middle East region;
3. The murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Consulate of Saudi Arabia in Turkey and the negative attitude of the international community towards it;
4. Intensification of international mediation to resolve disputes between the Afghan government and the Taliban movement;
5. Worsening of conflicts in such Middle Eastern countries as Syria, Saudi Arabia, Yemen;
6. The withdrawal of the US from the nuclear deal with Iran signed in 2015 and the introduction of new sanctions against Iran;
7. The ever-escalating trade war between the US and China and others.

But at the same time, there is another issue that has been separately observed, studied and reacted to by many world-wide publications, representatives of analytical circles, politicians, and it is precisely this topic that is connected with the fate of Central Asia and the realities that drew the attention of the world - the political processes associated with the death of Islam Karimov, the leader who wielded state power in Uzbekistan for many years. The death of the president of Uzbekistan was not only great surprise for the people of Uzbekistan, but also for the world community, and shocked the whole of Central Asia.

This news spreading at lightning speed was received differently by many countries of the world, and now it is clear that predictions by various analysts about the increasingly escalating struggles for the strife of power in Uzbekistan, the existence of the possibility of the beginning of a Civil War and the most tragic of all, the dragging of whole Central Asia into the trap of this conflict began to spread. It is no secret to anyone that this had its own objective and subjective reasons, and any spark in Uzbekistan, the most densely populated Central Asian country which had been governed by a single man for more than 25 years, with its increasing social problems would cause a huge explosion.

In addition, in most cases in Eastern societies, the transfer of power did not go smoothly, unless the leader appointed the "heir" who would then rule the state, and of course, the possibility of a war based on struggle for power was also very high. At the same time, the fact that the countries seeking their own interests in Central Asia, in particular in Uzbekistan, began to revise their relations and prepare for the establishment of a possible other format, was characteristic of that period.

However, the unfolding of events expected by many, did not happen. The prognosis given for imminent conflicts related to the transfer of power in the country did not materialize. The people of Uzbekistan, a wise nation with long years of statehood history, were able to unite in a difficult situation, and the situation with the change of power was smooth and under full control, which was surprising to many. We will try to answer the question of what the reason of this was and how with the help of political analyses.

It is known that there are factors of the endurance of the state and society life to the contemporary challenges and threats, such as:

*achievement of economic stability in society;

- achievement of unanimity between political power and society;
- acceptance of the work carried out by political power by the society as its own, that is, the realization that these works are aimed at the benefit of the people;

* achievement of spiritual maturity, patriotism, formation and expression of qualities of Patriotism in the minds of every citizen on the basis of the national idea. Carrying out a systematic policy in Uzbekistan in this regard, finding a way to the people's hearts by taking into account every factor was one of the most important tasks.

It was no secret to anyone that the unexpected death of the country's leader might have brought about a conflict between the military and the executive power of the state. In those very days, the legacy of the system - the Security services, that is, the greatest power of the political system of the country, was able not only to control all system of the state, but also the potential for direct governance. This, in addition to casting doubt on the democratic development of the country, would also have given rise to the possibility of the beginning of political repressions. The main task of the agenda was the formation of a society able to endure threats in the times rich in standoffs in complicated conditions, its improvement, acceptance of the politics by the people and transformation of them into a creative force.

However, as a result of the fact that Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who had the ability to find agreement with any power, as well as extensive experience in public administration, worked effectively in different parts of management starting from the Soviet system and for the following 25 years, was deeply aware of the achievements and shortcomings in politics, was able to feel the state interests in any situations, and to find a common language with the whole political elite and "branches". Along with securing the stability of the country, he demonstrated true leadership qualities and, based on his life experiences, developed a strategy to fully reform the country, and was able to assure the nation he can implement them.

The president, who in his time known for his extreme strictness and exacting character, began to emerge at the same time as a leader capable of carrying out great democratic advancements, he was determined to carry out extremely effective reforms for transforming the authoritarian system of government that had reigned in the country for many years into a democratic system, a policy of accelerating democracy. He started to create a true democracy - to instill in the minds of leaders of all strata that power belonged to people, that it should serve only their interests. It is being proven in practice that the legitimacy of government is ensured only when not only the various branches of power, but also its structures serve the people. It is known from the experience of political reforms that any power can be legal and at the same time not be legitimate. Also, sometimes without being legal, a political power can be legitimate. President Sh.Mirziyoyev paid major attention to providing both legality and legitimacy to the political power from the very first days of his leadership, and this factor remains the fundamental basis for ensuring political stability and the endurance of society to threats.

These very qualities and activities increased not only people's confidence in President Shavkat Mirziyoyev but also the international community's interest in him. The world community awaiting the establishment of the next authoritarianism system with foreboding, now began to declare its readiness to cooperate with the country in any sphere.

But the new president was very well aware that it would not be easy to get rid of the long-standing complications in the governance and carry out the reforms to implement innovations, that the system was not yet ready for changes. Having personally experienced many years of government's complexities, its hard and easy aspects, the president went on the path of reforming the whole system. He was not afraid to completely update all three branches of government, modernize the work and base of political institutions and to apply innovations, achievements of foreign developed countries starting from the country's government system to the whole life, of drastic changes in the international ratings in various fields. He began to pay special attention to preparing, first of all, state institutions and agencies to radical reforms, finding and appointing personnel who understood the policy. The people, who have witnessed how he managed to overcome resistance met and to come on this path with deep political knowledge and technocratic skills, supported the president in every area. They began to see the realization of their dreams and goals. Sh. Mirziyoyev's premise that political power must above of all serve the people was practically proven.

It is also natural that the rapid development of the country requires the satisfaction of different interests. President Sh. Mirziyoyev also paid his attention to training civil society institutions that had experienced long years of "being controlled" and accustomed to working with certain instructions to modern thinking and working, to waking them out, speeding up the processes of political development and democratization that had lagged behind, eliminating their only declarative features. He paid a special attention to strengthening political institutions, ensuring that they are worthy of their words, practical activity and position in relation to the executive branch of government, eliminating the long-term political "dependence" and the spirit of subjugation, integrating into political practice as one of the most important directions of radical changes. Most importantly, the world's most influential publications began defining Shavkat Mirziyoyev as an active reformer. On July 13, 2017, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's video-conference meeting was organized with representatives of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis, political parties and the environmental movement of Uzbekistan, during which he noted that "any political party can exist as a political force if only it goes abreast with the time and meets its acute requirements" alongside with the adaptation of civil society institutions to the world development, their participation in the government on the basis of democratic requirements, advancement of strict requirements for participating not only in elections but also in political life.

Although, he hadn't ruled the state as the first person for a long time, the effects of the reforms became evident soon. The people's life began to improve, and the country's reputation in the international arena started to rise. The criteria for assessing the results of practical work were implemented, the international rating was directly introduced, mistakes and shortcomings were openly publicized, open and effective means of solving the problems that had been tormenting the people for a long time were implemented, several hundreds of decisions and decrees were adopted, and special monitoring of their implementation was established. In order to assess the effectiveness of the activities of the government's executive branch, to further increase its responsibility for the regions, a new institutional system, namely, people's reception rooms (virtual reception rooms), was launched. This system has become a very important institution as a criterion for solving the problems of the population on the one hand, and assessing the effectiveness of the activities of each leader on the other hand. It is

understood from the essence of these criteria that threat endurance is also cultivated in society, it is acquired through the endeavor of the society for unity. In this case by relying on the natural potential of the struggle for survival, inherent in any social organism, a clear goal-oriented behavior is conducted. Most importantly, the same threat endurance must be chosen as the ultimate goal.

In order to solve social problems in every region of the country and ensure the proper functioning of the entire executive system, each region was divided into 4 sectors, and the governor, the prosecutor general, the head of the Internal Affairs Department and the head of the district tax office were assigned as in charge people these sectors. This increased the mutual responsibility of all the heads of the bodies and laid the foundation for the solution of many problems. To avoid the fable of dragging the cart by the swan, the pike and the crawfish in different directions written by the Russian fabulist Krylov many years ago from becoming an example of the activities of the authorities, special attention paid to making their activities appropriate, directing them to satisfy people is serving as a base for increasing the threat endurance of the society and state life.

The main thing is that the President completely renounced traditional views on the system of Government Administration and Management and did not hesitate to introduce international standards. He recognized the implementation of ratings, which assess the effectiveness of any reforms, obtaining conclusions on the effectiveness of the work activities of all the levels of the state administration from the state administration downwards as the most important works, and the development of relations with the developed countries of the world in these areas as the main condition for development, and comprehensive overtures are being taken to further ties with them.

Never hiding from anyone that the country was considerably lagging behind in regards of human rights, freedom of speech, the development of civil society, the diversity of political views, he implemented a completely new diplomacy in relations with Western countries, previously regarded as a "delicate matter", including the USA, Great Britain, France, Germany considered the standard of democracy, and demonstrated no fear to introduce their long lasting experience. It was realized that the use of innovations that they achieved and implemented in every field would provide great opportunities to the country.

Importantly, the issues of abandonment of politicking, the manifestation of changes not in speech, but in practice, the conduct of pragmatic policies, the support of business and entrepreneurship, the basis for the development of the country and the solution of economic and social problems, the sharp blow to the corrupt schemes that controlled exports and imports, and controlled "the market «are being addressed at the state policy level skillfully. Among the greatest achievements of the country, the determination to liberalize the market and trade, the currency exchange market, which always cast a shadow on the confidence of foreign investors, has given new meaning to the reforms.

But as we noted at the beginning of the topic, at exactly these times the situation was very tense not only in the region, but also within the country. It was also a natural process for such the enemy forces of the old regime as the "Democrats", the "opposition forces" that lived under iron hand and pressure from the special bodies of the state for a long time and supported by the Foreign parties, and "religious fundamentalists" who saw the Arab fundamental system as an ideal society, who were under persecution and waited for an opportunity for a long time to raise up their heads to abuse the given freedom. It was at that time that the head of the State, who started new reforms and pursued policies with a democratic spirit, needed to fight against

them, and if necessary, to find a compromise. Since, in fact, the dangers that threaten security objectively have the same nature and essence for all states. However, to this day, in response to such threats, different countries have used different approaches.

Considering the fact that response to direct threat leads to only four possible outcomes, which can uniformly happen in all countries and states, it is possible to observe the following four possible provisional outcomes of the response to the threat:

- if measures give a full-fledged effect, active political development and stability will be ensured;
- if the measures are not carried out at the required level, the situation of political uncertainty associated with the root of the threat will arise and the unstable situation will persist;
- if the measures do not give a practical result, permanent conflicts, dangerous effects will lead to political weakening of a particular state;
- failure to take measures or their inefficiency will lead to the complete disruption of state political development, the transition to a qualitatively negative state. The state of transition from democracy to dictation is an example of this.

In fact, there are several international organizations in the world, especially the UN, which claims global potential, and the fact that not all countries have reached a unanimous approach to such threat-related sphere as security having a global nature can also make the existence of such international organizations senseless. That he acted following the example of one of the ideal political figures, Great Amir Temur, who said in his institutions that “Badakhshan emirs, some emirs of the Turkic and Tajik troops became feared of their dirty affairs who did me evil, used cunning and raised their swords against me on the battlefield. When they were left hopeless and came asking for my refuge, I did them such good things that seeing my generosity and charity, they felt ashamed. I took the bitterness out of the heart of those whom I had offended with gifts and gave privileges depending on their careers” could be seen from the very first days of his leadership. He completely abandoned the policy of controlling any opposition thinkers by fear using the punitive apparatus of politics, security forces, and instead chose the method of mobilizing the entire state government to communicate with them, to listen to their demands, to listen to their grief and solve their problems, and to find a solution. And this provided an opportunity to find a way to the hearts of the forces with any “hostile” mood and incline them to politics.

In the conditions of extremely tense geopolitical conflicts, he overcame the various threats to statehood and was able to manage the situation affecting the balance in the region and determining the fate of entire Central Asia. He managed to form friendly and reliable relations with the entire international community by not only avoiding falling into the domain of the geopolitical games of the powerful nations, but also conducting foreign policy built on the basis of respect for the interests of the neighboring states. It is also noteworthy that he could evoke a sense of mutual respect even in countries accustomed to having disrespect for Uzbekistan, to “see” it among the countries of the third world. Having won the right to head the country, he made so many and significant visits to many countries of the world at various levels that he was able to establish effective and highly reliable relations with all the countries of Central Asia, with Arab countries of the Middle East, European countries, the USA, Turkey, Russia, South-East Asian countries. It is necessary to recognize the special status of Uzbekistan in establishing peace in Afghanistan that became one of the global problems of the whole world, in providing various socio-economic assistance to this state. His dedication to uniting different groups and forces that have a negative impact on the political and military situation in the country, causing a large number civilian casualties, to bringing them together and creating

opportunities for negotiations is being recognized not only by the Afghan people and government, but also by the entire international community as a highly diplomatic initiative. In particular, the development of friendly relations with the neighboring countries has always remained the priority as the main issue of the agenda.

Another remarkable tactical step was carried out by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. This can be said to be the complete reform of military and other power structures which had the potential to control the life of the country. The most problematic legacy that remained from the previous system, that is, the fact that some power structures had unlimited power, the powers of the bodies that could instill enough fear in the life of the whole country as a powerful mechanism of state governance sharply changed, their functions were clearly defined. He preferred to rely not on the military as before, but on the trust of the people to increase the threat endurance of the state and to ensure the stability of the life of society, and he was able to achieve this goal.

Another strategically important issue was to completely reform the country's economy, to radically diversify it on the basis of international norms, to avoid default, to completely get rid of the corrupt legacy of the past period, to shake off the influence of the forces strangling business and progress, to return millions of stranded migrants who went out of the country in search of employment, to provide them with jobs, to train them in creative entrepreneurship. In order to achieve these goals, the president started, on gaining his powers, first of all, to save from the cotton monopoly aimed at serving the interests of some narrow circles, but increasingly dragging down the state and society into poverty, to free the representatives of the social sphere, who were engaged in this field in violation of their rights, from forced labour.

Not only support of employees of the social sphere, but also application of humanitarian policies to the strata of the population in need of social security was carried out actively. Provision of housing for the needy strata of the country throughout the Republic has become a priority policy of the state. Billions of monies from the state budget were invested in this sphere. This allowed to give the population the opportunity to own their own home on the one hand, while on the other hand it resulted in employment of thousands of people. This policy of the president is being supported by ordinary people who have never dreamed of having their own home. The effectiveness of social policy is manifested in these reforms.

It is known that in the agriculture of Uzbekistan, an agrarian country, hundreds of kinds of fruits and cucurbits could be grown, and there was an opportunity to earn billions from this. But since representatives of narrow circles were not interested in these types of crops, such a prospect was not allowed. And from the very first days of his term, the president, in addition to putting an end to the monopoly of cotton, to get rid of the cotton campaign being an albatross around neck of the social sphere and business for many years, favored the way of forming and developing new economic relations in general has been established in the short term, and this strategy is being implemented rapidly.

To date, along with achieving high results in the export of fruits and vegetables and cucurbits, Uzbekistan exports these products for billions of US dollars. The agricultural sector has undergone radical reforms and the most modern technologies used in the developed countries of the world have been introduced. The country's export potential has increased several times and has become an area that brings the flow of currency. A cluster system from the world experience was introduced, which is a new form of ownership and production relations. Institutional bodies and conditions free of political stipulations for attracting international investments in this industry have been fully created.

In order to increase the country's investment potential, not only guarantees of equal partnership with foreign countries, but also issues of liberalization of the foreign exchange market, expansion of privileges to investors, improvement of the environment of doing business in the country for investors were risen to the level of an important strategic and promising policy. It was determined that the efficiency of ambassadors working in foreign countries will be assessed depending on the number of investments and tourists attracted by them to the country. In addition to considering investments as an important asset to attract into the country, the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been raised in this regard.

The world is built on ideological struggles. The issue of spirituality being the basis of ideology has not been overlooked by the President either. To reform this sphere too, to provide the potential and opportunity to meet the requirements of modern times and to fight against threats, a whole system previously only engaged in propaganda was transformed into a Republican center of spirituality and enlightenment. The fact that the dignity of a person is invaluable, even of those citizens of the country, who joined terrorist groups abroad and were humiliated but regretted for what they did, did not remain outside the country's attention.

Their families, wives and children are being released from the hands of various militant groups, political and military forces with many difficulties and are being returned to the country. Along with their involvement in healthy life, a wide range of tasks are being carried out for their socialization and adaptation to society. All conditions are being created for their children who have lived without knowledge in misery as a result of long years of fighting to be educated, to become a part of the society. This is one more practical expression of ensuring the threat endurance of the society, making the people welcome the state policy.

The implementation of the above-mentioned activities is serving as a basis for lifting the image of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev not only amongst the population of the country, but also among the Uzbek diasporas in foreign countries, raising Uzbekistan's prestige in the international arena!