

# BULLETIN

HIGHLIGHT OF THE FOREIGN POLICY OF REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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## **I. President Ilham Aliyev's state visit to Uzbekistan elevates allied relations through the Treaty on Eternal Friendship**

President Ilham Aliyev's state visit to Uzbekistan on August 23–24 marked the principal bilateral development in Azerbaijan's foreign policy during the month. The visit consolidated a relationship that has advanced with exceptional speed from close friendship and strategic partnership to a comprehensive alignment. Its central outcome, the Treaty on Eternal Friendship between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, gave formal expression to the political trust established between the two heads of state and to the shared long-term interests of the two countries. The document was signed alongside the decision of the third meeting of the Supreme Interstate Council, confirming once again that the relationship possesses both a strong political foundation and an institutional mechanism for implementation. The summit highlighted a durable framework through which Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan coordinate policy, develop joint economic assets and contribute together to the emergence of a more closely connected region.

The intensity of presidential diplomacy has been decisive in reaching this level. In his August 21 interview with the Uzbekistan National News Agency, President Ilham Aliyev noted that the two leaders had made 15 reciprocal high-level visits over the previous five years. The President's August 2024 state visit to Uzbekistan and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's July 2025 state visit to Azerbaijan produced the Declaration on Further Strengthening of Strategic Partnership and the Treaty on Allied Relations. The latest state visit built upon those commitments and placed them within an even longer political horizon. Regular summit-level contacts have also been supported by the Supreme Interstate Council, established in August 2023 to define priorities, promote new initiatives and ensure coordination across government institutions. The third meeting of the Council in Tashkent demonstrated the value of this

mechanism: political declarations were accompanied by specific programs, investment decisions and instructions to the relevant ministries and agencies.

The Treaty on Eternal Friendship reflects the distinctive social foundation of Azerbaijan–Uzbekistan relations. The two countries are connected by common historical roots, linguistic and cultural affinity, shared moral values and a strong sense of solidarity within the Turkic world. This closeness has made political cooperation resilient and has enabled practical projects to proceed with a high degree of confidence. President Ilham Aliyev emphasized that bilateral relations are supported by both a spiritual and a material foundation, a combination that is not frequently encountered in international politics. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev likewise described Azerbaijan as a reliable ally, strategic partner and brotherly state. This shared understanding is important because it places economic cooperation within a wider vision of common development, giving this vision an intergenerational character.

Economic indicators already demonstrate the practical value of the alignment between two countries. Bilateral trade reached 795 million dollars in 2025, more than three times the level recorded in 2024. In January–May 2026, trade increased by a further 33 percent compared with the same period of the previous year and amounted to 144 million dollars. During the summit, the sides adopted a program to increase trade turnover to 1 billion dollars by 2030, while both presidents made clear that the political objective is to reach that benchmark as early as possible and then move beyond it. The total portfolio of joint projects has exceeded 5 billion dollars. These figures show that the relationship is entering a stage in which trade, investment and industrial cooperation reinforce one another. Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan are increasingly creating shared production capacity, financing mechanisms and transport assets that will support bilateral and regional commerce over the long term.

The Azerbaijan–Uzbekistan Investment Company has become one of the principal instruments of this approach. Established with capital of 500 million dollars, it provides a dedicated platform for financing projects in both countries. At the Supreme Interstate Council meeting, the leaders instructed their teams to accelerate the use of the fund and consider its future expansion. The investment mechanism reduces the distance between political decisions and commercial implementation by identifying projects that serve the development priorities of both states. It also signals to private investors that joint initiatives enjoy sustained support at the highest level. The summit package included a practical roadmap for investment and trade, ensuring that the political direction established by the presidents is translated into a sequence of implementable tasks. This results-oriented method has become a defining feature of Azerbaijan’s partnerships with the states of Central Asia and is particularly advanced in relations with Uzbekistan.

Industrial cooperation now extends across energy, chemicals, finance, construction materials, mining, agriculture, education and vehicle production. The Neftegaztexnologiya joint venture has operated in the oil and gas sector since 2016, while the SOCAR–Uzbekneftegaz JSC Turan Energy AFEZCO has exported high-pressure polyethylene produced by Azerikimya to Uzbekistan since 2024. Automotive cooperation has also produced measurable results. By July 13, 2026, joint facilities had manufactured 10,720 Chevrolet vehicles and 275 Isuzu buses in Azerbaijan. Full-cycle production is being developed through a second plant in Hajigabul with planned investment of more than 80 million dollars. These projects illustrate the complementarity of the two economies: Uzbekistan’s industrial experience and Azerbaijan’s investment conditions are being combined to establish local production, develop skills and broaden the non-oil economy. More than 130 entities with the investment from Uzbekistan are already registered in Azerbaijan, further confirming the confidence generated by the bilateral political relationship.

The state visit gave additional visibility to Azerbaijani investment in Uzbekistan. During an online ceremony attended by the two presidents, Davr Bank, now associated with AR International Bank, a gypsum plant implemented by Matanat-A and two Landau STEAM schools were inaugurated. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for five SOCAR filling stations, the Sea Breeze Uzbekistan residential and recreational complex, the Baku City residential development, a silver ore processing and concentration plant. Azerbaijani companies are entering the Uzbekistan market not through a single sector, but through banking, energy retail, urban development, education, construction materials, mining and agriculture. This diversified presence strengthens the commercial sustainability of the partnership and also strengthen cooperation among companies, professionals and local communities in both countries.

Transport and logistics occupy an equally important place in the shared agenda. Transit freight between the two countries reached 1.4 million tons in 2025, an increase of 6.7 percent, and rose by a further 12.2 percent in the first half of 2026 to 675,000 tons. The leaders agreed to develop the Trans-Caspian route, improve logistics efficiency and accelerate plans for a joint fleet in the Caspian Sea. Uzbekistan also proposed a dedicated Uzbekistan–Azerbaijan maritime corridor operated through a single coordinating structure. President Ilham Aliyev confirmed Azerbaijan’s readiness to construct a ferry for Uzbekistan at the Baku Shipyard. These measures address the operational requirements of a rapidly expanding trade relationship: additional vessels, predictable schedules, coordinated services and sufficient port capacity. By investing in these elements now, the two countries are positioning the Caspian segment to carry larger volumes generated by Central Asian production and growing East–West commerce.

The bilateral transport agenda is inseparable from Azerbaijan’s wider connectivity strategy. President Ilham Aliyev drew attention to the integration of

the China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan railway with the Middle Corridor and the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity. This combination would connect production centers in Central Asia with Azerbaijan’s ports and railways, the South Caucasus, Türkiye and European markets. The Zangezur Corridor would add a further branch by linking mainland Azerbaijan with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and onward routes. During the Tashkent meeting, the President reported that work on the mainland Azerbaijani section would be completed in 2027 and that construction had begun in Nakhchivan. Uzbekistan, as a major landlocked producer, stands to benefit directly from this additional access.

Energy cooperation adds another strategic layer. In 2025, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan established the Green Corridor Union in Baku to coordinate the planned transmission of renewable electricity from Central Asia across the Caspian Sea. The project complements Azerbaijan’s growing role as an energy producer, transit country and future exporter of green electricity. It also gives the emerging regional architecture a forward-looking economic foundation: cooperation is extending from traditional hydrocarbons to renewable generation, high-capacity transmission and shared infrastructure. Azerbaijan’s location and energy system make it a natural link between the renewable potential of Central Asia and demand centers to the west. Uzbekistan’s participation provides scale, investment and a major source of future generation. The bilateral alliance therefore supports a project with significance far beyond the two countries, contributing to energy diversification and the creation of new Eurasian supply chains.

Humanitarian and cultural initiatives ensured that the state visit retained the people-centered character of the relationship. The presidents inaugurated the new building of the National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan named after Nizami Ganjavi and laid the foundation stone for the Azerbaijan Park in New Tashkent. The sides

also signed government agreements on cooperation in culture and tourism, as well as programs covering diplomatic cooperation for 2027–2028 and public services and social innovation. New sister-city links were established between Khankendi and Urgench, Nakhchivan and Urgench, and Lachin and Bukhara. These ties extend cooperation beyond the capitals and connect communities in Azerbaijan’s restored territories with historic cities of Uzbekistan. They also complement the Mirzo Ulugbek school built by Uzbekistan in Fuzuli, which remains a prominent symbol of Uzbekistan’s support for Azerbaijan’s reconstruction and the Great Return.

Educational, cultural and public diplomacy are becoming increasingly systematic. Reciprocal culture days, university forums, media forums and cooperation between non-governmental organizations create regular channels of communication between the two societies. A joint grant competition for Azerbaijani and Uzbekistan’s civil society organizations was launched in 2026, while plans for a feature film devoted to the literary heritage of Nizami Ganjavi and Alisher Navoi will present the shared cultural space to wider audiences. Tourism is also growing: 44,000 Uzbek citizens visited Azerbaijan between January and August 2026. These contacts strengthen familiarity and trust, making the alliance understandable not only at the governmental level but also in education, culture, business and everyday public life. The decision that Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan will jointly host the FIFA U-20 World Cup in 2027 will provide another major platform for this people-to-people dimension.

President İlham Aliyev described Central Asia and Azerbaijan as a single geopolitical and geo-economic region with considerable potential for growth. The Greater Caspian area is an emerging regional architecture in which bilateral alliances, flexible trilateral arrangements and the consultative format reinforce one another. In this model, the Caspian is no longer only as a body of water separating two regions. It becomes the central space around which transport, energy,

trade, digital connectivity and coordinated diplomacy are organized. Azerbaijan–Uzbekistan relations are among the strongest political pillars of that transformation.

This emerging regional architecture is based on sovereign choice, practical complementarity and regional ownership. It enables Azerbaijan and the Central Asian states to coordinate priorities and engage external partners from a stronger common position. Cooperation within the Organization of Turkic States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Economic Cooperation Organization and other platforms remains important, but the consultative format provides a focused mechanism for questions specific to the Greater Caspian space. The Azerbaijan–Uzbekistan alliance gives this framework both political momentum and practical content. Joint investment, a possible Caspian fleet, green electricity transmission, industrial production and cultural programs demonstrate how regional integration can develop through implementable projects rather than through rigid supranational structures.

Taken together, the outcomes of the state visit established a comprehensive agenda for the next phase of Azerbaijan–Uzbekistan relations. The visit confirmed that Baku’s relations with Uzbekistan is a long-term partnership rooted in brotherhood, sovereign equality and a shared understanding of regional development. By converting political trust into assets, routes and institutions, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan are helping shape a more connected, self-confident and economically capable Eurasian region.

## **II. One year after the Washington Summit, Azerbaijan advances the peace agenda towards practical cooperation**

August 2026 marked the first anniversary of the historic Washington Summit of August 8, 2025, at which President Ilham Aliyev, U.S. President Donald Trump and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol

Pashinyan signed the Joint Declaration for peace and the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia initialed the draft Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Inter-State Relations. Azerbaijan, the United States and Armenia used the anniversary to take stock of implementation and to reaffirm the principles that now guide the South Caucasus: sovereignty, territorial integrity, internationally recognized borders, regional connectivity and mutually beneficial economic cooperation. A joint statement issued on August 10 presented a record of concrete progress and demonstrated that the Washington framework has developed into an operational peace architecture. For Azerbaijan, this validates the consistent policy of replacing the legacy of conflict with a regional order based on international law and direct interstate responsibility.

The joint statement confirmed that stability had been maintained along the Azerbaijan–Armenia border and that the two sides were taking practical steps toward normalization, border delimitation and confidence building. This is an important achievement in itself. The absence of serious instability has allowed governments, investors and transport operators to plan for a different regional future. It also demonstrates the effectiveness of the direct bilateral approach long advocated by Azerbaijan. Rather than preserving an indefinite negotiation process, the Washington framework established a clear direction and linked political normalization to infrastructure and economic incentives. The dissolution of the OSCE Minsk Group and related structures at the joint request of Azerbaijan and Armenia was therefore an acknowledgement that the conflict stage had ended and that post-conflict tasks require new mechanisms. The peace agenda is now judged by the implementation of sovereign commitments, not by the continuation of outdated mediation formats.

The Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity is central to this transition. According to the anniversary statement, the United States and Armenia had agreed to establish the TRIPP

Development Company, engineering surveys were under way in Armenia and Azerbaijan had nearly completed the highway and railway infrastructure on its own territory leading toward the route. The three countries also supported the construction of an electricity transmission line through TRIPP. TRIPP is designed as multimodal infrastructure rather than as a single railway. Its full potential includes road, rail, electricity, digital communications and, where appropriate, additional energy links. This gives the peace framework an economic logic capable of producing benefits for regional countries and international trade.

The United States has supported the wider regional dimension through a USD 201 million grant to the Trans-Caspian Enterprise Fund, intended to mobilize private investment along the Trans-Caspian Trade Route and the Middle Corridor. This measure connects the bilateral peace process to a much larger geography extending from Central Asia through Azerbaijan and the South Caucasus toward Türkiye and Europe. The anniversary statement referred to bilateral charters and memoranda covering energy security, border infrastructure and security, artificial intelligence and semiconductor innovation, and critical minerals. For Azerbaijan, cooperation in these fields broadens relations with Washington beyond the peace process and creates opportunities in sectors relevant to the country's economic diversification. Peace and partnership are therefore advancing as mutually reinforcing tracks.

On August 10, Deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov met in Washington with U.S. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Andrew Stowe. The discussions focused on the Charter on Strategic Partnership between Azerbaijan and the United States, the outcomes of the Baku Economic Dialogue and the wider agenda of peace, security and prosperity. On the same day, Deputy Foreign Minister Mammadov joined U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker and Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Vahan Kostanyan for a trilateral meeting devoted to

normalization. Holding both bilateral and trilateral consultations illustrated the structure of the new relationship: Azerbaijan's direct strategic partnership with the United States develops on its own merits, while Washington also provides a practical platform when the participation of all three countries can facilitate regional implementation.

The U.S. decision to extend the waiver of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act provided another positive signal. The Department of State notified Congress on August 10, and the notification entered the congressional record during the month. Section 907 is an obsolete and discriminatory restriction whose permanent repeal would remove an unnecessary legacy from bilateral relations. The renewed waiver supports current security and cooperation requirements and is consistent with the strategic direction established by the Charter. At the same time, Baku's position remains clear: a mature partnership based on mutual interests and equal treatment should ultimately be free of this anachronistic provision. The extension nevertheless confirms that the U.S. administration recognizes Azerbaijan's importance to regional peace, connectivity, energy security and wider cooperation.

On August 31, President Ilham Aliyev met with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Bishkek. The leaders highlighted the historic importance of the Washington Peace Summit of 8 August 2025, the Joint Declaration signed by President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and witnessed by U.S. President Donald Trump, and the initialing of the agreed upon text of the Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Inter-State Relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia. The two sides highlighted the export of Azerbaijani petroleum products to Armenia, the transit through Azerbaijan of grain and other goods originating in third countries, and the emergence of direct trade relations. These developments are tangible

benefits of the peace process. The leaders are also welcomed the growing contacts between Azerbaijani and Armenian business communities. They discussed opportunities to expand cooperation in trade, energy and other areas of mutual economic interest. The sides emphasized the important role of the respective state commissions on the delimitation of the state border between Azerbaijan and Armenia and noted the importance of continuing their work in accordance with the agreements reached between the two countries. The leaders discussed further practical steps related to the implementation of the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) and positively assessed confidence-building contacts involving parliamentarians and representatives of civil society, noting their contribution to strengthening mutual trust and supporting the broader peace agenda. The Bishkek talks reflected an increasing focus on implementing the agreements reached since the Washington summit. The leaders agreed to maintain direct bilateral engagement and continue working towards lasting peace, normal interstate relations and stronger regional connectivity.

The evidence of normalization is the growing movement of goods. The anniversary statement recorded that close to 60,000 tons of goods had moved to or from Armenia through Azerbaijani territory during the year. It also noted supplies of 20,000 tons of petroleum products from Azerbaijan. On August 24, another train carrying 242 tons of propane traveled from Russia to Armenia through Azerbaijan. By that date, the transit totals included more than 50,000 tons of grain, nearly 9,000 tons of fertilizer, 1,172 tons of propane, 133 tons of aluminum, 1,114 tons of coal and 67 tons of timber. Azerbaijan had additionally exported up to 15,000 tons of diesel and approximately 5,000 tons of AI-92 and AI-95 gasoline to Armenia.

A telecommunications agreement between operators in Azerbaijan and Armenia, also highlighted in the joint anniversary statement,

adds a further confidence-building layer. Diversified internet routes can improve reliability and resilience within the South Caucasus while supporting the broader digital networks of Eurasia. Such cooperation is technically focused and commercially useful, which makes it especially valuable in a post-conflict environment.

Energy dialogue advanced further on August 25, when representatives of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Energy and Azerenerji met in Lachin with representatives of Armenia's Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure and the Electric Power System Operator. The parties discussed potential electricity imports and exports and options for interconnecting their systems at the state border. The choice of Lachin was symbolically and practically significant: a restored Azerbaijani city served as the venue for a forward-looking technical conversation between the two countries. The meeting also gave concrete form to the power-transmission component envisaged within TRIPP. Azerbaijan possesses a strong and expanding electricity system, including new renewable generation and transmission infrastructure in the liberated territories. Regional interconnection can create commercial opportunities, improve system stability and support future electricity flows toward Nakhchivan, Türkiye and Europe.

The progress achieved over the first year reflects the consistency of Azerbaijan's peace strategy. The Washington Summit gave international political support to this framework and helped resolve the remaining procedural and connectivity questions. The August anniversary demonstrated that the approach is producing outcomes: border stability, initialed treaty text, a route under development, new transit flows and direct sectoral dialogue.

Azerbaijan's role in this process is that of the principal author and consistent implementer of the post-conflict agenda. Azerbaijan restored its territorial integrity and sovereignty, then used the new realities to propose a lawful and inclusive regional settlement. It has invested in roads and railways toward the Armenian border, opened transit for Armenian-bound cargo, supplied energy

products and entered technical discussions on electricity and communications. These steps are elements of a strategic policy that links peace to regional prosperity while safeguarding Azerbaijan's national interests.

The Washington framework also places Azerbaijan's regional policy within a wider network of partnerships. TRIPP connects to the Middle Corridor and to the expanding C6 relationship between Azerbaijan and Central Asia. U.S. support for Trans-Caspian investment complements Azerbaijan's cooperation with Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and other partners interested in resilient East–West routes. At the same time, the energy component can link renewable resources in the Caspian basin with markets farther west. This broader geography helps explain why peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia has implications well beyond the bilateral context. It removes a missing link from Eurasian connectivity and enables the South Caucasus to function as a space of cooperation rather than as a barrier between neighboring regions.

### **III. Nakhchivan emerges as a strategic transport and energy hub at the center of Eurasian connectivity**

President Ilham Aliyev's August 11 visit to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic highlighted its growing strategic role in wider regional economic development. The implementation of TRIPP and the Zangezur Corridor will restore a direct land connection with mainland Azerbaijan, while new railway, electricity and generation projects will position Nakhchivan as an important junction between the South Caucasus, Türkiye, Iran, Central Asia and wider markets. In his interview with Azerbaijan Television, President Ilham Aliyev presented a comprehensive vision in which security, industrial development, energy self-sufficiency, export capacity and Eurasian transport links reinforce one another. Nakhchivan is consequently becoming not only a beneficiary of regional peace, but one of the principal platforms

through which the economic advantages of peace will be realized.

The President placed physical security and energy security at the foundation of this vision. New commando units and modern equipment strengthen the Separate Combined Arms Army and ensure that Nakhchivan's specific geography is fully reflected in national defense planning. This secure environment supports long-term infrastructure and investment. In the energy sector, Nakhchivan already has complete gas coverage and electricity generation capacity that exceeds current demand. The İğdır–Nakhchivan gas pipeline, commissioned with Türkiye in 2025 diversifies supply.

During the visit, the foundation stone was laid for a 300-megawatt thermal power plant as part of the Nakhchivan Industrial Park. The plant alone will have one and a half times the Autonomous Republic's present generation capacity of approximately 200 megawatts. It is intended both to guarantee sustainable local supply and to support electricity exports. These measures demonstrate Azerbaijan's preference for multiple reliable connections rather than dependence on a single route. They also create the stable conditions required for Nakhchivan to move from energy security toward energy export. President Ilham Aliyev also inspected two solar projects with a combined capacity of 50 megawatts. More than 600 hectares have been allocated for additional solar facilities, and the President assessed Nakhchivan's solar potential at no less than 500 megawatts, with the possibility of reaching 1,000 megawatts over time. A hydropower project of slightly more than 15 megawatts is also planned in the village of Tivi in Ordubad. The combination of thermal, solar and hydropower generation will provide balance, resilience and substantial exportable capacity.

Foreign investment is expected to play an active role in this energy expansion. Nakhchivan's high solar potential, available land, state support and future access to several transmission directions create a commercially attractive environment.

Existing power links connect the Autonomous Republic with Türkiye and Iran, although their capacity will need to be expanded to accommodate future export volumes. The planned transmission line from mainland Azerbaijan through Armenia to Nakhchivan would add a strategically important third interconnection. From Nakhchivan, electricity could continue to Türkiye and ultimately to European markets. This route would complement Azerbaijan's existing westward energy infrastructure through Georgia and the planned Black Sea electricity cable. It would also integrate with the Caspian green-energy corridor being developed by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, enabling Azerbaijan to generate, receive, transmit and export electricity across a broad regional network.

The technical groundwork for the new energy corridor is already advanced. A large high-voltage substation has already been constructed in Jabrayil to support the transmission of significant volumes of electricity. President İlham Aliyev emphasized that the line could support all participants. It would connect Azerbaijan's strong electricity system with Nakhchivan, provide Armenia with an additional source and route, and create another pathway toward Türkiye and Europe. The August 25 meeting in Lachin between Azerbaijani and Armenian energy representatives demonstrated that sectoral discussion is moving from general concepts to border interconnection and possible trade. Energy cooperation can thus become one of the most visible economic dividends of normalization.

Railway development is equally ambitious. The existing line in Nakhchivan has an estimated throughput capacity of 1.5 million tons, sufficient for the initial stage of operations but below the requirements of a major international corridor. Azerbaijan's target is at least 15 million tons. To achieve this, the line will be rebuilt and modernized on a new 194-kilometer alignment capable of handling larger and more efficient freight movements. Missing sections near the Armenian borders in Ordubad and Sadarak are being restored, while work on the mainland

Horadiz–Aghband railway is progressing toward completion at the Armenian border in 2027. The approximately 400-kilometer railway from Baku to the border is also being reconstructed and modernized. Together, these projects will create a high-capacity network connected through TRIPP.

Azerbaijan is prepared to finance the Nakhchivan railway itself, but it has also opened the possibility of an international consortium in which Azerbaijan would retain the controlling stake. This proposal serves several purposes. It can mobilize additional technical and financial expertise, give international partners a direct interest in the route's success and help secure predictable freight volumes from the outset. The European Union and several countries and organizations have expressed interest in the Nakhchivan segment. Azerbaijan's position combines openness with implementation discipline: foreign participation is welcome where it adds value, but it cannot become a reason for delay. Construction will continue in accordance with national priorities, and interested partners are invited to engage on that basis.

The corridor's value derives from its ability to serve more than one direction. As a branch of the East–West route, it will connect Central Asian and Caspian cargo with Nakhchivan, Türkiye and European markets. Through the Julfa railway junction and its connection with Iran, it can also function as an additional branch of the North–South Corridor toward the Persian Gulf and potentially Pakistan. This intersection gives Nakhchivan a distinctive place in the Eurasian transport map. Azerbaijan has no direct access to an open sea, yet its sustained investment in ports, railways, highways, shipbuilding and logistics has made the country indispensable to several continental routes. The same strategy is now being applied to Nakhchivan, turning geography into connectivity and connectivity into long-term economic opportunity.

The benefits for Nakhchivan itself will be substantial. Freight transit, logistics services, industrial production and energy exports will generate employment and attract new investment.

The Nakhchivan Industrial Park will provide a platform for modern enterprises linked to domestic and international markets. Improved rail and road connections will also support tourism, agriculture and regional trade. Nakhchivan's development is being planned together with Karabakh and East Zangezur under a unified concept, ensuring compatibility between new roads, energy systems, urban plans and industrial zones. This integrated approach reduces duplication and allows the liberated territories and Nakhchivan to form complementary parts of Azerbaijan's western development and connectivity belt.

President Ilham Aliyev's target of making Nakhchivan an indispensable transport hub rests on the combined capacity to produce, store, transmit, process and move goods and energy. The August visit demonstrated that the strategic vision is being backed by immediate implementation. New generation facilities, railway reconstruction, the industrial park and transmission planning are proceeding in parallel. Nakhchivan also connects Azerbaijan's closest strategic partnerships. The corridor will provide a direct link with allied Türkiye, support growing trade with Central Asia and give the United States and European partners

an opportunity to participate in a route associated with regional peace. Its success will therefore rest on a broad but balanced network of relationships, with Azerbaijan retaining full control over its infrastructure and policy. This is consistent with the country's wider foreign-policy model: diversified cooperation, sovereign decision-making and practical projects that align the interests of multiple partners without creating exclusive blocs.