

# REGIONAL MEDIATION ROLE AND IMPORTANCE IN THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION OF UZBEKISTAN

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## Abstract

Analyzes the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the institutional legal basis of its organization, the participation of Uzbekistan in the framework of the organization, its initiatives, and the prospects expected from it.

Scientific research of the SCO and prediction of its future are gaining urgent importance in today's rapidly changing system of international relations. Factors such as expansion of the organization's geopolitical map due to the increase in the number of members, as well as a high level of economic potential, open wide opportunities for the developing countries of the SCO. From this point of view, Uzbekistan, which is considered a full member, is promoting many initiatives and gaining opportunities to make the most of such opportunities.

depend on the effectiveness of such initiatives and proposals. During the analysis, we discuss Uzbekistan's participation in the organization, its economic goals and geopolitical strategies.

**Keywords:** SCO, Qingdao Summit, geopolitics, strategy, one space, one road, green belt, Afghanistan, Iran, India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, East-West, North-South, geographical o Transport and logistics.

## Introduction

Uzbekistan, as one of the founding states of the SCO, is interested in fully revealing its potential by increasing practical cooperation in promising areas that meet the vital interests of all participating states.

The main reason for Uzbekistan joining this organization was the ongoing civil war in the region bordering Afghanistan at that time, the turbulent situation in Tajikistan, the expansion of the territory of the subversive activities of various terrorist groups covering almost all countries. Moreover, the desire of the Republic to expand and develop full-fledged trade and economic relations in the Central Asian countries, as well as on the Eurasian continent, in order to develop its economy, served as the main motive for this. To date, investment, tourism and trade and economic cooperation within the SCO have a positive impact on the development of the economy of Uzbekistan<sup>1</sup>.



With the election of Shavkat Mirziyoyev as president of the Republic of Uzbekistan in December 2016, a radical change in the country's foreign policy took place. First of all, the Central Asian direction of Uzbek diplomacy has undergone changes in positive character.

President Sh.M.Mirziyoyev identified Central Asia as the main priority of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Stability, cooperation, strengthening good neighborliness and a positive resolution of existing disagreements with neighboring countries have become the main goals of the new regional direction of Tashkent<sup>2</sup>.

## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Changes in Uzbekistan's foreign policy are manifested in its multilateral diplomacy. In the following years, Tashkent significantly strengthened its participation in international and regional structures. Obviously, this trend also applies to SCO. In this regard, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted the following in his address to the Parliament of Uzbekistan in January 2020“..... The development of relations with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization remains an important aspect of Uzbekistan's foreign policy<sup>3</sup>.

Analyzing the activities of Tashkent within the framework of the organization in recent years, we can highlight the following new peculiarities. First of all, for Uzbekistan, the SCO should remain an important multilateral platform, first of all, in ensuring stability and wide cooperation in Central Asia. Tashkent organization at the expense of India and Pakistan in 2017 despite the expansion, Central Asia expresses confidence that the SCO should remain the “geographical axis” of 4.

Also, the regional attention of Uzbekistan can be clearly seen in the desire of the SCO to strengthen its focus on the Afghan issue in the context of Air's more active participation in regional processes <sup>5</sup> . That is, “regionalism” in pragmatic foreign policy is clearly expressed in its updated “SCO course”.

Secondly, constructivism has increased significantly in Tashkent's approaches to SCO. Obviously, a change to thematic areas, where the country has previously distanced itself. Thus, in recent times, representatives of the Republic are fully involved in joint anti-terrorist and military exercises of the SCO. In particular, on June 27, 2007, Uzbekistan joined the agreement of August 28, 2008 “on the procedure for organizing and conducting joint anti-terrorism training of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”and the agreement “on conducting joint military training of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”. Thirdly, initiative and pragmatism are becoming bright elements of Uzbekistan's multilateral diplomacy, including within the SCO. The proposals put forward by Tashkent to expand multilateral cooperation in the national interests of our country are in line with the priorities of strengthening stability and cooperation in the region.

Uzbekistan has in recent years initiated the launch of new cooperation platforms within the SCO, including the SCO public diplomacy center in Tashkent, the meeting mechanism of heads of railway administrations, the Silk Road International Tourism Institute in Samarkand, etc. .

In total, over the past six years, the Uzbek side has promoted more than 40 initiatives. This is a very serious and important indicator.



Fourth, Uzbekistan recognizes many achievements in the development of the organization and advocates the effective use of the huge potential of multilateral cooperation at its disposal.

Of great interest to Uzbekistan is the construction of the transafgan Railway, which will also pass through Afghanistan in the future in mutually beneficial cooperation and will connect Central Asia and China with Iran and Pakistan. The railway of the Railway administrations of the Member States of the SCO, presented two years ago the concept of mutual cooperation in the field of transport occupies an important place in the field of trade and economic relations. It should be noted that this document was prepared on the initiative of the president of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The document provides for an increase in the effectiveness of the use of existing railway lines on the territory of the organization and the construction of new ones, further increase in the volume of mutual and transit freight transport.

In this regard, it is envisaged that the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-China Railway will become an important link of the regional transport network within the framework of the East-West project in the future. The North-South project will allow all geographically closed countries of Central Asia to get to the ports of Europe, East and Southeast Asia, the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea. According to experts, transportation of at least 5 million tons of cargo per year can fully cover the cost of its construction.

But the stable and consistent development of SCO, unfortunately, is taking place in the context of growing conflicts, threats and threats in the world. Therefore, Tashkent is now preparing to implement the most important topic of the development of the SCO – the provision of security and stability in its space. In the activities of the organization, this direction is of particular importance.

At the same time, it should be noted separately that the SCO Charter does not have any obligations on joint defense. The organization absolutely does not have the attributes of the military block, and, accordingly, its organizational structure does not contain command or coordinating structures in the field of Defense. The main thing here is the concentrated political will of its participants, in which the ability of the presiding state to focus the attention of the SCO member states on what is most relevant today.

### Conclusions

During its twenty years of development, the SCO organization has been honored as an integral part of world political processes and even began to be recognized as an alternative to NATO. In this, the development of the approach opened a wide path to the Samarkand summit of 2022. In this graduation qualification work, the following conclusions were drawn with a study of the activities and prospects of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization:

First of all, the research of non-state actors of international relations has reached a wide climax from the second half of the 20th century, and their tansif has been formed: intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, transnational corporations and other social forces conducting international field activities. International organizations that are considered non-state actors are distinguished by three main signs in relation to other actors:

- constituent documents recorded, political aspiration for cooperation;

- the presence of a permanent apparatus that ensures the succession sequence in the development of the organization;
- independence of authority and decisions.

Secondly, the prestige and importance of any international organization is determined by the efficiency of the attention and activities given to it in the world. The SCO became a prestigious international organization in a relatively short time. It is worth noting that, when combined with observer countries, the SCO unites half of the world's population. This will increase its potential in the development of the main areas of activity – Economic Cooperation and strengthening regional security. Special emphasis is placed on these two priorities. After all, it is the main goal of the organization to develop cooperation through security, to achieve common progress.

Thirdly, the main achievement of the SCO in ensuring regional security and stability is the fight against terrorism, extremism and separatism. So far, when analyzing the activities of the SCO in the fight against international terrorism, the following specific aspects and achievements can be observed: 1) in the fight against international terrorism, a single agreement was developed in the O'rati of member states – the Shanghai convention. 2) as a permanent body within the framework of the SCO is the establishment of a regional counterterrorism structure (MATT-RATS) in the city of Tashkent.

Fourth, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is today a major intergovernmental organization of the world in terms of its political-economic and military potential. The Samarkand summit of the SCO, held from 14 to 15 September 2022, became the first meeting of heads of state and government of a total of nine member states. Its geopolitical significance was manifested in: (a) the SCO further enhanced its potential and expanded its geographical sphere of influence. b) for the first time in the history of the Organization, countries with nuclear potential and at the same time rival countries – India and Pakistan - officially participated as full-fledged members; s) a Chinese-Indian-Pakistani axis of cooperation has been formed, whose historical and economic interests are not always consistent; d) a new format of the Sino-Indian-Russian axis has been formed; e) In particular, it turned out that the megoloyih of China's huge economic initiative – One Space-One Road-will not be warmly welcomed by India.

Fifth, the SCO organization is taking shape as a non-Western Global Governance Institute and is becoming a new paradigm of international relations. During the summit chaired by the Republic of Uzbekistan, held on September 14-15, 2022, the SCO widely discussed issues of developing political, trade and economic and humanitarian cooperation between member states, together combating terrorism, religious extremism, drug and arms smuggling, strengthening regional security and stability

Sixth, the importance of the SCO for the states of the region in the context of the formation of a new balance of power in Central Asia and the provision of geostrategic interests of the leading states in the region can be assessed as follows:

- the countries of the region have merged into the SCO framework in order to maintain their balance in domestic and foreign policy;



-wider use of the capacity of leading member states to combat global threats, eliminate the risk of religious extremism and terrorism, fight against organized crime and the trade of non-toxic substances, expand the possibilities of economic development;

- The existence of China, which stands in balance against Russia, which seeks to keep the countries of the region within the framework of influence, in a different aspect of the SCO from the CIS;

- It is possible to list the benefits of member states in ensuring stability in Afghanistan.

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