

This is an unofficial translation. For the original wording, refer to the document in Russian and Chinese.

**Statement by the Council of Foreign Ministers
of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**

We, the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (hereinafter referred to as the SCO or the Organisation),

having considered at our meeting in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyz Republic, on 24 July 2026, a wide range of issues concerning the deepening of cooperation in the political, security, economic, cultural, and humanitarian spheres, as well as current international and regional issues,

reaffirming the SCO's commitment to the principles of not targeting other states and organisations, mutual respect for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of states, non-interference in their internal affairs, and the non-use of force or threat of force in international affairs,

declare the following:

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the SCO. Over the past quarter-century, the Organisation has established itself as an authoritative and dynamically developing association, successfully contributing to the transformation of the region into a space of lasting peace and harmony. The Member States' unwavering commitment to the goals and principles of the SCO Charter has effectively promoted mutually beneficial multilateral cooperation on an equal footing, while safeguarding the common interests of the Member States and allowing each of them to pursue its own distinctive path of national development.

The world is entering a new era of rapid development and profound transformation, characterised by the growing influence of the Global South, the emergence of new economic and political centres, increasing global interconnectedness, and the accelerating pace of digitalisation and IT penetration. In this context, we reaffirm the commitment of the SCO Member States to building a more representative, inclusive, equitable, democratic, and multipolar international order based on international law, multilateralism, peace and security, respect for cultural and civilisational diversity, and mutually beneficial cooperation among states, with the United Nations playing a central coordinating role.

Against this backdrop, threats to global and regional security continue to grow. We express particular concern regarding developments in the Middle East and around the Islamic Republic of Iran. We reaffirm the principled position set out in the Tianjin Declaration of the SCO Council of Heads of State of 1

September 2025, condemning military strikes on Iranian territory. We regard such acts of aggression as a flagrant violation of the principles and norms of international law and the UN Charter.

We once again express our solidarity with the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and extend our sincere condolences over the tragic death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, as well as to the families of all those who lost their lives.

We firmly support the settlement of international conflicts exclusively through political and diplomatic means, in strict accordance with international law and the UN Charter.

In this context, we welcome all efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions surrounding Iran and across the region as a whole.

We reaffirm the position of the Member States that Central Asia constitutes the core of the SCO and support the efforts of the Central Asian states to maintain peace and security both within their countries and throughout the region. We support an active role of the Organisation in further promoting regional stability and socioeconomic development. We also note the annual international conference on these issues hosted by the Republic of Tajikistan.

We emphasise the importance of further strengthening joint efforts to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism, drug trafficking, and transnational organised crime, as well as to counter the spread of religious intolerance, aggressive nationalism, xenophobia, and ethnic and racial discrimination.

We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, stress the inadmissibility of double standards in the fight against terrorism, and call on the international community to join forces in countering terrorism, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, with the United Nations playing a central coordinating role.

We consider attempts to discredit the government authorities of SCO Member States unacceptable. We stress that such actions run counter to international law and undermine the principles of the sovereign equality of states and non-interference in their internal affairs, as enshrined in the UN Charter.

We reaffirm the importance of active and coordinated efforts to make progress towards nuclear disarmament and strengthen the non-proliferation regime for weapons of mass destruction, enhance cooperation in the field of biological security, and develop, on a voluntary basis within the UN framework, universal norms in the field of international information security, including with regard to the use of the internet.

We advocate the creation of an open, fair, inclusive, equitable, and non-discriminatory digital environment based on respect for the technological sovereignty of states.

We consider attempts by individual states to ensure their own security at the expense of the security of other states unacceptable.

We emphasise that outer space must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and call for strict adherence to the existing international legal framework governing activities in this domain.

We stress the need to further improve and reform the global economic governance architecture and to strengthen an open, transparent, fair, inclusive, equitable, and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system.

We consider unilateral coercive measures, including those of an economic nature, unacceptable. Such measures run counter to the UN Charter and other norms of international law and hinder international cooperation and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We stand for the further expansion of mutual trade across the SCO space and the creation of additional opportunities for businesses.

We note with concern the growing environmental challenges and their adverse impact on the environment. We emphasise the importance of stepping up efforts and cooperation within multilateral environmental and nature-conservation frameworks, including through the exchange of experience, expertise, and technologies in the field of green energy.

One of the SCO's particular strengths is its unwavering commitment to fostering friendship and mutual understanding among the peoples of our countries. Respect for the cultural and civilisational diversity, historical traditions, and national peculiarities of the SCO Member States provides a solid foundation for strengthening constructive dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation among states, with a view to maintaining international peace and security and promoting sustainable development.

We support the efforts of the SCO Member States to promote intercultural and intercivilisational dialogue. In this context, we note the successful convening of the 8th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions (Astana, 17-18 September 2025), the Issyk-Kul International Forum, "The World at a Civilisational Turning Point: Together into the Future," dedicated to the legacy of the great writer Chinghiz Aitmatov (Cholpon-Ata, 18-19 June 2026), and the First Forum of SCO Member States on Intercultural Dialogue (Namangan, 23-25 June 2026).

We highly appreciate the work undertaken by Kyrgyzstan during its 2025-2026 SCO Chairmanship, including preparations for the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State and the SCO Plus Summit, to be held in Bishkek from 31 August to 1 September 2026. We particularly commend the successful and productive ministerial meetings, forums, festivals, and sporting events held in the Kyrgyz Republic, whose outcomes have contributed to strengthening mutual understanding and expanding partnerships across the SCO region. We are confident that the upcoming summit will lend fresh impetus to the further development of good-neighbourly relations, friendship, unity, mutual trust, and mutually beneficial cooperation among the SCO Member States.

Today, drawing on 25 years of practical cooperation, the SCO is entering a new stage in its development. A comprehensive modernisation of the Organisation's activities is underway to reflect current trends and realities, including improvements to its legal framework and mechanisms for multifaceted cooperation.

The SCO will continue to firmly adhere to the principle of not being directed against other states or organisations, while remaining open to broad and equal dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation based on consensus and respect for national interests. The Organisation will continue to effectively pursue the lofty goals and objectives proclaimed at the time of its establishment, contributing to the consolidation of peace and stability and promoting sustainable economic growth across the SCO space.

Cholpon-Ata, 24 July 2026