

UFA DECLARATION

By the Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The heads of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as the SCO or the Organization), having met for a meeting held on July 9-10, 2015 in Ufa, hereby state the following.

Guided by the provisions of the SCO Charter and the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation, as well as other international treaties and instruments adopted in the framework of the Organization, the SCO has established itself as a solid platform for strengthening mutual understanding, dialogue, trust and equal partnership between the member states. The SCO is becoming one of the influential participants of the modern system of international relations and it contributes significantly to the maintenance of security and stability in the region.

The member states note that the SCO evolution is taking place at a time of a complex stage of international relations development noted by the globalization of economic development and emerging multi-polar world. These processes are accompanied by growing security challenges and threats, and increased uncertainty and instability in various regions of the world.

The member states have expressed serious concern over an increased magnitude of international terrorism and extremism and combined efforts by various terrorist groups and they support strengthened joint struggle of the international community against terrorist organizations in line with the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

In these circumstances, the member states view, as priority, further improvement and consolidation of the SCO in matters related to strengthened joint struggle against threats to regional and global security, deepened economic cooperation and humanitarian relations on the basis of the SCO Development Strategy until 2025.

The member states are convinced that the admission of new members and further deepened cooperation with the observer states and dialogue partners is essential for the development of the Organization and enhancement of its capacity. In this regard they note with satisfaction an adopted decision initiating the procedure for admitting India and Pakistan to the SCO as members, as well as granting Belarus a SCO observer status and providing SCO dialogue partner status to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Armenia, Kingdom of Cambodia and Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

The member states note that 2015 is marked by the 70th anniversary of the Victory over fascism in the Second World War and the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. These events have proved to be the heritage of all mankind and they are critical for the consolidation of the international community in the fight against global challenges and threats. They support the initiatives by the UN and SCO member states to hold commemorative events on the occasion of these significant dates.

The member states call for strengthening global regulatory mechanisms established following the Second World War, primarily the UN system bodies, on the basis of equal and indivisible security, mutual consideration of interests and the rule of law.

The member states reaffirm their commitment to the UN Charter purposes and principles, to other universally recognized norms of international law, primarily related to maintenance of

peace and security, development of cooperation between states, independence, equality, the right to determine one's own destiny and the way of political, socio-economic and cultural development, mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful settlement of disputes, and non-use of force or threat of force.

The member states are in favor of preserving the central position of the UN Security Council in the system of international peace and security maintenance set forth in the UN Charter. They believe that the reform of the UN Security Council should make it more representative and effective through broadest possible consultations as part of the search for a "package solution" in the interests of ensuring the unity of the UN member states, without setting artificial deadlines and imposing options that have not been broadly supported by the UN member states.

The SCO member states support strict observance of the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and comprehensive balanced advancement of all the purposes and principles contained in the Treaty that aims at strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime, advancing the process of nuclear disarmament in the context of equal and indivisible security for all, and promoting equal and mutually beneficial international cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The member states believe that an early entry into force for each party of the Protocol on security assurances to the Treaty on the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia would significantly contribute to the regional security and strengthened global non-proliferation regime.

The member states are convinced that unilateral and unlimited build-up by individual states or groups of states of the missile defense systems would undermine international security and destabilize the world. They hold that issues related to ensuring global security need to be addressed with the engagement of all states concerned through political and diplomatic means. The security of each state should not be achieved at the expense of the security of other countries.

The member states noted the importance of preventing the militarization of outer space for ensuring equal and indivisible security for all and maintaining global stability. They have expressed support to the implementation of practical measures aimed at the prevention of arms race in outer space, the key among them being elaboration of an international agreement banning the deployment of weapons in outer space.

The member states will step up concerted efforts to address traditional and non-traditional security challenges and threats, deepen dialogue and cooperation in ensuring comprehensive security, particularly in combating terrorism, separatism, extremism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, cross-border organized crime, as well as strengthen international information security and emergency response.

The member states support further developing the activities of the SCO Regional Antiterrorist Structure related to combating terrorism, separatism and extremism.

In addressing these challenges, the member states will continue to cooperate with interested countries, regional and international organizations, both bilaterally and multilaterally, including the relevant UN bodies and other associations.

The member states will expand information exchange and implement agreed steps, *inter alia*, those in the forensic field, including joint operational activities for the prevention, detection and suppression of acts of terrorism, separatism and extremism, and they will deepen cooperation in searching, arresting, extraditing and transferring persons suspected of, charged with or convicted of crimes related to terrorist, separatist and extremist activities.

The member states noted the importance of deepened cooperation in strengthening the security of external borders, in particular in order to effectively counter trafficking in drugs, weapons and

humans, infiltration by the militants of terrorist organizations, and activists of extremist and separatist movements. In this regard, they welcomed the signing of the Agreement on cooperation of the SCO Member States in border issues.

The member states are stepping up joint efforts to build a peaceful, secure and open information space based on the principles of cooperation and respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. To this end, they will further strengthen cooperation in forming a comprehensive information space security system, actively struggle against the spread of terrorist, separatist, extremist and other radical ideas through information and communication networks.

The member states support the elaboration of a universal code of rules, principles and standards of the responsible behavior by states in the information space, and consider a new version of the “Rules of conduct in the field of international information security” circulated in January 2015 on behalf of the SCO member states as an official UN document, as an important step in this direction.

The member states will step up their efforts to counter the spread of extremist ideas, particularly among young people, and prevent religious extremism, ethnic and racial intolerance, xenophobia and radicalization of public sentiment. Along with cooperation between law enforcement agencies, including forensic institutions, special emphasis in this area will be made on using the capacity of educational and academic institutions, media, public and religious associations, non-governmental organizations, and business community.

The member states are in favor of the further development of cooperation in the field of law and mutual legal assistance in civil and criminal cases.

The member states hold that there are no alternatives to the political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict situations in different regions of the world on the basis of the strict observance of the universally recognized norms and principles of international law.

The member states support an early restoration of peace in Ukraine based on the full and unconditional implementation by all the parties of the Minsk Agreement of February 12, 2015.

The member states support the efforts of the government and people of Afghanistan aimed at the establishment of a peaceful, stable, neutral and economically prosperous nation, free from terrorism, extremism and drug-related crime, based on the UN central role in matters related to the Afghan settlement.

The member states welcome the aspirations of the countries and peoples of the Arab world for a better life, broad political and socio-economic rights with due account of the historical and civilizational specificities of each country. The political crises in the Middle East and North Africa should be settled on the basis of mutual respect of interests and the rule of norms and principles of international law without external interference.

The member states highly appreciate the efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive agreement on the settlement of the situation around the Iranian nuclear program between Iran and the six international mediators with the EU participation. They believe that these efforts strengthen the international non-proliferation regime and contribute to peace and stability in the region.

The member states note the emergence of many challenges that prevent the global economy from returning to a sustainable and balanced growth. In these circumstances, they consider important

to strengthen economic co-operation and exchange of experience on effective approaches to addressing the economic crisis and introduce innovative technologies in various industries, including the food sector of agriculture.

The member states are in favor of broad international cooperation in bridging the technological and socio-economic gap between countries by providing all states an equal and non-discriminatory access to the benefits of economic globalization. They consider that in the absence of the UN Security Council approval, it is unacceptable to resort to any measures that restrict trade and economic cooperation as an instrument of exerting pressure on states.

The member states reaffirm the need for joint actions aimed at achieving sustainable socio-economic growth, intensifying trade, economic and investment activity, developing cooperation in high-tech sectors of the economy, modernizing various industries, improving transport and logistics, information and communications and other infrastructure, increasing economic competitiveness and the standard and quality of life of the population of the SCO member states.

The member states will continue the work related to the establishment of the SCO Development Fund (Special Account) and SCO Development Bank in order to encourage trade and investment links in the region.

The member states will expedite the process of coming into force of the Agreement between the governments of SCO member states on favorable conditions for international road transport signed on September 12, 2014 in Dushanbe.

The member states support the People's Republic of China initiative regarding the Silk Road Economic Belt. They consider important to arrange consultations and information exchange between the relevant departments of the SCO member states.

The member states intend to continue developing multilateral cooperation in areas such as customs cooperation, transport, energy, industry, telecommunications, agriculture, science and new technologies, environmental protection, provision of sanitary and epidemiological welfare of the population, and proceed with the preparation of the List of Measures for further development of project activities within the SCO in 2017-2021. They will facilitate favorable conditions for trade and investment and promote innovation and development of cooperation between small and medium-sized businesses.

The member states are stepping up efforts to implement joint economic, infrastructure and investment projects tapping the potential of the SCO Business Council and SCO Interbank Association. They note the advisability of involving government agencies and business community of the observer states and dialogue partners in project activities, as well as of engaging public-private partnership mechanisms.

The member states will steadily intensify cooperation in the field of culture, science and technology, education, tourism and sports, health, including in addressing sanitary-epidemiological threats. They will contribute to strengthened good-neighborly relations and mutual respect and productive cooperation in the SCO region.

The member states will continue maintaining constructive and confidential dialogue, enhancing partnerships and jointly looking for ways to effectively address regional and global issues in order to strengthen political and economic stability and go ahead with building a just and equitable world.

July 10, 2015, Ufa