

THE C5+1 SUMMIT OF NOVEMBER 2025: ENSURING US-CENTRAL ASIA RELATIONSHIP AND THE NEW STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP OF UZBEKISTAN.

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17688187>

Abstract. *The C5+1 Summit, November 6-7, 2025, Washington, D.C., was an event of previous significance in US-Central Asia affairs. The leaders in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan met with President Donald Trump of the United States of America. It was the tenth time the group convened, and they paid much attention to economic matters, particularly, the critical minerals and the planes purchase as the US, Russia, and China are all maneuvering to gain power. Uzbekistan, under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev had its combined moment; they struck significant trade transactions and demonstrated that they could be a significant intermediary of the region. What transpired at the summit, what did Uzbekistan have to do with it and how it will affect stability in the region and global supply chains are questions of concern here. We depend on recent diplomatic news and academic research to suggest that the summit evidences an effective, deal-centered change, which may be disseminated in terms of connecting the Central Asian economical connections.¹*

Keywords: C5+1 Summit, US-Central Asia relations, Uzbekistan foreign policy, critical minerals, geopolitical competition, aviation trade.

Introduction

In an era where the giants are vying to settle on dominance, processes such as the C5+1 provide the Central Asian states with the opportunity of discussing hard international matters.

The concept began in 2015 when the concept was pushed in Samarkand by Uzbekistan.

The team has stopped chatting but has engaged into serious economic deals. The 2025 Washington summit organized by President Trump demonstrated that the C5+1 is becoming reality with definite deals on trade, investment and resources safety. As the global supply chains wobble and the US pursues friend-shoring, this meeting underlined the plenitude in natural resources of Central Asia and the significance of its location.²

In this paper, we will examine how this summit is relevant, its themes, and the contribution of Uzbekistan in it. We will review diplomatic documents and geopolitical reports to demonstrate how the summit will enable the US to remain in close proximity to the region as well as provide Uzbekistan an opportunity big spot as a bridge in Eurasia.

We shall further examine it as: the background of the C5+1, the major results of the 2025 summit, the strategy of Uzbekistan and general geopolitical developments.

Background The 1990s history of the C5+1 Framework C5+1 itself was developed during the 1990s, based on the initial framework created in the 1980s and refined again in the 1990s, an extensive history of lodged projects and their archiving algorithm, which was implemented in the 1998 undergraduate course. The C5+1 concept occurred since Central Asia was forced to handle the post soviet transition whereby Russia was a superpower and China was flooding in more business.

¹ <https://eurasianet.org/us-central-asia-gathering-yields-deals>

² THE DIPLOMAT: <https://thediplomat.com/2025/11/us-central-asia-what-is-the-c51/>

To retain everyone's attention without not injuring Russia or China, the obama team came up with the concept of the New Silk Road. During a period of ten years, there were nine summits addressing such issues as water, counterterrorism, and establishment of strong economies. To sustain the relationship, the US had invested more than over \$1 billion in the form of aid and investments.³

C5+1 is viewed by scholars as a means of offsetting the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Belt & Road Initiative of China through de-risking a weighty reliance on Moscow and Beijing. Research in such places as CSIS points to the shift toward critical minerals such as uranium, lithium, and rare earths, which the US requires in its green energy drive. It was the inaugural Trump summit on his new term and was in keeping with his America First agenda, wherein direct deals took precedence over a lovely discussion.

Themes and Agreements: 2025 Summit Key Results.

The two day affair was between November 6-7 where there were one on one meetings prior to significant joint session. Trump portrayed Central Asia as a terribly rich area with enormous potential particularly in mining some of the key minerals⁴. The top themes were:

- Trade and Investment Expansion: Trump declared about a new Uzbekistan trade agreement that will be broad covering in goods and services. There are no definite figures yet in the public domain but initial estimates have indicated that there could be more than \$10-billion worth of trade annually and this is based on previous discussions.⁵

- Aviation and Infrastructure Deals: Boeing also purchased new aircraft in three airlines in Central Asia. Uzbekistan Airways placed the order of another eight Dreamliners 787-9 (estimated to cost approximately \$8.5 b), which made the total of the company 22 planes. Air Astana of Kazakhstan ordered as many as 15 787 9s, and Somon Air of Tajikistan finalized a 737 9 EXs contract. The US Commerce Department assisted in driving such deals towards modernizing the fleets in the region and connected Central Asia to the global air transportation.⁶

- Critical Minerals Cooperation: Negotiations were aimed at collective projects on mining and refining rare earths, where the US sought ways other than Chinese dominance.

The US has promised technical assistance and investment guarantees and this could eliminate as much as 50 b also referred to as \$50 billion mineral exports by 2030.⁷

- Security and Regional Stability: Other than the economy, the summit discussed border crossing safety and extremism warfare - C5+1 objectives. Human rights organizations such as Amnesty international did speak out but nothing new emerged out of it in terms of rules.⁸

In general, these findings can be viewed as the shift toward the use of deals as opposed to declarations. The results of the post-summit analysis include pragmatic and results-oriented approach and not empty grandstanding.

The Strategic Agency of Leadership and Pivotal Role of Uzbekistan.

³ CSIS: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/11/6/why-is-trump-hosting-c-asia-leaders-can-he-compete-with-russia-china>

⁴ Apnews.com: <https://apnews.com/article/trump-central-asia-rare-earth-metals-china-4d98912acea17cace354dbb65be55275>

⁵ Foxbusiness: <https://www.foxbusiness.com/fox-news-global-economy/trump-announces-35b-uzbekistan-investment-deal-after-meeting-central-asian-leaders>

⁶ Reuters.com: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/trump-administration-announces-boeing-deals-central-asia-2025-11-06/>

⁷ Bloomberg: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-11-07/trump-seeks-rare-earths-in-meeting-with-central-asian-nations>

⁸ Stategov: <https://www.state.gov/c51>

Uzbekistan proved to be the star of the summit. Even declaring Trump the President of Peace during a working dinner, president Mirziyoyev demonstrated his so-called multi-vector foreign policy. He took that opportunity to promote the image of Uzbekistan and create awareness about this country⁹. Some key highlights were:

- Economic Diplomacy: Uzbekistan pacified the Boeing contracts and it is transforming Tashkent into a maintenance/training facility. The fresh national airline is improved by the purchase that costs the country 8.5 billion and attracts additional logistic investors.

- Regional Mediation Uzbekistan, the informal host state that recalled the history of the summit in 2015, facilitated the smaller states to come to a consensus on the mineral cooperation, including Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. This is in line with the Open Uzbekistan changes of Mirziyoyev that allowed the free flow of trade and introduced 20 billion FDI since 2017.

- Geopolitical Compensation: Uzbekistan became a supporter of US relationships and, at the same time, remained aloof toward the members of the SCO, displaying principled pragmatism. The goal of Tashkent to become a crossroads of Eurasia is illustrated in the prelude to the summit of Mirziyoyev with Qatar as well as with the EU.

Uzbekistan demonstrates the fact that Central Asia is not a cog in the clock; it is an actor in the multi-polar world.¹⁰

Opportunities and Challenges Geopolitical Implications.

The climax is an indication of a shift in Central Asian alliances subduing Russian and Chinese dominance. To the US, it would strengthen supply chains by reducing dependence on the enemy nations by 20-30 percent in the critical regions. The grip may lead to a closer C-5 cooperation in the region, such as the joint route of the energy, which would increase the GDP by 5-7 percent per year.

However, the ills remain: systemic corruption, mineral ecology risks, and the human rights aspect might destroy the long-term strategies. Furthermore, a crisis between the US and Russia (supposedly, Ukraine) will pressurize Central Asia to remain neutral.

In case the next summit ensues in 2026 it will have to correct these to sustain the momentum.¹¹

Conclusion

The 2025 C-5+1 Summit displays the transformation of the US-Central Asia relationship with real-life transactions in trade, aviation and minerals which please all. The Uzbekistan government, courtesy of the shrewd maneuvers of its leadership by Mirziyoyev, is giving itself a baiting opportunity, whether it is in the economic rebound or geopolitical influence. These meetings are essential in a world of huge competences in sharing prosperity. To ensure the voice of Central Asia is not lost in the global arena, the policy makers ought to push towards actualisation so that the promises it makes can translate into permanent alliances.

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⁹ Eurasianet.org: <https://eurasianet.org/us-central-asia-gathering-yields-deals>

¹⁰ Trend.az: <https://www.trend.az/business/4114464.html>

¹¹ Timesca.com: <https://timesca.com/deals-not-declarations-u-s-central-asia-cooperation-at-summit-crossroads/>

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