

Departamento de Asia y el Pacífico

Shangai Cooperation Organization

Joint Communiqué of meeting of the Council of the Heads of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation commemorating the 10th anniversary of the SCO,

2011 – 6 – 15

Astana, 14-15 June 2011)

On 14-15 June 2011 Astana hosted a meeting of the Council of the Heads of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (hereinafter – the SCO or the Organisation) commemorating the 10th anniversary of the SCO. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev, the Chairman of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic R. Otunbayeva, the President of the Russian Federation D. Medvedev, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan E. Rakhmon, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov took part. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev chaired the meeting. The SCO Secretary-General M. Imanaliev and the Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure (RCTS) D. Djumanbekov were in attendance.

The heads of delegations of the SCO observer states – the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran M. Ahmadinejad, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan A. Zardari, the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India M. Krishna, the Head of the Office of the President of Mongolia D. Battulga, as well as the guest of honour of the host state – the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan H. Karzai were present at the meeting and delivered statements.

The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime Y. Fedotov, the Chairman of the Executive Committee –

Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States S. Lebedev, the Secretary-General of the Eurasian Economic Community T. Mansurov, the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation N. Bordyuzha were in attendance as well.

In-depth exchange of opinions took place over the current situation in the region and the rest of the world, as well as the state and prospects for interaction in the SCO region. With regard to the 10th anniversary of the Organisation, the experience and results of its activity in the past period were summarised.

The parties noted that in the course of 10 years the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, despite serious changes in the international and regional situation, bravely withstood the tests of time and established itself as an important mechanism of deepening good-neighbourly, friendly and partner relations among the SCO member states. The Organisation became an effective multilateral structure assisting in ensuring the regional security, socioeconomic development and prosperity, an example of developing intercultural dialogue and an active factor in the global efforts on the democratisation of international relations.

Assessments of the Organisation's activity and the member states' approaches to further enhancement of the mechanisms and forms of pragmatic cooperation, as well as the guidelines for joint work in the immediate future are set forth in the Astana Declaration of the 10th anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

The parties approved the Counternarcotics Strategy of the SCO member states for 2011-2016 and its Action Plan aimed to contribute to raising the effectiveness of joint efforts on confronting the narcotic threat in the SCO region.

The Memorandum of Obligations of a Candidate Country Applying for SCO Membership Status formulated on the basis of the Regulations on the Admission of New Members to the SCO is meant to further improve the legal base for the expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The Council of National Coordinators and the expert working group will continue to consider a set of issues concerning the SCO expansion, among others agreeing the necessary legal, administrative and financial conditions for accepting new members.

The plenipotentiary representatives of the member states of the Organisation signed the Agreement among the governments of the SCO member states on cooperation in the field of healthcare.

The Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the SCO Secretariat and the UN ODC.

The Report of the SCO Secretary-General on the activity of the Organisation in the past year and the Report of the RCTS Council on the work of the Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure in 2010 were submitted and approved.

The member states reaffirmed their intention to continue interaction in the field of countering terrorism, separatism and extremism in all their manifestations, fighting against illegal circulation of narcotics and weapons, other kinds of transnational crime and illegal migration.

With regard to the emerging real threats to information security, the parties confirmed the significance of cooperation of the SCO member states on advancing common rules of conduct in the international community in the field of safeguarding international information security.

The member states stated that the unresolved situation in Afghanistan coupled with the continuing tension and confrontation in the country remains one of the key sources of threats to the regional security and stability. Whilst underlining the impossibility of settling the Afghan conflict solely through military means, the member states are unanimous about the need to pay priority attention to sorting out the socioeconomic issues in Afghanistan, including the reconstruction of communications and public infrastructure. In this regard the SCO supports the efforts of the member states involved in the implementation of economic reconstruction projects in the IRA in conjunction with international institutions and other interested parties.

Within the context of fulfilling the tasks of fighting against new challenges and threats, in the period following the previous HSC meeting in 2010, the SCO held meetings of secretaries of security councils (Astana, 29 April 2011), public prosecutors (Xiamen, 22 October 2010 and Almaty, 8 June 2011), ministers of internal affairs and public security (Astana, 28 April 2011), ministers of defence (Astana, 17 March 2011), chiefs of staff (Shanghai, 25-26 April 2011), heads of counternarcotics agencies (Astana, 30 March

2011), counterterrorism drills "Peace Mission – 2010" (Zhambyl Region of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 9-25 September 2010) and "Tianshan – 2 – 2011" (Kashgar, 6 May 2011), as well as an international research-to-practice conference (Almaty, 22-23 February 2011) and the sixth session of the SCO Forum (Tashkent, 27-28 May 2011).

The parties noted with satisfaction the growing activity of the RCTS as an effective mechanism of coordinating pragmatic interaction among the competent services of the SCO member states. The parties rated positively the process of implementing the Programme of cooperation in the field of combating terrorism, separatism and extremism for 2010-2012.

The parties stressed the active role of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in assisting the Kyrgyz side in the normalisation of the situation in the country and providing a significant amount of humanitarian and financial aid to Kyrgyzstan.

The parties rated positively the outcome of the meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO Member States held in Dushanbe on 25 November 2010. The parties stated a marked increase in the economic activity of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation being conducted in the framework of competent ministries and departments. The Business Council and the Interbank Consortium are recommended to take concerted practical steps on the implementation of multilateral projects contributing to the socioeconomic development of the SCO member states and boosting their investment and financial cooperation. Consideration of possible funding mechanisms for such projects will be expedited.

The heads of state noted the positive outcome of the Meeting of ministers in charge of external economic and trade activity, the Meeting of ministers of agriculture and the Meeting of heads of financial control institutions. Based on the previous experience, the parties will continue the practice of staging special events under the SCO auspices, using various international economic platforms.

The member states noted the important role of cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchange in the SCO framework in strengthening the relations of good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation. In its future activity the Organisation will put greater emphasis on strengthening cooperation in the fields of culture, environmental protection, science, technology, innovation, healthcare, tourism and sport.

Regular activities in the field of education, the meeting of ministers of culture (Astana, 18-19 May 2011) and the first Meeting of ministers of healthcare (Astana, 18 November 2010) have contributed to achieving these goals.

The parties underlined the importance of gradual development of cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of emergency situations in the SCO region.

The member states called for further expansion of cooperation with the SCO observer states – India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan, the dialogue partners – Belarus and Sri Lanka whose potential can give significant impetus to further intensification of the activity of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

The heads of state note with satisfaction that the adoption on 13 December 2010 at the 65th session of the UN General Assembly of the Resolution on cooperation between the UN and SCO contributes to further consolidation of interaction between the two organisations on the issues of ensuring security and stability, economic, social and cultural development as well as in other areas of common interest.

The parties underlined the positive tendency toward developing the SCO's links with the CIS, CSTO, EurAsEC, ASEAN, ECO and ESCAP on the basis of the concluded memoranda of understanding. Work will continue on further expansion of the SCO's international activity.

The heads of state highly rated the presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the SCO, and expressed gratitude to the Kazakh side for the hospitality extended during the summit in Astana commemorating the 10th anniversary of the SCO.

The next meeting of the Council of the Heads of the SCO Member States is to be held in 2012 in the People's Republic of China. In accordance with the SCO Charter, the People's Republic of China is taking over the presidency of the Organisation in the coming period.

The parties backed the proposal of the Chinese side to declare the period of presidency of the PRC at the SCO in 2011-2012 "the Year of Good-neighbourliness and Friendship".