

Programme for expanded tourism cooperation between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member states

Authorised agencies of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member states (SCO), hereinafter referred to as Parties,

striving to further strengthen good neighbourly relations, friendship and cooperation,

guided by the goals and principles of the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO),

proceeding from the provisions of Article 3 of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter of 7 June 2002 and Article 19 of the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation between SCO Member States of 16 August 2007,

aiming to implement the SCO Development Strategy Towards 2025,

have approved this Programme for expanded tourism cooperation between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member states.

I. Cooperation Guidelines

The Parties shall strive to expand and develop equitable and mutually beneficial bilateral and multilateral tourism cooperation, to establish common tourism space on the basis of existing cultural, historical and economic ties in order to intensify tourism exchanges, boost tourism industry revenues of all SCO member states, create jobs and improve people's living standards and quality of life.

The Parties shall take necessary action to jointly improve the quality of provided tourism services, expand cooperation in protecting the legitimate rights and interests of tourists and ensure safe tourism.

The Parties shall promote cooperation between businesses in the tourism industry and related sectors, and help attract investment in creating and improving the tourism infrastructure of the SCO member states.

The Parties note the important role and the long-term nature of expanding border and inter-regional cooperation in the area of tourism between the concerned SCO member states.

II. Forms of Cooperation

The Parties believe that the following forms of cooperation between the SCO member states in the area of tourism have the greatest potential:

joint promotion of tourism products through joint participation in international tourism exhibitions, fairs and other events, organised with the support of national tourism administrations;

facilitating cooperation between tourism departments and travel agencies;

creating favourable conditions for citizens of the SCO member states to travel to other SCO countries;

exchanging information materials about tourism resources for establishing a favourable information environment for tourism in the SCO area by using the potential of online and printed media outlets and specialised tourism information centres;

holding tourism forums, seminars and roundtable discussions to exchange experience and chart common approaches towards organising tourism and investing in the creation of the tourism infrastructure and its improvement;

supporting initiatives of tourism industry agencies to create and promote new travel itineraries;

organising research projects and upgrading tourism technology;

cooperating to enhance tourism safety and improve the travel insurance system.

III. Cooperation Mechanism

The SCO Expert Working Group for Tourism Cooperation shall coordinate cooperation for implementing this Programme. The Group shall hold its annual meetings at the SCO Secretariat or in one of the SCO member states.

Proposals and recommendations for the development of tourism cooperation, drafted by the SCO Expert Working Group for Tourism Cooperation on the basis of consensus, shall be reviewed at biannual meetings of heads of tourism administrations of the SCO member states, to be held in one of the SCO member states.

The Parties may conclude appropriate international agreements and other essential documents for facilitating the further development of mutually beneficial tourism cooperation between the SCO member states.

IV. Conclusion

This Programme was signed on 24 June 2016 in the city of Tashkent in one Russian-language and one Chinese-language copy, with both texts having equal force.