

**2<sup>nd</sup> High-Level Special Event  
UN and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation  
Cooperation aimed at strengthening peace, security and stability**

**INDIA STATEMENT  
by  
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Deputy Permanent Representative**

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Excellencies,

We would like to thank the delegation of Kyrgyzstan for organizing this special event. We would also like to thank the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the SCO Secretary General Rashid Alimov for their remarks and sharing their valuable perspectives.

We value our recent accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. As has been mentioned, the members of the SCO now comprise nearly 40% of the global population.

In today's globalized world, our peace and prosperity can only be collective. This is also the *Raison d'être* of the United Nations.

While economic and other forms of globalisation offer a range of opportunities to nations, multiple threats and challenges also cut across borders requiring much closer cooperation among nation states.

The global landscape today is also one of multiple conflicts and terrorism, that are impacting security across borders. These and other challenges are straining the spirit of international cooperation. It is a time when multilateralism needs to be strengthened to ensure our collective peace and prosperity.

The United Nations with its universal membership and various important regional organisations such as the SCO represent our common endeavours to address our common challenges.

One of the ways to strengthen multilateralism is to enhance cooperation among such bodies for more effective results in the areas that they seek to address.

The UN needs additional capabilities to deal with these contemporary threats. In this context, regional and other organisations would complement the work of the UN in addressing these issues. Given the specialised knowledge, functional expertise and understanding of regional contexts, organizations like SCO will be able to enhance the work of the UN in strengthening peace, security and stability.

Genuine cooperation can help both the UN and the SCO work towards their objectives more constructively.

Despite being a young organisation, the SCO has been successful in contributing to managing the transition in the Central Asian region in the last two decades by enhancing the level of trust and security in the region.

The SCO has focused on the fight against terrorism, which continues to be a major threat to global peace and security. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent is a useful mechanism for coordinated action against terrorism and drugs.

The fight against terrorism and drug trafficking can be an important area of broader cooperation between the United Nations and the SCO. Only through collective cooperation, we would be able to fully disrupt the terror organizations and networks, identify and hold accountable, and take strong measures against those who encourage, support and finance terrorism and provide sanctuary to terrorists. We look forward to an increased cooperation and the signing of the MoU between the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure and UN's Office for Counter-Terrorism.

Strengthening regional security, economic cooperation, transit and energy linkages and deepening of cultural ties are some of the areas where cooperation between the UN and SCO will contribute positively. Regarding connectivity issues our views are well known and have been articulated in SCO and elsewhere.

We are support of the cooperation of the SCO with UNESCAP and UNESCO. We welcome initiatives to enhance cooperation with various UN entities including the UNCND, UNESCO, UNECE and the World Tourism Organisation.

India brings a range of capacities to the various SCO activities. We remain committed to work with our partners both in the SCO and in the UN towards a better future for all of us.

Thank you.