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## THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS RECONCILIATION IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND TOLERANCE IN UZBEKISTAN

**Abstract:** The article discusses the policy of the state in the field of religious tolerance and interethnic harmony during the years of independence and the essence of its content. According to the author's analysis achievements which have gained in this sphere also summarized. Instead of the last word, the author presented his conclusions.

**Key words:** UN, Action Strategy, tolerance, Cabinet of ministries, Religious organizations, international forum.

**Language:** English

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### Introduction

The development of any society is first and foremost ensured by peace and tranquility. Ensuring peace and tranquility around the world, uniting multinational peoples under a single idea with respect for the principle of diversity of opinion, and introducing the ideas of religious tolerance to society while ensuring freedom of conscience are becoming very important and difficult today. The fact that sometimes even in the most economically developed countries there are disagreements on national and religious grounds, such countries are starting the process of promoting the idea of tolerance in their education system. In his speech at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly on September 19, 2017, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoev proposed to adopt a resolution "Enlightenment and religious tolerance" on the implementation of the ideas of religious tolerance in the education system[1].

More than 40 Muslims were killed in an armed attack on two mosques in New Zealand on March 15, 2019[2].

On April 21, 2019, 185 people were killed in explosions at three luxury hotels and several Catholic churches in central Colombo, Sri Lanka[3].

Moreover, the long-standing religious divide in Ethiopia has shown that implementing such a resolution is a crucial task. Uzbekistan is a

multinational state. Today, about 140 nationalities make up more than 33 million citizens of Uzbekistan. Almost all of them are people of religious beliefs, and about 2,250 religious organizations belonging to 16 religious denominations in the country serve their religious needs[4].

The main principle of the policy pursued by the Government of the Republic in this area is based on the principle of "secularism is not atheism." The state's attitude to religion was based on the clear belief that "man cannot live without faith"[5].

The fifth direction of the state program "Strategy of Action", consisting of 5 initiatives, put forward by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoev on February 7, 2017, is aimed at ensuring security, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance and 25 practical decisions were made[6].

For example, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 16, 2018 "On measures to radically improve the activities of the religious and educational sphere" has become of great importance in this area[7].

Also, in order to create additional conditions for citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan to study in foreign religious educational institutions, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution "On measures to create additional conditions for studying in foreign religious educational institutions" on August 13, 2018[8].

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It was noted that the Committee on Religious Affairs of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan will consider the requirements of the applicants not only for foreign education, but also for employment. On the basis of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 31, 2018 "On the procedure for state registration, re-registration and liquidation of religious organizations" reduced the fee for the establishment of religious institutions and reduced the documents required for the declaration. The Ministry of Justice abolished the procedure for imposing a fine of up to 100 times the minimum wage if religious institutions violate the law, and dismissed the Ministry of Justice[9].

The fine was reduced by 15 times. The number of documents submitted for the establishment of religious institutions has been reduced and the amount of fees has been reduced. All this, of course, is done to support the activities of religious institutions. The task of regulating religious relations since independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan was assigned to the Religious Committee established on the basis of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 7, 1992 "On the establishment of the Committee on Religious Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers"[10].

Article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that "the Republic of Uzbekistan shall ensure respect for the languages, customs and traditions of all nations and peoples living on its territory, and create conditions for their development"[11].

This principle is fully consistent with one of the main tasks of the Religious Committee - to ensure the interaction and cooperation of state bodies with religious organizations located in the territory of the republic, and Article 61 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states: The state does not interfere in the activities of religious associations"[12].

The main law regulating the religious sphere in Uzbekistan is the Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations, adopted on May 1, 1998. The law consists of 23 articles, on the basis of which the activities of religious institutions are fully regulated. Religious tolerance requires that a person treat all religions with respect, be intolerant of religious and national conflicts, and be tolerant of different religious beliefs. Apparently, tolerance is a broad and positive concept, and today about 70 international documents on tolerance have been adopted, and most of them also interpret religious tolerance. A lot of work is being done in our country to implement the field of religious tolerance. In particular, the "Regulations on the activities of the adviser of the citizens' assembly on religious enlightenment and spiritual and moral education", developed by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic

on October 7, 2013 No 274, describes in detail the activities of the "mahalla"(neighborhood) institute on interethnic harmony and religious tolerance has been given[13].

These and other documents also take into account the wishes of the representatives of religions living in our country. In particular, it is worth mentioning the fact that the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan broadcasts spiritual and enlightenment programs on central television, as well as large-scale celebrations of conferences dedicated to the birth of such famous scholars as Imam Bukhari, Imam Termezi, Imam Moturudi. It is especially commendable that all the conditions have been created for the full and unanimous performance of the Hajj. In turn, visits are made to shrines in Israel, Greece and Russia for Orthodox, Israel and Italy for Catholics, Israel and Armenia for Armenians, Israel for Jews and Baha'is, India for Krishnas, and Korea for Buddhists. In 1995, an inter-religious forum called "Under One Sky" was organized in Tashkent[14].

In addition, the Church of the Holy Virgin, built in 1903 by the decree of the first President IA Karimov, was transferred to the Armenian Apostolic Church. The fact that it was returned and in December 1996 the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the activity of this denomination in our country is a testament to the fact that the policy of religious tolerance in Uzbekistan is also implemented by the state[15].

During the years of independence, hundreds of mosques, churches, synagogues and houses of worship have been built and renovated in the country. These include the Hazrati Imam complex in Tashkent, the Minor mosque, mosques in regional centers, Russian Orthodox churches in Tashkent, as well as the Buddhist temple, the Armenian Apostolic Church in Samarkand, the Sultan Weiss Bobo and Muhammad Norimjoni shrines in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. we can see the church and so on. Along with the statues of Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulugbek, Alisher Navoi, Islam Karimov, Berdakh, Ajiniyaz, the statues of Ganjavi, Rustaveli, Pushkin, Shevchenko also adorn our streets and squares[16].

All this is a bright expression of inter-religious tolerance and inter-ethnic harmony. Muslims have provided financial support for the construction of three local temples in Turkestan. For example, "The construction of the Svyato-Georgiy temple in Chirchik, which is still in operation in the city of Chirchik, was paid for by the local imam. The fact that the Muslim traders Alimbekov dynasty is included in the list of major investors in the construction of the Svyato-Alekseev temple in Samarkand testifies to the fact that our nation has always been tolerant[17].

In 1998, the Imam al-Bukhari architectural complex was opened in Samarkand. In September 2000, Tashkent hosted a major international

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conference of UNESCO on "World religions on the path to cultural peace"[18].

In addition, practical work has been done to facilitate religious education for people with disabilities. In particular, the Koran has been published several times in Braille, and on January 30, 2018, at the initiative of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan, religious and enlightenment talks with people with disabilities were organized in Tashkent. To date, similar charitable work has been done with more than 400 people with disabilities[19].

That is why the great scholars of Islam, who grew up in our country, became famous not only in our country but also in the whole Muslim world. marked. In addition, in 1999, at the initiative of the President, the 1130th anniversary of another great scholar, Quranist and hadith scholar Imam Abu Mansur Moturudi was celebrated[20].

At the initiative of President Sh.M.Mirziyoev, the International Center for Islamic Studies was established in 2017 by Imam Bukhari and Imam Termezi. In conclusion, tolerance and interethnic harmony are the main guarantee of our peace.

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