

GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND WAYS TO OVERCOME THEM

From the previous decade to the present day, we can generally observe the world order shaping through the two core processes. The first is a process that, through the efforts to end the Westphalian system, which relied on sovereignty of governments, official international borders, principles of non-intervention, and renunciation of force, seeks to enter the post-Westphalian and global system which is based on globalization of the Western ideas, principles of responsibility for support and humanitarian intervention and human rights, of which the West is the main branch. The second process relies on multilateralism and multipolarity, partnership between all global and regional powers, continued principles of the Westphalian system, respect for national sovereignty, inviolability of borders, national and regional security.

Taking into consideration these two processes, since 2010 in the region of the Middle East we can see the outcome of these two processes blending in the regional and global environment. The process of Western orientation in the international system has led to the destruction of state structures in Libya, Yemen and Syria, which in turn ended in growth of non-governmental radical forces and terrorist groups. However, the second process was established with participation of such countries as Russia, Iran and Turkey, who helped stabilize the situation in Syria and destroy the terrorist groups; their success is a proof that this process can be managed with more serious impact.

A combination of factors has put various options before the civilization in terms of policy, security and economy, and has propelled the world to stronger multilateralism and the multipolar structure. Therefore, strategic planning of foreign policy cannot be done within the framework and prerequisites of the 20th century and/or even the first decades of the 21st century. We must also pay attention to the requirements arising from these prerequisites: the requirements of the multipolar, multi-level world and stronger multilateralism. To this end, and drawing on the geopolitical interaction between the

regions of West Asia, Eurasia and the Middle East, the new Eastern strategy is currently being shaped as a serious new reality. A part of this process has been carried out within the institutional framework, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Agreement, whereas the other part has been vested in interaction between such institutions as ECO and the Eurasian Economic Union; it also possesses important developmental capabilities. Such countries as Russia, China, Iran and Turkey, which are closely involved in the Eastern policy, do not have mechanisms or dedicated rules for protection of the international Westphalian order and/or its positive transformation into a system based on broader interests of the humankind without the limiting Western interpretations. Outside the framework of bilateral and/or regional interaction, these countries will need to augment the strategic dialog with the global organizations. In the conditions of transformation of the international system, this issue may limit these countries and their interests in shaping the future system.

In the next decade the world will change, and cardinal changes are expected in various spheres; one such sphere is the structure of world order, which will become more diverse and multipolar in terms of politics, security and economy. Therefore, in the process of strategic planning of the foreign policy we will need to take into account such effective and new processes. We must also pay attention to the requirements that emerge out of these conditions – the multipolar, multilevel society and multilateralism. We must take note of these trends and determine our national interests and regulate our foreign policy accordingly.

Although the influence of supporters of the West is decreasing, the world will not fully renounce the Western position, the West will continue playing its role. In the meantime, the role of the East will increase and the above-mentioned states will play their significant and impactful role in shaping the future order, its new norms, rules and structure. The countries of the East are concerned with the changes affecting the international Westphalian system and such norms as human rights, responsibility for

support and humanitarian intervention when it masks the intention to bypass international legal norms. They are also apprehensive of the unilateral American pressure on independent states and use of economic sanctions, in a way to leave no other route than cooperation and taking on the responsibility for their role in the process. Establishment of such institutions as the Shanghai Cooperation Agreement, its expanding circle of participants and their growing share of responsibility, the Eurasian Economic Union and the process of its interaction, the Organization for Economic Cooperation (ECO) and its widening prospects, as well as the interaction between these three organizations and regional Asian and Eurasian institutions and expansion of this cooperation to include Turkey will serve as an important foreword in creating an effective Eastern strategy for shaping the future world order.

The place and role of Iran, given its experience in effective cooperation with Russia in the sphere of anti-terrorism and ensuring stability in various countries, with consideration of its national and regional interests, its important role in the ECO organization, the geopolitical position of Iran on the North-South corridor and the Asian Silk Road have key significance for the Eastern strategy; in a way, it is a missing link in any project, regional system and the process of integration. Iran is a junction point of culture, thought, institutional processes and security in the three strategic areas – the Middle East, Eurasia and East Asia. These important integrating factors, along with the capabilities in economy, energy and security, make Iran an important responsible actor on the world stage who is committed to shaping the future regional and world order.