

The diplomatic relations between UNESCO and Uzbekistan

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Abstract

On February 15, 2020, the UNESCO Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions entered into force for the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Convention was signed on 20 October 2005 in Paris and entered into force on 18 March 2007. Uzbekistan ratified the Convention on 14 October 2019. To date, 148 countries have ratified the document. Main purpose of the Convention is to protect and promote various forms of cultural expression, create conditions for free communication and development of different cultures by strengthening international cooperation in this field. At present, Uzbekistan is taking appropriate measures to gradually implement main provisions of the Convention. Holding of “Sharq Taronalari” international music festival, international forum of “Maqom” Art, and international festival of “Bakhshi” Art is a vivid example of this.

Keywords: convention, justice, foundation, unity, greatness, morale, influence, development, doctrine, community, construction

Introduction. The UNESCO Office in Tashkent represents the Organization in Uzbekistan and brings to bear UNESCO’s expertise in its areas of competence in support of the country’s development efforts. UNESCO pursues its work as a member of the United Nations Country Team in Uzbekistan and by building partnerships with other multilateral and bilateral development actors in the country. UNESCO Tashkent Office has more than 20 years of experience leading the UNESCO’s mission, providing knowledge, practical expertise and capacity building. Partnership has always been at the core of what we do, but now more than ever, we are fostering cooperation among international community, UNESCO network and private sector.

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Audrey Azoulay, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. At the meeting, Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted the deep symbolism that the official visit to the French Republic began with a meeting at UNESCO, and that Uzbekistan’s cooperation with this organization is consistently developing. Audrey Azoulay, sincerely welcoming the President of Uzbekistan, emphasized that cooperation with Uzbekistan and in particular the current meeting is very important for UNESCO. Uzbekistan was twice elected to the Executive Board of the organization. The parties fruitfully cooperate in the sphere of restoration and in-depth study of rich spiritual heritage of Uzbekistan, implement joint projects in the field of culture, education, science and others. Historical and cultural sites in Khiva, Samarkand, Bukhara and Shakhrisabz are included in the UNESCO’s World Heritage List. Bukhara city was awarded the prize of the organization “Cities for Peace”. The Ichan-Kala complex in Khiva, the historical centers of Samarkand, Bukhara and Shakhrisabz, as well as Chatkal State Biosphere Reserve are included in the UNESCO’s World Heritage List. Baysun cultural heritage “Shoshmaqom”, “Katta ashula”, “Askia”, “Osh”, “Navruz”, atlas and adras production technologies are included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Quran of Othman and the collection of manuscripts of Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies are included in the UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register. Uzbekistan’s cooperation with UNESCO also contributes to preservation, development and popularization of classical Uzbek musical heritage. Thus, under the auspices of UNESCO, Sharq Taronalari International Festival is held every two years in Samarkand. In September this year, the first International Maqom Art Forum was held in Shakhrisabz.

In accordance with a recent resolution of the President of Uzbekistan, a Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to UNESCO has been established. Cooperation in the field of education is promising. Uzbekistan pursues a policy on formation of physically and spiritually developed individuals, based on “Enlightenment against ignorance” principle. In September 2017, Shavkat Mirziyoyev initiated the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Youth and the General Assembly Resolution on Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance.

The main objective of the Organization is to contribute to the consolidation of peace and security through the expansion of cooperation amongst people in the areas of education, science and culture in order to ensure universal respect for justice and the rule of law, as well as for the basic human rights and freedom enshrined in the UN Charter, for all peoples regardless of race, gender, language and religion.

UNESCO Headquarter is located in Paris.

The General Director is Audrey Azoulay (France), who was elected to this post during the 39th session of the General Conference of UNESCO in October, 2017. UNESCO implements activities through its programs, which are aimed at the development of science, culture and education. Uzbekistan has been the member of UNESCO since October 26, 1993.

The UNESCO Office in the Republic of Uzbekistan has been operating since April 23, 1996.

Uzbekistan is actively involved in the activities of UNESCO. Uzbekistan was twice elected to the Executive Council of UNESCO in 1997-2001 and 2009-2013.

Based on the proposals of the Republic of Uzbekistan, under the auspices and with the participation of UNESCO, following anniversaries were widely celebrated:

- 1994 - the 600th anniversary of Mirzo Ulugbek;
- 1996 - the 660th anniversary of Amir Temur;
- 1997 - the 2500th anniversary of the cities of Bukhara and Khiva;
- 1998 – 1225th anniversary of Imam Bukhari and the 1200th anniversary of Ahmad Fargoni;
- 1999 - the 1000th anniversary of the epic «Alpomish»;

- 2000 - 545 years of Kamoliddin Behzod;
- 2001 - 2700th anniversary of the establishment of «Avesta»;
- 2002 - 2500th anniversary of Termez and the 2700th anniversary of Shahrissabz;
- 2003 - 900th anniversary of Abdukholik Gijduvoni;
- 2005 - 2700th anniversary of Karshi and the 1000th anniversary of the creation of Khorezm Mamun Academy;
- 2007 - 2750th anniversary of Samarkand and 2000th anniversary Marghilan;
- 2009 - 2200th anniversary of Tashkent city.

The interaction of Uzbekistan with UNESCO also affords an opportunity to popularize the Uzbek musical culture abroad.

In this context, the International Music Festival “Shark Taronalari” is regularly held under the auspices of UNESCO in the city of Samarkand.

In 1995 with the assistance of UNESCO in Samarkand, the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS) was established. Currently, IICAS has 8 departments and 10 centers, as well as 34 UNESCO Associated Schools operating in Uzbekistan.

The Director-General supported the initiatives of the President of Uzbekistan on creating under the auspices of UNESCO in Samarkand the International Institute named after Mirzo Ulugbek for creating a culture of peace, tolerance and preventing extremism, creating a Regional center for information and communication technologies in education at Tashkent University of Information Technologies, opening the UNESCO department at Silk Road International Tourism University in Samarkand. An agreement was reached on holding a regional forum of young

scientists of Central Asia in Uzbekistan, as well as the Asian Forum "Information technologies in the service of cultural heritage conservation" in 2019 in Tashkent. UNESCO Director-General highly appreciated the policy of Uzbekistan on preserving cultural and historical heritage of its people, which is the heritage of all mankind. At the meeting, the Joint Action Plan was adopted for 2018-2021, aimed at bringing relations to a new level, innovative solution of joint tasks and strengthening cooperation in all areas.

Uzbekistan and United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) successfully interact in the revival and deep study of the rich spiritual heritage of Uzbekistan; jointly implement different programs in the sphere of culture, education, science and other directions. This was discussed at the meeting of the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov and Director-General of UNESCO the day before, Uzbekistan National News Agency (UzA) reported. Greeting the guest, Islam Karimov expressed confidence that her first visit to Uzbekistan as the Head of UNESCO will allow to closely know the country, learn about rich historical and cultural heritage of the Uzbek people. He noted, that during the previous 20 years under the auspices of UNESCO anniversaries of Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulugbek, Ahmad al-Farghani, Imam Al-Bukhari, Kamoliddin Bekhzod, world-famous cities - Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Termez, Shakhrisabz, Karshi, Tashkent and Margilan, as well as priceless literary monuments Alpomish and Avesto were widely celebrated on an international scale.

Historical and cultural sites of Samarkand, Shakhrisabz, Bukhara and Khiva are included to the UNESCO World Heritage List. Bukhara was declared the "City of Peace" by UNESCO in 2001. The cultural space Baysun, as well as Shashmakom, Katta ashula and Nawruz are included to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Irina Bokova underscored, that the achievements of Uzbekistan recognized in the world are directly related to that the leadership of the country pays special attention to the development of culture and education, educating the younger generation on the best national traditions, drawing on the world's cultural heritage. At the same day the Director-General of UNESCO discussed the work on joint projects in the sphere of culture, education, information technologies and others with the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov. According to the Foreign Ministry press service, during the meeting parties underscored mutual interest in consistent implementation of the existing potential of cooperation, based on a rich historical and cultural heritage of the Uzbek people and the significant opportunities of such a global and authoritative international structures as UNESCO. As reported, the UNESCO delegation headed by its Director-General arrived in Uzbekistan for participation in the IX International Music Festival "Sharg taronalari" ('Melodies of the Orient') in Samarkand.

Historical Sites of UNESCO located in Uzbekistan

Itchan Kala (1990)

This cultural was inscribed into the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Uzbekistan in 1990. It was also the first site in Uzbekistan to be recognized by UNESCO. Itchan Kala is a walled city located in Khiva. It is Central Asia's largest surviving walled city to date. It served an important role as a key stop in the ancient Silk Road route. Due to the significant role it played as a key stop of the ancient Silk Road route, it came under the rule of different occupations.

The wall was built to fend off colonial threats during the rule of the Khans of Khiva. Today, this walled city has served as an important cultural heritage for modern Uzbekistan. Within the walled city, there are several other preserved monuments including palaces, mosques, pillars and minarets.

Historic Center Of Bukhara (1993)

This city museum was added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in Uzbekistan in 1993. The history of the city can be traced back to the 6th century BC wherein it prospered due to major trade activity in the nearby Silk Road. The city is also a Muslim center, which is why you will find plenty of mosques, madrassas and other Islamic religious buildings in the area.

It earned its recognition as a city museum due to the 150 monuments found within this city. All of these monuments have been well-preserved and is a famous tourist destination due to these cultural artifacts.

Historic Center of Shakhriyabz (2000)

The Historic Center of Shakhriyabz is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Uzbekistan recognized for its cultural significance. The monuments that are preserved in the city all date back to the Timurid Empire's rule. This also serves as the birthplace of the Empire's great leader, Amir Timur. Timur was responsible for building this city to its state of grandeur with elegant architecture and economic progress. One of the most notable attractions in the town is the Ak-Saray Palace. This massive complex consists of residential and public buildings. The palace itself has been in a top preserved state although it has been partly ruined.

Samarkand (2001)

In 2001, Samarkand was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Uzbekistan. Samarkand saw its rise during the ancient times and continues to be an important cultural heritage in Uzbekistan in its modern day setting. Established in the 7th century, Samarkand prospered under the reign of the Timurid Dynasty. It became the forefront of Islamic architecture with several mosques, residential houses, madrassas and other structures built in medieval Islamic style. Meanwhile, the buildings that were constructed on the western part of town exhibited influences from the Russian colonization. This is why the city is known to be a crossroad of cultures as it has managed to integrate all of the influences it had over the years.

Western Tien-Shan Mountains (2016)

This is the newest property in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Uzbekistan, which is shared with other countries – Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Plus, this is the only natural site in this list. This mountain range spreads across numerous countries in Central Asia and about 21% of the range belongs to Uzbekistan. This mountain range was inscribed by UNESCO in order to preserve and protect the numerous wildlife that inhabit the mountain range include the Tien Shan brown bear, wolves and the snow leopard

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