



Statement by

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High Level Special Event

On

The United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Jointly Countering Challenges and Threats

22 November, 2016

Let me begin by thanking the Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Mr. Rashid Alimov who is in our midst today. We would also like to thank the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan for having been present here earlier in the opening ceremony. I also thank the Mission of Kazakhstan for organizing today's event on the topic of 'the United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Jointly Countering Challenges and Threats'. The word 'jointly' and its accompanying spirit is the key here. This spirit is only the best guarantee against the uncertainties that concern us today.

- 2. The Raison d'être of the UN is to bring peace and prosperity to all, all the time and everywhere. However headlines of chaos, confusion, and conflict continue to dominate some part of the world or other. This poses questions about UN's capabilities to foresee these conflicts or oversee their solutions. Additional capabilities are not easily added. Therefore, a genuine cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations is crucial. It offers the UN eyes and ears as well as heads and hands on the ground.
- 3. The UN has pursued such interaction with several regional organizations. India has supported such broader cooperation with the United Nations under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. Yesterday, the UNGA also endorsed this spirit by adopting resolutions on cooperation of the UN with several regional organizations, including the SCO.

Madam Chairperson,

- 4. The SCO is a young organization. However, the evolution has been rapid. Its achievements have been exemplary including the capability to manage the transition in the Central Asian region in the last two decades. The organization has also been successful in enhancing the level of security and trust in the region. This learning could also be put to use in other parts of the world.
- 5. SCO has focused on the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism in all their forms. The determination to fight against drugs trafficking and adding to the capabilities of Regional antiterrorist structure are noteworthy. As highlighted by the Director of

the Regional Anti-terrorist Structure, the fight against terrorism can be an important area of broader cooperation between the UN and the SCO. Only through the Joint efforts, we would be able to fully disrupt 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.

Madam Chairperson

- 6. On its 15th anniversary this year, the SCO is set to 'widen' its membership and 'deepen' its area of cooperation. Strengthening regional security, economic cooperation, transit and transport, energy linkages, and deepening of cultural ties are some of the areas of cooperation. Cooperation with the UN will contribute positively to this process.
- 7. Connectivity is one important area of SCO's widening and deepening process. India is committed to contribute to this. The Chabahar agreement between Afghanistan, Iran and India, our decision to join International North South Transport Corridor, and the Ashgabat Agreement is an outcome of this resolve.

Madam Chairperson,

8. The UNGA resolution on Afghanistan adopted on 17 November called on the SCO to strengthen partnership and cooperation with Afghanistan. Strengthening of partnership and cooperation between SCO and Afghanistan could make an effective contribution to Afghan prosperity and security. The cooperation however has to be based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, mutual non-use or threat of use of force.

Madam Chairperson,

9. India looks forward to join the next SCO Summit in Astana next year as an equal partner. India will bring a range of capacities to the various SCO initiatives. The SCO Summit will also coincide with the International Specialized Exhibition EXPO-2017 whose focus is Green Economy. India looks forward to contributing to this.

Madam Chairperson,

- 10. India remains committed to work with our partners both in SCO and in the UN towards a better future for all of us.
- 11. Today's discussion has thrown up new ideas for cooperation. We hope that we would be able to build on some of them.

Thank you.
