

## ECONOMIC SECURITY AS A FACTOR OF ECONOMIC BREAKTHROUGH: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND PROSPECTS FOR UZBEKISTAN

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### ABSTRACT

The article analyzes economic security as a key factor of economic breakthrough and sustainable development of developing countries in the context of global economic and geopolitical risks. Using the example of South Korea, the study examines the main mechanisms for ensuring economic security and assesses the possibilities of adapting this experience to the conditions of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Keywords:** Economic security, economic breakthrough, sustainable development, industrial policy, innovation, South Korea, Uzbekistan.

### INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the Republic of Uzbekistan has been implementing large-scale socio-economic reforms aimed at modernizing the national economy, increasing its competitiveness, and strengthening economic security. Under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a consistent policy of structural transformation is being pursued, covering economic liberalization, private sector development, improvement of the investment climate, digitalization of public administration, and integration into the global economic system.

As a result of these reforms, Uzbekistan's economy demonstrates stable growth rates, increasing investment volumes, and strengthened macroeconomic stability. At the present stage, the strategic objective of the state is the transition from a predominantly resource-based and catch-up development model to an industrial-innovative economy capable of ensuring long-term economic breakthrough and resilience to external challenges.

In this context, the analysis of international experience of countries that have successfully used economic security as a tool for accelerated development is of particular scientific interest. One of the most illustrative examples is the Republic of Korea, whose experience makes it possible to identify practical guidelines for the further socio-economic development of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In modern conditions, economic security acts not only as an element of national security but also as a crucial instrument for accelerated socio-economic development [1]. Globalization, increasing geopolitical tensions, technological competition, and instability of global markets intensify the vulnerability of national economies, especially in developing countries. In this

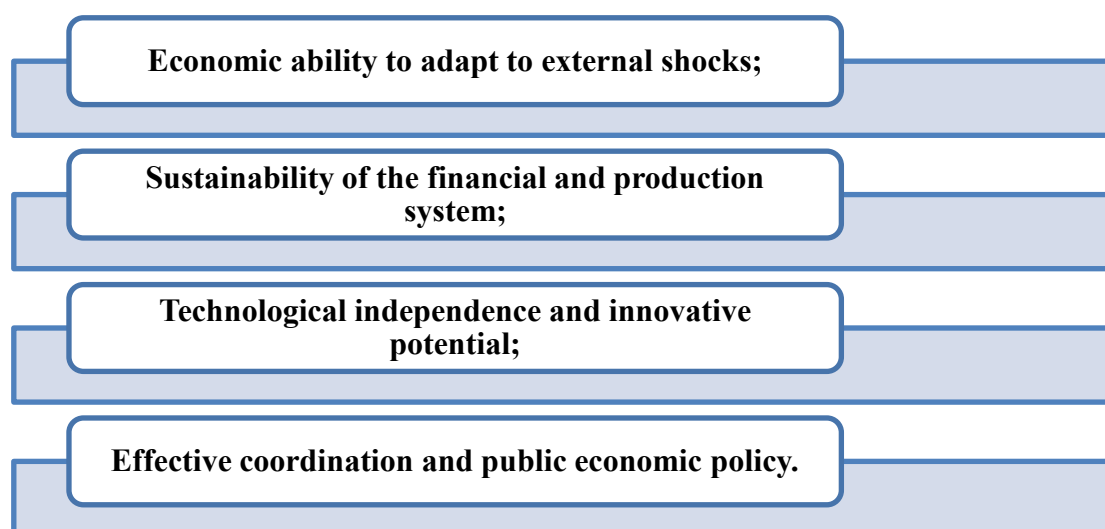
regard, economic security is increasingly viewed as a prerequisite for economic breakthrough, enabling the transition from a resource-based and catch-up development model to an innovation-oriented economy.

For the Republic of Uzbekistan, which is implementing large-scale structural reforms and an openness strategy, issues of economic security are of particular relevance. The analysis of successful international experience, especially the South Korean model, allows identifying practical benchmarks for building a sustainable and competitive economy.

In academic literature, economic security is defined as a state of protection of the national economy from internal and external threats, ensuring sustainable growth, social stability, and the preservation of national interests [2].

Unlike a narrow defensive approach, modern concepts interpret economic security as a dynamic system focused on development and competitiveness enhancement.

In the context of globalization, economic security includes:



### **International Experience in Ensuring Economic Security: South Korea**

South Korea represents a vivid example of a state that has transformed economic security into an instrument of economic breakthrough. In the post-war period, the country was characterized by low income levels and high external dependence [3]. The response to these challenges was the active role of the state in shaping industrial and export policies.

The key elements of the Korean model included:

- ✓ long-term state strategic planning;
- ✓ support for priority industrial sectors;
- ✓ export orientation and integration into global markets;
- ✓ large-scale investment in education and scientific research.

As a result, South Korea succeeded in building a resilient economy with a high level of technological development and global competitiveness.

**The key directions of the 2026 strategy cover the following stages:**

- **Supply chain resilience:** The main priority is reducing dependence on imports of critical raw materials from China. The government is implementing a 2022–2026 plan aimed at logistics

digitalization and the creation of alternative supply channels through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

➤ **Technological sovereignty:** Strengthened protection of critical industries such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and advanced batteries. In early 2026, South Korea introduces the world's first comprehensive AI regulation to ensure technological security.

➤ **Fiscal policy:** The 2026 state budget is approved at 728 trillion won (approximately \$550 billion), with a focus on increasing productivity and supporting private investment in R&D instead of one-time cash transfers.

➤ **Digital asset regulation:** In the first quarter of 2026, the second phase of digital asset legislation is planned, including regulations for stablecoins and the use of digital currencies in public treasury management [6].

### **Economic Security of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

In recent years, Uzbekistan has consistently implemented policies of economic liberalization and structural transformation [5]. Priority areas include industrial development, export diversification, strengthening of the financial system, and improvement of the investment climate. Strategic directions for ensuring economic security include the following indicators:

➤ **Macroeconomic stability:** Maintaining inflation within target corridors and reducing the consolidated budget deficit through expenditure optimization and enterprise modernization.

➤ **Energy and resource security:** Launch of 42 new energy facilities worth \$11 billion to ensure stable energy supply for industry and households. Reduction of dependence on raw material exports (gas and cotton) through the development of deep processing.

➤ **Technological sovereignty:** Implementation of the "Innovation Development Strategy for 2022–2026," aimed at digital transformation of public services and the real sector ("Digital Uzbekistan – 2030").

➤ **Investment attractiveness:** Provision of guarantees for participants of special economic zones and attraction of international financing (around \$200 million for modernization projects in 2026 alone).

At the same time, the country's economic security faces several challenges, including dependence on external markets, limited innovation activity, and the need for accelerated technological modernization. These factors necessitate a transition from a predominantly resource-based model to an industrial-innovative development trajectory.

### **Adaptation of the South Korean Model to Uzbekistan**

Adapting elements of the South Korean economic security model to Uzbekistan's conditions implies:

➤ development of an active and selective industrial policy;

➤ stimulation of investment in scientific research and innovation;

➤ support for export-oriented production;

➤ formation of effective strategic planning institutions.

At the same time, borrowing international experience must take into account national specifics, the level of institutional development, and the phased nature of economic reforms (Table 1).

Table 1 Analysis of the specific features of economic development in ensuring economic security (on the example of the Republic of Uzbekistan and South Korea)

Indicator	Republic of Uzbekistan	South Korea
Type of economy	Socially oriented market economy with active state participation in regulating key sectors	Developed market economy based on private property, competition, and innovation
GDP (USD)	114.97 billion	1.88 trillion
Average annual GDP growth, %	6.5	2.0
GDP per capita (USD)	3,161.7	36,238.6
Inflation (annual, %)	9.6	2.3

Source: based on World Bank data (2024) [7].

The comparative indicators of the Republic of Uzbekistan and South Korea reflect differences in the levels of economic development and the effectiveness of mechanisms for ensuring economic security. South Korea is characterized by a high total and per capita GDP, which is the result of a long-term industrial and innovation-oriented policy and deep integration into global markets. At the same time, higher economic growth rates in Uzbekistan indicate significant catch-up development potential. However, the low level of GDP per capita and elevated inflation point to persistent structural constraints and vulnerabilities of the macroeconomic system.

Thus, the experience of South Korea confirms that economic security functions not only as a protective mechanism but also as an active instrument of economic breakthrough. For Uzbekistan, the key priority is transforming current economic growth into sustainable qualitative development based on industrialization, innovation, and enhanced institutional efficiency.

## CONCLUSION

Economic security is a key prerequisite for economic breakthrough and sustainable development in modern conditions. The international experience of South Korea demonstrates that consistent state policy focused on industrialization and innovation significantly enhances national economic resilience. For the Republic of Uzbekistan, adapting this experience can become an important factor in building a competitive and diversified economy.

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