

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

**Declaration of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation
Organisation on strengthening multilateral partnership for nuclear safety and
security**

The Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO),

bound by historical ties and centuries-old traditions of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect;

stating their commitment to the provisions of the SCO Charter and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the universally recognised principles and norms of international law, including respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs;

guided by the Shanghai Spirit – mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity, and the pursuit of shared development;

reaffirming that the primary responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests with that State;

noting that responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the operators of nuclear installations and with the States hosting such installations on their territories;

attaching particular importance to nuclear safety and security as essential components of international security, with a direct bearing on the well-being of populations across the SCO region;

expressing concern over a range of threats, including illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials, attacks on nuclear facilities and their supporting infrastructure (including cyber threats), as well as the risk of nuclear terrorism;

recognising the imperative of creating conditions that preclude any malevolent use of nuclear and other radioactive materials;

considering the importance of advancing peaceful nuclear energy as a driver of economic growth, energy sustainability and technological progress for the Member States;

emphasising the value of constructive regional cooperation in strengthening nuclear security;

acting in the interests of present and future generations,

adopt this Declaration.

I. General Provisions

The SCO Member States reaffirm that ensuring nuclear safety and security on their territories is a matter of priority, directly linked to regional resilience, stability and long-term development.

Member States condemn in the strongest terms any attacks or threats of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities as violations of international law, and call on to refrain from such actions, which pose a threat to international peace and security.

Member States recognise the need to take effective measures to prevent nuclear and radiological incidents, ensure the physical protection of nuclear and other radioactive

materials and installations, and coordinate efforts to counter illicit trafficking in such materials.

They are convinced that strengthening inter-State trust and fostering constructive dialogue are key to enhancing nuclear safety and security and to reducing the risks associated with the use of nuclear technologies.

Member States support effective cooperation to counter any malevolent use of nuclear and other radioactive materials.

They underscore the importance of the peaceful use of atomic energy in full compliance with generally accepted norms of international law and relevant national legal frameworks.

Member States place particular emphasis on expanding multilateral cooperation in the areas of prompt notification, emergency response and mutual assistance, upon request, in the event of nuclear or radiological emergencies. This includes exchange of information, joint exercises, personnel training, and the development of specialised institutions and cooperation mechanisms.

They underscore that strengthening nuclear safety and security will contribute to enhancing public protection, improving infrastructure resilience, and building confidence, not only among SCO member states but also in the broader international community.

Member States believe that the early entry into force of the Protocol on Security Assurances to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia of 8 September 2006, for all signatory States, would make a significant contribution to regional security and to strengthening the international regime of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 12 June 1968.

Member States support the contribution of developing countries to the strengthening of international cooperation in nuclear safety and security.

II. Cooperation in Nuclear Safety and Security

Member States intend to strengthen cooperation in nuclear safety and security through the following measures:

promoting cooperation among national regulatory authorities, including exchanges of experience, best practices and technical approaches in the field of nuclear safety and security;

collaborating to improve national mechanisms for monitoring and controlling the handling of nuclear and other radioactive materials, including by enhancing the effectiveness of accounting and oversight systems and preventing leakage, illicit trafficking, theft or unauthorised use of such materials;

implementing joint educational, scientific and technological programmes aimed at modernising peaceful nuclear infrastructure, improving physical protection at facilities, strengthening the safe management of radioactive waste, and improving radiation monitoring systems;

expanding cooperation, including through the exchange of best practices and operational experience in the safe operation of nuclear facilities, covering preventive maintenance, servicing and the deployment of modern automated monitoring systems;

enhancing joint activities in the safe management of radioactive waste, promoting environmentally sound disposal technologies, and introducing innovative solutions designed to reduce radiation risks to the public and the environment;

conducting exercises, training sessions and practical drills among the competent authorities of Member States to improve preparedness for potential nuclear and radiological emergencies;

strengthening early warning systems for emergencies, facilitating the rapid exchange of technical data and, where appropriate, predictive models and analytical information to enhance the effectiveness of incident response, while safeguarding the security and confidentiality of sensitive information;

facilitating the establishment of research platforms focused on innovative technologies and solutions to enhance the safety of the nuclear industry and strengthen the scientific and technical capacities of the SCO Member States;

encouraging scientific and technical cooperation aimed at improving the safety of nuclear installations, advancing radiation monitoring technologies and minimising risks to the public and the environment;

developing training and retraining programmes for national personnel in the field of nuclear safety and security at leading specialised institutions of the SCO Member States.

Member States reaffirm their readiness to broaden partnerships with all interested States and with international and regional organisations actively engaged in strengthening nuclear safety and security. Separate programmes and/or action plans may be developed to implement the provisions of this Declaration.

They express their conviction that the advancement of multilateral cooperation and the strengthening of confidence-building mechanisms in the field of nuclear safety and security will contribute to peace, stability and sustainable development across the

Eurasian region. These efforts will also make a significant contribution to the nuclear safety and security.

Member States emphasise that the provisions of this Declaration reflect their shared commitment to fostering a safe and predictable environment for the peaceful use of atomic energy, countering threats to nuclear safety and security, and advancing technologies for the benefit of all humankind.

Bishkek, 1 September 2026