

## **ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty  
«6D020200 – International Relations»  
by **Utegenova-Navarro Assel Erkenovna**  
on the topic “Cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNESCO in the framework of  
promoting peace and the humanitarian dimension of security”

**General information about the work.** The work is devoted to the study of cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNESCO to ensure the strengthening of peace and the humanitarian dimension of security, within the framework of which targeted activities are carried out to implement projects and programs aimed at improving education, science, culture and related areas. The role of Kazakhstan has been studied, which actively supports and initiates initiatives that contribute to the strengthening of international cooperation, the development of peace and tolerance, as well as the preservation of cultural heritage and the protection of human rights.

### **Relevance of the research topic.**

In times of change, one of the most important tasks facing the state and society is ensuring stability, maintaining peace and order, joint resolution of pressing socio-political, socio-economic, ethno-religious and other problems on the basis of consensus is becoming an important factor in ensuring humanitarian security.

The relevance of the topic under consideration is also explained by the need to consider the very concept of “humanitarian security”, which influences security approaches and changes outdated ideas. The study of human security seems important through the prism of UNESCO's activities, which makes an important contribution to the promotion of this concept. The relevance of studying this topic in scientific terms is explained by the fact that in recent decades there has been an increase in the interest and number of studies devoted to the role of sociocultural, ethnic and religious factors in the foreign policy of individual states and international relations in general.

Cooperation in ensuring humanitarian security and developing appropriate mechanisms at the state, regional and global levels is becoming an urgent need for the entire world community. In this regard, studying the interaction of the Republic of Kazakhstan with UNESCO in the context of issues of human security becomes important, as it will help determine the capabilities and prospects of this organization necessary to achieve greater efficiency from cooperation with this organization.

**The object of the dissertation research** is the issues of human security at the present stage through the prism of UNESCO activities.

**The subject of the dissertation research** is cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNESCO in the field of human security.

**The purpose of the dissertation research** is a comprehensive analysis of the development of cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNESCO on issues of strengthening peace and the humanitarian dimension of security.

In accordance with the established goal, **the following tasks** have been tackled:

- analyze the concept of "humanitarian security" and its main directions;
- examine the characteristics of the impact of contemporary global challenges on national cultures;
- investigate the role of UNESCO's main activities in ensuring humanitarian security;
- study the process of establishing and developing Kazakhstan's relationship with UNESCO in the context of strengthening humanitarian security;
- identify Kazakhstan's approaches to ensuring humanitarian security in the context of cooperation with UNESCO in the fields of education, culture, communication, and information;
- highlight the prospects for Kazakhstan's cooperation with UNESCO in the context of ensuring the humanitarian dimension of security.

**The theoretical and methodological basis** was made up of scientific theories of Kazakh and foreign schools of research that study the interdependence of social processes of domestic and foreign policy. One of the main theories of humanitarian security is the concept of human-centrism. Another important theory is the theory of human development, which links security with the process of socio-economic development of society.

The methodological basis of this study is based on theories of international relations, according to which the aggravation of global problems has increased the objective needs for expanding multilateral cooperation in various fields. The theory of interdependence can be applied to the study of problems in various fields, including culture, science, education, as it allows us to show relations between nations, taking into account the positive and negative consequences of mutual influence. A systematic approach to the study of human security problems helps to identify the relationships between various factors, identify risks and threats, develop effective measures to prevent these threats and ensure sustainable development of society. The institutional approach allows us to explain how UNESCO shapes its role in world politics and how it interacts with other actors and institutions in the process of achieving its goals and objectives. These theories can be useful for a deeper understanding of UNESCO's activities and its contribution to world development.

Based on the objectives and tasks of the dissertation, the issues of humanitarian security and the activities of UNESCO are examined within the framework of the liberal paradigm. One of the central ideas within this paradigm is the notion of international cooperation based on universal values and common human interests.

**Research Methods.** To comprehensively examine humanitarian cooperation in the context of globalization within UNESCO's activities, an interdisciplinary approach was employed, combining historical and political science methods. General scientific methods—analysis, synthesis, historical-comparative method, systemic and structural-functional analysis, problem-chronological approaches, and analytical methods—enabled

a thorough exploration of UNESCO's role in the system of international relations, as well as Kazakhstan's cooperation with UNESCO and the prospects for this collaboration.

**Main provisions for defense:**

1. To understand the complex interactions and processes related to ensuring humanitarian security, key theories and concepts play a crucial role, as they form the foundation for its systematic and in-depth study, which in turn contributes to a more effective response to challenges and threats in this area.

Theories of humanitarian security can influence the formation of national and international crisis response strategies, helping various actors develop more effective measures for conflict prevention and improving living conditions. Such theories of humanitarian security as the human development theory, human-centered concepts, and "complex interdependence," as well as systemic, institutional, and sociological approaches, are aimed at upholding human rights and dignity, improving living conditions, and creating a stable and prosperous society. These theories provide an opportunity to critically analyze existing approaches to humanitarian security, identifying their strengths and weaknesses. This is important for the continuous improvement of methods and strategies. Concepts of humanitarian security can serve as a foundation for predicting future trends and developing preventive measures aimed at preventing humanitarian crises.

2. The modern world presents a series of global challenges to national cultures, which significantly influence their development and preservation. Therefore, it is important to show respect for cultural diversity and to maintain their originality and uniqueness. Why, then, does internationalization, as an objective and necessarily progressive phenomenon and an important source of globalization, not ensure complete and unconditional convergence of nations and national cultures? At the current stage, globalization leads not only to the exchange and enrichment of cultures but also often threatens the uniqueness of the cultures of different countries and peoples. In light of the potential threat of intercivilizational division, collaborative efforts to establish cultural dialogue become especially important. At the same time, global challenges stimulate the exchange of experiences and ideas between cultures, which can lead to the synthesis of new creative directions and trends. It is vital to find a balance between preserving traditions and being open to new ideas so that national cultures can thrive in the modern world.

3. UNESCO, as a UN organization, plays an important role in promoting peace and cooperation among countries. However, there are a number of challenges in this area, such as political conflicts, economic differences and cultural differences. UNESCO also faces limited resources and insufficient support from member states. In such conditions, the organization has to make difficult decisions and allocate resources between various projects. However, despite all the challenges, there is great potential for UNESCO in the field of humanitarian dimensions. Through its programs and projects, the organization can continue to work towards building peace, promoting cultural diversity, and ensuring

access to quality education for all segments of the population. It is important for member states to cooperate and support UNESCO's efforts in this direction.

4. Humanitarian security of Kazakhstan is based on the principles of respect for human rights, national and cultural identity, interethnic harmony and justice. In this context, questions arise sharply regarding the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, as well as the more active use of cultural resources in Kazakhstan's foreign policy and the development of humanitarian cooperation to ensure humanitarian security. Important mechanisms for ensuring this security include the development of education, culture, communication, and information. As the only UN agency that addresses all aspects of education, UNESCO advocates for education as a fundamental human right and a foundation for peacebuilding, poverty reduction, and global sustainability.

5. UNESCO is at the forefront of scientific research and strives to develop national and regional science policies, create research organizations to promote biodiversity, engineering, and education, as well as to address issues related to natural disasters and climate change. Collaboration with UNESCO allows Kazakhstan to actively participate in various programmatic and research initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and quality of life for its citizens. Participation in such projects helps the country effectively tackle complex global challenges and ensure the safety of its citizens, while also fostering intercultural cooperation.

6. The prospects for cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNESCO in the context of ensuring the humanitarian dimension of security remain quite promising. Numerous UNESCO programs and initiatives are aimed at a broader goal – strengthening ties between various countries and cultures of our world. Issues of education, peacebuilding, and accessibility encompass all citizens of the world. They provide us with the opportunity to receive quality education, a sustainable way of life, rich cultural heritage, technological progress, and full freedom of expression. The development of cooperation in this area will enable both parties to work together towards achieving global peace, stability, and prosperity. To further develop this cooperation, it is necessary to encourage Kazakhstan's active participation in UNESCO's program projects that contribute to enhancing security in the country and the region.

**The scientific novelty of the research results is determined by:** studying theoretical and methodological approaches to defining humanitarian security; studying the influence of global challenges of our time on national cultures; consideration of the role of UNESCO in the system of modern international relations and in the process of ensuring peace in the context of maintaining humanitarian security; systematization of facts and events that determined the evolution of cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNESCO; a comprehensive analysis of the development of interaction between Kazakhstan and UNESCO in the field of ensuring humanitarian security and humanitarian cooperation; analysis of the prospects for cooperation between Kazakhstan and UNESCO in the context of the humanitarian dimension of security and development of recommendations for further cooperation.

**Scientific and practical significance of the study.** The scientific problems raised in the study are directly related to solving practical problems in implementing cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and international organizations. The main provisions and conclusions of the dissertation can be used as recommendations for the practical activities of employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan and other international cooperation departments of the republic. The dissertation materials can be used in the process of teaching general and special courses in higher educational institutions of the republic.

**Approbation of the research.** The dissertation was completed at the Department of International Relations and World Economy of the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.

**Publications of the PhD student:** On the topic and materials of the dissertation, 7 scientific articles and chapters in 4 monographs have been published, which reflect the main results of the research. One article is included in the Scopus database, 3 articles are included in journals recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

**The structure of the dissertation research** consists of an introduction, four sections, a conclusion, and a list of sources used.