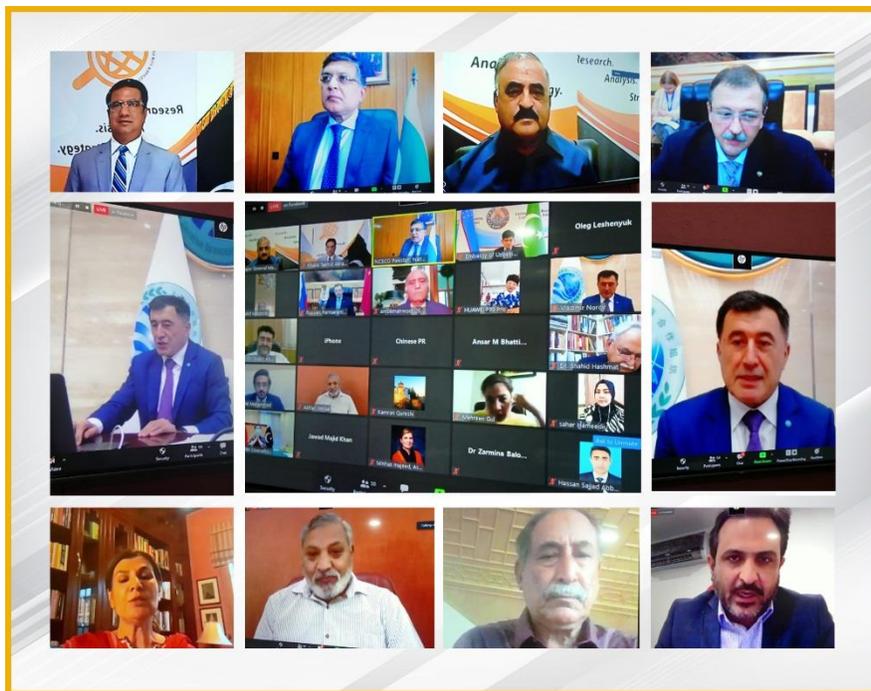




International Webinar Report

“SCO: A Gateway to Regional Cooperation & Integrated Development”

16th July 2020



Organized by
Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad
in collaboration with
Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretariat, Beijing,
China

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Opening Remarks

Brig Akhtar Nawaz Janjua (Retd) – Senior Member Advisory Board CGSS



H.E. Vladimir Norov – Secretary General SCO, Mr. Zahoor Ahmed- Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan, Permanent Representatives of the member states, Excellences, Ladies n Gentlemen, Assalamualikum and Good Afternoon.

On behalf of CGSS, I welcome you all in this webinar. We are specially honored to have H.E. Vladimir Norov – Secretary General Shanghai Cooperation Organization with us. He hosted us at Tashkent in May 2017 when he was the Director of Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS), working under the President of Uzbekistan and that led to the affiliation of CGSS with SCO Think Tank Forum. He was also been very kind to visit us in Dec 2018 to deliver his keynote address at the Conference “National Security Policy – Vision for Pakistan” organized by CGSS. I extend a very warm welcome to Mr. Norov and we are grateful to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan for participating at today’s Webinar.

Thank you.

Speaker 1

Mr. Zahoor Ahmed, Additional Secretary Asia Pacific & National Coordinator for Pakistan in Shanghai Cooperation Organization



Thank you very much. First of all, I would like to welcome His Excellency Vladimir Norov, the Secretary-General of SCO to this forum. We were looking forward to his visit to Pakistan. The Foreign Minister had invited him. Unfortunately, because of the COVID situation the visit could not take place but we are glad that virtually he is among us today here and we will be benefitting from his thoughts and vision about the SCO.

I also would like to thank Maj General Masroor (Retd), Brigadier Janjua (Retd), Lt. Col. Taimur (Retd) and the whole team of the Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) who have organized this event and I think it's a very timely event not only from our policy perspective but also because it's being organized on the 20th Anniversary of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. I can also see there are other scholars and very learned people here and I look forward to benefiting from their wisdom during this seminar.

Pakistan, as you mentioned, became a member of SCO in 2017. I have the privilege of representing Pakistan at the National Coordinator's Forum, which is the major official forum which discusses day to day events, statements and documents of the SCO and we prepare the documents for the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Council of Heads of Government and the Council of Heads of State.

I have had the chance during my career to be part of many international organizations but the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a unique one. During my interaction with my colleagues here, I can say with a lot of respect and pride that we are not just an organization, we are a family. We have open and frank discussions. We differ with each other at times but what brings us together is the mutual respect for each other and for each other's national interests and perspectives. That is something that makes Shanghai Cooperation Organization unique in the comity of international organizations.

What also makes SCO unique is the Shanghai Spirit, which is something which we all believe can be a torchbearer for the rest of the world where multilateralism is suffering many challenges and countries are looking after themselves and their own interest only. SCO has emerged as a forum which brings the Shanghai Spirit, a concept which can be vital for the future of multilateralism. It brings the principles of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity, and pursuit of common development. These are

the guidelines that guide us through our deliberations and which can result in the future progress of international cooperation.

Pakistan sees SCO as a vital platform for regional development and for the development of common prosperity of our region. We have been participating in all its meetings since 2017 actively. As a new member, we were welcomed and guided by the wisdom of our colleagues who have had greater experience in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. This year we are looking forward to the St. Petersburg Council of Heads of State. I would like to acknowledge the leadership and the Presidency of the Russian Federation during this year who have, despite all the challenges that we are facing because of the COVID situation, maintained the momentum of the organization.

The COVID situation, is a major challenge for the world as we know today and it will bring many changes. One change that we can see today is that we will be able to hold more discussions with each other through the internet and information technology tools. The SCO has once again risen during this crisis and we have made some very important policy statements in this context. Immediately we had a joint statement after the COVID situation arose in January and when it became a pandemic, we also finalized a statement by the Council of Foreign Ministers. These statements bring out the common understanding between our countries that this is a challenge being faced by all of us and we have to combat this challenge together. The only way to beat this challenge is by working together.

As far as Pakistan's policy towards the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is concerned, the parameters of our foreign policy are very much aligned with the Shanghai Spirit and the objectives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Since Prime Minister Imran Khan took over the reins of the government, he has called for a peaceful neighborhood and cooperation for the common development of the region. He attended the Bishkek Summit last year where he stressed upon the commitment of Pakistan towards the objectives and principles of SCO.

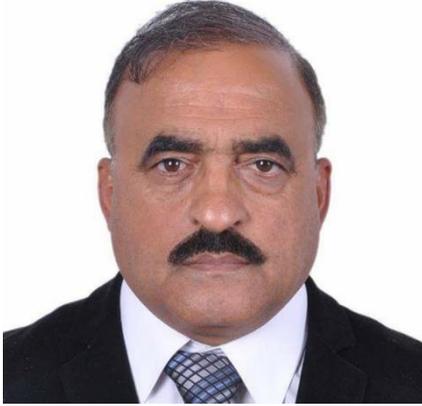
We believe that Pakistan can be an important bridge between Central Asia, West Asia, and South Asia. With the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which is a landmark and a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, we can be a vital link between the economies of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and help in moving towards the goal of having a more integrated regional development and promoting cooperation between Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), and the Eurasian Economic Union.

With these efforts, we can contribute toward the alleviation of poverty and the development of the region. In the context of poverty alleviation, Pakistan has made a very important proposal on the establishment of the Center of Excellence and the Joint Working Group on poverty alleviation. We believe we can learn from each other in this area and can share not only the ideas but we can also support each other in many ways.

Another important milestone indicating our commitment to strengthen our role in SCO is Pakistan joining the SCO Youth Council. We look forward to actively participating in the activities of the SCO Youth Council. We look forward to the St. Petersburg Council of Heads of State and I would like to thank all of my colleagues who have joined us here today. I hope that with the COVID situation stabilizing, we can host a National Coordinator's Meeting in Pakistan soon, I would look forward to welcoming you and welcoming Secretary-General Vladimir Norov in Pakistan. I would like to thank him once again for joining us here today and I look forward to hearing your valuable ideas.

Speaker 2

Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed (Retd) – Vice President CGSS



It is my privilege to represent CGSS in this forum. Centre for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Pakistan since its inception, has continued to play a constructive role in enhancing bilateral and multilateral relationship with countries across the globe. CGSS has actively worked in promoting regional connectivity. CGSS has arranged and participated in various international and national conferences with the aim to enhance regional connectivity.

CGSS became the Member of the SCO Think Tank platform in May 2017 during the 12th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum held in Tashkent that was chaired by His Excellency Vladimir Norov. We are active members of the platform and actively participate in all the conferences and meetings and do our best to make a useful contribution. CGSS is working in close collaboration with the SCO member countries for strengthening diplomatic relations and to strengthen relations with SCO Member states through a series of high level meetings and visits with counterparts. We have also organized various Seminars/Conferences, Roundtable Discussions and In-House Sessions.

In December 2017, H.E. Vladimir Norov visited Pakistan on the invitation of CGSS for participation as Keynote Speaker at the International Conference “National Security Policy – Vision for Pakistan”.

We owe all this to three things; firstly to H.E. Vladimir Norov himself, we have lot of support from our Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, we also have an active cooperation and support from the Area Study Centre of the University of Peshawar, and of course the leadership of our members and the advisors where we have many experienced people with diverse backgrounds.

On behalf of CGSS, I reassure all of you in general and H.E. Vladimir Norov in particular that in future also, we will fully extend support and will cooperate with H.E. and his headquarters in all its future endeavors and we will continue to seek guidance of H.E., Foreign Office, all experts within Pakistan, and the permanent representatives of the member states in SCO. Thank you very much.

Chief Guest

H.E. Vladimir Imamovich Norov - Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization



My dear friend Maj. Gen. Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery – President Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Honorable Mr. Zahoor Ahmed - National Coordinator of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to SCO, Excellency's, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen! Before I get into the session, I would like to take this opportunity to personally put thanks and gratitude to my old friend Maj. Gen. Khalid Amir Jaffery, first for hosting today's webinar, second for inviting me and prominent think-tanks of Pakistan to express our views, and third, for providing us a chance to further strengthen our working relationship.

Dear Participants,

I know Gen. Jaffery since 2017, when he visited Tashkent to participate in SCO think Tank Forum, and that time, I was the Director of Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. My friend, as there is an old English idiom that says, **"No good deed goes unpunished"**, so, I hope, our efforts in our pursuit of sustainable development in the SCO region will be rewarded.

The Center for Global and Strategic Studies of Pakistan is working in close collaboration with the SCO member countries for strengthening diplomatic relations and has organized several international level Conferences/Seminars and Roundtable Discussions where representatives from the SCO region were invited as speakers. Besides, it takes an active part in the activities of the SCO Forum, which is the Organization's Scientific Expert and Advisory mechanism.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Forum's establishment. During this period, this mechanism has proved to be an important platform for dialogue between research and analytical institutions of the SCO Member States, as well as for discussing topical issues of

SCO activities. We appreciate the close contacts of the SCO Secretariat with representatives of Pakistani think-tanks and mass media.

Over the past two months, several of my speeches and interviews have been published in leading Pakistani newspapers. It is gratifying that these publications arouse the Pakistani public's interest in the SCO.

If we talk about the current profile of the Organization, SCO is one of the key mechanisms of security and stability in the Eurasian region. Moreover, today the SCO has become, without exaggeration, an integral element not only of regional but also of international policy and security. The potential of the SCO has increased significantly since India and Pakistan became its members in 2017. The desire of many other countries to become members of the Organization is an indication of its growing credibility in the world.

Currently, SCO member states account for about 20% of the global GDP and more than 40% of the world's population, thus representing the most powerful and densely populated transcontinental Organization, which acts as a new model of cooperation in the Eurasia region. Under the SCO Charter, SCO member states have consistently built non-block, non-confrontational and constructive partnerships that are not directed against third parties. The equality of member states remains unchanged in the SCO's activities. Its specific embodiment is the consensus decision-making provision.

Member States respect the right to choose the path of political, economic, social and cultural development, taking into account the historical experience and national characteristics of each state, promote inter-civilization dialogue, general peace, progress, and harmony, and are guided by the principles of non-interference in internal affairs, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of SCO member states.

The leaders of our States have repeatedly stressed that no matter how the international situation changes, Member States will firmly follow the "Shanghai spirit", stand firm in upholding the concept of equal, open and mutually beneficial cooperation, and strive to maintain regional peace, stability, and prosperity. In this regard, I am very much impressed by the words voiced by His Excellency the Prime Minister Imran Khan at the Bishkek SCO Summit last year, that, " the SCO is a complete expression of our historical roots".

I would like to emphasize that Pakistan actively participates in all SCO mechanisms and is contributing to the development of the Organization. Before joining the SCO as a full-fledged member, India, and Pakistan pledged to strictly comply with the Organization's legal framework. It should not be forgotten that the new member states had been participating in the Organization's work as observers for 12 years and that their accession to the SCO had been preceded by a rather lengthy preparatory phase. The solid package of documents and decisions adopted at the Qingdao and Bishkek summits are the result of the SCO's joint and effective work in a new format.

Dear participants,

As you know, SCO is an organization for multifaceted cooperation. Political, security, economic, and humanitarian cooperation are at the heart of our activities. The SCO's

commitment to political and diplomatic settlement of conflicts is based on strict compliance with universally accepted norms and principles of international law. The Organization continues to advocate strengthening the central coordinating role of the UN in the system of international relations and does not support the use of unilateral pressure measures without the approval of the UN Security Council.

Considering global and regional development forecasts, and reaffirmed security and stability in the region as a top priority in the SCO's activities, the SCO's Development Strategy 2025 has set new benchmarks for the Organization. Despite the growing challenges and threats, tensions in several places in the world, the SCO region, has sustainable stability due to effective cooperation in the field of security within the SCO. Over the years, joint efforts have made it possible to create a solid legal and contractual framework and effective mechanisms of cooperation.

First of all, practical work is carried out based on the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure, which demonstrates significant results in countering terrorism, separatism, and extremism. Last year alone, the competent authorities of the SCO Member States have uncovered 288 crimes of a terrorist and religious extremist nature, suppressed the activities of 78 clandestine terrorist cells, and instituted criminal proceedings against more than 3,800 individuals involved in terrorist and extremist activities.

During this period, 6 channels of transfer of recruits to war zones were blocked, bank accounts of more than 5,500 were blocked, and 24 channels of terrorist financing including access to more than 23,000 Internet resources containing materials of a terrorist or extremist nature were restricted. Besides, the annual Anti-Terrorist Exercises of the armed forces and law enforcement agencies of SCO Member States are held annually.

The organization conducts intensive and diverse activities on the anti-drug trafficking, combining its efforts with those of the United Nations. We regularly organize international anti-drug operations "Web" within the framework of the Anti-Drug Strategy of SCO Member States to curb the supply and distribution of drugs, especially synthetic nature, in the SCO countries. As a result of these operations in the past and this year more than 10 tons of various types of narcotic substances were seized. At the same time, 5 tons of narcotics were seized in Pakistan alone.

However, Pakistan having relevant counter-narcotic experience is now offering joint training sessions to SCO law enforcement agencies at the Academy of Anti-Narcotics Forces in Islamabad. Today, the development of the situation in Afghanistan remains the subject of close attention by the SCO. Following the SCO Bishkek Summit last year, a "Roadmap for the SCO's -Afghanistan Contact Group was approved, which provides for joint actions to develop cooperation in key areas.

Moreover, His Excellency Prime Minister Imran Khan at the Bishkek Summit said, and I quote, "We support the SCO's initiatives in the fight against terrorism." The SCO countries emphasize the non-alternative resolution of the intra-Afghan conflict through political dialogue and the implementation of an inclusive peace process by the Afghans themselves

and under the leadership of the Afghans themselves. In the context of the planned withdrawal of foreign troops, the importance of regional states and international organizations in facilitating Afghanistan's transition to peaceful development is objectively increasing.

In this regard, we call for increased cooperation among all interested states and international institutions, with the UN playing a central coordinating role to achieve stability and development in that country. The SCO sees the territory of Afghanistan not only as a source of threats but also as a space of opportunity. One of the main elements of the country's reconstruction should be its involvement in the process of forming regional transport routes through the expansion of air, road and rail freight transportation, which is in line with the SCO initiatives and the national strategies of its member States.

For example, the Hairaton-Mazar-e-Sharif railway and the proposed Mazar-e-Sharif-Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif-Peshawar routes could provide an opportunity for the creation of a new trans-regional corridor to Eurasian states with direct access to the ports of Pakistan and Iran. In December 2018, following a meeting in Tashkent between the heads of the railway administrations of Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, a protocol was signed to set up a Joint Working Group and a financial consortium to build a new Mazar-e-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway.

The proposed track will be 573 km, and 18 km of bridges, and seven tunnels with a total length of 70 km are planned. The project will allow us to form huge transit flows up to 20 million tons per year. According to preliminary estimates, the cost of the project will be about 5 billion dollars. Concerning cooperation in trade and economic sphere, I note that today the SCO region is characterized by a huge consumer market, highly qualified human resources, rich mineral and energy reserves, as well as advanced production facilities and technologies. The total foreign trade turnover of SCO Member States with foreign countries in 2019 exceeded \$6.3 trillion.

It is important to note that the SCO serves as an effective platform for the interconnectedness of national and regional integration initiatives, including the Eurasian Economic Union, "One Belt, One Road" initiative, and the economic development strategies of member states. Thus, the SCO can play an important role in the realization of the idea of forming the Greater Eurasian Partnership, a broad integration structure based on a network of regional associations and transcontinental projects. At a meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the SCO Member States in November 2019 in Tashkent, a new Program of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the SCO Member States until 2035 was approved. In the short term, the SCO Member States will develop and start implementing promising programmes and projects using modern innovative and "green" technologies until 2025.

In the medium term, it is planned to transform national economies by developing rules on trade and investment within the SCO, promoting the service and e-commerce industry, and simplifying trade procedures. And in the long-term, the goal is to improve competitiveness

and ensure the digital transformation of the national economies of the SCO countries by introducing digital technologies and creating favorable conditions for the gradual implementation of the free movement of goods, capital services, and technologies.

On cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian sphere, I can say that SCO unites the states, whose population reaches about 44% of the world. The palette of ethnic groups, nations, religions, and civilizations of SCO countries gives a particularly bright multicultural dimension. In this regard, the rapprochement of countries and peoples requires not just their constant dialogue but also mutual knowledge of cultures and traditions. The founding document of the SCO Charter defines cultural and humanitarian cooperation among the key priorities of the Organization's activities.

By the way, every ninth UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site is in the SCO region. And the Organization purposefully implements its main civilizational mission - to promote deeper understanding between peoples, mutual knowledge, and rapprochement of cultures of peoples living in the SCO region. This is what makes our countries closer and dearer. In this regard, we attach importance to deepening ties in the sphere of tourism. Through the efforts of the Secretariat the project "Eight Wonders of SCO", aimed at unlocking the cultural and tourist potential of the SCO countries is being implemented. Among them is the Mughal Legacy in the city of Lahore. As part of this project, we held a series of presentations of sites of the eight SCO Member States - in Beijing, Tashkent, St. Petersburg, Dushanbe, and Helsinki. I am confident that a presentation will also be held in Pakistan.

I would also like to touch upon the topic of international relations of the SCO. We are constantly conducting joint events with the United Nations, its specialized institutions, and agencies, as well as with other international and regional organizations like; - ASEAN, OSCE, and CSTO. The SCO regularly participates in the UN Security Council meeting on "UN cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining peace and security".

We are in regular contact with the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, who in May this year sent a letter to the SCO Secretary-General in which he emphasized that our organization is a reliable partner of the United Nations, and in the fight against the pandemic, the SCO leads regional diplomacy and actively promoted cooperation to address the most pressing security problems facing Eurasia today - in particular, the fight against xenophobia, incitement to hatred and extremism.

Referring cooperation among the SCO Member States in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, I would like to note the unprecedented scale of the epidemic, which continues to be fought in our countries, as well as the collective nature of mutual assistance within the framework of the SCO. The pandemic has become a serious test of the vitality and strength of our Organization. Our countries understand that no state can ensure its security if the spread of the disease continues in neighboring countries. In the current difficult situation, coordination of actions, exchange of information and mutual assistance, considering the experience of all the SCO member states are of utmost importance.

On May 13, the Foreign Minister of the SCO Member States held a detailed videoconference and appreciated SCO's effective cooperation with WHO and with other international organizations/ associations in the fight against coronavirus infection. Besides, concrete proposals were made on key areas of cooperation with the pandemic. We are talking about the revitalization of SCO health mechanisms and the holding of regular meetings of health ministers and meetings of heads of services responsible for ensuring the health and epidemiological well-being of SCO countries soon.

The parties noted the importance of practical implementation of the Statement of the Heads of SCO Member States on Joint Counteraction to Epidemic Threats in the SCO Region and the Plan of Basic Measures on Development of Cooperation in the Sphere of Healthcare for 2019-2021, which were adopted in 2018 and 2019 in Qingdao and Bishkek. As a result of the video conference, we can say that SCO intends to make full use of the existing mechanisms, actively continue consultations in the fight against coronavirus, and, through joint efforts, take decisive measures to maintain security and stability and restore economic activity.

In general, the pandemic has not only exacerbated old challenges but has also created new risks in the world. There has been a noticeable increase in financial crimes in the information space, including cyberattacks. Rising unemployment against the background of the pandemic creating fertile ground for recruitment and propaganda work by international terrorism and extremism, interested in attracting new followers to their ranks, threats, and use of biological terrorism has appeared. All these risks and challenges require SCO countries to make even more concrete and joint efforts to maintain stability and security in the region. The pandemic has also had a strong impact on the system of international relations. In my view, the most important task now is to overcome political confrontation on a global and regional scale, to abandon nationalist and populist ideas and protectionism. It is multilateralism and diplomacy that must play a decisive role in fighting the pandemic and rebuilding the world economy. The SCO, at the outset of the pandemic, issued a statement calling on the international community to strengthen cooperation within the framework of the World Health Organization WHO to ensure public health security at the regional and international levels. It was noted that coordinated joint efforts and mutual support would help to successfully overcome the emergency and halt the spread of the epidemic.

This position remains unchanged. Based on that, the Secretariat has maintained dialogue and contacts with many countries and international organizations. Summing up, I would like to stress that SCO's international standing has grown considerably in recent years, and the Organization has secured its status as the leading multilateral structure in the region in the fight against terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking. In total, last year alone the SCO Secretariat took part in more than 70 large-scale international events, over 100 meetings were held at the level of SCO Secretary-General with Presidents, Prime Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, economy and transport, heads of diplomatic missions of 60 countries and many heads of international organizations.

In short, now the "voice" of the SCO is becoming more significant in the regional and global context. We are now preparing for the SCO's Summit in St. Petersburg. As you know, due to the pandemic, the Russian President has decided to postpone the SCO Summit until the autumn of this year. This decision was accepted with understanding by all the SCO Member States. Nevertheless, the work on the preparation of this year's main event is in full swing, more than 20 documents are to be approved at the summit. In addition to the leaders of the SCO countries, the summit in St. Petersburg is planned to be attended by the leaders of Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia - as the heads of observer states of the Organization, Vietnam - as the Chairman of ASEAN, Turkmenistan - as an honorary guest of the host country, the UN Secretary-General and senior administrative officials of the CIS, CSTO and Eurasian Economic Commission

To conclude, I would like to say that the time has come to reflect on the role of the SCO Forum in the system of cooperation within the framework of SCO, and to fill its activities with new contents to increase its practical impact of the Forum's activities. Thank you for your attention.



ANALYSIS/SUMMARY

1. SCO: A Unique Forum In The Comity Of International Organizations

- 1) What brings the SCO member states together as a family, is the mutual respect for each other and for each other's national interests and perspectives.
- 2) Shanghai Spirit can be a torchbearer for the rest of the world and thus makes SCO unique.
- 3) Shanghai Spirit is vital for the future of multilateralism. It brings the principles of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity, and pursuit of common development.

2. Current Profile of SCO

- 1) SCO is one of the key mechanisms of security and stability in the Eurasian region. It has become, an integral element not only of regional but also of international policy and security.
- 2) The potential of the SCO has increased significantly since India and Pakistan became its members in 2017. The desire of many other countries to become members of the Organization is an indication of its growing credibility in the world.
- 3) Currently, SCO member states account for about 20% of the global GDP and more than 40% of the world's population, thus representing the most powerful and densely populated transcontinental Organization.
- 4) The equality of member states remains cornerstone in the SCO's activities. Its specific embodiment is the consensus decision-making provision.
- 5) SCO promote inter-civilization dialogue, peace, progress and harmony, and the principles of non-interference in internal affairs, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of SCO member states.
- 6) SCO is committed to political and diplomatic settlement of conflicts, based on strict compliance with universally accepted norms and principles of international law.
- 7) The Organization continues to advocate strengthening the central coordinating role of the UN and does not support the use of unilateral pressure measures without the approval of the UN Security Council.
- 8) SCO's Development Strategy 2025 has set new benchmarks for the Organization for sustainable stability and effective cooperation in the field of security within the SCO.

A. SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure

- 1) SCO has demonstrated significant results in countering terrorism, separatism, and extremism. The annual Anti-Terrorist Exercises of the armed forces and law enforcement agencies of SCO Member States are held annually.

- 2) In year 2019, SCO Member States have uncovered 288 crimes of terrorist and religious extremist nature, suppressed the activities of 78 clandestine terrorist cells, and instituted criminal proceedings against more than 3,800 individuals involved in terrorist and extremist activities.
- 3) During the last year, 6 channels of transfer of recruits to war zones were blocked, bank accounts of more than 5,500 were blocked, and 24 channels of terrorist financing including access to more than 23,000 Internet resources containing materials of a terrorist or extremist nature were restricted.

B. Anti-Drug Strategy of SCO Member States

- 1) SCO conducts intensive and diverse activities on the anti-drug trafficking, combining its efforts with those of the United Nations.
- 2) International anti-drug operations, "Web", are regularly organized to curb the supply and distribution of drugs, especially synthetic nature, in the SCO countries.
- 3) As a result of these operations in the past and this year more than 10 tons of various types of narcotic substances were seized. At the same time, 5 tons of narcotics were seized in Pakistan alone.
- 4) Pakistan, as having relevant counter-narcotic experience, is offering joint training sessions to SCO law enforcement agencies at the Academy of Anti-Narcotics Forces in Islamabad.

3. Roadmap for the SCO's -Afghanistan Contact Group

- 1) The development of the situation in Afghanistan remains the subject of close attention by the SCO. It sees the territory of Afghanistan not only as a source of threats but also as a space of opportunity.
- 2) The "Roadmap for the SCO's -Afghanistan Contact Group provides for joint actions to develop cooperation in key areas.
- 3) The SCO countries emphasize the non-alternative resolution of the intra-Afghan conflict through political dialogue and the implementation of an inclusive peace process by the Afghans themselves and under the leadership of the Afghans themselves.
- 4) SCO calls for increased cooperation among all interested states and international institutions, with the UN playing a central coordinating role to achieve stability and development in Afghanistan.
- 5) The organization believes that one of the main elements of the Afghanistan's reconstruction should be its involvement in the process of forming regional transport routes through the expansion of air, road and rail freight transportation, which is in line with the SCO initiatives and the national strategies of its member States.

A. Mazar-e-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway

- 1) The Hairaton-Mazar-e-Sharif railway and the proposed Mazar-e-Sharif-Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif-Peshawar routes could provide an opportunity for the creation of a new trans-regional corridor to Eurasian states with direct access to the ports of Pakistan and Iran.
- 2) In December 2018, following a meeting in Tashkent between the heads of the railway administrations of Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, a protocol was signed to set up a Joint Working Group and a financial consortium to build a new Mazar-e-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway.
- 3) The proposed track will be 573 km, and 18 km of bridges, and seven tunnels with a total length of 70 km are planned, and the project will allow to form huge transit flows up to 20 million tons per year.

4. Cooperation in trade and economic sphere in SCO region:

- 1) SCO region is characterized by a huge consumer market, highly qualified human resources, rich mineral and energy reserves, as well as advanced production facilities and technologies.
- 2) The total foreign trade turnover of SCO Member States with foreign countries in 2019 exceeded \$6.3 trillion.
- 3) SCO serves as an effective platform for the interconnectedness of national and regional integration initiatives, including the Eurasian Economic Union, "One Belt, One Road" initiative, and the economic development strategies of member states.
- 4) SCO can play an important role in the realization of the idea of forming the Greater Eurasian Partnership, a broad integration structure based on a network of regional associations and transcontinental projects.

5. "Eight Wonders of SCO"

- 1) For cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian sphere, SCO's palette of ethnic groups, nations, religions, and civilizations of member countries gives it a particularly bright multicultural dimension.
- 2) The founding document of the SCO Charter defines cultural and humanitarian cooperation among the key priorities of the Organization's activities.
- 3) SCO also attaches immense importance to deepening ties in the sphere of tourism. Through the efforts of the Secretariat the project "Eight Wonders of SCO", aimed at unlocking the cultural and tourist potential of the SCO countries is being implemented.
- 4) The Mughal Legacy in the city of Lahore is a part of the project.

6. Pakistan and SCO:

- 1) Pakistan sees SCO as a vital platform for regional development and for the development of common prosperity of our region.
- 2) Pakistan has been actively participating in all SCO meetings since 2017. Pakistan's commitment to its active role in SCO is further strengthened by recently joining the SCO Youth Council.
- 3) The parameters of Pakistan's policy towards the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are very much aligned with the Shanghai Spirit and the objectives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
- 4) Since Prime Minister Imran Khan took over the reins of the government, he has called for a peaceful neighborhood and cooperation for the common development of the region.
- 5) In the 2019, Bishkek Summit, Pakistan stressed upon the commitment of the country towards the objectives and principles of SCO.
- 6) PM Imran Khan at the Bishkek SCO Summit stated that, "SCO is a complete expression of our historical roots".
- 7) Pakistan can be an important bridge between Central Asia, West Asia, and South Asia. With the CPEC, a flagship project of BRI, we can be a vital link between the economies of SCO and help in moving towards the goal of having a more integrated regional development and promoting cooperation between SCO, BRI and the Eurasian Economic Union.
- 8) Pakistan has also vowed to support the SCO's initiatives in the fight against terrorism.

7. SCO's role during the COVID-19 Crisis: Joint Counteraction to Epidemic Threats in the SCO Region:

- 1) The SCO, at the outset of the pandemic, issued a statement calling on the international community to strengthen cooperation within the framework of the World Health Organization WHO to ensure public health security at the regional and international levels.
- 2) The SCO has risen during this crisis and has made some very important policy statements in this context.
- 3) These statements bring out the common understanding between SCO member countries that this is a challenge being faced by all of us and we have to combat this challenge together.
- 4) Coordination of actions, exchange of information and mutual assistance, considering the experience of all the SCO member states are of utmost importance during this critical time.
- 5) Concrete proposals were made, within the framework of SCO, on key areas of cooperation with the pandemic.

- 6) SCO is working on the revitalization of SCO health mechanisms and the holding of regular meetings of health ministers and meetings of heads of services responsible for ensuring the health and epidemiological well-being of SCO countries soon.
- 7) The paramount task is to overcome political confrontation on a global and regional scale, to abandon nationalist and populist ideas and protectionism.
- 8) It is multilateralism and diplomacy that must play a decisive role in fighting the pandemic and rebuilding the world economy.