

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

(July 9-10, 2015, Ufa)

A meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as the SCO or the Organization) was held on July 9 and 10, 2015 in Ufa. The meeting was attended by President N. Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Chairman Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, President A. Atambaev of the Kyrgyz Republic, President V. Putin of the Russian Federation, President E. Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan, President I. Karimov of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The meeting was chaired by President V. Putin of the Russian Federation.

The SCO Secretary General D. Mezentsev and Director of the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) Executive Committee Zhang Sinfen participated in the meeting.

The event was also attended and addressed by the heads of delegations of the SCO observer states: President A. Gani of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Prime Minister N. Modi of the Republic of India, President Ts. Elbegdorzh of Mongolia, Prime Minister N. Sharif of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran I. Rahimpur.

Present at the meeting were also United Nations Under-Secretary-General J. Feltman, Chairman of the Executive Committee - Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States S. Lebedev, Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization N. Bordyuzha, Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Le Luong Minh and Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia Gong Jianwei.

In a confidential and constructive atmosphere, the heads of state discussed the status and prospects for the SCO development, including the progress of the implementation of decisions by the Dushanbe Summit held in 2014. It has been stressed that the Organization evolves in the context of the complex processes underway in the global politics and economy with the main trend being the establishment of a polycentric world model.

The heads of state consider important to strengthen the SCO role in establishing a fair open and equitable international order in order to ensure reliable security and sustainable progress in all countries. To this end, they have adopted the Strategy of the SCO Development until 2025 that defines the main directions of enhanced cooperation in the field of politics, security, economy and humanitarian area. The priorities for the practical activities of the Organization are reflected in Ufa Declaration signed at the summit.

The heads of states had a thorough exchange of views on the situation in the SCO region and important regional and international issues, including the situation in Afghanistan, the Middle East and North Africa, and Ukraine. The SCO member states express their willingness to strengthen multilateral cooperation in ensuring security and stability in the region and the world at large.

The heads of state adopted a joint Statement on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Victory over fascism in the Second World War where they expressed the profound gratitude to those who, through enormous human and material losses, saved the world from the threat of enslavement and destruction, and confirmed willingness to fully strengthen comprehensive cooperation with the international community based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for cultural diversity, desire for common development, jointly creating an effective model of international relations. The meeting highly praised the solemn

events held in the SCO member states dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. The heads of state confirmed their intention to participate actively in the events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese people over the Japanese militarism and the end of the Second World War that will be held in September 2015 in China.

Based on the principle of the SCO openness, the heads of state have taken the decision to start the procedure for admitting the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the SCO as members, as well as for granting Belarus a SCO observer status, and providing the SCO dialogue partner status to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Armenia, the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

The meeting underlined the commitment to enhance cooperation with the observer states and dialogue partners in countering new challenges and threats, and in developing trade and economic ties and cultural exchanges.

The heads of state positively assess the desire of Iran to join the SCO and hope that a comprehensive settlement of the situation around the Iranian nuclear program will encourage Iran's deepened cooperation with the SCO, and create conditions for reviewing the issue of its membership in the SCO in accordance with the established criteria.

The member states believe that an early entry into force for each party of the Protocol on security assurances to the Treaty on Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia will significantly contribute to regional security and strengthening the global non-proliferation regime.

The heads of state spoke in favor of developing the SCO cooperation with international and regional organizations, primarily the UN and its specialized institutions, the CIS, the CSTO, ASEAN and CICA.

The heads of state consider important to continue joint efforts aimed at ensuring the UN member states' co-authorship of the new version of the "Rules of conduct in the field of international information security" distributed in January 2015 on behalf of the SCO member states as an official UN document.

The heads of state stressed the need to build up joint efforts in the fight against terrorism, arms smuggling, human trafficking, infiltration of terrorist and activists of extremist and separatist organizations and movements into the territory of the SCO member states. In this regard, the competent authorities of SCO member states have been mandated to promote information exchange and cooperation in the field of law enforcement and security, as well as start reviewing the issues related to the implementation of the Program of cooperation among SCO member states in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism for 2016-2018.

The heads of state expressed satisfaction with the result of the implementation of the Anti-drug Strategy of the SCO Member States for 2011-2016 and instructed to embark on the elaboration of a draft Anti-drug Strategy of the SCO member states for 2017-2022. In order to strengthen the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, the heads of SCO member states made a Statement on combating the threat of the drug problem.

The heads of state stressed the need to build up collective efforts aimed at addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges and threats, deepening dialogue and cooperation in ensuring integrated security, primarily in combating terrorism, separatism, extremism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, cross-border organized crime and in strengthening international information security and emergency response.

The heads of state called for further development of the activities of the SCO Regional Antiterrorist Structure in the field of combating terrorism, separatism and extremism.

The heads of state noted that the increased scale of terrorism and extremism and combined efforts by various terrorist groups stand out among the challenges and threats to international security, and they supported stepping up the joint struggle of the international community with terrorist organizations in line with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The heads of state consider important to make joint efforts aimed at ensuring sustainable socio-economic growth, creating favorable conditions for trade and investment, promoting cooperation in high-tech sectors of the economy, improving transport, logistics, information and communications and other infrastructure.

The heads of state consider necessary to continue the work aimed at the establishment of the SCO Development Fund (Special Account) and SCO Bank Association in order to stimulate trade and investment links in the region, as well as accelerate the process of entry into force of the Agreement between the governments of SCO member states on favorable conditions for international road transport signed on September 12, 2014 in Dushanbe.

The heads of state reaffirmed their support to the initiative of the People's Republic of China regarding the Silk Road Economic Belt and advocated arranging consultations and information exchange between the relevant departments of the SCO member states.

The heads of state favor elaboration of specific measures to promote multilateral cooperation in the fields of industry, energy, transport, telecommunications, science and innovation, and agriculture. They consider advisable to involve the SCO Business Council and SCO Interbank Association in this work.

The heads of state supported further deepening of cooperation in the field of culture, science and technology, health, education, tourism and sports in order to strengthen good-neighborly relations, mutual respect and productive cooperation in the SCO region.

The heads of state heard and endorsed a report of the SCO Secretary-General on the Organization's activities over the past year and report of the Council of the SCO RATS on its activities in 2014. Both reports noted a significant contribution of the SCO permanent bodies to the improved coordination and practical cooperation within the Organization.

The heads of state decided to appoint R. Alimov (Republic of Tajikistan) to the position of the SCO Secretary-General and E. Sysoev (Russian Federation) as the Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Antiterrorist Structure for the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018.

The heads of state highly appreciated the level of organization and effectiveness of Russia's chairmanship in the SCO. During this period the following meetings were held: the meeting of the Council of Heads of Governments of member states (December 14-15, 2014 in Astana), meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Ministers (June 3, 2015 in Moscow), meeting of the RATS Council (September 19, 2014 in Dushanbe and April 10, 2015 in Tashkent), meeting of attorneys general (October 7-8, 2014 in Tashkent), meeting of the SCO Forum (March 10-11, 2015 in Khanty-Mansiysk), meeting of secretaries of security councils (April 14, 2015 in Moscow), meeting of heads of competent bodies of the SCO member states in charge of combating drug trafficking (April 21, 2015 in Moscow,) meeting of justice ministers (September 18-19, 2014 in Vladivostok), meeting of education ministries (October 8, 2014 in Barnaul), meeting of agriculture ministers (October 9, 2014 in Moscow), meeting of ministers responsible for external economic and trade relations (November 19, 2014 in Astana), meeting of ministers of health (July 7 2015 in Moscow), meeting of ministers of culture (April 20, 2015 in Moscow), meeting of transport ministers (May 15, 2015 in Ufa), meeting of ministers of interior and public security (June 4-5, 2015 in Dushanbe), meeting of defense ministers (June 29-30, 2015 in St. Petersburg), meeting of heads of national tourism administrations (March 25, 2015 in Moscow),

meeting of heads of the SCO member states' services responsible for sanitary and epidemiological welfare (April 17, 2015 in Moscow), as well as other events at various levels.

The heads of state highly appreciated the chairmanship of the Russian Federation in the SCO and expressed gratitude to the Russian side for its hospitality during the events held in the city of Ufa.

The chairmanship of the SCO in the forthcoming period is being assumed by the Republic of Uzbekistan. The next meeting of the Council of Heads of SCO member states will be held in 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.