

الدورة الثالثة لمنتدى الاقتصاد والتعاون العربي
مع دول آسيا الوسطى وجمهورية أذربيجان
الدوحة، دولة قطر - 30 أبريل 2024

The Third Session of the Arab Economic and Cooperation Forum
with Central Asian Countries and the Republic of Azerbaijan
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أصل الكلمة باللغة الإنجليزية

كلمة

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جمهورية أوزبكستان

في الجلسة الافتتاحية

للاجتماع الوزاري للدورة الثالثة لمنتدى الاقتصاد والتعاون العربي

مع دول آسيا الوسطى وجمهورية أذربيجان

الدوحة - دولة قطر:

الثلاثاء 30 ابريل/ نيسان 2024

SPEECH
at the 3rd Economic Cooperation Forum of the Arab
League-Central Asia-Azerbaijan
“Prospects for joint cooperation: challenges and aspirations”

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem!

Dear Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of State of Qatar
Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani!

Dear Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit!

Dear heads of delegations!

I. WELCOME SPEECH

With a feeling of deep respect and great joy, allow me to greet all participants in today's event "Arab League - Central Asia - Azerbaijan".

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the invitation of the **H.E. Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani** and for the hospitality and warm welcome from the organizers of this forum.

Dear forum participants!

Since ancient times, the peoples of Central Asia, Azerbaijan and the Arab Countries have been firmly connected by close trade relations, common values and traditions.

The Arab League, Central Asia and Azerbaijan share many common interests and face similar challenges. Our cooperation is based on the principles of mutual respect and common goals of sustainable development and well-being of our peoples.

Uzbekistan, which is the birthplace of Imam Bukhari, due to its geostrategic location has been at the center of important world processes for thousands of years. Currently, our country, with its rich cultural and historical heritage, serves as a unique bridge connecting Europe, the Middle East, South and East Asia.

Uzbekistan attaches great importance to this Forum, which is designed to help strengthen cooperation between two important regions.

In this regard, I would like to especially note that, thanks to the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the political will of the leaders of the Central Asian countries, a completely new political environment has been formed in our region, based on mutual trust and good neighborly relations.

We all deeply understand the challenges our countries face in the current conditions of global geopolitical and economic instability. Effectively countering modern challenges requires further strengthening of cooperation and comprehensive mutual support.

Dear heads of delegations!

Today we are gathered here to discuss the prospects for economic partnership, which has enormous potential in areas such as trade, investment, energy, innovation and sustainable development.

As a result of today's event, it is planned to sign the Doha Declaration, which reflects the main areas of cooperation for the future, including agriculture, food security, transport sphere, climate change, the "green economy", etc.

As we know, the issues of food security, stable food supply, and the fight against hunger and poverty remain extremely relevant today.

This forum provides a unique platform for dialogue between business communities and government agencies, which helps to find new paths for economic growth and prosperity.

Today, under the leadership of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, large-scale reforms are being carried out in all sectors in our country.

Trade turnover between Uzbekistan and the countries of the League of Arab States in **2023** amounted to **\$871.5 million** (growth - **16.6%**), including exports - **\$332 million** (growth - **84.0%**), imports - **\$539 million** (decrease - **95.1%**).

II. STRATEGY 2030 AND THE DOHA DECLARATION

The Presidential Decree "On priority measures to implement reforms in 2024 in the main areas defined in the strategy "Uzbekistan - 2030" was adopted.

As part of the implementation of Strategy 2030 in the Republic of Uzbekistan, one of our main goals is to achieve a GDP level of \$100 billion by the end of this year. and bringing this figure to \$160 billion by 2030. Achieving this goal requires additional market reforms, increased private sector participation, and increased private investment.

10 main directions:

1. Macroeconomic stability;	6. Urbanization
2. Energy security;	7. Investment and business environment;
3. Reforms in agriculture and water management;	8. Privatization;
4. Telecommunications;	9. Tourism;
5. Transport infrastructure;	10. Green Economy

I would like to note that the areas of cooperation reflected in the Doha Declaration are interconnected with the priority areas of development of Uzbekistan.

III. PRIVATIZATION AND PPP

1. One of our priority areas is the **transformation and privatization of state-owned enterprises and banks.**

Our Respected President signed resolutions on accelerating the privatization of state facilities in Uzbekistan. It is planned to sell state shares in **247 enterprises**, over **1,000 real estate properties** and public offering of shares of **12 large enterprises** (*PP-162 and PP-163 dated April 19, 2024*).

In addition, in the near future we have **planned a presentation on the program for the privatization of state-owned enterprises and banks (Roadshow)**. In this regard, we invite the business community of all participating countries to participate in this event.

We are also initiating projects for the **transformation and privatization** of such state banks as UzPSB, Asakabank, Turonbank,

Aloqabank. In these endeavors, we are interested in cooperation with leading financial institutions in the countries participating in the forum.

On behalf of His Excellency, the President of our country, we have been given the task of **implementing public-private partnership (PPP) projects** worth up to **\$30 billion** by the end of **2030**.

Over the past five years, Uzbekistan has successfully implemented more than **600 PPP projects** totaling about **\$17 billion**, which demonstrates our commitment and effectiveness in this area.

We invite leading banks and financial institutions to participate in these projects.

Dear forum participants!

At the end of my speech, I would like to especially emphasize that this forum creates a historic opportunity to raise cooperation between our countries to a new, even higher level.

I hope that today's forum will be held in a spirit of openness, friendliness and fruitful cooperation.

I wish all participants successful and productive work!

Thank you for attention!