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Joint Communiqué following the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

On 19–20 October 2026, the 25th meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (hereinafter referred to as the SCO or the Organisation) was held in Dushanbe.

It was attended by Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Turchin, Defence Minister of the Republic of India Rajnath Singh, First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Reza Aref, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Qiang, First Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic Daniyar Amangeldiev, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Mikhail Mishustin, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda, and Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov.

President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon received the heads of delegations of the SCO member states.

The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda.

The meeting was attended by SCO Secretary General Nurlan Yerkembayev, Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Uralbek Sharshayev, Chairman of the SCO Business Council Board Temir Sariev, and Chairman of the Council of the SCO Interbank Association (Interbank Consortium) Ulanbek Nogaev.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Development of Mongolia Jadambyn Enkhbayar and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Hojamyrat Geldimyradov attended the meeting as the guests of the presiding party.

The heads of delegations highly appreciate the chairmanship of the Kyrgyz Republic in the SCO in 2025–2026 and emphasise the importance of implementing the agreements reached at the SCO Summit in Bishkek on 1 September 2026.

They express their support for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the current chair of the Organisation for 2026–2027.

The heads of delegations discussed all aspects of the development of trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation, as well as ways to improve SCO performance and the financial and organisational activities of its permanent bodies, in a warm and constructive atmosphere.

Following the discussions and in connection with the 25th anniversary of the SCO establishment, the heads of delegations reaffirm the member states' commitment to the goals and principles of the SCO Charter, and the provisions of the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation of the SCO Member States, the SCO Development Strategy until 2035, international treaties and normative legal acts of the Organisation.

They highly assess the achievements and huge cooperation potential of the Organisation and emphasised its positive role in strengthening friendship and cooperation, and deepening and expanding multifaceted collaboration between its member states.

The heads of delegations state that the member states unwaveringly comply with the principles of a peaceful settlement of disputes, openness, broad international cooperation based on mutual respect for each other's interests, and not being directed against third countries and organisations.

The heads of delegations once again reaffirm the commitment of member states to the goals and principles of the SCO Charter, as well as the spirit of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for the diversity of cultures, and a striving for mutual development, which were affirmed in Shanghai 25 years ago.

The heads of delegations note that the member states respect the right of all states to independently and democratically choose their political, economic, social and cultural development with due regard for their historical experience and national specifics.

The heads of delegations emphasise that the member states stand for maintaining a constructive dialogue and strengthening multilateral partnership based on the substantial potential and increasing international prestige of the Organisation.

The heads of delegations note that the member states will continue efforts to promote a peaceful, secure, stable and sustainable development in the region.

The heads of delegations reaffirm the relevance of initiatives to promote interaction in building a new type of international relations in the spirit of mutual respect,

justice, equality and mutually beneficial cooperation, as well as the formation of a common vision of the idea of creating a community of shared future for mankind and developing dialogue on the idea of “One Earth. One family. One future.”

The heads of delegations emphasise that the SCO has established itself as an authoritative and effective multilateral structure and a fully operational mechanism for equitable and mutually beneficial partnership. A substantial legal foundation has been established; permanent bodies, sectoral cooperation mechanisms, expert and business collaboration formats and non-governmental entities have been created.

One of the Organisation’s principal achievements has been the consistent expansion of its membership and areas of cooperation, accompanied by its enhanced international standing and the development of ties with interested states and multilateral associations.

They underscore the SCO’s significant contribution to consolidating peace, security and stability in the region, expanding trade and economic ties and deepening cultural and academic cooperation.

The heads of delegations recognise the Organisation’s role in shaping a fair, equitable, representative and multipolar world order in which the UN plays the central role.

The heads of delegations reiterate that member states will promote the establishment of a broad, open economic space in the region based on equitable and mutually beneficial cooperation, ensuring the efficient functioning of markets, supply chains, settlement and payment mechanisms, transport corridors, logistics routes, flows of investment, goods, services and technology, alongside collaboration in the energy sector. They note that interested member states will advance cooperation on the initiative to establish the Greater Eurasian Partnership.

The heads of delegations are guided by the conviction that the accumulated experience and growing potential of the SCO have created the conditions for a transition to a new stage of development oriented towards tangible results, enhanced interconnectivity, economic sustainability and the well-being of their peoples.

I

The heads of delegations observe that the world economy is experiencing a period of profound transformation, marked by fragmentation, the disruption of established production and supply chains and volatility in food and energy prices.

The heads of delegations affirm that member states reject unilateral coercive measures that contravene the UN Charter and other norms of international law. They stress the adverse impact of such measures on global economic growth and the

achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The heads of delegations reaffirm the importance of enhancing the architecture of global economic governance and consistently reinforcing an open, transparent, fair, inclusive, equitable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system based on universally accepted international principles and rules.

The heads of delegations call for the reform and enhancement of global governance and regulatory frameworks, including the development of appropriate norms and rules, to ensure that all states participate on an equal footing in decision-making and benefit equitably from the outcomes thereof.

They emphasise the importance of increasing the representation of developing states in international economic and financial institutions and their governing bodies, enhancing their role and amplifying their voice.

II

The heads of delegations consider trade and economic cooperation to be one of the key areas of the SCO's activities. They note that over the years of the Organisation's operation, a multi-level system of interaction between the relevant ministries and departments, business and expert structures has taken shape. Long-term programmes and plans have been adopted, and the necessary conditions have been created for deepening practical cooperation.

The heads of delegations note the importance of the consistent implementation of the SCO Development Strategy until 2035, the Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation and the SCO Economic Development Strategy for the period until 2030, and instruct the relevant mechanisms to ensure the implementation of their action plans. In this connection, they welcome the approval of the Action Plan for 2026–2030 on the implementation of the Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation.

The heads of delegations emphasise the commitment of the member states to further strengthening interaction in the areas of trade, industry, transport, energy, finance and investment, agriculture, customs, the digital and creative economy, innovation and high technology. They place particular emphasis on the widespread implementation of measures to improve energy efficiency and energy saving.

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 reaffirm their support for China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and note the ongoing work on the joint

implementation of this project, including efforts to align the development of the Eurasian Economic Union with the BRI.

The heads of delegations note the need to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in the banking and financial spheres, to expand the exchange of information and best practices, and to create favourable conditions for the development of the financial services market.

The heads of delegations note the holding of the SCO Symposium on Financing Infrastructure Projects in Mumbai on 8–10 October 2026 in Central Asia, as well as the first SCO Asian Economic Dialogue held as part of it, and emphasise the importance of these events for the strengthening of practical cooperation in the financial and investment sphere.

The heads of delegations confirm that the interested member states will continue cooperation to gradually increase the share of national currencies in mutual settlements.

The heads of delegations acknowledge the efforts of the interested member states to improve financial infrastructure.

Taking into account the potential of existing multilateral regional financial institutions and investment agencies, they emphasise the importance of financing development, including the mobilisation of long-term and affordable financial resources for sustainable development projects.

The heads of delegations note progress in establishing the SCO Development Bank involving interested member states and emphasise the importance of continuing work in this area.

The heads of delegations consider it important to continue creating stable, transparent and predictable conditions for trade, to consistently simplify trade procedures, and to increase the volume of mutual trade in goods and services while improving its structure.

They reaffirm their intention to develop digital services, paperless trade and e-commerce, and to expand electronic data and document exchange. They also emphasise the importance of consumer protection in e-commerce and the need to explore mechanisms for the online resolution of cross-border commercial disputes.

The heads of delegations advocate increased comprehensive economic cooperation and emphasise the need to further improve the investment and business climate and to support joint ventures and investment projects, as well as the exchange of information on national regulation and investor support measures, including as part

of the expansion of the SCO Base of Economic Preferences and the launch of dedicated digital platforms.

The heads of delegations highly appreciate the role of the SCO Business Council and the SCO Interbank Consortium as mechanisms for the strengthening of practical cooperation, the exchange of project proposals and the expansion of credit and investment cooperation. They note the importance of regularly holding business forums, exhibitions and investment meetings that help establish direct contacts between business circles.

The heads of delegations emphasise the important role of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in job creation, regional development and increasing the sustainability of economies. They advocate further cooperation in the implementation of business support measures.

The heads of delegations note the particular importance of innovation in ensuring the competitiveness of SCO member states' economies in the digital era, and advocate initiatives to develop the SCO startup ecosystem and integrate startups into international supply chains. They consider it necessary to support the innovation clusters of SCO member states in building capacity in digital technologies.

The heads of delegations consider it important to promote joint research and development and professional training, as well as to continue exploring the possibility of establishing and deepening ties between micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

The heads of delegations advocate strengthening cooperation in the promotion of creative goods and services, as well as in the implementation of competitive projects. In this connection, they welcome the establishment of a dedicated working group on the development of the creative economy.

The heads of delegations consider industrial cooperation an essential prerequisite for diversifying economies, strengthening production chains and creating new jobs. They note the significant role of industrial exhibitions and business platforms in expanding practical collaboration in this area.

The heads of delegations confirm the intention of member states to continue exchanging information on the opportunities offered by special economic zones, industrial parks and science and technology parks and to promote the creation of joint production facilities, the localisation of supply chains and the introduction of advanced technologies.

The heads of delegations adopted the Regulations on the Data Bank of Investment Projects in the Industrial Sector of the SCO member states.

They give priority to the digital transformation of industry, including the application of artificial intelligence-based solutions and the development of green industry.

The heads of delegations consider the sustainable development of agriculture and ensuring food security among the priority areas of cooperation. They intend to expand mutual trade in agricultural products and foodstuffs, strengthen collaboration in processing, agricultural machinery, plant breeding and seed production, digitalisation and smart agriculture, including the creation of electronic platforms and support for joint high-technology projects.

The heads of delegations attach particular importance to ensuring veterinary and phytosanitary security, preventing and controlling transboundary epizootics and ensuring the safety of food products and the reliability of their supply. They intend to promote cooperation between relevant agencies, the exchange of information and the hosting of joint events in these areas.

The heads of delegations consider it important to continue the SCO's engagement with relevant international organisations, including UN system bodies, and to continue holding agricultural forums, exhibitions and training courses and conducting joint research aimed at enhancing the productivity of the agricultural sector.

The heads of delegations consider the development of road, rail, air and multimodal transport, logistics centres and transport infrastructure a priority area of the SCO economic agenda.

They emphasise the importance of realising the transit potential of the SCO region and increasing the throughput capacity of transport corridors.

The heads of delegations consider it important to further strengthen the technological sovereignty of the SCO member states, energy security and the stability of energy markets, and to establish a diversified energy mix utilising all energy sources.

The heads of delegations emphasise the commitment of the SCO member states to expand practical energy cooperation, including through the implementation of joint research projects, leveraging the potential of countries in the region for hydropower and energy infrastructure construction, the promotion of investment and scientific and technical cooperation, the introduction of advanced energy technologies, the training of qualified personnel and the exchange of experience.

The heads of delegations highly value the established cooperation among the customs services of the member states. They note that, over the years of cooperation, experience has been accumulated in exchanging information, improving customs administration, training personnel and combating customs offences.

The heads of delegations confirm their intention to continue cooperation on the digitalisation of customs procedures, the development of Single Window and smart customs mechanisms, the electronic exchange of information on goods and vehicles, risk management systems and the electronic verification of documents evidencing the origin of goods.

The heads of delegations note the important role of standardisation, metrology, conformity assessment and technical regulation in reducing technical barriers and simplifying trade. They are guided by the understanding that cooperation in this area should be aimed at improving the quality and safety of products and exchanging information and experience regarding the digitalisation of standards and conformity assessment procedures.

The heads of delegations consider it important to support fair competition and improve antitrust regulation as a condition for sustainable market development. They will promote further exchanges of experience in law enforcement and the analysis of commodity markets.

The heads of delegations note the importance of reliable statistical information for assessing socioeconomic processes and informing decision-making. They intend to promote the development of cooperation among national statistical services and the exchange of methodologies and experience in the digitalisation of statistical production.

The heads of delegations note that digital transformation has become an important area of SCO cooperation in recent years. They emphasise the importance of narrowing the digital divide between member states and increasing the accessibility of digital services for the public, including in remote areas, and for businesses.

The heads of delegations consider that digital transformation should be accompanied by enhanced information security, increased protection of data and digital infrastructure and improved digital literacy.

They note the importance of taking into account the interests of all states in matters concerning the use of the Internet on an equal footing in accordance with national legislation.

They consider it important to develop scientific and technological dialogue, international exchanges of knowledge and best practices, personnel training, joint research, technological cooperation, nurturing talent and exchanges of information on grant and innovation programmes.

The heads of delegations emphasise that improving the well-being of citizens is one of the most important guiding principles of cooperation. Member states will

exchange experience in implementing national programmes for poverty reduction and social support.

III

The heads of delegations note that cultural and humanitarian cooperation is a vital basis for mutual trust, good-neighbourliness and rapprochement of nations. They are resolved to enhance the practical elements of the humanitarian agenda and expand direct ties between the relevant establishments, professional communities, regions and public organisations.

The heads of delegations point out the importance of preserving cultural diversity and historical legacy. They noted the unifying role of festivals, exhibitions, culture days, film weeks and joint film festivals, creative exchanges and interaction between museums, libraries, theatres and other cultural facilities.

The heads of delegations reaffirm the intention of member states to continue to hold cultural events, exchange experience in the fields of restoration and conservation of cultural heritage, including intangible heritage, as well as cooperate in countering illicit excavations and illicit trafficking in cultural property.

The heads of delegations support the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in the activities of museums and libraries, and in the conservation of cultural heritage.

The heads of delegations regard education as a basis for the long-term development of member states and the strengthening mutual understanding between nations. They welcomed the fostering of inter-university ties and academic mobility, including the exchanges of young researchers, the development of joint educational programmes, and the holding of conferences and symposia. They highlighted the further development of SCO University, expanded participation of states in its work, and the training of personnel in areas in demand for the economic development of member states.

The heads of delegations note the need to develop digital education based on modern information, communication and multimedia technologies, as well as the exchange of experience in enhancing the quality of education.

The heads of delegations emphasise the importance of ensuring universal and equitable access to information and communications technologies.

The heads of delegations note the importance of developing a modern and reliable digital infrastructure, including data centres, high-performance computing facilities and infrastructure for the development and application of artificial intelligence technologies, as well as fostering the exchange of knowledge and experience.

The heads of delegations call for promoting cooperation in healthcare, including the provision of emergency medical assistance, sanitary and epidemiological supervision, the creation of medicines and vaccines, the development of traditional medicine, ensuring food safety and training qualified specialists. They noted the need for close interaction between concerned agencies, prompt exchange of information, and joint research projects.

The heads of delegations note the importance of digitising healthcare and exchanging modern medical technologies and advanced practices, including in the sphere of mobile laboratories and response to sanitary and epidemiological hazards.

The heads of delegations emphasise the relevance of continued joint efforts of member states in the field of environmental protection, preservation of biological diversity, environmental safety, rational use of natural resources, mitigation of and adaptation to the negative consequences of climate change, including mountain ecology, accelerated melting and glacier degradation.

The heads of delegations note the growing risk of natural and man-made disasters and call for enhancing SCO potential in emergency prevention and relief. They emphasise the importance of the further enhancing operational interaction in emergency response.

The heads of delegations reaffirm the importance of an active and all-round participation of women in the economy, public, social, scientific and cultural activities of member states. They note the need for the further development of cooperation and exchange of experience in the field of women's empowerment, promoting women's entrepreneurship, enhancing their professional potential, and creating favourable conditions for the realisation of their initiatives.

The heads of delegations intend to promote regular forums, conferences and meetings with the participation of women, as well as further development of interaction between government agencies, public associations and other relevant organisations of member states.

They reaffirm the importance of ensuring and protecting the legitimate rights and interests of women and children, expanding their access to quality education, healthcare and social support measures, as well as strengthening the institution of the family.

The heads of delegations highly value the significant contribution of people-to-people diplomacy institutions to strengthening mutual trust, understanding, and neighbourly relations among the peoples of the member states. They intend to promote the further development of this area, including by expanding contacts and exchanges and organising relevant events.

They welcome the holding of a Civilisation Dialogue Forum under the auspices of the SCO on 20 November 2026 in New Delhi.

The heads of delegations note the need for the sustainable development of remote, rural and mountainous areas, the improvement of local infrastructure, the introduction of modern digital solutions and technologies, and the creation of favourable conditions for the development of tourism, small and medium-sized enterprises and cross-border trade.

The heads of delegations consider it important to foster an objective and substantive understanding of the SCO's activities, its goals, practical outcomes and opportunities for cooperation. They welcome the strengthening of contacts between mass media outlets, government press services and professional journalistic associations.

The heads of delegations highlight the special role of youth in ensuring the long-term sustainable development of the member states and further strengthening cooperation within the SCO. They advocate creating favourable conditions to unlock the potential of the younger generation, supporting youth entrepreneurship and startups, scientific and technological innovation and volunteer movements, and facilitating the exchange of experience in promoting youth employment and expanding cultural, educational and sports exchanges.

The heads of delegations acknowledge the unifying role of sport and welcome the further growth of cooperation between the relevant government agencies and national sports organisations.

The heads of delegations support the holding of joint sports events, including the SCO Open Cup, an international competition among interested member states, as well as the expansion of exchanges among athletes, coaches and specialists, and the sharing of experience and best practices in sports development and the organisation of major tournaments.

The heads of delegations consider it essential to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in the tourism sector, drawing on the rich cultural and historical heritage and natural diversity of the SCO region. They support the establishment of direct ties between tourism industry enterprises, the attraction of investment in tourism and the digitalisation of tourism services.

The heads of delegations intend to actively promote the practice of designating an SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital, as well as organising thematic festivals, exhibitions and other joint projects.

The heads of delegations note the significant contribution of the Consortium of Economic Analytical Centres and other SCO think tanks to preparing expert recommendations (proposals) aimed at enhancing trade and economic cooperation within the Organisation.

IV

The heads of delegations reaffirm the SCO's readiness to continue developing engagement with other states and international organisations on the basis of the principles of equality and mutual respect. They note that, over the past twenty-five years, the Organisation has substantially expanded its geographic reach in external relations, strengthened its international ties and consolidated its position within the international multilateral system.

The heads of delegations underscore the importance of continuing to refine the SCO's operations, including its legal framework, the functioning of its cooperation mechanisms and its permanent bodies. They emphasise the need for the legal and institutional development of newly established structures and permanent bodies, in accordance with signed agreements and adopted decisions, so as to ensure that they become fully operational.

V

The heads of delegations reaffirm the commitment of the member states to continue strengthening the SCO as a space of mutual trust, good-neighbourliness, equal cooperation and joint development.

The heads of delegations express their confidence that this milestone meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO member states in Dushanbe will serve as an important landmark in the Organisation's transition to a new phase of practical cooperation. They note that the achievements accumulated over a quarter of a century, the institutional experience gained and the shared interests of the member states provide a solid foundation for achieving the long-term goals of the SCO.

The heads of delegations express their gratitude to the Republic of Tajikistan for the successful organisation of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO member states and for the warm welcome.

The next meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO member states will be held in 2027 in the Republic of Uzbekistan.