

## Director of ISRS: «More active involvement of Afghanistan in regional economic processes should remain a priority for the international community»



Speaking at the international online forum «Security and Development of Central Asia on the ground of the New Situation in Afghanistan», Director of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Eldor Aripov emphasized the importance of developing a post-conflict strategy towards Afghanistan.

«More active involvement of Afghanistan in regional economic processes should remain a priority for the international community. We believe that the country's participation in economic integration is a reliable way to restore it» the head of the ISRS emphasized.

He stated that the high-level international conference, initiated by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev «Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities», was dedicated to above mentioned aspects, which was held in July 2021 in Tashkent.

As a result, together with partners, work is underway to adopt a special resolution of the UN General Assembly on strengthening interconnection between the countries of the two Asian regions.

According to E. Aripov, the SCO, which has the necessary mechanisms and resources, can play a significant role in solving the Afghan problem. In order to consolidate efforts and broadly discuss issues of political settlement in this country, Uzbekistan proposed to hold high-level meetings in the "SCO-

Afghanistan" format on a regular basis with the involvement of observer states and dialogue partners. "Within the framework of our chairmanship in the SCO, preparations are underway for the first such meeting in Tashkent," concluded Eldor Aripov.

*On November 19, Chinese and Central Asian analytical centers held online Forum. The event has been organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. It was attended by the heads of the Central Asian States' and China's leading institutes for strategic studies, as well as the heads of diplomatic missions of the Central Asian states in Beijing. Uzbekistan was represented by the directors of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Eldor Aripov and the International Institute of Central Asia Anvar Nasirov. Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Vladimir Norov delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the Forum*