

Protocol
on Cooperation and Coordination of Activities between the Ministries of
Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation
Organization

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as "The Parties"),

Guided by the goals, tasks and principles set forth in the Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization dated of June 7, 2002,

Considering the cooperation in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as "the SCO") among the priorities of the foreign policy of the Member States of the SCO,

Emphasizing great importance to the effective implementation of the agreements reached by the heads of States and governments in various areas of cooperation between the member States of the SCO

Considering the need to develop effective cooperation in the field of foreign policy in order to seek common positions on foreign policy issues of common interest, in particular in international organizations and at international fora,

Considering it useful to have consultations and exchange of views at various levels on regional and international issues of mutual interest,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization shall hold regular meetings (once a year) and extraordinary meetings of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the SCO (CMFA) in accordance with Article 7 of the SCO Charter. The procedure of regular and extraordinary meetings of the CMFA shall be specified by the Regulations on the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SCO Member States dated May 29, 2003.

By agreement of the Foreign Ministers of the SCO Member States they shall hold their meetings during the sessions of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Article 2

The Parties shall organize consultations at various levels, including at the level of heads of departments of the ministries of foreign affairs, in order to compare positions and develop common views on major international issues, in particular on the strengthening of international peace and security in the Central Asian region and around, on creating an effective system of collective security in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as on the issue of the fight against international terrorism, separatism, extremism, transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking of arms and narcotic drugs.

Where necessary and by mutual agreement of the Parties, working groups of experts may be established on a temporary basis to address specific issues, including preparation of draft documents.

As agreed by the Parties, representatives of other international organizations and/or states may be invited on an ad hoc basis to participate in consultations. Invitations shall be forwarded by the SCO Secretary General not later than two months prior to consultations.

Expenses for travel to the destination and return, as well as for accommodation in the country shall be borne by the sending State, while the receiving State shall provide premises for consultations.

Article 3

If necessary, the Secretariat of the SCO may initiate (on its own or at the request of one of the Parties) organizing and conducting consultations in Beijing (SCO Secretariat) attended by the permanent representatives of SCO member states to the SCO Secretariat.

Article 4

On a annual basis, the SCO Secretariat shall draft a program of cooperation between the ministries of foreign affairs of the SCO Member States for the next calendar year based on the proposals submitted by the Parties to the SCO Secretariat prior to the end of the first quarter of current year through their permanent representatives to the SCO Secretariat. No later than May of the current year, the SCO Secretary General shall forward the draft program for review and approval by the Council of National Coordinators of the SCO Member States.

Article 5

The Parties shall cooperate and consult with a view to developing coherent and common positions in the framework of international and regional organizations and fora.

To this end, in particular, regular (at least quarterly) consultations shall be held between the Permanent Representatives of the SCO Member States to the UN in New York.

Article 6

The Parties shall promote the development and study of the experience of the diplomatic services of the SCO Member States through holding relevant multilateral seminars and conducting joint research using the capacity of the SCO Secretariat to this end.

In order to increase the efficiency of interaction at the international arena and taking advantage of the SCO Secretariat and the permanent representatives of the SCO Member States to the SCO Secretariat, the Parties shall regularly exchange information on issues of mutual interest.

Article 7

The Parties shall cooperate at the level of diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan in third countries.

Article 8

By decision of the CMFA, this Protocol may be changed and/or amended. Relevant decisions shall be issued as protocols and enter into force on the date of signing.

Article 9

This Protocol shall enter into force on the date of signing and be valid for five years. It shall be automatically extended for subsequent periods of five years, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

Done at the city of Tashkent on June 17, 2004, in a single original, in the Russian and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

signatures