

THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE UNESCO  
CONFERENCE IN SAMARKAND

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From October 30 to November 13, 2025, the 43rd Session of UNESCO was held in the city of Samarkand. This historic event was of great importance not only for Uzbekistan but also for the entire international community. For the first time, the General Conference of UNESCO was held outside Paris, which demonstrates the country's growing international reputation as well as its political and economic potential.

Samarkand, a crossroads of civilizations for centuries, has today become a symbol of global dialogue and unity. Its significance can be interpreted as follows:

#### 1. Political Significance

The UNESCO Conference in Samarkand played a vital role in strengthening Uzbekistan's foreign policy and international standing. As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized in his speech:

“Our cooperation with UNESCO should serve not only to protect cultural heritage but also to promote sustainable development and peace. Samarkand will continue to be a platform for dialogue and rapprochement.”

These words reflect Uzbekistan's humanitarian and peace-oriented foreign policy. Through this conference, the country was recognized as an open, reliable, and dialogue-ready member of the global community.

The UNESCO session brought together representatives from more than 190 countries, turning Uzbekistan into a neutral diplomatic hub from a geopolitical perspective. Western and Eastern nations, international organizations, and regional partners had the opportunity to engage in dialogue for peace and stability through Uzbekistan.

Moreover, the conference positively influenced the integration processes in Central Asia. By promoting policies of peace, cooperation, and sustainable development, Uzbekistan further solidified its position as a leading country in the region. The initiatives proposed by President Mirziyoyev — including the Inclusive Education Platform, the Women Leaders Academy, the Institute for Digitalizing Cultural Heritage, and the Network of Green Capitals — received wide support from the international community.

#### 2. Economic Significance

The UNESCO Conference also generated substantial economic benefits. The event gave a strong boost to tourism, services, infrastructure, and education sectors in Samarkand and across the country. Around 3,000 foreign guests and delegates participated, revitalizing the local economy.

Firstly, the conference opened new opportunities for the tourism industry. The global recognition of the Samarkand and Uzbekistan brands increased significantly. Foreign visitors were deeply impressed by the country's historical heritage and hospitality. This will help attract more tourists in the future and create new jobs in hospitality and service sectors.

Secondly, the UNESCO session built a climate of trust for international investment. The modern infrastructure of Samarkand — including the “Congress Hall” complex, the new airport terminal, and an improved transport system — showcased the country's growing economic capacity. Several agreements were signed with foreign investors and international organizations on grants and financial cooperation.

Thirdly, the conference also contributed economically to education and science. Uzbek universities and research centers gained access to international grants and partnership programs. This, in turn, supports the development of an intellectual economy — growth based on knowledge and innovation.

Fourthly, the event activated the local economy. Thousands of residents of Samarkand and nearby regions participated in organizational, service, transport, and translation activities. This not only generated income but also improved the population's standard of living.

### 3. The Interconnection Between Political and Economic Processes

The UNESCO Conference demonstrated that political stability is a key factor for economic growth. Uzbekistan's peaceful and open political environment is fostering international cooperation and creating a trustworthy setting for investors and tourists. At the same time, economic progress further enhances the country's foreign policy reputation.

As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev stated:

“Our goal is to bring people closer through science, culture, and education, and to serve the cause of solidarity and stability.”

This idea found practical expression through the UNESCO Conference. Samarkand has become a global center of dialogue and development, securing Uzbekistan's well-deserved place on the international political and economic stage.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the UNESCO Conference held in Samarkand marked a historic milestone for Uzbekistan — politically and economically. It elevated the nation's global prestige, provided new impetus for economic development, and reinforced the principles of peace and solidarity. Through this event, Uzbekistan has firmly established itself in the 21st century as a center of culture, science, and diplomacy.