

Departamento de Asia y el Pacífico

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION

Joint Communiqué of meeting of Council of Heads of Government of SCO Member States

A regular meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Member States took place on 02 November 2007 in Tashkent. Prime Minister Karim Masimov of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, acting Prime Minister Almaz Atambayev of the Kyrgyz Republic, Prime Minister Victor Zubkov of the Russian Federation, Prime Minister Akil Akilov of the Republic of Tajikistan, Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan were in attendance.

Representatives from the SCO observer states – Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed of the Republic of India, First Vice President Parviz Davoodi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Deputy Prime Minister Mendsaikhan Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia, Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as well as First Vice President Ahmad Zia Masood of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as guest of honour of the host state – were in attendance and delivered statements.

Secretary-General Bolat Nurgaliev of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and Director Myrzakan Subanov of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure participated in the meeting.

In a friendly, constructive and businesslike spirit the delegations of the member states discussed a wide range of pressing issues concerning the development of trade, economic and cultural cooperation in the SCO framework, strengthening of peace, stability and security in the region.

In the light of the achievements of the Bishkek summit, the heads of government considered and determined measures aimed to deepen interaction among the SCO member states in various fields, including economy, investment, science and technology, education and culture.

1. Further expansion and deepening of trade, economic and cultural cooperation among the member states, facilitating their economic growth and improving the welfare of citizens of the SCO region constitutes the basis of the activity of the Organisation.

The parties were united in their opinion that following the meeting of the SCO Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) Council in September 2006 in Dushanbe, there had been a significant increase in the amount of work on deepening and expanding economic and cultural cooperation among the member states of the Organisation, the pilot projects being successfully implemented.

2. The heads of government noted the positive results of the meeting of external trade and economy ministers of the SCO member states held on 24 October 2007 in Astana, during which concrete measures on the execution of the Programme for multilateral trade

and economic cooperation among the member states were debated and determined. Targeted work on implementing the adopted decisions is being conducted in the framework of the special and expert working groups in different areas.

3. Increasing work at the international level on the selection of priority projects and their technical economic evaluation will give additional impetus to the integration processes in the SCO region. The implementation of major investment projects in close interaction with the SCO Business Council and Interbank Consortium with the focus on infrastructure, key industries, high technology and export-oriented sectors of economy will help intensify cooperation in the SCO framework.

4. The heads of government expressed satisfaction over the signing of the Agreement on cooperation between the SCO Business Council and Interbank Consortium, and stressed the need to boost effective business ties in the framework of the Organisation for the sake of achieving economic goals and tasks based on principles of equality, partnership and mutual benefit.

The Regulations on interaction among the member banks of the SCO Interbank Consortium on selection, evaluation and implementation of projects are meant to serve as an important instrument of encouraging investment activity.

5. In order to further increase and strengthen cooperation in the economic field, the heads of government instructed the SCO Secretariat jointly with the Commission of senior officials in charge of trade and economic cooperation and the special working groups to make an inventory of the projects covered by the Action Plan on implementation of the Programme for multilateral trade and economic cooperation.

6. Taking into consideration the expediency of attracting additional financial resources for trade, economic and investment activities of the Organisation, as well as for intensifying work on the pilot projects, the heads of government deem it necessary to expedite the settlement of issues concerning the creation of SCO Development Fund.

7. The heads of government attach great importance to the first conference of heads of fuel and energy departments held on 29 June 2007 in Moscow, during which prospects for cooperation in energy sector and issues of combining the relevant national strategies of the member states were discussed. The parties underlined the need to conduct close interaction in formulating common approaches of the member states in this field. To that end the agenda of regular meetings of the Special working group on fuel and energy issues in 2008 will include practical fulfillment of the agreements reached during the mentioned conference.

8. The heads of government note the importance of the earliest possible completion of work on the draft SCO Concept of cooperation in environmental protection, as well as the need to set up practical interaction over issues of rational and effective use of hydroelectric resources in the region.

9. The heads of government stated that the implementation of the pilot project "The establishment of transnational interaction with the use of electronic digital signature" selected by the Special working group on modern information and telecommunication technologies will boost investment activity in the high-tech sector in the SCO framework.

The parties expressed readiness to encourage interaction in the SCO framework in high-tech industries and formation of modern production lines on the basis of joint investment projects.

10. The heads of government note that the completion of work on the draft Intergovernmental Agreement on road transportation facilitation will help to further advance cooperation in the field of transportation.

11. The parties stressed the urgency of implementing the pilot projects: "The synchronous construction of Volgograd-Astrakhan-Atyrau-Beyneu-Kungrad, Aktau-Beyneu-Kungrad motorways and a bridge across the river Kigach as part of the E-40 international transportation route" and "The development of Osh-Sarytash-Irkeshtam-Kashgar, Bratstvo-Dushanbe-Karamyk-Irkeshtam-Kashgar motorways and the construction of a trans-shipping terminal in Kashgar (China) for multimodal transportation". Common aspiration was expressed towards synchronising the construction of Volgograd-Astrakhan-Atyrau-Beyneu-Kungrad and Aktau-Beyneu-Kungrad motorways as part of the E-40 international transportation route.

12. The heads of government deem it necessary to consider issues of interaction in the field of rail freight transportation, which could also include further development of railway networks in the region. The latter will help increase trade and economic cooperation among the SCO member states. In this regard it is expedient that the relevant ministries and departments of the member states consider new transportation projects in the framework of the Organisation.

13. The heads of government welcome the signing during the HGC meeting of the Agreement among the governments of the SCO member states on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs affairs. The Special working group on customs cooperation was instructed to continue work on creating conditions for harmonised customs, administrative, transportation procedures and mutual recognition of customs documents.

14. The heads of government consider it expedient to set up and develop interaction among the member states in the field of agriculture, which could also imply the involvement of the SCO Business Council.

15. Noting the importance of signing the Agreement among the governments of the SCO member states in the field of culture, the heads of government instructed the SCO Secretariat jointly with the expert working group on cultural cooperation to work out concrete proposals regarding the fulfillment of this document.

16. The expert working group on educational cooperation was instructed to expedite the agreeing of the Action Plan on execution of the Agreement among the governments of the SCO member states in the field of education signed on 15 June 2006.

17. The heads of government welcome the start of cooperation in the field of healthcare. The SCO Secretariat jointly with experts from the member states of the Organisation was instructed to draw up a cooperation plan for health ministries and departments and determine priority areas of interaction in this field.

18. Making a positive assessment of the establishment of interaction among the national tourism agencies of the SCO member states, the heads of government consider it necessary to expedite the agreeing of the relevant action plan.

19. In order to comply with the instruction of the Heads of State Council, the heads of government approved the new structure and staff order of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure.

20. The heads of government considered a series of financial issues concerning the activity of the SCO, and approved the budget of the Organisation for 2008.

The parties reached an agreement to hold the next meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO Member States in 2008 in the Republic of Kazakhstan.