

**JOINT STATEMENT**  
**BY THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE**  
**MEMBER STATES OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION**  
**ORGANIZATION**

On January 7, 2002, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held an extraordinary meeting in Beijing, at which they discussed the current problems of regional security and cooperation and prospects for the SCO development, reached a broad mutual understanding and adopted the following joint statement:

**I**

1. The recent events in Afghanistan have convincingly proved that the choice made by the SCO in favor of assigning priority to cooperation among its member states in maintaining regional security and stability and combating three threats - terrorism, separatism and extremism, has been correct and far-sighted.

Following the events of September 11, 2001, the heads of governments of the SCO member states promptly issued a special statement that strongly condemned this terrorist act. The SCO was one of the first international organizations to respond to the events of September 11.

2. As Afghanistan's close neighbors, we have been extensively exposed to terrorist and narcotic drug threats coming directly from its territory long before September 11 and we repeatedly warned the international community about these threats. For that reason, the SCO member states took an active part in the anti-terrorist coalition and adopted measures to further intensify the SCO's antiterrorist activities.

3. The SCO member states fully support the measures set forth in the UN Security Council resolutions 1373, 1377, 1383 and 1386 and engage in full scale cooperation with the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1373.

**II**

1. The SCO member states welcome that the Afghan people has been freed from the Taliban regime that has been closely tied with international terrorism, and support the efforts of Afghanistan, countries of the region and the international community to provide reliable guarantees that Afghanistan will never again be a hotbed for the spread of terrorism, separatism, extremism and drugs.

2. We wish Afghanistan become a peaceful and neutral state that respects and observes human rights and fundamental freedoms, maintains friendly relations

with all neighboring countries and meets its international obligations.

3. The SCO member states support the Bonn Agreement of December 5, 2001 and the efforts of the Afghan people to establish a broadly representative government inclusive of various ethnic groups. We will be providing active support to the Afghan interim administration.

At the same time, we believe that it is only the first step that was made along the difficult path of post-crisis reconstruction in Afghanistan. We urge the international community to cooperate in the United Nations framework in order to prevent new destabilization of the situation in Afghanistan, which could jeopardize the political settlement process. We call upon all Afghans engaged in this process to act based on cooperation, rather than confrontation.

4. The Afghan nation has an inalienable right to define future political system in Afghanistan and choose the nature and structure of the government. All members of the international community should respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and state unity of Afghanistan and avoid any interference in its internal affairs, thereby creating favorable external conditions for the normal development of the Afghan society. Any attempts to impose on Afghanistan one or another form of government and include the country into one's sphere of influence may lead to a new crisis in and around the country.

5. We stress the need for close co-operation of the International Security Assistance Force with the Afghan interim administration. The International Security Assistance Force should operate in accordance with the UN Security Council's mandate and with the consent of the legitimate authorities of Afghanistan.

6. The SCO member states support provision of extensive international humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people and we intend to contribute to this effort both through our own supply of aid and by provision of transport corridors for deliveries made by other countries and international organizations.

7. The SCO member support continued broad international efforts under the UN auspices aimed at Afghanistan's economic recovery. We have also agreed that the SCO member states, both independently and acting within 001-1, will take part in economy reconstruction projects in Afghanistan.

### III

1. The collapse of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan does not automatically mean that international terrorists' organizations and groups have been destroyed. We condemn and resolutely fight against terrorism in all its manifestations and oppose the use of terrorist methods to achieve political goals. We are determined to continue taking efforts in order to neutralize, to the maximum extent, the existing terrorist threat, *inter alia*, on the territory of our countries, and we call on the international community to render us appropriate support.

2. The SCO member firmly believe that combating terrorism that has no specific national or religious affiliation, should not be identified with the struggle against any religion, freedom of religion, individual countries or nationalities. It should be guaranteed that the threat of terrorism is effectively addressed at all levels - global, regional and national. This struggle should be devoid of bias and “double standards”. All SCO member states are equally concerned about terrorist treat and they treat the actions of the member states to combat it with understanding, regarding them as an important part of the international fight against terrorism.

3. The SCO member states unanimously support the leading role of the UN and its Security Council in the international fight against terrorism. All anti-terrorist operations must comply with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and other universally recognized norms of international law, their scope cannot be expanded arbitrarily, and they must not be accompanied by interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. In general, they should be in line with the long-term interests of maintaining peace in the region and around the world.

4. We believe that the current situation urgently requires the international community to develop, as soon as possible, a Comprehensive Convention on Combating International Terrorism and Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism acceptable to all parties.

5. The SCO member states believe that the global system for countering terrorism should be based on regional, sub-regional and national organizations and they firmly intend, in the near future, to complete the establishment of the SCO antiterrorist structure in Bishkek. They express their hope that similar structures will also be established in the framework of other regional and sub-regional organizations that will contribute to the international fight against terrorism.

6. We call on the international community to develop a new type of security concept based on mutual trust; mutual benefit, equality and cooperation, conducive to the resolution of development issues and regional conflicts, radical weakening of the factors undermining security and eradication of the sources of terrorism.

7. The SCO member states express grave concern over the escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan. We hope that both countries will exercise restraint and avoid further escalation of the situation, resume political dialogue in order to duly settle the problem and combine their efforts in the fight against the global terrorist threat.

## IV

1. The SCO is an open organization. We are ready to work closely with neighboring states, as well as with outside states and associations in ensuring security and stability in our region. The SCO is willing to have constructive dialogue and cooperation with the interim administration in Afghanistan and future

Afghan authorities and calls upon the legitimate Afghan leaders to closely cooperate with the SCO.

2. The Afghan settlement process provides a unique historic opportunity to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region. The SCO is determined to make a substantial contribution to achieving this noble goal.

3. The Foreign Ministers of the SCO member states discussed in detail the prospects of the Organization's activities in all priority areas.

We believe that the expansion of confidence-building measures, political cooperation, trade, economic and investment cooperation and cultural and humanitarian ties within the SCO is one of the most important prerequisites for strengthening regional security and stability.

4. Proceeding from this, we will make practical efforts to solve regional security and development problems and at the same time accelerate the institutionalization of the SCO and its structures by the next summit of the Organization in June 2002 in St. Petersburg, as was instructed by the heads of state and government. We are confident that this will contribute to transforming the SCO into an important element of ensuring regional security and development.

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**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
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*Beijing, January 7, 2002*