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Geopolitical Situation in The Central Asian Region at The Present Stage

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ABSTRACT

The Taliban victory has seriously boosted the morale of extremism around the world. The taliban's success has markedly emboldened various groups such as ISIS or al-Qaeda. These organizations are excited and capable of more attacks in the foreseeable future. Islamic extremists pose a huge security problem.

Keywords:

talibs, Islamic state, "al-Qaeda", Central Asian region (CAR).

The dynamics and direction of global and regional political processes of the last decade clearly demonstrate the transformation of Central Asia into one of the key Eurasian regions, the situation in which has a serious impact on the system of international security.

The influence of Central Asia is palpable in several directions, and first of all, this concerns the fight against international terrorism and the supply of oil and natural gas.

At the same time, the growing importance of the Central Asian factor on a continental and global scale carries certain risks - increasingly turning into an integral part of the world security system and economy, the region, in turn, itself becomes sensitive to the impact of those numerous factors and processes that traditionally determine the course of global political, economic, cultural and ideological development.

This significantly complicates for the countries of Central Asia the issue of formation and consistent implementation of their long-term national strategies. The difficulty lies in the fact that every year, as the geopolitical role of the region grows, the states located in it are increasingly entering the space of the most

complex political, diplomatic, financial and economic processes, which in turn requires a constant evolution of the quality and flexibility of strategies for protecting national interests.

Taking into account the complex of challenges and threats, Central Asia is forced to constantly solve a key issue for itself - on the one hand, to continue strengthening its position as an outpost of international stability and an integral part of the world economy, and on the other hand, to minimize the impact of negative factors that can lead to a decrease in the level of security in the region.

Characteristics of the general situation in the countries of the region

1. Uzbekistan. This is the most populous country in Central Asia, which has indisputable achievements in its development on the path of independence. Uzbekistan is a member of the UN, the SCO and a number of other authoritative international organizations. The country demonstrates sustainable economic growth, stability and civil accord. Uzbekistan's initiatives to strengthen peace and cooperation in the region and, especially, to resolve the

Afghan crisis are universally recognized. Due to its consistent, balanced policy in the region. The countries of Central Asia and the leading world powers are actively cooperating with Uzbekistan in resolving regional problems, even if there are, in some cases, not quite coinciding positions.

2. Kyrgyz Republic. A small country has faced serious social and economic problems in a short period of its independence. In a short period, there have been three coups d'état in the country. Ethnic confrontation is growing in the country between the majority of the population, represented by Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Russians, Uighurs, Tajiks and a number of other nationalities. In Kyrgyzstan, there is virtually no central power, the traditions of tribalism and clannishness are strong.

In addition, Kyrgyzstan neighbors with Tajikistan, which, in turn, borders Afghanistan. Kyrgyzstan is involved in drug trafficking originating in Afghanistan, and the weakness of the central government makes it a haven for radical religious extremist organizations. The short-sighted policy of the leadership of Kyrgyzstan led to the fact that the country had military bases of such powers as the United States and Russia. This has added to the political instability in the country and abroad.

3. Republic of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is the largest country not only in the region, but also on the world map. The country is endowed with the largest reserves of hydrocarbons and other valuable natural resources. In addition, Kazakhstan inherited a considerable industrial and agricultural infrastructure from the former USSR. All this together gave a tangible impetus to the socio-economic development of Kazakhstan. At the same time, the transparency of borders, the location of the main part of hydrocarbon reserves in the Caspian Sea, generates considerable risks and challenges to regional and national security. It is noteworthy that the leadership of Kazakhstan does not declare territorial claims to its neighbors and, nevertheless, has the largest military budget in Central Asia. The main directions of Kazakhstan's defense policy are the reflection of possible aggression of radical religious extremist forces from the south and the

provision of national interests in the Caspian Sea.

4. Turkmenistan has the largest reserves of oil and gas, as well as other mineral resources. The leadership of Turkmenistan constantly declares its neutrality, but in the era of globalization it is unlikely to be able to isolate itself from the challenges and risks of our time. Turkmenistan's desire to independently export oil and gas causes considerable displeasure among some of its traditional partners. In the Caspian Sea, Turkmenistan has some unresolved problems sharing the oil-bearing shelf with Azerbaijan and, to a lesser extent, with Iran. Ashgabat makes large-scale purchases of heavy weapons and equipment and for the first time in its history has created a naval force in the Caspian. We should not forget that Turkmenistan has a long border with Afghanistan.

5. The Republic of Tajikistan does not have explored oil and gas reserves, which greatly complicates its socio-economic development. Tajikistan has experienced several years of civil war at the initial stage of its statehood, after which it is difficult to recover. The presence of a weakly closed border with Afghanistan has made Tajikistan a hostage of international drug cartels. High unemployment, poverty and corruption lead to religious radicalization of society. Unwillingness to constructive interaction with the neighbouring States of the Central Asian region and attempts to involve external forces in solving regional problems complicates its relations with them and hinders its own development. In general, the situation in Tajikistan can be characterized as tense.

6. Afghan factor of Central Asian security.

The Afghan factor brought Central Asia to the forefront of the processes of maintaining global stability and security. Unprecedented terrorist attacks in the United States and the subsequent decision of the international coalition to begin the fight against the Taliban regime led to the transformation of the Afghan problem from a regional level into a global one.

In principle, Afghanistan and the threat of terrorism emanating from it were already an

international problem, because Uzbekistan had its own experience of repelling the invasions of Islamists in 1999-2000, trained in Afghanistan. However, the full awareness of the acuteness and globality of the Afghan problem for the majority of the international community came a little later.

For 11 years, the forces of the United States, NATO and their allies have been conducting an international military mission to combat international terrorism and religious extremism in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan stands for a wider cooperation between the countries bordering Afghanistan and the leading world powers on the joint settlement of the Afghan crisis through the development of a unified approach by all interested parties. The point of view of the Republic of Uzbekistan was formulated in the concept of creating a contact group on Afghanistan "6 + 3". The meaning of the concept is to create a platform where issues of the Afghan settlement could be discussed purposefully on a multilateral basis with the participation of Uzbekistan, China, Iran, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, the United States, Russia and NATO. For the interests of Central Asia, it seems extremely relevant that such a multilateral format would work as soon as possible, it is important to create a mechanism today to guarantee the further maintenance of a high level of security and stability of Central Asia and other regions adjacent to Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Uzbekistan's efforts to strengthen regional security are not limited only to the desire to give impetus to multilateral dialogue. A large place is occupied by measures to assist Afghanistan in economic development - a direction in which Uzbekistan sees a possible unification of the interests of key countries that exert influence in the region. In particular, Afghanistan is supplied with electricity, through Uzbek transport communications cargo is transit to the northern Afghan provinces, bilateral trade is developing. Among the latest major projects is a tender won by Uzbekistan worth \$ 170 million. This is a breakthrough project for Afghanistan, which allowed to significantly increase the volume of cargo supplies of almost all interested countries and

created a large number of jobs that will contribute to the economic development of the northern provinces and their integration into the Central Asian market.

Findings:

It can be noted that all the factors determining the current state of security in the region will remain very relevant. In the meantime, the most urgent remains a full settlement of the Afghan crisis. Many regional security issues are tied to Afghanistan.

The solution of the Afghan problem would immediately affect the general climate in the field of political, ideological, economic, energy and transport security. Stabilizing Afghanistan has left the ideologues of various radical pseudo-religious movements under the illusion that destabilization is spreading to Afghanistan's neighboring regions and using that country as a home territory. It would also pave the way for a more active fight against drug production and smuggling, which would deal a severe blow to the sources of financing of terrorist groups and corruption that hinders the development of Afghanistan. As a result, the economy of Afghanistan could enter into international integration, as it potentially represents both a promising market and a territory that has not yet been fully explored for the presence of natural resources. The issue of the influence of the region's energy on its stability should also remain relevant.

The clash of two strategic visions, one of which reflects the position of the Central Asian countries, which is to consider the energy sector mainly through the prism of the economy, and the second - various geopolitical radicals who think in terms of the "Great Energy Game", will still take place. The main reason for this will be the future increase in the supply of oil and gas from the region to world markets.

The transport aspect of the security of Central Asia will be derived from the development of various geopolitical processes in neighboring regions. In general, the transport communications of Central Asia and their saturation with cargo flows will directly depend on both the economic development of the region

itself and the intensity of the growth of continental trade, which, of course, will grow as the causes of the global economic crisis are eliminated.

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