

Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the UN, Ambassador Bakhtiyor Ibragimov at UVU

On February 5th 2018 I had the opportunity to sit in on lecture given by Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations, Ambassador Bakhtiyor Ibragimov. During the length of the lecture Mr. Ibragimov expressed his countries struggles and concerns, specifically that there are no natural sea ports, the geographic location is very near to Afghanistan and places of conflict, and lastly the decline of climate stability affecting the region. Not to be deterred, VIP guest continued onto how his government is combating those issues in highly proactive manners. Expressing a need for constant cooperation, Ambassador Ibragimov described how vital it is for regional stability for Central Asian countries to participate in open dialogue. This open dialogue is imperative not only for regional members, but all aiding countries involved. Over and over again Uzbek envoy expressed the need for communication and diplomacy for the purposes of progress. An example given as to the openness and willingness to build bridges, he states that a constant policy of his nations officials is that Uzbekistan is always open for reasonable compromise through communication on all issues pertaining to water management among the countries of the Central Asian Union. This openness allows for a free flow of information among regional members, without threats, fears, caveats, or political warfare that might compromise the issues at hand.

The priority of the Uzbekistani government is peace, sustainability and stability for all regional powers. These desires are bold initiatives, particularly among the geographical area that has seen substantial strife in recent decades, but Ambassador Ibragimov asserts that through the collaboration of neighboring countries there can be a movement toward peace and stability in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has been mired in war for decades by powers that are not native to the region, and that sustainable stability can only be reached through cooperation of native powers and collaboration with the Central Asian Union.

The Central Asian Union, or C5, is aspiring to total regional stability and has set a goal to bring Afghanistan into the fold. In March of 2018 there is an initiative set to discuss Afghanistan's Path to a Peaceful Future, and all C5 countries are looking forward to including a new member into the union as a goal of the future. Interestingly enough, Ambassador Ibragimov stresses that for the purpose of this initiative the countries that are being invited will be limited for the sole understanding that when too many actors are involved, little headway can be taken. Uzbekistan and the other actors in the Central Asian Union will actively be excluding countries, who do not pertain to the discussion of Afghani stability, out of the dialogue. This limiting will allow for a more free flowing diplomatic exchange and level communication. With this open communication and dialogue is a promotion of peaceful diversity and inclusion. Exposure and friendship are part and parcel to the abolition of prejudice and regional volatility. As a whole, Bakhtiyor Ibragimov asserts that regional powers need to be the ones seeking solutions to regional problems, and although conflict does occur it can in fact often be avoided through dialogue and cooperation.

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