

THE ROLE OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION IN COOPERATION OF CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

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SCO: historical background

- * “The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation”.
- * Founded in 1996 as Shanghai Five.
- * Shanghai Five: the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan
- * Established on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China) as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation by 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

SCO: historical background

- * 1996-2000 – trans-boundary cooperation in military and military-technical fields
- * In 1999 in Bishkek meeting members discussed cooperation on problems of international terrorism, illegal drug- and arm-trafficking, immigration, etc.
- * In 2000 Shanghai Five and Uzbekistan decided to create a regional anti-terroristic centre.
- * The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in 2002 (in St. Petersburg, Russia), and entered into force in 2003.

Organisational structure

- * Official languages: Russian and Chinese
- * The highest organ is the Heads of States Council (HSC)
- * Heads of Government Council (HGC)
- * Also meetings at the ministerial and parliament levels
- * Secretariat in Beijing
- * Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-terrorist Structure in Tashkent
- * SCO Secretary-General and Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO RATS are appointed by the HSC for three years
- * Since 2016 SCO Secretary-General is Rashid Alimov (Tajikistan) and Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO RATS is Yevgeny Sysoyev (Russia)

Interest in SCO

- * Eight member states: India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan
- * Observer institution was created in 2005 and included Mongolia, India, Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan
- * Today SCO has “four observer states, namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Mongolia”
- * “Six dialogue partners, namely the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Republic of Turkey, and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka”.

SCO values

- * Mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for cultural diversity, and a desire for common development, while its external policy is conducted in accordance with the principles of non-alignment, non-targeting any third country, and openness

Main goals

- * “Strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states;
- * Promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture, as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas;
- * Making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region;
- * Moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.”

Main official documents

- * The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter claims that member states follow the aims and principles of the UN Charter (SCO Charter 2002: Preambular)
- * Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism (2001)
- * Agreement on Cooperation in Education between the Governments of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (2006)
- * Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Affairs between the Governments of the Member States of the SCO (2007)
- * Agreement on Cooperation in Ensuring International Information Security between the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (2009)
- * SCO Convention against terrorism (2009)

Security Cooperation

SCO Cooperation in combatting security problems such as

- * International terrorism, separatism and extremism
- * Illegal drug-trafficking, arm-trafficking
- * Illegal migration
- * Organised criminal groups
- * Information security

Economic Cooperation

- * Regional Trade
- * Energy resources (oil and gas)
- * Infrastructure, transportation

Cultural and Humanitarian Cooperation

- * Education and science
- * Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Governments of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (2013)
- * Agreement on Cooperation in Culture between the Governments of the Members States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (2007)
- * Developing tourism in the region

Opportunities

- * Members are neighbours and they face almost identical regional problems.
- * Perspectives for economic, security, education, scientific and cultural cooperation.
- * Improvement the quality of life.

Challenges

- * Different levels of economic development, infrastructure and telecommunication development
- * Example: According to the 2014 Logistics Performance Index by World Bank, China is 28th, Kazakhstan — 88, Russia — 90, Uzbekistan — 129, Kyrgyzstan — 149, Tajikistan — 114

Sources

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Thank you!