

This is an unofficial translation.

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

Statement of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation on Supporting and Strengthening the Institution of the Family

We, the heads of state of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (hereinafter referred to as the SCO),

guided by the principles and objectives set forth in the SCO Charter of 7 June 2002, the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation between the SCO Member States of 16 August 2007, and other fundamental documents of the SCO,

following the Shanghai Spirit, based on mutual trust, equality, respect for cultural diversity, and joint development,

affirming our commitment to the international instruments, to which the member states are parties, concerning the protection of the family, women, and children, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 16 December 1966; the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women of 18 December 1979; the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 15 September 1995; and the outcome documents adopted in its follow-up, in accordance with the national policies and legislation of the member states,

recognising that the family is the natural and fundamental unit of society, the bearer of the moral, spiritual, and cultural foundations of peoples, and an essential foundation of statehood,

proceeding from the understanding that the sustainable development of society and the state, demographic stability, social cohesion, and national security are impossible without a strong family institution and a supportive family environment based on respect for the rights and dignity of, and shared responsibility among, all family members without exception,

acknowledging the essential role of the family in strengthening the spiritual and moral foundations of society and countering radicalisation, extremism, terrorism, and other threats to public security, as well as in enhancing society's resilience to contemporary social challenges,

emphasising that the weakening of the family institution, the erosion of intergenerational ties, and the lack of family-based upbringing undermine social cohesion, weaken social institutions, and create conditions conducive to social maladjustment, increased crime, youth radicalisation, the spread of destructive ideologies, and risks to national stability and regional security,

noting the need to consolidate the efforts of the SCO member states to support families, protect motherhood, fatherhood, and childhood, and educate the younger generation in the spirit of respect for the traditional spiritual and moral foundations of the family, the rights and dignity of all its members without exception, the law, and responsibility to society,

guided by the understanding that the traditional spiritual and moral foundations of the family constitute a set of spiritual, moral, and cultural values and guidelines, including mutual respect, human dignity, trust, responsibility among family members, continuity between generations, care for children and their upbringing, and support for disabled family members and for the older generation, with due regard for the national characteristics, cultural diversity, and legal systems of the member states,

declare the following:

Member states regard the family as a group of persons bound by equal rights and obligations arising from marriage entered into with the mutual voluntary consent of a man and a woman, kinship, adoption, or other forms of foster care, in accordance with the legislation of the member states, and intended to promote the strengthening and development of family relations.

Member states regard support for and protection of the institution of the family as a major area of state policy, essential to sustainable development, social cohesion, public wellbeing, and national security. They intend to strengthen the institutions of motherhood, fatherhood, and childhood, support the older generation, deepen intergenerational ties, and create conditions for a dignified life and family wellbeing.

Member states will continue their efforts to create conditions for unimpeded access to education for all, regardless of social status, place of residence, family circumstances, or mobility, with a view to ensuring the exercise of the right to education in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recognising the key role of the family in the upbringing and education of children, and drawing on national traditions, national legislation, and state policy, member states will strengthen the institution of the family by supporting family-based upbringing and creating conditions for the preservation and transmission of the cultural and traditional spiritual and moral foundations of the family throughout the educational process.

Member states emphasise that strengthening the traditional spiritual and moral foundations of the family is an effective means of minimising the risks of family

disintegration in the context of global migration processes and ensuring the harmonious development of the younger generation.

Member states believe that a healthy family is an important factor in reducing social risks, preventing crime and the involvement of young people in destructive activities, and strengthening social stability and security.

Member states believe that, in accordance with national legislation and state policy, the state, parents, and other legal guardians are responsible for the upbringing of children and their education. They will promote the creation of conditions enabling parents and other legal guardians to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for raising children through the development of education, counselling, and psychological and educational support.

Member states reaffirm their commitment to strengthening the institution of the family, improving social and demographic policies and systems of education and upbringing, and developing a common SCO humanitarian space focused on supporting the family and its traditional spiritual and moral foundations, while respecting the rights and dignity of all family members without exception.

Member states emphasise the important role of public organisations and local communities in strengthening the institution of the family, enhancing its resilience, and contributing to the achievement of socially significant objectives aimed at ensuring a decent standard of living for all citizens.

Member states noted the initiative of the Kyrgyz side to hold an SCO Family Forum as a platform for exchanging experience and discussing educational, cultural, and social initiatives.

Member states intend to expand the exchange of experience and best practices in the areas of family policy, the protection of the rights of women and children, and the prevention of social disadvantage and crime, as well as to implement, by mutual agreement and in accordance with the legislation of the member states, joint projects and initiatives aimed at strengthening families and improving their quality of life.

Member states intend to develop priority areas of cooperation in supporting the institution of the family, with due regard for national legislation and existing capabilities, in the interests of ensuring the sustainable and harmonious development of societies and the SCO member states.

Bishkek, 1 September, 2026