

**STATEMENT**  
**BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT (PRIME MINISTERS) OF**  
**THE MEMBER STATES OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION**  
**ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

Supporting strengthened economic development in the SCO region, improved welfare of peoples and achievement of the objectives of multilateral trade and economic cooperation within the Organization, taking into account the member states' initiatives aimed at promoting regional economic cooperation, including a draft of the People's Republic of China on the establishment of the Silk Road Economic Belt, the heads of government (Prime Ministers) of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization declare the following.

1. Enhanced regional economic cooperation is essential for further improving the welfare of the peoples of the SCO countries and ensuring sustainable socio-economic development of the SCO member states.

The heads of government consider that, given the slow pace of recovery of the world economy, the development of regional economic cooperation and partnership facilitates the search for new models of international cooperation and global governance. The progress of this process is a positive factor in strengthening the partnership between countries, boosting investment and consumption, expanding demand and employment and, ultimately, in ensuring multi-faceted balanced and sustainable independent development.

In this regard, the heads of government confirm their support to the initiative of the People's Republic of China on the establishment of the Silk Road Economic Belt which shares the SCO development goals.

2. The heads of government consider important to use the experience and relevant institutions of economic cooperation available in the SCO. Based on the priority areas such as infrastructure construction and investment in production, the member states will enhance bilateral and multilateral economic and trade cooperation and jointly promote the industrialization and modernization processes in the region.

In view of the SCO Development Strategy until 2025, the meeting stressed the need to prepare a List of Measures for further development of project activities within the Organization in 2017-2021 in order to further expand mutually beneficial cooperation on issues of mutual interest, which will contribute to sustainable socio-economic development of the SCO member states and improve the welfare of their peoples.

3. The heads of government consider that in order to develop regional economic cooperation it is important to:

- promote multilateral cooperation in transport and international transport corridors, implement joint infrastructure projects of common interest that promote expansion of transport and communication capacity and realization of the region's transit potential, development of rail transport, including the high-speed lines, creation of multi-modal logistics centers, and introduction of advanced and innovative technologies in transport.
- accelerate an entry into force of the Agreement between the governments of SCO member states on favorable conditions for international road transport (September 12, 2014, Dushanbe) and drafting of individual agreements on streamlining of formalities related to visa issuance, border, customs, transport, phytosanitary and veterinary controls in international road transport; and take practical measures to implement the agreements reached in the framework of the seventh meeting of transport ministers of the SCO

member states (May 15, 2015, Ufa).

- contribute to increased volume of mutual trade in goods and services, as well as to their improved quality through diversification of commodity structure, and develop cooperation in the field of e-commerce.
- promote favorable investment climate in the region.
- cooperate in the field of industrialization, create, subject to appropriate conditions in place, industrial parks and economic cooperation zones in the territory of the member states and increase ties between enterprises for the joint introduction of advanced technologies and creation of additional jobs.
- promote cooperation and establishment of close trade, investment and academic relations in high-tech sectors such as information technology, medical and educational services, e-commerce and energy efficiency with effective protection of intellectual property rights, including cooperation in the prevention, detection and suppression of counterfeit goods import and export.
- promote financial cooperation within the SCO through the establishment of financial mechanisms supporting project activities, jointly prevent and address regional financial risks, make currency swaps to ensure stability in the financial markets, tap the capacity of bank and investment institutions for funding economic projects in the SCO region.

4. The heads of government are convinced that the joint work of the SCO member states, in close cooperation with the SCO observers states and dialogue partners, *inter alia*, in the framework of the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative, based on the principles of transparency, mutual respect, equality, openness to all interested parties will contribute to the sustained and sustainable economic growth in the interests of preserving and maintaining peace and stability in the region.

*December 15, 2015, Zhengzhou*