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## The strategy of renewal of the national spirituality of Uzbekistan

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### Abstract

The Strategy of Actions for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 was adopted, which is a document that ensures the sustainable and balanced development of Uzbekistan, including a system of medium and long-term goals and objectives. In this article, The Strategy of Actions adopted in Uzbekistan has been analyzed in recent years in the field of spirituality, literature, international festivals and cinema, and offers and recommendations on the topic have been developed.

**Keywords:** Spirituality, programs, decree, concept, enlightenment, center, propagandists, reading, masterpiece, "Canons of Medicine", UNESCO, London, festivals, cinema

### Introduction

Spiritual renewal is a process in which the spiritual life of a society is connected with change, development and enrichment. Events occurring in the life of people and society bring about certain changes in the consciousness and spirituality of the individual. If spirituality is not renewed and enriched, the development of society can be interrupted and hindered to progress. Changes in the development of society, in the era of new reforms, there are also serious changes in spirituality, and at the same time impacting the spirituality on the processes taking place in society. In such processes, the levels of spiritual renewal are also accelerated. For example, the adoption of the *Strategy of Actions* in Uzbekistan has given a great impetus to the revival of national spiritual values in the country, the organization of various festivals and the presentation of the national spirituality and culture of Uzbekistan to the world community. Particular attention to the processes of spiritual renewal in Uzbekistan has had a significant impact on the change of people's consciousness, lifestyle, and community events in society. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoev underlines the following: "For us, work in the field of spirituality and enlightenment is inextricably linked with patriotic education and is a matter of honor. One who has high moral qualities always lives with love for the Motherland. After all, such vivid human qualities are primarily manifested in selfless service to their country and people" [1].

Main part. Today, Uzbekistan is developing its own unique system and experience in the further development of spiritual life. Consequently, the tasks outlined in the Strategy of Action for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 have been implemented into life, programs such as "Obod qishloq", "Obod mahalla", "Youth - our future" as well as "Five important initiatives", "The Concept of Development of National Idea in a New Stage of Development of Uzbekistan", "Concept of Continuous Spiritual Education" are of great importance for new thinking and working of the population. As a result of this, the scope of these reforms has been extended even to the most remote regions of Uzbekistan, and serves both to radically renew the architectural appearance of the regions and to improve the well-being of the people.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoev "On measures to develop the national idea for a new stage of development of Uzbekistan" dated April 8, 2019, the development of the project "National idea development at a new stage of development of Uzbekistan" has launched a new stage in the spiritual and cultural life of the country. In this concept, not only the national experience of the Uzbek people has been applied, but also the advanced experience of the democratically developed

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countries of the world has been studied, a number of philosophers, creative intellectuals, experts and leading specialists of research centers of the Republic have been involved in its development.

As a result, the Concept defines the highest priority tasks for which the country will be based on the idea of national development. In the idea of national development, peace, solidarity and tolerance of citizens and nationalities in Uzbekistan, democratic principle, full decision-making, human rights and freedoms, rule of law and justice, material and spiritual life development has been expressed. From this point of view, at the present stage of development of Uzbekistan it is determined to go from national revival to the great goal of national development. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev commented on this: “of paramount importance is the development of the spiritual and moral world of our people, especially youth. Therefore, the most crucial task for us is youth education on the basis of the idea “From national revival to national progress”, in the spirit of patriotism, devotion to the Motherland” [2].

The main ideas of the concept from the national revival to the national development – “The feeling of a single homeland”, “Justice - in the rule of law”, “People’s consent”, “Enlightenment against ignorance”, “Innovative development”. Their main purpose is to enhance all spheres of life of the state and society, to give Uzbek people a sense of creativity and creativity.

It is noteworthy that much attention is being paid to the regular implementation of the socio-economic reforms carried out in the country at the moment, the legislative acts adopted, and the state programs, the propaganda work aimed at bringing the content and essence of national conceptions to the broad strata of the population. In this regard, the importance of the resolution of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev “On additional measures to improve the effectiveness of spiritual and educational work” dated May 3, 2019 is incomparable [3]. Based on this Decree, a non-profit non-governmental organization “Ma’rifat” with its legal framework was established at the Republican Center for Spirituality and Enlightenment to effectively carry out its propaganda work. It is established that the society is a non-profit non-governmental organization, which is the Republican center of Spirituality and enlightenment, and carries out its activities in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Today, groups of propagandists consisting of its territorial departments, prominent specialists of the sphere, cultural and artistic figures and creative intellectuals are formed. In addition, financial and spiritual promotion of propagandists, including payment for their lectures in spiritual and Educational Activities, Contest “Ma’rifat ziyolilari”, badge “Ma’naviyat fidoyisi” were introduced.

The decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan to approve the “Concept of continuous spiritual education” [4] on December 31, 2019 on the formation of social skills and qualities that are important for the independent life of the younger generation in the Republic, step-by-step, education of young people as a high-quality, harmonious generation was a big step. This concept covers the following four stages:

**The first stage:** in families (the fetal period, the period from the birth of a child to the age of 3 years).

**Second stage:** pre-school education period up to 3-6 (7) years of age.

**Third stage:** general Secondary Education (7 (6)-10 years of Primary School, 11-17 (18) years of age).

**The fourth stage:** young people who are engaged in production and are not busy, as well as in the system of secondary special professions and higher educations.

In general, the main goal of this consortium is to increase the knowledge of the Uzbek people on the upbringing of children, their pedagogical culture, to constantly inform citizens about effective methods of continuous spiritual education and forms of implementation.

## Results

It is worth noting that the results of spiritual renewal in Uzbekistan can be seen in the positive changes in the life of the people, in the improvement of human relations in society and in the propaganda work carried out in the field of spirituality. In this process, the media, which is operating in Uzbekistan, has a significant impact on the educational system, theater, cinema, art literature, art, philosophy and ethics. They are also the main spheres of spiritual renewal in the country. Changes in this sphere have become the priority direction of the development of society in Uzbekistan. These strategic reforms, which serve the spiritual renewal of the country in years 2019-2020, can be analyzed through the following areas.

### *Spiritual renewal in the field of Literature and Reading Culture*

Today, Uzbekistan pays great attention to the development of literature, along with all other spheres and sectors. In this regard, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev states: “In order to further develop our spiritual life, a number of important documents, including decisions and decrees on increasing the culture of reading, improving the sphere of culture and art, the creation of creative schools and centers named after great artists in the regions, were also adopted.

Speaking about this, the construction of the alley of writers in Tashkent City, the establishment of memorial complexes dedicated to the great figures of our literature, as well as the Great Enlightenment in the Namangan region, the lesson domla, Hamid Alimjan, Zulfiya and SharafRashidov, outstanding creators in the city of Jizzakh, singer Komiljon Otaniyozov, people’s poet Ibroyim Yusupov hero of Uzbekistan in Nukus, Fergana, Kashkadarya in the regions Erkin Vahidov, Abdulla Oripov, it should be noted that works are being carried out to perpetuate the memories of Muhammad Yusuf” [5].

The practical confirmation of these ideas, highlighted by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, can be seen in the example of the fact that in 2019 the great encyclopedic scientist Abu Rayhon Beruni published VIII volume consisting of the works “Harakatlanish yo’li”, “Zijlar yog’dusi” and “Cartography”.

The work “Harakatlanishyo’li” is devoted to the fact that the blue lights move in a certain direction in the sky, and the science of the stars. “Zijlaryog’dusi” is an Indian work of Vijay Nandi, an Indian work of “Karan tilak”, related to the science of astronomy.

Beruni filled the text of the translation of this work with other Indian catalog of stars, commenting on them and explaining his thoughts. This masterpiece is useful for professionals, researchers, students, as well as anyone interested in astronomy and cartography knowledge [6].

One more such news, 2019 year was adopted by UNESCO on the celebration of the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rare work of Ibn Sina “Canon of Medicine”. “Canones of Medicine” is the first in the world scientific approach to the state of a healthy and unhealthy body. The celebration of the 1000 anniversary of this work is considered a symbol of the birth of scientific technology [7]. Undoubtedly, Avicenna made a worthy contribution to the development of the world science with its unique creation, rich spiritual heritage, and the international award of UNESCO named after the thinker was also established, which proves that it is universally recognized by the world community.

The Jadid movement’s role in the development of Uzbek national literature is invaluable. With the efforts of the jadids, the Uzbek press, novels and dramaturgy came into being. Currently, the works created by them are translated to foreign languages and presented to foreign readers. Recently, on the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Abdulla Kadiri, one of the great figures of jadid literature, the novel “O’tkan kunlar” of the great writer was translated and published in English by British literary critics and American Translators.

For the first time the novel was translated into English by Mark Edward Riz, an American translator and researcher from the Uzbek language, and was published in the US under the name “Bygone days”. It is also worth noting that it is included in the catalog of the largest library in the United States – the library of Congress. Also, the publication of this work in the form of e-book will undoubtedly help Uzbek literature take its place among the world literature.

The second English-language version of the novel was authored by British literary critic Carol Yermakova and published in France’s famous Nouveau Monde Editions under the name “Days gone by” sponsored by the Islam Karimov Foundation.

Currently, the translation of such masterpieces in Uzbek into foreign languages, in particular English, French, Korean, Russian, Chinese and other languages, promotes the recognition of Uzbek literature in the world community. These days, the most popular Uzbek works such as “Yulduzli tunlar”, “Humoyun va Akbar”, “Dunyoning ishlari”, “Shum bola”, “O’tmishdan ertaklar” have also been translated into foreign languages and are on the eve of publication.

In February 2020, the Islamic Heritage Foundation of Great Britain “Al-Furqan” presented to the Imam Bukhari International Research Center about a hundred unique Arabic, Turkish and Persian manuscripts, catalogs stored in World funds. It is noted that, it provides an opportunity to obtain valuable information about the works stored in libraries and manual funds in these lands through a series of rare manuscripts, catalogues published in African countries such as Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, as well as in a number of European countries. As a result, it provides an opportunity for Uzbek scholars to study and explore the scientific and spiritual heritage of their great ancestors.

On the occasion of the 579<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Alisher Navoi, the prose of the great figure “Hamsa” in the prose of the poem “Farhad and Shirin” was first published in English by poet and translator Azam Obidov and presented to English readers.

As an example of one of the spiritual updates in Uzbek national literature, in November 2019, the novel “Night and Day” (“Kechavakunduz”) by Abdulhamid Suleiman oğlu Chulpan, one of the founders of Uzbek poetry and literature,

was translated into English by Christopher Fort, a lecturer of the Department of Slavic languages and literature of the University of Michigan, USA. On January 17, 2020 the Embassy of Uzbekistan in London hosted a presentation of the work. On January 17 this year; the Embassy of Uzbekistan in London hosted a presentation of the work. In general, this novel is one of the important steps to the world recognition of Uzbek literature.

### *Spiritual renewal on the example of national festivals*

It is noteworthy, that the national and international festivities held in Uzbekistan today give an opportunity to increase the spiritual potential of the country, increase its image in the international arena, expand spiritual and educational work among young people, expand the cooperation of artistic communities, promote national values, familiarize participants and guests with the material and spiritual heritage created by the Uzbek people.

In connection with this, various festivals are organized in the country, including the International “The first International Festival of Folk Applied Arts”, the International “Circus Art” Festival, the “Sharq Taronalari” International Music Festival, the International Festival “International bakhshichilik”, the International Folklore Festival “Nurli navolar”, the International Folk Music Festival “Great Silk Road”, the traditional festival “Silk and spices” in Bukhara, the agrotourist festival “Pomegranate” such festivals once again glorifies the spirituality, culture and art of Uzbekistan to the whole world.

Practical confirmation of this can be seen on the example of the first “Xalqaro baxshichilik” festival, which was organized on the initiative of the president of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in the city of Termez on April 5-10, 2019. As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said, “These immortal works of the World Cultural Heritage mean to us that the generation of humanity, its historical roots and noble ideals are common, and therefore the future aspirations of representatives of different nationalities and ethnics are also common” [8].

In connection with the festival, the Publishing House “Uzbekistan” has released a book-album “O’zbekiston baxshilari” as a present to the art festival. It contains information on the activities of Bakhshi-poets who lived and worked in the Republic, samples and photos from the art pieces they performed. Also, the information about the well-known Bakhshis in the Republic, awarded the honorary title of “O’zbekiston xalq baxshisi”, Ergash Jumanbulbul o’g’li, Fozil Yo’ldosh o’g’li, Bola baxshi, Islom shoir Nazar o’g’li, Qodir baxshi Rahim, Shoberdi Boltayev, Qahhor Rahimov, Qora baxshi Umirov, Abdunazar Poyonov, Yetmishboy Abdullayev, Gulbahor Aqimbetova were included. It is worth noting that the first such a unique and great type of art was held within the framework of the festival, which still left a mark today as an indelible torch of the soul of humanity.

In addition, The first International Festival of Folk Applied Arts, which was held in the city of Kokand on September 10-15, 2019, widely demonstrated the multifaceted national craftsmanship of Uzbekistan, which is the intangible cultural heritage of 1116 craftsmen and 87 organizers from 153 districts of the Republic in 34 directions of craftsmanship, promoted its unique samples, was of great importance in the development of Tourism. As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev pointed out, “I believe this international festival is a great celebration for the multiethnic people of Uzbekistan as

much as for artisans around the world. This is a forum of true friendship and cooperation, which tunefully combines the distant past and present, traditions and values of diverse nations, and unites hearts close in spirit”<sup>[9]</sup>.

In connection with the festival, the book album “Masterpieces of Crafts in Uzbekistan” was published in Uzbek, English and Russian languages. This book-album contains interesting information about the rich history of Uzbek craftsmanship and Applied Art, the principles of today’s development and future prospects, in which the work of the master craftsmen recognized in Uzbekistan and abroad contributed to the development of spiritual renewal of Uzbek people.

In such sections of the book as “Immortal traditions of craftsmanship”, “Kandakarlik-miracle art”, the source and photographs of the specific schools of national artisanship in the country and their historical roots make a great impression on everyone. The art schools of Fergana region and the city of Kokand are also represented in this book-album<sup>[10]</sup>.

### ***Spiritual renewals in the field of national Uzbek cinema***

Today, the role of cinema, with the image of modern heroes that is worthy of being an example in enriching the spirituality, worldview and aesthetic taste of young people and encouraging them to create, is also invaluable. Based on the tasks outlined in the Strategy of Actions for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, the people, first and foremost, are committed to the idea of national independence, respect for national and universal values, love for the country. Extensive efforts are being made to enhance the role of cinema, which has the greatest influence. In particular, the fact that the TV channel “History of Uzbekistan” started its activity on September 1, 2019 on the occasion of the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the state independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a vivid evidence of this. This TV channel is considered the first TV channel in Uzbekistan with historical content and aims to serve to educate young people in the spirit of love for the motherland, understanding and praising historical heritage.

Recently, it was agreed with the “Uzbekkino” National Agency and the Minister of Culture and Sports of Kazakhstan to shoot a film about Khoja Ahmad Yassawi, the founder of Yassavi teaching in Central Asia in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. As a unique historical event in the partnership between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, this film is one of the important steps in taking the fraternity to a new level.

The new movie, which will tell the story of Uzbek Jadids for the first time in the history of Uzbek cinema in 2019, may be considered as great news for the work of educator, poet and public figure Abdulla Avloni. The address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ShavkatMirziyoyev to the Oliy Majlis specifically states: “In general, we need to deeply study the history of the Jadid movement, the legacy of our ancestral enlightenment. The more we study this spiritual heritage, the easier it will be for us to find answers to questions that concern us today. The more actively we promote it, the stronger our people, especially youth, will appreciate the current peaceful and free life”<sup>[11]</sup>.

It is also noteworthy that two more such historical films are planned to be shoot by the “Uzbekkino” national agency by the end of 2020 in order to implement the ideas of the president of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev on perpetuating the memory of national heroes in his address to the OliyMajlis. One is a serial about Shirak, a patriotic and

heroic shepherd of the Sak tribe, and the other is a film about Mahmudkhoja Behbudi, one of the biggest figures in the Jadid movement. In addition, film director Umid Khamdamov plans to produce a new historical film about the life and work of Abdulla Kadiri, one of the vivid figures of the Jadid movement, the founder of the Uzbek School of Romance, which will surely inspire love and devotion to the younger generation. We are confident that it will help to shape the ideas of peace and stability, the responsibility for the spiritual renewal of society.

### **Conclusion**

In short, such large-scale reforms in Uzbekistan demonstrate the immense scope of the impact of moral changes on the development of society. This infinity, of course, serves as a decisive factor in the spiritual development of Uzbekistan, moving from rational reforms to new reforms in an evolutionary way.

In a word, the strategy of spiritual renewal is closely linked, first of all, with the objective knowledge of the history of the Uzbek people, the cultural heritage, the essence and significance of national and universal values, their rational use, their development. Therefore, without certain spiritual factors, the political, social rise of society is also impossible. Proceeding from the above, in order to further enrich the Uzbek national spirituality, the following suggestions and recommendations can be given:

*Firstly*, to develop a strategy of spiritual development, taking into account the sphere of spiritual life of each region in the Republic;

*Secondly*, in order to introduce the Uzbek national spirituality and culture to the world community, establishment of international cultural relations in the field of literature, cinema, theater, festivities and the setting up broad cooperation with countries in this field is needed;

*Thirdly*, to strengthen the activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to introduce the Uzbek national spirituality and culture to the world community;

*Fourthly*, considering the issues of inclusion of the rich material and intangible heritage of the Uzbek people in the UNESCO Representative list, and so on.

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