

Statement
of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov
at the 27th OSCE Ministerial Council
(via video conferencing, Tirana, December 3, 2020)

Distinguished Chairperson-in-Office!
Your Excellencies, heads of delegation, ladies and gentlemen!

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Prime Minister of Albania H.E. Mr. Edi Rama for convening this Ministerial.

We sincerely congratulate and wish every success to the newly appointed the OSCE Secretary General Ms. Helga Maria Schmid, High Commissioner for National Minorities Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Representative on Freedom of the Media Ms. Maria Teresa Ribeiro, and Director of the Bureau for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Mr. Matteo Mecacci. In this regard, we acknowledge the great efforts of the Albanian chairmanship throughout the whole selection process.

Today's OSCE forum, which is taking place in the conditions of the pandemic, reaffirms the unique role and responsibility of our organization in ensuring the comprehensive human security and developing the adequate responses to modern challenges.

The past stage in the fight against the pandemic and its consequences has clearly shown the importance of close international cooperation and multilateral approach to overcoming common problems.

The global nature of the pandemic crisis requires a global strategic plan of action.

In this regard, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed to develop the International Code on Voluntary Commitments of States during Pandemic, which

will set out measures to ensure effective collaboration among countries in such emergencies.

We look forward to the support of our initiative by the OSCE participating countries.

Distinguished colleagues!

Today, Uzbekistan has decisively entered a qualitatively new stage of its development, where the most important task is the transition from national revival to national prosperity. The OSCE institutions play a distinctive role in promoting the implementation of the reform agenda.

A new and democratic image of Uzbekistan is being created in the process of modernization of the state, strengthening the protection of human rights and freedoms, ensuring the rule of law.

The political activity of the population and parties, the role of civil society institutions, and the influence of the mass media have significantly increased. The National human rights strategy is being implemented. The role of women in public administration and the economy is being strengthened. An Anti-corruption agency has been established, which has allowed to raise efforts in this direction to a qualitatively new level.

Uzbekistan pursues an open and constructive foreign policy. It is aimed at turning Central Asia into a region of stability and prosperity. Ensuring regional security and strengthening friendly relations with its immediate neighbors remain as the main foreign policy priorities of Uzbekistan.

Thanks to the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Regular Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asian States became the region's common achievement.

The prospects for stable development in Central Asia are closely linked to the achievement of peace in neighboring Afghanistan, which is the OSCE partner for co-operation. Uzbekistan participates actively

in supporting and promoting the peace process in Afghanistan, contributing to the dialogue between the parties and implementation of important economic and infrastructure projects. We are firmly convinced that the Afghan problem must take an important place on the OSCE agenda.

Distinguished participants!

The issues of supporting the role of youth in the development of society, realization of its intellectual and creative potential have always remained at the focus of attention and activities of the OSCE in all three security dimensions.

The President of Uzbekistan has put forward the initiative of adoption of the International convention on the rights of youth. We reckon on the support of our initiative by the OSCE participating states.

Yet another important issue directly related to the scope of the OSCE activities – the influence of climate change on the human security. Today every country experiences the devastating impact of this effect. Unfortunately, these negative trends also pose a serious threat to sustainable development in Central Asia.

Due to the drying up, the Aral Sea area has become the epicenter of an ecological disaster, the consequences of which are felt far beyond the region.

On the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the concept of creating the Zone of ecological innovations and technologies in the Aral Sea area is being promoted. We invite all OSCE participating states to engage actively in its implementation.

We attach profound importance to the further development of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Human Security for the Aral Sea region. We are grateful to our OSCE partners – Norway and Finland, who have contributed to this Fund along with the European Union. We are confident that it will become a reliable platform for practical assistance from the world community to the population of the region.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Uzbekistan stands for further strengthening the OSCE's role and profile, increasing its relevance in international affairs, as well as strengthening mutual trust of states in order to form a positive agenda for the Organization.

Further ensuring the effectiveness of the OSCE is totally linked with full respect for the basic principles and commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

In conclusion, allow me once again to express my gratitude to the Albanian chairmanship for the productive fulfillment of its duties in a difficult period for the entire international community and wish every success to the incoming Swedish OSCE chairpersonship.

Thank you for your attention!