

Speech of H.E. Abat Fayzullaev, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Cyprus in relation to the Credentials Ceremony

(Nicosia, 16 December 2024)

1. It is my great privilege and honor to present my Credentials to the President of the Republic of Cyprus H.E. Nikos Christodoulides and become the first-ever Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Cyprus.
2. Uzbekistan recognizes Cyprus as a reliable and long-term partner. We stand ready to conduct systemic work on creating a mutual dialogue, that would embrace diplomatic, political-economic, and cultural-humanitarian interaction between our states.
3. The official visit of H.E. Constantinos Kombos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus in Uzbekistan in May and high-level bilateral meetings in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September of this year were important milestones in strengthening ties between Uzbekistan and Cyprus.
4. Despite the complex global environment, Uzbekistan's economy has been demonstrating stable growth, which, according to the World Bank's forecasts, will make 5.3 percent this year. According to the International Monetary Fund, Uzbekistan's GDP exceeded 100 billion dollars for the first time last year.
5. These achievements are the result of fundamental and irreversible large-scale reforms in Uzbekistan, including the Constitutional Referendum, Presidential and Parliamentary elections, administrative reforms, and implementation of "Uzbekistan – 2030" Strategy.
6. New Uzbekistan will continue the policy of building a democratic society, liberalization of economy, modernizing industrial and social infrastructure, and creating wide opportunities for business and investors.
7. For the last few years Uzbekistan has pursued an open, constructive, and pragmatic foreign policy, the image of our country in the international arena is increasingly strengthening. The adoption of more than 10 special resolutions by the UN General Assembly at the initiative of our country, including 4 important documents this year alone, is confirmation of this statement.
8. Enhancement of partnership with the European Union and its members is one of the main priority areas of Uzbekistan. We count on the support of Nicosia in the early signing of a new Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Uzbekistan and the EU, initialed in Brussels in 2022.

9. In this context, Uzbekistan will host the Central Asia – European Union summit in Samarkand in 2025.
10. It is important to give a systematic approach to holding political dialogue between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs as well as expanding the regulatory framework between Uzbekistan and Cyprus.
11. Another major area is economic and investment cooperation, Uzbekistan gives priority to economic diplomacy in its foreign policy through a wide variety of initiatives, including attracting investment and expanding bilateral trade in the spheres of "green" economy, alternative energy, high-tech industry, innovation, mineral resources, agriculture, and ecology.
12. Tourism and related services play a crucial role in the economies of our countries, and we foresee mutual gains in establishing cooperation and utilizing Cyprus' vast experience in this sector. Furthermore, we have an interest in expanding cooperation in the area of labor migration.
13. Parliaments play an important role in strengthening bilateral relations. We believe it is vital to establish relations between the parliaments of Uzbekistan and Cyprus not only on a bilateral basis but also within the framework of international inter-parliamentary organizations.
14. Cooperation in promoting the culture and education of our nations will contribute to enhancing people-to-people diplomacy and building long-term mutual trust.
15. It is important to strengthen mutual interaction and support within the UN, its specialized agencies and other international bodies. We would be grateful for the support of Cyprus in promoting Uzbekistan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
16. In my new capacity as Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Cyprus, I will make every effort to contribute to comprehensively strengthening the multifaceted and long-term relations of friendship and cooperation between our nations.