

**STRENGTHENING THE ATMOSPHERE OF INTERETHNIC HARMONY IN  
UZBEKISTAN AND DEVELOPING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN  
COUNTRIES (2017–2025)****Yunusova Nigorakhon**

Andijan branch of Turon University

Master's Department

History specialty

Graduate student of the 1st stage

**Abstract**

This article analyzes the main directions of the state policy implemented in Uzbekistan during 2017–2025 to strengthen the atmosphere of interethnic harmony and to develop friendly relations with foreign countries. The study highlights the normative legal documents adopted in this field, institutional changes, the activities of national cultural centers and friendship societies, as well as practical mechanisms aimed at reinforcing tolerance, civic solidarity, and people's diplomacy. Particular attention is given to the scientific significance of the formation, beginning in 2017, of a unified system for interethnic relations and ties with compatriots abroad, the approval in 2019 of the state policy concept in this sphere, and the determination in 2025 of measures intended to elevate nationwide harmony to a new stage. The article also assesses the role of this policy in strengthening social stability, national unity, international cultural relations, and the positive international image of Uzbekistan.

**Keywords**

interethnic harmony, friendship relations, Uzbekistan, national cultural centers, friendship societies, tolerance, people's diplomacy, compatriots abroad, state policy, nationwide harmony.

**INTRODUCTION**

In recent years, strengthening interethnic harmony and developing friendly relations with foreign countries in Uzbekistan has become one of the priority areas of state policy. This is closely related to the country's multinational composition, historical traditions of tolerance and the concept of an open foreign policy. Official sources indicate that more than 130 nationalities and ethnic groups live in the country, which makes interethnic harmony a strategic factor in ensuring social stability. Since 2017, consistent measures have been taken in this direction to update the regulatory framework, strengthen the activities of competent institutions, establish systematic cooperation with national cultural centers and friendship societies, and activate public diplomacy.

In 2017-2025, not only organizational reforms were carried out in the field of interethnic relations in Uzbekistan, but also new approaches of ideological and practical content were formed. The main content of state policy during this period was to ensure the legitimate interests of representatives of all nationalities and ethnic groups, support their language, culture and traditions, as well as strengthen friendly cooperation with foreign countries and compatriots abroad. Therefore, this article aims to scientifically shed light on the place of interethnic harmony and international friendly relations in the development model of modern Uzbekistan.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The article used the methods of historicism, systematic approach, comparative analysis and analysis of regulatory and legal documents. First of all, the main presidential decrees and resolutions adopted in 2017-2025, official information on the activities of the sector, as well as materials at the parliamentary and government levels were studied. Then, the practical results of these documents were analyzed in connection with the mechanisms of strengthening national



cultural centers, friendship societies, cultural events, public diplomacy and national harmony. Also, in opening the theoretical aspect of the topic, the concepts of social stability, civil solidarity and intercultural dialogue were interrelated.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Decree No. PF-5046 of May 19, 2017, initiated a new institutional stage in the development of interethnic relations and friendly relations with foreign countries in Uzbekistan [1]. This document set the task of improving this area as a separate and priority area of state policy. Shortly thereafter, the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Relations with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers was established on the basis of Resolution No. PQ-2993 of May 23, 2017 [2]. As a result, the work previously carried out within different departments was consolidated into a single management system.

An important result of these reforms is that interethnic harmony is now interpreted not only as a spiritual and educational issue, but also as a strategic factor that strengthens social stability, civil solidarity, and international cooperation. Clear mechanisms for cooperation between state bodies, local khokimiyats, national cultural centers and friendship societies have been established. This has allowed for the establishment of prevention, monitoring and intercultural dialogue in the regions.

On November 15, 2019, the Concept of the State Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Field of Interethnic Relations was approved by Decree No. PF-5876 [3]. This concept defined the medium-term strategic goals, priority tasks and implementation mechanisms of the sector. It put forward such tasks as early prevention of interethnic conflicts that may arise in society, preservation of the language, culture and traditions of all nationalities and ethnic groups, and increasing their activity in the socio-political life of the country. Along with the Concept, the adoption of the Roadmap for 2019-2021 enriched this policy with concrete practical measures.

The National Human Rights Strategy approved in 2020 also strengthened the task of ensuring the social and cultural rights of minority nationalities and creating the necessary conditions for the development of languages and traditions as a separate task [4]. This indicates that the issue of interethnic harmony has become an integral part of human rights policy. After 2023, this direction has developed in a new context, in harmony with religion, spirituality, civic harmony and patriotism.

### *1-jadval. 2017-2025-yillarda soha rivojiga ta'sir ko'rsatgan asosiy normativ-huquqiy hujjatlar*

Year	Document	Content	Significance
2017	PF-5046	Defined priority tasks for improving interethnic relations and strengthening friendship ties with foreign countries.	Established the field as a separate direction of state policy.
2017	PQ-2993	Organized the activities of the Committee and formed a unified institutional management mechanism.	Centralized the organizational system and strengthened coordination.
2019	PF-5876	Approved the Concept and roadmap of state policy in the field of interethnic relations.	Defined strategic goals, objectives, and practical mechanisms.



Year	Document	Content	Significance
2020	PF-6012	Linked the issue of ensuring the social and cultural rights of small ethnic groups with human rights policy.	Harmonized interethnic harmony with human rights principles.
2025	PF-52, PQ-115	Established measures to elevate national harmony and cooperation with compatriots abroad to a new level.	Integrated internal unity and external friendship relations into a unified political direction.

In practice, the strengthening of interethnic harmony was carried out in several main directions. First, the system of organizational and methodological support for the activities of national cultural centers was expanded. Through them, events were regularly organized that served to develop the language, culture, art and traditions of representatives of different nationalities. Second, the promotion of the ideas of tolerance, solidarity and common citizenship through education, culture and the media was strengthened. Third, monitoring, open dialogue and preventive work were established in the regions, and attention was paid to preventing possible conflicts. It was noted that by 2025, 157 national cultural centers were operating in Uzbekistan, 42 friendship societies were established, and their activities were supported by the state [7]. These indicators indicate a significant expansion of the institutional foundation for strengthening interethnic harmony. Events such as the “Friendship” festival on July 30 - International Friendship Day, and the “Tolerance Week” on November 16 - International Tolerance Day, have become a public and practical manifestation of this policy.

The development of friendly relations with foreign countries also acquired a new meaning in 2017-2025. Friendship societies, cultural days, twinned regions, creative meetings, and forms of people's diplomacy served as important tools in this process. Official information on the results of 2024 noted that 6 new friendship societies were established, bringing their total number to 42, “Cultural Days of Uzbekistan” were held in a number of foreign countries, and memorandums of understanding and cooperation programs were signed with several countries [7].

Such events, along with strengthening bilateral cultural ties, served to strengthen the positive image of Uzbekistan in the international arena, establish systematic contacts with compatriots abroad, and increase the practical effectiveness of public diplomacy. In particular, Decree No. PF-52 of March 19, 2025 set the task of bringing national harmony and strengthening ties with compatriots abroad to a new level. This document raised state policy to a new level and more clearly expressed the inextricable link between internal harmony and external friendship [5, 6].

**Table 2. Main practical mechanisms for strengthening interethnic harmony and friendship**

Direction	Practical Forms	Expected or Observed Result	Period
Work with National Cultural Centers	Cultural events, conferences, support for languages and traditions	Preservation of cultural diversity and strengthening of civic unity	2017–2025



Direction	Practical Forms	Expected or Observed Result	Period
Activities of Friendship Societies	Meetings with foreign partners, memorandums, friendship forums	Activation of public diplomacy and deepening of cooperation	2018–2025
State and Regional Monitoring	Preventive measures, open dialogue, regional programs, and coordination	Prevention of conflicts and strengthening of stability	2019–2025
Cultural Diplomacy	Cultural days, festivals, exhibitions, creative exchanges	Strengthening the positive international image of Uzbekistan	2020–2025
Relations with Compatriots Abroad	Organizational support, communication platforms, cooperation initiatives	Linking the potential of compatriots with the country's development	2021–2025

### CONCLUSION

In 2017-2025, Uzbekistan implemented consistent and systematic reforms aimed at strengthening the environment of interethnic harmony and developing friendly relations with foreign countries. The main feature of this period was that the regulatory and legal framework in the field was improved, the activities of authorized institutions were strengthened, and new mechanisms for working with national cultural centers and friendship societies were established. As a result, interethnic harmony was manifested not only as a criterion of traditional tolerance, but also as an important condition for the stability of society, civil solidarity and state development.

Also, the activation of friendly relations with foreign countries through cultural and public diplomacy strengthened the international prestige of Uzbekistan. The new approaches adopted in 2025 serve as a legal and organizational basis for interpreting interethnic harmony at the level of national harmony, strengthening cooperation with compatriots abroad, and further deepening friendly relations. Therefore, this experience is of significant scientific and practical importance in studying the social policy and international cultural cooperation of modern Uzbekistan.

### REFERENCES

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