



# POSITION PAPER

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

*“Peace, development and cooperation remain the foundation of a stable and prosperous future.”*

Portfolio: Secretary General, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Agenda: **Strengthening Regional Security, Economic Cooperation, and Sustainable Development**

### Introduction

In an increasingly interconnected world, nations face challenges that extend far beyond their borders. Terrorism, climate change, economic instability, cybersecurity threats, and technological disruptions are issues that no country can effectively address in isolation. These challenges highlight the growing importance of international and regional cooperation. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) serves as a significant platform that brings together member states to promote dialogue, strengthen mutual trust, and work collectively towards peace, stability, and development across Eurasia.

As Secretary General of the SCO, I recognise the importance of this agenda, as regional security, economic cooperation, and sustainable development are deeply interconnected. Sustainable growth cannot exist without stability, and long-term stability cannot be achieved without economic progress and collaborative development.

### The Role and Importance of the SCO

Since its establishment in 2001, the SCO has evolved into one of the world's largest regional organisations. Its member states represent a substantial share of the global population and occupy a strategically important region. While the organisation was initially formed to address security concerns, it has gradually expanded its focus to include economic cooperation, connectivity, cultural exchange, technological advancement, and sustainable development.

One of the SCO's greatest strengths lies in its ability to bring together nations with diverse political systems, economic priorities, and strategic interests. Despite these differences, the organisation has continued to provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation,

demonstrating that constructive engagement remains possible even during periods of global uncertainty.

## Regional Security

Security continues to be a fundamental pillar of the SCO. Threats such as terrorism, extremism, cybercrime, organised crime, and cross-border instability remain significant challenges for many member states. These issues not only threaten public safety but also hinder economic growth and long-term development.

The SCO has consistently emphasized cooperation in addressing such threats through information sharing, joint exercises, dialogue, and coordinated initiatives. However, lasting security requires more than defensive measures alone. Education, economic opportunity, social inclusion, and community development are equally important in addressing the root causes of instability and conflict.

## Economic Cooperation and Sustainable Growth

Economic cooperation remains essential for strengthening regional prosperity. Increased trade, infrastructure development, regional connectivity, and investment partnerships can create opportunities for growth while improving the quality of life for millions of people.

At the same time, development must remain sustainable and inclusive. Economic progress should not only be measured through financial growth but also through improvements in living standards, access to opportunities, and environmental responsibility. Sustainable development ensures that future generations can benefit from the progress achieved today.

## Technology and Innovation

Technological advancement is rapidly reshaping economies and societies across the world. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, cybersecurity systems, and scientific innovation offer significant opportunities for development and cooperation.

Greater technological collaboration among SCO member states can strengthen innovation, improve educational opportunities, enhance cybersecurity, and support economic modernisation. At the same time, member states must work together to ensure that technological progress remains responsible, secure, and beneficial for all sections of society.

## Environmental Responsibility

Environmental challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, pollution, and resource management affect many regions across Eurasia. These challenges transcend national borders and require collective responses.

The SCO has the potential to encourage greater cooperation in renewable energy, sustainable resource management, environmental protection, and climate resilience. By working together, member states can address environmental concerns while supporting broader goals of sustainable development.

## Conclusion

The challenges facing Eurasia today are complex, interconnected, and increasingly global in nature. No single nation can address these issues alone. Regional security, economic cooperation, technological advancement, and sustainable development must be pursued through collective effort and meaningful collaboration.

As Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, I believe that dialogue, mutual respect, and constructive cooperation remain the most effective tools for addressing shared challenges. By strengthening partnerships, encouraging innovation, and promoting sustainable development, SCO member states can contribute to a more secure, stable, and prosperous future for the region and beyond.

- Viraj Kaushal  
Secretary-General ,  
SCO