



**FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITY AREAS OF
COOPERATION BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND KYRGYZSTAN(1991-2025 yy.)**

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INTRODUCTION. The bilateral relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic have undergone significant transformation since the attainment of independence in 1991. Over the past decades, these relations have evolved from a complex and occasionally tense interaction into a stable and progressively developing partnership grounded in mutual trust, good-neighborliness, and shared regional interests.

This article analyzes the formation process and developmental dynamics of priority areas of cooperation between the two states. Special attention is given to political dialogue, economic integration, transport connectivity, water-energy coordination, and cultural-humanitarian relations.

The study is based on a historical-comparative approach, as well as analysis of official documents, interstate agreements, and regional integration processes.


Historical Preconditions of Bilateral Relations. In the early post-Soviet period, relations between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan were influenced by a number of unresolved issues, including border delimitation, water resource management in the Syr Darya basin, and differing economic priorities. These challenges occasionally led to diplomatic tensions and limited the scope of cooperation.

Despite these difficulties, both countries maintained diplomatic engagement and gradually developed institutional mechanisms for dialogue. Over time, the necessity of regional stability and economic interdependence encouraged both sides to seek mutually acceptable solutions.

A new qualitative stage in bilateral relations began after 2016, when political leadership in both countries demonstrated a strong commitment to strengthening good-neighborly relations. This period was marked by high-level reciprocal visits, renewed political trust, and the signing of key bilateral agreements.

Political and Diplomatic Cooperation. Political dialogue remains the central pillar of Uzbekistan–Kyrgyzstan relations. The establishment of regular consultations, intergovernmental commissions, and parliamentary cooperation mechanisms has significantly strengthened bilateral engagement.

One of the most important achievements has been progress in the delimitation and demarcation of the state border. This process has played a crucial role in reducing potential sources of tension and enhancing regional stability.



Furthermore, both countries actively cooperate within international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Their positions on key regional issues increasingly demonstrate convergence, particularly in matters of security and sustainable development.

Economic Cooperation and Trade Relations. Economic cooperation has become one of the most dynamic and rapidly developing areas of bilateral relations. Trade turnover between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan has shown steady growth in recent years, supported by simplified customs procedures and improved border infrastructure.

Key areas of economic interaction include agriculture, light industry, energy exchange, and cross-border trade. Agricultural products such as fruits, vegetables, and livestock goods constitute a significant portion of mutual trade.

In addition, joint business forums and interregional cooperation programs have contributed to strengthening direct ties between entrepreneurs. The development of border trade zones has also stimulated small and medium-sized business activity, enhancing local economic development.

Transport and Logistics Connectivity. Transport and infrastructure cooperation plays a strategic role in strengthening bilateral relations. The modernization of road and railway networks has significantly improved connectivity between the two countries.

Particular attention is given to the development of international transport corridors linking Central Asia with China and other regions. These projects increase the transit potential of both Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and contribute to regional economic integration. Improved logistics systems have also facilitated trade flows and reduced transportation costs, making economic cooperation more efficient and sustainable.


Water-Energy and Environmental Cooperation. Water-energy cooperation remains one of the most sensitive yet critically important areas of bilateral relations. Both countries rely on shared water resources of the Syr Darya basin, which necessitates coordinated and balanced management.

In recent years, cooperation in this sphere has become more constructive, focusing on:

- equitable water distribution mechanisms,
- seasonal regulation of water flows,
- energy exchange agreements,
- joint environmental monitoring initiatives.

These measures have contributed to reducing potential conflicts and promoting sustainable resource management in the region.

Cultural and Humanitarian Cooperation. Cultural and humanitarian cooperation represents an essential dimension of Uzbekistan–Kyrgyzstan relations. People-to-people contacts, educational exchanges, and cultural programs play a vital role in strengthening mutual understanding.



Academic cooperation between universities, joint scientific research, and student exchange programs have significantly expanded in recent years. Cultural festivals, exhibitions, and tourism initiatives further contribute to the development of friendly relations between the two nations. Such interactions strengthen historical ties and promote the formation of a shared regional identity based on cultural proximity and mutual respect.

CONCLUSION.

The development of Uzbekistan–Kyrgyzstan relations demonstrates a clear evolution from a complex post-independence phase to a stable and mutually beneficial partnership. Today, bilateral cooperation is characterized by strategic trust, pragmatic diplomacy, and expanding economic interdependence.

Priority areas such as political dialogue, trade and economic relations, transport connectivity, water-energy cooperation, and cultural exchange continue to strengthen the foundation of bilateral interaction. These developments confirm the growing role of both countries in ensuring stability and sustainable development in Central Asia.

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