

# **Declaration by the Heads of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

**St. Petersburg, June 7, 2002**

Today we, the Heads of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, have formally signed the Charter - the basic statutory document of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO or Organization). This event signifies the creation of the legal foundation for the new international association, whose establishment we proclaimed in June 2001 in Shanghai.

We believe that the establishment of the SCO corresponds to the real situation in the region and in the world, as well as meets the basic interests of the peoples of the six countries.

## **I**

The SCO is the successor to the Shanghai Five, which arose on the basis of two innovative agreements for the Asian continent on confidence building measures in the military field and on the reduction of arms.

The SCO has been established with a view to strengthening among the member states mutual trust, friendship and good-neighborliness, enhancing all-round coordination in the maintenance and strengthening of peace, security and stability in the region, jointly countering new challenges and threats, encouraging effective and mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, and assisting the economic growth and social and cultural development of the member states of the Organization.

The SCO is based on the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, noninterference in internal affairs, the nonuse of force or the threat of force, and the equality of all the member states.

## **II**

Rapidly carrying out the procedures for ratification of the SCO Charter and the Agreement on the Regional Antiterrorist Structure (RATS) of the SCO will facilitate the early launching of all the mechanisms of the SCO, called upon to ensure the effective functioning of the Organization.

The national coordinators of the SCO are instructed, without waiting for the execution of all the intrastate procedures associated with the entry of the Charter of the SCO into

force, to embark on the preparation of a set of treaty and normative documents regulating the order of work of the bodies of the Organization and other aspects of its activity.

Within the framework of the SCO, effective steps will be taken to implement the Shanghai Convention on the Combating of Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism, and to adopt appropriate documents for multilateral cooperation in the matter of suppressing the illicit drug and arms trafficking, other kinds of criminal activity having a transnational character, and illegal migration.

Of paramount importance is the creation of a mechanism of mutual information and the search of common points of view on foreign policy issues of mutual concern, including within the framework of international organizations and fora, more specifically the UN.

We note with satisfaction that in parallel with the solution of organizational questions there goes the process of the development and institutionalization of substantive interaction by member states in various fields. We highly assess the results of the first meeting of the heads of government of the SCO countries in Almaty on September 14, 2001, and the conferences of ministers of foreign affairs in Beijing on January 7, 2002, and in Moscow on April 26, 2002, and support the development of contacts between the defense, foreign affairs and border agencies, between the heads of the law enforcement bodies and special services within the framework of the Bishkek Group, and between the ministries of culture, emergency situations services and other government structures. We agreed to proceed with the onward expansion of areas of cooperation between the SCO member states.

We hold that developing the economic partnership is a particularly important task in the activities of the SCO. Toward this end, the negotiation process will be intensified on the questions of creating favorable conditions for trade and investment and of elaborating a long-term Program of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation in accordance with the Memorandum Between the Governments of the SCO Member States of September 14, 2001. In the nearest future it is necessary to determine priority projects for practical cooperation in such areas as the construction of transport communications and power supply projects, water use, the extraction and transportation of energy resources, as well as in other fields of mutual interest.

### III

The SCO member states build their relations within the framework of an emerging multipolar system of international relations and believe that world order in the 21st century should be based on mechanisms for the collective solution of key problems, on the supremacy of law and on a consistent democratization of international relations.

The SCO member states will make efforts toward the prevention and peaceful settlement of international conflicts due to interethnic, interfaith, territorial, political and other

contradictions, in strict accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law.

The SCO member states intend to build up cooperation between themselves and with other countries in the search of answers to the challenges of the process of globalization, in the neutralization of its adverse aspects and possible risks, and in the preservation of the diversity in forms of economic, social and cultural development. Globalization and the national interests of states are not mutually exclusive, but mutually complementary structural elements of the developing world pattern. The international community needs the elaboration of a concept of security of a new type, based on the principles of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation, conducive to a radical weakening of the factors undermining security and to the eradication of sources of new threats.

The SCO member states are determined to invigorate their cooperation in fighting terrorism, separatism, extremism, organized crime, and the illegal trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and in arms. They regard these phenomena as transnational threats, effective counteraction against which can be organized only by collective efforts of the international community.

The SCO member states decisively reject all the acts, methods and practice of terrorism. The struggle against terrorism should be waged on the basis of the rules and principles of international law, should not be identified with the struggle against any religion, individual countries or nationalities and must be devoid of tendentiousness and "double standards."

The SCO member states consider it necessary to establish a global system of counteraction against new threats and challenges with the central coordinating role of the UN and its Security Council, which would incorporate the appropriate multilateral cooperation mechanisms, including those for the early warning and prevention of threats that may arise and for a drastic and adequate response to their manifestations. For action in this direction it is exceptionally important to formulate, within the UN, principles and a clearly defined, binding for all, international legal base of antiterrorist activity which would give no cause for a dual interpretation of their content and would not serve as a cover for interference in the affairs of other states and infringement of their sovereignty.

A weighty contribution to these efforts is the Shanghai Convention on the Combating of Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism of June 15, 2001, as well as the Agreement Between the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on the Regional Antiterrorist Structure of June 7, 2002. A clear-cut legal framework is thus created for the establishment at the regional level of practical interaction in the struggle against terrorism, separatism and extremism.

The SCO member states are convinced that an important thrust in the global antiterrorist struggle must be depriving terrorism of its social support, among other things - the elimination of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and discrimination on racial, ethnic or religious grounds.

The SCO member states support the efforts of each other to wipe out the manifestations of terrorism, separatism and extremism, as well as the steps of the international community, aimed at closing the channels of financing for terrorist activity, and will build up their own efforts to prevent in their territories the preparation and financing of acts of terrorism and will deny terrorists refuge.

The SCO member states reaffirm their intention in every way to help strengthen the role of the UN in international affairs and enhance further the effectiveness and authority of the UN Security Council, bearing the main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The SCO member states believe that observing the international nuclear nonproliferation regime is one of the major elements of ensuring peace and security both in Asia and on a global scale. The early accession of all countries to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the signing and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by states which have not yet done so will contribute to the consolidation of strategic stability at various levels.

The SCO member states support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan for establishing an NWFZ in Central Asia.

The SCO member states emphasize respect and support for the nuclear-free status of Mongolia.

The SCO member states welcome the conclusion of the new Russian-American treaty concerning further large cuts in strategic offensive arms, and regard this as a positive contribution to the reduction of nuclear weapons.

The SCO member states call for the early start of multilateral talks for the preparation of a comprehensive agreement on the non-deployment of weapons in space and on the nonuse of force or the threat of force against space objects.

The SCO member states, undertaking to act in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, reaffirm the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelationship of all human rights, as well as their obligations to observe human rights and basic freedoms, regard peace and development as the main guarantee of the promotion and defense of human rights and come out against the use of "double standards" in questions of human rights and interference in the internal affairs of other states under the pretext of defending them.

#### IV

The SCO member states have an inalienable right to independent choice of forms and methods of ensuring their own security, including the establishment of cooperation with

other states. They will so pursue this policy as not to cause any adverse consequences for regional stability and security.

The SCO member states believe that the security of Central Asia is inexorably associated with the prospects of the peace process in Afghanistan. In this connection they will build up cooperation between themselves in the field of assistance to the postwar political and economic reconstruction of the country.

The SCO member states welcome the creation of a new, stable Afghanistan - free of terror, war, drugs and poverty - and declare their respect for the cultures and traditions of all the peoples inhabiting the country. They are prepared to assist the process of the formation of a widely representative government in the interests of the whole Afghan people.

The SCO member states want to see the Asia-Pacific region a zone of peace, stability and joint prosperity, and are ready to constructively cooperate with all the states and regional associations in the cause of forming in the AP region a cooperative system of regional security operating within the framework of the UN Charter and international law, equally taking into account the interests and approaches of all the participants. The consolidation of the mechanisms of multilateral cooperation that have already acquitted themselves - such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) - will be conducive to the formation of this system.

The SCO member states proceed from the assumption that the Government of the PRC is the sole lawful government representing all of China, and that Taiwan is an integral part of the territory of China.

The SCO member states support the efforts by the two Korean states for the development and expansion of dialogue and cooperation in the spirit of the agreements of the inter-Korean summit in June 2000, and consider useful the promotion of dialogue and constructive cooperation between the DPRK, the USA and other Western countries so as to ensure the attainment of a durable peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

The SCO member states call upon India and Pakistan to restart the political dialogue with a view to removing tensions and developing cooperation between the two countries.

The SCO member states express profound concern over the protracted crisis in the Middle East, which exerts an adverse effect on regional and international security and stability. The SCO member states call upon Israel and Palestine to at once start implementing the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, positively respond to the peacemaking efforts by the world community, and return to the search of peaceful ways to settle the dispute.

The SCO member states are ready jointly with the world community to continue politico-diplomatic efforts toward ensuring the full implementation of all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on the Iraqi question.

The SCO member states highly assess the initiative shown by the Republic of Kazakhstan in convening the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and believe that this forum, along with the existing Asian structures and mechanisms, will play an important role in building mutual confidence and developing multilateral cooperation among the Asian countries.

V

We reaffirm that the SCO is neither a bloc nor a closed alliance, is not directed against any individual countries or groups of states and is open for broad cooperation with other states and international associations in accordance with the objectives and principles of the UN Charter and the norms of international law, on the basis of regard for mutual interests and of the commonality of approaches to dealing with regional and world problems.

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. A. Nazarbayev

Chairman of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zemin

President of the Kyrgyz Republic A. A. Akayev

President of the Russian Federation V. V. Putin

President of the Republic of Tajikistan E. Sh. Rakhmonov

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I. A. Karimov