

This is an unofficial translation.

*For the original wording, refer to the document
in Russian and Chinese.*

**BISHKEK DECLARATION OF
THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION
ORGANISATION**

We, the leaders of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (hereinafter referred to as the “SCO” or the “Organisation”), having gathered for the latest meeting of the Council of Heads of State and marking the 25th anniversary of the SCO, reiterate our firm commitment to the goals and principles enshrined in the SCO Charter, as well as to further strengthening neighbourliness, friendship and effective multifaceted cooperation, and declare as follows:

Since its establishment, the Organisation has successfully passed through the historic stage of its institutional and conceptual formation and established itself as an internationally recognised and dynamically evolving multilateral association whose role in international and regional processes is steadily growing.

Over the past 25 years, a solid legal foundation underlying the SCO’s activities and effective interaction mechanisms have been established, and strategic areas for its further evolution have been identified.

The Member States highly appreciate the Organisation’s achievements in ensuring regional security and stability, countering challenges and threats in the region, promoting economic, social and humanitarian development, and strengthening humanitarian, cultural, sporting, scientific, and educational ties.

The Member States will continue their efforts to further consolidate the SCO in fulfilling the tasks and achieving the goals set out in the SCO Development Strategy to 2035.

The Member States emphasise that the SCO is not a military-political bloc and is not directed against other states or international organisations. The SCO operates on the basis of openness, non-interference, equality and mutual respect.

They welcome cooperation with stakeholder states, international organisations and multilateral associations whose activities are not directed against the interests of the SCO and its Member States. Interaction in the SCO Plus format contributes to the formation of a broad and inclusive global partnership.

The Member States emphasise in particular the importance of further expanding the SCO's dialogue with the United Nations and its specialised agencies in the interests of promoting peace, sustainable development, and humanitarian cooperation.

The Member States underscore the importance of the principles of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for cultural diversity and the pursuit of joint development, which embody the Shanghai Spirit.

I

The Member States note that the world has entered an era of profound geopolitical, socioeconomic and technological change. The complex international situation persists and is driven by ongoing conflicts, energy and food challenges, global market instability, and climate change.

The Member States reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the universal norms and principles of international law enshrined in the UN Charter and emphasise the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations as a guarantor of international peace and security, to ensure sustainable development, and to build a representative, democratic, and just multipolar world order. They are making an increasingly significant contribution to joint efforts to qualitatively improve the international order.

The Member States welcome the proclamation by the UN General Assembly of 2027-2036 as the International Decade of Strengthening of Peace for Future Generations.

The Member States will deepen cooperation within the Organisation, which can serve as a basis for creating a space of equal and indivisible security in Eurasia.

The Member States advocate reforming and improving the system of global governance and regulation, including the development of norms and rules to ensure that all states participate on an equal footing in decision-making and benefit from its outcomes.

The Member States pursue a policy that rules out bloc-based and confrontational approaches to addressing issues of international and regional development, and advocate the peaceful settlement of disagreements and disputes between states.

The Member States advocate ensuring sustainable international peace and call for joint efforts to counter traditional and emerging security challenges and threats.

Taking into account the views of the Member States, they reaffirmed the relevance of initiatives aimed at promoting cooperation in building a new type of international relations based on mutual respect, justice, equality, and mutually beneficial cooperation, as well as developing a shared vision of the idea of building a community with a shared future for humanity and advancing dialogue based on the idea of One Earth, One Family, One Future.

The Member States call on the international community to join the SCO Initiative on World Unity for a Just Peace, Harmony and Development.

The Member States, recognising that Central Asia is the core of the SCO, highly value the region's countries' achievements in strengthening peace and sustainable development. In this regard, they welcome the holding by the Republic of Tajikistan of annual high-level conferences on these matters.

The Member States will continue to firmly uphold the preservation of the memory of the outcomes of the Second World War and counter attempts to falsify history.

The Member States advocate keeping outer space free of weapons of any kind and underscore the importance of strict compliance with the existing legal framework providing for the exclusively peaceful use of outer space.

They emphasise the need to conclude an international legally binding instrument that would strengthen transparency and provide reliable guarantees against an arms race in outer space.

The Member States reiterate that the unilateral and unrestricted expansion by individual countries or groups of states of global missile defence systems negatively impacts international security and stability. They consider it unacceptable for states to seek to ensure their own security at the expense of the security of other states.

The Member States, expressing concern over growing information security risks, categorically oppose the militarisation of the ICT sphere and the creation of threats to the security of critical information infrastructure.

The Member States consider it important to ensure equal rights for all countries to regulate the Internet and the sovereign right of states to govern it within their respective national segments.

They consider that the provision of unauthorised satellite Internet services within the borders of Member States without obtaining the relevant licence and/or authorisation from their competent national authorities constitutes a violation of international telecommunications law.

The Member States, emphasising the key role of the United Nations in international information security, support the further development, on a voluntary basis, of universal standards in this area and call for efforts to be made to sign and ratify the UN Convention against Cybercrime. They will continue to improve, within the SCO framework, mechanisms to combat the use of ICTs for criminal purposes.

The Member States note the importance of countering the use of the Internet for terrorist, separatist and extremist purposes. The Member States will strengthen

coordination of efforts in ensuring international information security, information protection and countering new forms of crime.

The Member States reaffirm the need to ensure the safe and responsible use of AI technology, including avoiding their use for the purpose of deliberately causing harm to human life and health, as well as to the national security, territorial integrity, and sovereignty of states.

In this regard, they emphasise the importance of signing the Memorandum on Cooperation between the Governments of the SCO Member States on cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence.

The Member States participating in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of July 1, 1968, advocate strict compliance with the provisions of the Treaty, comprehensive and balanced advancement of all the goals and principles enshrined therein, and support strengthening the process of global nuclear disarmament and the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. They emphasise their inalienable right to develop research, production and use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and to engage in equal, sustainable and mutually beneficial international cooperation in this area without discrimination. The Member States noted that restrictive measures in this area are inconsistent with international law.

The Member States note the important contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones established by states of the respective region on the basis of voluntary agreements to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and advancing the goal of nuclear disarmament. They welcome the 20th anniversary of the Semipalatinsk Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and emphasise the importance of its consistent implementation for ensuring security, trust, and cooperation in the region.

In this regard, they noted the importance of adopting the SCO Declaration on Strengthening Multilateral Partnership for Nuclear and Physical Nuclear Security.

The Member States call for full compliance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction as an important instrument in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. They also reaffirm their support for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The Member States note the importance of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction for strengthening the global biosafety system and advocate compliance with it.

In this context, the Member States emphasise the importance of deepening international cooperation in this area, including the possible establishment of an International Agency for Biological Security.

The Member States express deep concern over developments in the Middle East and around Iran. They reaffirm the SCO's previously stated position condemning military strikes against the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which resulted in numerous civilian casualties and significant damage to the country's economy.

Such actions violate the principles and norms of international law and the UN Charter, and create serious risks to international peace, security, and stability.

The Member States express their sincere condolences to the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the tragic death of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei, as well as to the families of those who lost their lives.

The Member States, reaffirming their support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran, advocate resolving the conflict exclusively through political and diplomatic means. In this regard, they welcome all efforts aimed at de-escalating the situation in the region.

The Member States note that the only possible way to ensure peace and stability in the Middle East is a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian question.

The Member States, reaffirming their commitment to the emergence of Afghanistan as an independent, neutral, and peaceful state free from terrorism, war and drugs, express their readiness to support the efforts of the international community to ensure peace, stability and development in that country.

The Member States reiterate that the establishment of an inclusive government with broad participation by representatives of all ethnic and political groups in Afghan society is the way forward to achieving lasting peace and stability in that country.

II

The Member States, reiterating their firm commitment to combatting terrorism, separatism and extremism, emphasise the unacceptability of attempts to use terrorist, separatist and extremist groups for self-serving ends. They recognise the leading role of sovereign states and their competent authorities in countering terrorist and extremist threats.

The Member States consider attempts to discredit the government bodies and institutions of the SCO Member States unacceptable. They emphasise that such actions are contrary to international law and undermine the principles of sovereign equality of states and non-interference in internal affairs, as enshrined in the UN Charter.

The Member States strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, emphasise that double standards in combatting terrorism are unacceptable, and call on the international community to combat terrorism, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, under the central role of the United Nations, through the full implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of international law, with a view to jointly combatting all terrorist organisations. They note the importance of adopting by consensus a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

The Member States emphasise the significant and active role of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in developing and strengthening the SCO, highly appreciate its contribution to deepening interaction among SCO Member States and expanding international cooperation in countering terrorism, separatism and extremism, and to organising and conducting joint counter-terrorism exercises and other activities.

The Member States, emphasising the importance of meetings of ministers of internal affairs and public security, note the signing of the Protocol on Amendments and Additions to the Agreement between the Governments of the SCO Member States on Cooperation in Combatting Crime of June 11, 2010, aimed at improving efforts to counter new challenges and threats.

The Member States reaffirm the importance of strengthening cooperation in addressing the global drug problem on the basis of the existing international legal drug-control regime, the unacceptability of legalising the use of all types of drugs for non-medical purposes, as well as their commitment to further strengthening anti-drug capacity and building a drug-free society.

The Member States support further strengthening cooperation in combatting the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, including the development of systematic drug prevention and reducing drug dependence, in accordance with the SCO documents adopted in this area, as well as the regular conduct of the “Web” anti-drug operation, the “For a World Without Drugs” preventive campaign and other sector-specific activities.

They have adopted and will ensure the implementation of the Programme of Cooperation among SCO Member States on Combatting Drug Dependence through 2030, as well as the SCO Member States’ Programme on Coordinating Measures to Combat the Spread of Synthetic Drugs and Their Precursors through 2030.

The Member States welcome the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the SCO Secretariat and the Central Asian Regional Information and

Coordination Centre for Combatting Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors. They support further strengthening international cooperation in combatting drugs.

The Member States note the need for further institutional strengthening of SCO mechanisms in the field of security, including enhanced coordination among specialised bodies and the development of analytical support for decision-making.

The Regulations on the Universal Centre for Countering Security Challenges and Threats to SCO Member States, comprising the Information Security Centre and the Centre for Combatting Transnational Organised Crime, and the Regulations on the Executive Committee of the SCO Anti-Drug Centre have been approved. They are confident that the practical launch of these permanent bodies will contribute to further strengthening specialised cooperation within the SCO.

The Member States note the importance of further developing cooperation between defence ministries, including the regular conduct of the Peace Mission joint counter-terrorism command-and-staff exercise and other practical military cooperation activities that will contribute to maintaining peace and strengthening security across the SCO space.

They advocate implementing the Road Map for Strengthening Cooperation in the Military Field between the Defence Ministries of the SCO Member States, as well as continuing work on the preparation and coordination of the Agreement between the SCO Member States on Confidence-Building Measures in the Military Field.

The Member States stand ready to further strengthen cooperation in the legal and judicial spheres on the basis of the principles of the rule of law and respect for national legal systems. They advocate deepening dialogue among supreme courts, prosecutor generals' offices and ministries of justice.

III

The Member States, recognising the pivotal role of the SCO region in the global economy and in safeguarding sustainable development, advocate the ongoing

improvement and reform of the global economic governance system. They are committed to supporting and strengthening an open, transparent, equitable, inclusive and non-discriminatory multilateral trade system based on universally recognised international principles and rules, which fosters the development of the global economy, ensures fair access to markets, and accords special and differential treatment to developing countries.

The Member States oppose unilateral coercive measures that contravene the UN Charter and other norms of international law, as well as the rules and principles of the World Trade Organisation, and which undermine interests relating to international security, including its food, energy and humanitarian dimensions, while exerting a detrimental impact on the global economy.

The Member States will continue to implement the SCO Economic Development Strategy until 2030, with the objective of deepening economic collaboration, expanding the scale of trade and promoting its equilibrium, maintaining the stability of production and supply chains within the region, and ensuring the sustainable economic advancement of states, to foster a space of broad, open, mutually advantageous and equitable interaction across Eurasia.

The Republic of Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, having reaffirmed their support for China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), note the ongoing progress in the joint implementation of this project, including endeavours to align the development of the Eurasian Economic Union and the BRI.

The Member States advocate the further advancement of antimonopoly policy cooperation, expressing their intent to expand practical engagement between the relevant agencies.

The Member States acknowledge the positive contribution of e-commerce to the enhancement of trade and economic collaboration. They express their determination

to promote the improvement of cross-border e-commerce infrastructure, reduce costs, and foster increased trust among business entities within the SCO space, including through expanded cooperation in the deployment of digital technologies to safeguard consumer rights and the development of a unified approach to online resolution of cross-border commercial disputes.

The Member States will continue to pursue customs cooperation in priority areas, notably in the enhancement of the customs administration system and the development of the “**smart customs**” mechanism.

The Member States underscore the necessity of further deepening collaboration in the transport sector, including the utilisation of the transit potential of the SCO Member States, the establishment of new and the modernisation of existing international road and rail routes, multimodal transport corridors and logistics centres, as well as the introduction of digital, innovative and energy-efficient technologies.

The Member States support the expansion of inclusive and mutually beneficial cooperation in the energy sector, the steady strengthening of sustainability in energy production and supply chains, and stand ready to advance the sustainable, stable and balanced development of a non-discriminatory global energy market.

They will continue to implement the SCO Energy Cooperation Strategy until 2030.

The Member States recognise the increasing significance of cooperation in the industrial sector and affirm their readiness to jointly cultivate mutually beneficial partnerships in this area.

They underscore the importance of collaboration in standardisation, with a view to reducing technical barriers in areas of mutual interest, and advocate the establishment of contacts between the standardisation bodies of the SCO Member States.

The Member States will continue to reinforce cooperation in agriculture and food security, and **support the exchange of agricultural technologies and the training of personnel in this sphere.**

They express their willingness to advance collaboration in plant breeding and seed production.

The Member States will broaden cooperation in the sphere of veterinary and phytosanitary supervision and the assurance of agricultural and food product safety, foster the development of trade in agro-industrial products, and strengthen international cooperation in the fight against epidemics and infections, as well as their aftermath.

The Member States, reaffirming their commitment to upholding the leadership of the SCO region in innovation, declare their intent to promote the formation of a seamless SCO start-up ecosystem, including by facilitating the synergy of development infrastructure and support measures for innovative enterprises of the SCO Member States.

The Member States emphasise the critical role of collaboration in the financial sector in stimulating economic growth within the SCO space. They highlight the significance of the continued implementation by interested SCO Member States of the Road Map for the gradual increase in the share of national currencies in mutual settlements.

The Member States support the reform of the international financial architecture aimed at enhancing the representation and strengthening the role of developing countries in the governing bodies of international financial institutions, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund.

The Member States will continue to foster practical dialogue on strengthening financial collaboration within the SCO Interbank Consortium (SCO IBC),

welcoming the integration of the authorised bank designated by the Islamic Republic of Iran into the operations of the SCO IBC.

The Member States note the progress made in establishing the SCO Development Bank in the format of interested Member States during the presidency of the Kyrgyz Republic, and underscore the importance of ongoing work in this direction.

The Member States stress the need for further deepening of investment cooperation by leveraging the opportunities afforded by the existing mechanisms and platforms of engagement within the SCO.

The Member States stand ready to expand interregional contacts, thereby unlocking the potential of the SCO Forum of Heads of Regions.

The Member States will champion the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. They highly value the significant contribution of the SCO Business Council to the Organisation's economic and trade collaboration and will continue to harness its potential in the advancement of multilateral business ties.

IV

The Member States support the advancement of cooperation in environmental protection, the mitigation of the adverse consequences of climate change, and adaptation thereto, and welcome the implementation of projects for the restoration and conservation of biodiversity and natural ecosystems, including through the use of environmentally friendly technologies and innovative solutions.

They note the significance of the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation in Combating Climate Change, the Initiative on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management, and the Plan of Joint Actions for its Implementation for 2026–2031.

The Member States acknowledge the initiative to convene the Second Mountain Summit “Bishkek+25” in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2027.

They positively assess collaboration in the provision of assistance during emergency situations and declare their readiness to enhance interaction in early warning and joint response to emergencies, as well as the elimination of their consequences.

The Member States recognise tourism as a vital driver of economic development, noting its role in boosting mutual trade, expanding transport connectivity, attracting investment, generating employment and enhancing regional competitiveness.

The Member States highly value the contribution of the city of Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyz Republic) to unlocking the region's tourism potential and further consolidating cultural cooperation during its tenure as the SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital in 2025–2026.

The Member States welcome the designation of the city of Lahore in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital in 2026–2027.

The Member States express their willingness to deepen collaboration in the field of medicine, including the creation of a fair, effective and sustainable public health system. They support expanding cooperation in emergency medical care, telemedicine, traditional medicine, primary health care, and the prevention of and response to infectious diseases and potential pandemics.

The Member States support the establishment of an SCO Dialogue Platform to exchange competencies in healthcare management.

The Member States recognise the contribution of regular meetings among heads of sanitary and epidemiological services, which foster an equitable dialogue on countering infectious threats in the SCO region.

The Member States note the necessity of further deepening cooperation in education through inter-university ties, academic exchanges, and the training of specialists in accordance with their respective national priorities and needs.

The Member States consider it essential to advance the SCO University as a key practical mechanism for educational cooperation.

The Member States reaffirm their commitment to reinforcing scientific, technological and innovative cooperation, actively engaging young people through the regular convening of the SCO Young Scientists Forum.

They welcome the proposal to establish a Dialogue Platform of the heads of national academies of sciences and authorised senior fundamental research organisations of the SCO Member States.

The Member States underscore the indivisibility, interdependence, and interconnectedness of all human rights, reaffirming the universal nature of obligations to observe these rights and fundamental freedoms. They oppose the application of double standards in human rights matters, as well as any interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

They reaffirm their commitment to safeguarding the rights of women and children, including ensuring their rights in the realms of education, healthcare, social and legal support, as well as strengthening the institution of the family.

The Member States support regular, voluntary interaction among national human rights institutions, state agencies and other organisations within the SCO performing functions for the protection of human rights and freedoms.

The Member States emphasise that the SCO region is the cradle of ancient civilisations, world religions, and traditional beliefs. It stands as a repository of outstanding cultural and scientific achievements, as well as a rich spiritual heritage of the peoples of the Member States that has become an integral part of the shared historical legacy of humanity.

The Member States note the active development of cultural cooperation and support holding a diverse range of international cultural events.

Underscoring the significance of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Leo Tolstoy and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Chingiz Aitmatov, the Member States support initiatives to hold dedicated SCO events in 2028. They honour these eminent writers for their invaluable contributions to world literature, the advancement of

humanistic values, and the strengthening of cultural and humanitarian ties among nations.

The Member States highlight the necessity of developing inter-civilisational and intercultural dialogue in order to strengthen mutual respect, tolerance, and the preservation and promotion of the rich tangible and intangible cultural heritage. In this context, they welcome the convening of the SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum in autumn 2026 in India, and also note the significance of the International Day for Dialogue among Civilisations.

The Member States deem it vital to ensure their respective cultural and historical rights in all activities related to the preservation and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

The Member States will continue to expand cultural and humanitarian exchanges and to deepen mutual understanding and constructive interaction through people-to-people diplomacy contacts.

The Member States will promote the further consolidation of youth cooperation and, in this connection, highly appreciate the activities of the SCO Youth Council. They acknowledge the contribution of various joint initiatives – including the SCO Young Authors and Writers Conference, the Meeting of Young Leaders and Talents, the International Camp of Young Scientists, the Youth Camp, the Youth Development Forum, and the Youth Forum – to strengthening contacts among nations within the Organisation's space.

The Member States underscore the importance of further strengthening cooperation in physical culture and sport, including the organisation of international sporting events within the SCO, which contribute to the consolidation of friendly ties among the sports communities and peoples. They support the popularisation of traditional and national sports.

The Member States welcome the convening of the Sixth World Nomad Games in the Kyrgyz Republic.

V

The Member States express their profound appreciation for the results achieved under the Presidency of the Kyrgyz Republic in the SCO during 2025–2026, conducted under the motto 25 Years of the SCO: Together Towards Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity, which made a significant contribution to strengthening the authority of the Organisation, improving its institutional capacity, and enhancing practical interaction across all spheres.

The SCO Presidency is hereby transferred to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which will host the next meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State in 2027.

The Member States are firmly convinced that the Organisation, as it enters a new stage of its evolution, will continue to build upon the practical achievements of multifaceted cooperation in accordance with the SCO Development Strategy until 2035, and further consolidate its role in international affairs.

The Member States, adopting this Declaration on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the SCO, declare that the Organisation will continue to serve effectively the lofty goals and objectives proclaimed at its inception. It will persist in making a substantial contribution to maintaining peace and stability in the region, while ensuring the security and prosperity of the peoples of its Member States.

Bishkek, 1 September 2026