CHAPTER-5

CONCLUSION

Russia being the largest country and China being the most populous country on the planet, both collectively are undoubtedly the two major powers of the international system. Russia being the successor of erstwhile Soviet Union wishes to regain the role once Soviet Union enjoyed whereas China being a communist country is also showing signs of new ambitions based on her history, population and military power and also her emergence as an important international economic actor.

China has embarked on an extensive modernization effort which aims exclusively at resisting aggression, curbing armed subversion and defending state sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. Russia plays a vital role in the modernization of Chinese armed forces by providing them advanced weaponry on reasonable rate without any string attached.

Both Russia and China have greater common ground to chalk out their strategy to deal with outside world compare to the issues on which they are at odds. Russo-Chinese link is built on a number of shared concerns which includes:

- the struggle against US led unipolar hegemonism;
- unilateral humanitarian interventionism by passing UN;
- Islamic extremism and secessionism;
- opposition to NATO enlargement and inter-reference in the internal matters;
- opposition to NMD and TMD;
- opposition to US withdrawal from ABM Treaty of 1972
- restructuring of UN
- opposition to US led NATO forces to stay longer in the Central Asian region;
- near mutual acceptance of Russia’s hegemony as a guarantor of order in Eurasia
- Strengthening the SCO
- Working together in the multilateral forums like WTO etc.
The Russian and Chinese economies are among the ten fastest growing economies in the world. Both have vast potentials to become the economic super power. Russian oil and gas pipelines are the life lines for the Western Europe. Russia is the second largest producer of crude oil after Saudi Arabia and it has the largest gas reserves. Whereas China is the energy hungry country with abundant cheap labour and have cutting edge in manufacturing industry. Both countries have ample scope to get benefitted from each other’s expertise.

Russian arms sale consists major portion in Russo-Chinese trade. Russian defence industries are facing financial crunch in order to remain competitive in highly volatile defence equipment market to find its buyers. Here China can play vital role to meet much needed financial crunch by using its huge foreign exchange reserves with other countries like India and Iran. China is the largest arms buyer from Russia. China has acquired many advanced weaponry from Russia like SU-30 MKK fighter planes, Akula Class nuclear submarines etc. which have provided advantage to the Chinese armed forces.

The Putin-Hu declaration on the ‘New World Order’ in 21st Century on July 1, 2005 provided a sound base for further converting the relations between the two countries. Both agreed that ‘All countries of the world must strictly abide by the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs of each other, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence. Both attacked US ‘double standards’ in the war against terrorism (though without mentioning).

The declaration of ‘New World Order in 21st Century’ confirms that relations between two ‘headed eagle’ and ‘dragon’ have reached on its height. Both countries have gone very far and deep in their defence translations and no longer count each other as enemies. Their defence personnel, scientists, students are getting training in each other’s establishments. Russia is building up nuclear reactors in China and has offered partnership in the state in the state owned space agency GLONASS which itself indicates the comfort level in their ever flourishing bilateral relations.

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One of the prime reasons for developing close ties between Moscow and Beijing in the US factor, the common cause of concern for the both countries. US’s continuous military and economic support to Taiwan and its huge military presence poses grave threat to the Chinese sovereignty. USA has also agreed to deploy TMD technology to Taiwan, which may virtually neutralize Chinese missile capabilities and would disturb the strategic balance in the region.

Russia is consistently under immense pressure from western human rights groups and media on the issue of human rights violations in the Chechnya war. These groups had virtually shut their eyes on Moscow Theatre tragedy and Beslan School crisis in which hundreds of Russian people lost their lives. It shows as if these human rights groups and media people are acting at the behest of their respective governments to settle their political goals with Moscow. When the issue of human rights violations by US forces comes from Iraq or Afghanistan, these groups keep their mouth shut.

To neutralize these double standards on terrorism, both Russia and China call for implementation of UN charter and International Laws globally without any fear or favour. The most frequent violator of international laws, Israel always go unpunished due to overt and covert support from the USA but a single incidence of Tianmen Square in China made her virtually untouchable in the international politics.

Initially there was some opposition within the Russian establishment to the entry of the US troops in Central Asia, an area of traditional Russian influence. However, subsequently, Moscow decided to allow air corridors, the use of its bases for the search and secure operations as well as sharing of intelligence regarding the terrorist networks operating in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan offered its airspace and bases to the US troops ahead of other CARs, whereas Moscow preferred to maintain the façade of coordinated stand of all the CIS states. Kyrgyzstan claimed that the granting of Manas air base was coordinated in advance with its partners in the CIS Collective Security Treaty.

Manas airbase of Kyrgyzstan is just 200 miles away from Chinese territory from where US troops can keep their eye on Chinese troop movements. Presence of US troops

Development of closer ties between Russia and US, especially after coming of Obama regime is causing concerns in Beijing. Before Obama regime, Bush administration worked closely with Russia especially after September 2001 terrorist attack.

After the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington and subsequent military action taken by US and NATO against Al-Qaeda and Talibans have radically altered the geopolitical situation in Central Asian Region. Russia and Central Asian republics acquired a prominence place in the US military strategy in Afghanistan military bases in Baghram and Kandahar in Afghanistan and the bases of Khanabad in Uzbekistan. It is believed that these facilities helped US military to quickly establish air superiority thought Central Asia and even to the Middle East. It is believed that in offering bases to the USA, the Central Asian States sought security against the threat of terrorist attacks as well as gain maneuvering space vis-à-vis Russia and China. CARs hoped to gain financially from the US presence.

The impact of post-September 11 developments on China has been the mixed one. China gained in so far as combating international terrorism became the number one task of the US policy. Prior to it economically and militarily growing China was increasingly being projected as emerging strategic rival of sole super power. China reluctantly, joined the international community in supporting the US war against terror but with certain conditions. China wanted UNSC to play central role in the war against terrorism as a guarantee against the US unilaterism. In fact China insisted that struggle against terrorism also includes the ‘East Turkistan’ terrorist forces or the Uighur separatist movement in Xinjiang province.

There is no doubt that the prospects of a prolonged US military presence in Central Asian region are not welcome to either Russia or China. Post September 11 developments in the region are seem as a set back to SCO, because SCO was created to
forge Russia – China partnership in the Central Asia for jointly maintaining peace, stability and economic cooperation in the region and keep a check on the Western influence in the region.

Russian and Chinese interests also converge on the issue of eastward expansion of NATO. First time ever NATO crossed the border of a non-NATO remember country i.e. Afghanistan in the name of fight against terrorism. Both Russia and China opposed the bombing on Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia in 1999. Also the US B-2 bombers dropped bomb on Chinese embassy in Belgrade causing many casualties. These incidences proved beyond doubt that US led NATO forces are crossing their granted mandate in the name of fight against terrorism and in the name of humanitarian intervention. Russia and China have their own set of problems in Chechnya and Xinjiang respectively.

At the time when NATO bombing was on, the 50th anniversary celebrations of the founding of NATO took place in Washington in which all the former Soviet republics with exception of Russia participated. What aroused the further Russian and Chinese concern and even the concern in countries like India was the enunciation of new strategies doctrine of NATO that permitted use of force by it in regions beyond the areas of its traditional responsibility comprising the territories of its member states. So, now NATO forces could be used anywhere.

Against such unilateral hegemonism of the US and NATO. Russia-China wants a multipolar world with many power centres. The declaration between Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin in 1997 openly talked about establishment of multipolar world based on principles of Panchsheel. Both call for respect of State sovereignty, equality of states eschewing of pursuit of hegemony, non-interference in internal affairs of other states, an equitable and just economic order and the strengthening of UN. Both Russia and China also seeks to work closely with NAM and champion the cause of third world.

The major bone of contention in the smooth relation was border dispute which is now solved. China has not only settled in border dispute with Russia but also with the
Central Asian Republics in a peaceful manner. With the border dispute gone there is no any serious issues left between Russia and China to doubt each other’s intention.

Peaceful solution of Korean Peninsula problem is also in the priority list of Russia and China. The proposed NMD system of the USA is expressly aimed at providing defence against the ‘rogue’ states like Iran, Iraq and North Korea etc. The launch of Pyongyong’s rocket over Japan in 1998 provided justification to US for such apprehensions. Russia and China therefore, have sought to minimize the perception of North-Korean threat. They favour a rapprochement between North and South Korea and one between US and North Korea.

To counter the eastward expansion of NATO and with drawl of US from ABM Treaty of 1972, President Putin made an overture to European Union and NATO to reach some compromise solution. He called upon to EU and NATO to join forces with Moscow and set up a joint anti-missile shield during his visit to Rome on 5th June, 2000. He said that such a system will avoid creating problems linked to an imbalance in the equilibrium of forces and ensures 100 percent security to European countries.

As far as economic ties between Russia and China are concerned, it lag behind political, diplomatic, strategic and military ties. It is apparent that the two countries are also to create economic interdependence. The economies of the two countries are mutually complementary. Russia is the major producer and supplier of energy while China is energy hungry and its needs are growing. Russia’s main exports apart from defence equipments include fertilizer, steel, timber and machinery, while its main imports are consumer goods and food items.

There are some major pre-requisites for further growth in the scale and diversifications of Russo-Chinese economic collaboration. These are implementing joint programmes in the fuel and energy sector; stepping up cooperation in the field of investment; involving Russian companies in the strategy of accelerated development of China’s western region; expanding cooperation between the two countries’ border region and cooperation in the manufacturing sector and joint mastering of high technologies.
By strengthening trade with China, Russia will try to reduce its shortage of light industrial goods and electronics, create an economic infrastructure using cheap Chinese labour in the less developed areas of Russian Far East. Russia will also be able to reduce the financial crunch of its arms manufacturing units by selling weapons to China which includes more than $2 billion every year. Russia can also benefit by sending part of its well educated labour force to China to help create high technology industries and reduce the chronic unemployment among highly educated youths.

On the other hand China will get benefitted by sending a certain amount of its unskilled labour force to Russia to work in the unstaffed industries. The excess of labour force available in China is about 200 million. This arrangement will reduce some burden of unemployment among Chinese people. In addition, China will have a chance to participate in the economic opening of oil fields resources in Russian Far East and Siberia.

Russia, India and China are multi-ethnic and multi-cultural societies and have faced increasing pressure from the forces that seek to destroy their pluralistic societies. All Russia, China and India are facing heat of human rights groups based in Western Europe and US on the issue of human rights violations in Chechnya, Xinjiang and Kashmir respectively. So there is growing feeling among the three countries that US alone should not set the agenda of global war against terror. The experience of Iraq also shows that the US policies can leave a bigger mess in the region, the effort of which has to be borne by neighbouring countries.

Not in the military but in the economic arena there can be the possibility to forge an alliance among Russia-China-India. As the 21\textsuperscript{th} Century progresses, Asia is likely to occupy a centre stage in the international politics. While on one hand Asia is being seen as the engine of growth to the world economy, it has also sources of dangers. The danger stretches from Persian Gulf to Philippines in the form of global terrorism. In American dictum, the ‘Axis of Evil’ which includes countries like Iraq, Iran and North Korea are located in Asia. Putin had proposed that the arc of instability be converted in to arc of salability. To achieve this objective Russia, China and India can play a vital role.
Russia-China-India have ample possibilities to play together a constructive role to build stability in central Asian Energy resources. Of the three, only Russia is self-sufficient in oil and natural gas. About 70 percent of India’s oil is being imported especially from Gulf region. Central Asian alternative supplies are being actively considered. Beijing has already taken the lead in tapping energy resources of Central Asia. Russia and China have made deals for the supply of oil and natural gas through pipelines which can feed oil hungry China in decades to come.

For various reasons, all three countries feel that they are under western pressure on various issues. Russia is under pressure of NATO’s eastward expansion, Chechnya issue and more generally because of perceived US design on former Soviet republics including Central Asia and Caspian Sea. US is encircling Russia from all sides by signing treaties with anti-Moscow countries like GUAAM and fermenting anti-Russian feelings in erstwhile Soviet Union countries.

China is under severe pressure to spend more on defence sector because it feel threatened by US arms sales to Taiwan and more specifically East Asian Security policies of US administration which is moving towards greater use of Japan in balancing China. India is experiencing ill conceived Western propensity to try to get involved on Kashmir issue and helping Pakistan to internationalize Kashmir issue, also US is trying its best to roll back India nuclear and missile programme. India also accused US for pursuing ‘double standard’ on fighting with terrorism. India blames that terrorist outfits operating from Pakistani soil with overt and covert support of Pakistan is posing grave threat to India’s security, but US is eliminating only those terrorists which pose threat to US interests.

To conclude, Russo-China relations are smoothly progressing in the post-cold war era where there is no ideological constraints remain and it is national interest which is the torch bearer in their individual relations. However, the issue of legal and illegal migration of Chinese to the Russian Far-East has the potential to derail their bilateral ties.
The Heads of State of Russia and China, having comprehensively discussed the state of, and prospects for Russian-Chinese ties, declare that deepening of the relations of strategic partnership between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China is the only correct historic choice arising from the long-term interests of the two countries and their peoples and meeting the requirements for coping with challenges to the development of the world situation and international relations.

Over the last decade, bilateral relations have witnessed positive historic changes. In the new 21st century the sociopolitical and economic bases of Russian-Chinese relations have become ever firmer, mutual political trust has deepened, the traditional friendship between the two countries' peoples has grown stronger and mutually beneficial cooperation has produced substantial results. The close contacts between leaders of the two states play a guiding role for the development of bilateral relations.

The Heads of State of Russia and China concur that development of relations of good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation and the deepening of strategic interaction between Russia and China have extensive prospects and huge potential. The sides are determined to go on making untiring efforts to continually push forward and raise the level of friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

The Heads of State of Russia and China affirm their readiness to strengthen further the exchange of high-level visits and the regular meeting mechanism between the two countries, to raise the level of mutual trust in the political and military fields and to exchange views continuously on major bilateral and international issues. The foreign
affairs, defense, law enforcement, economic and scientific-technical agencies of the two countries will all heighten their coordination and cooperation. Friendly exchanges and businesslike cooperation between regions of the countries will be strengthened.

II

The year that has elapsed since the signing by the Heads of State of Russia and China of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, of July 16, 2001, has entirely confirmed that this document has a historic and important practical significance and is a solid foundation for the healthy and stable development of good-neighborly and friendly relations between the two states. The Treaty is a program document possessing an enormous life-affirming force, aimed at ensuring the continuous deepening of bilateral relations, which opens up new horizons for the building-up of the strategic partnership between the two countries in all the directions without exception.

The Heads of State of Russia and China reiterate that no matter what changes take place in the international situation or in Russia and China, they are determined to adhere unswervingly to the course and principles set forth in the Treaty, continue to promote, expand, deepen and fill the relations of strategic partnership between the two countries with new content, coordinate the positions and support each other on issues of common concern, fully implement the great strategic idea that the two countries will "forever be good neighbors, friends and reliable partners and never be enemies," and meet the challenges of our time together with all peace-loving states and peoples all over the world.

The sides emphasize that the friendly relations of the two countries are a new type of state-to-state relations based on non-alignment and non-confrontation and which are not directed against third countries. The Heads of State of Russia and China are deeply convinced that the solid foundation laid by the Treaty will definitely elevate Russian-Chinese relations to a new, still higher level in this century.
The Heads of State of Russia and China point out that national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity are the basic elements of international law, the underlying principles governing international relations, and the essential preconditions for each state's existence. It is the lawful right of every state to firmly condemn and strike against any designs or actions seeking to undermine the above-mentioned principles. Russia and China resolutely support each other's policy and actions in questions of maintaining state unity and territorial integrity.

The Russian side reiterates that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and that Taiwan is an integral part of China's territory. Russia will not establish any official relations or have any official contacts with Taiwan. Russia has always recognized that Tibet is an integral part of China. The Chinese side supports the efforts of the Russian side in fighting Chechen terrorists and separatists.

Russia and China will not allow the establishment or activities of any organization or group within their own territories that would inflict harm upon the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the two states.

The heads of the two states believe that the most favorable conditions have currently taken shape in order to reach a mutually acceptable solution to the question where the line of the Russian-Chinese state boundary is to run on its two remaining non-agreed sections. In this connection the ministries of foreign affairs of the two countries are instructed to complete the process of border negotiations as soon as possible.

The definitive settlement of the historically inherited border question between Russia and China will have a historic significance for relations between the two countries for the strategic term and will exert an important stabilizing effect on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and globally.

III
The Heads of State of Russia and China presume that strengthening and developing in every way the positive trends in trade and economic cooperation is of great importance to ensuring stable long-term progress in the whole range of Russian-Chinese relations.

The Heads of State of Russia and China believe that the mechanism of regular meetings between the Heads of Government of the two states has a great significance and highly assess its contribution to developing trade and economic cooperation between Russia and China over the long term.

The sides point out that for the purpose of ensuring the stable and predictable development of trade and economic relations active measures need to be taken to expand the scope of trade, improve its commodity pattern by increasing in it the proportion of high-technology, engineering and electronic products, along with other high value added products, to create favorable conditions for mutual access for goods, services and investments to the markets of the two states, to intensify technical, economic and investment cooperation, including the establishment of joint ventures, industrial partnerships, and technology transfer, to improve the system of handling trade transactions, including heightened cooperation in the area of banking settlements, crediting and insurance, to strengthen work in the legal, administrative, managerial and other fields so as to bring their trade regulations into conformity with international norms, and to enhance contacts between small and medium-sized businesses. The sides are determined to achieve a breakthrough in the development and qualitative growth of the whole range of bilateral trade and economic relations.

Taking into account the great significance of cooperation in the energy sphere for both sides, the Heads of State of Russia and China consider it important to ensure the prompt implementation of the existing agreements concerning the Russian-Chinese oil pipeline and gas pipelines as well as to coordinate the implementation of promising energy projects to ensure the long-term and stable nature of oil and gas supplies.

The sides agree that in the context of Russia's integration into the system of world economic ties as an equal member of the world economic and trade community its
accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) will be of special significance, and acknowledge that it is necessary to actively and constructively hold bilateral negotiations on the accession of Russia to the WTO and achieve an appropriate agreement on the basis of consideration of mutual interests, which will help to strengthen Russian-Chinese trade and economic relations. China declares its support for entry of the Russian Federation into the WTO, which will impart to this international organization a more universal character.

IV

The Heads of State of Russia and China presume that expanding friendly contacts and cooperation between the sides in the fields of education, culture, health, sports and media is instrumental in consolidating the social foundation of good-neighborliness, friendship and mutual trust between the two states. They attach great significance to the activities of the Russian-Chinese Committee of Friendship, Peace and Development and the improvement of its forms and methods of work.

In order to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries, the sides intend to continue to take practical measures to stimulate mutual trips of citizens of Russia and China, including the steps to regularize and perfect the juridical basis of such contacts.

The Heads of State of Russia and China underscore the importance of developing cooperation in the field of law enforcement. The sides intend to expand cooperation in fighting against illegal migration.

The Heads of State of Russia and China note the necessity of taking further action to strengthen cooperation and improve the appropriate legal basis in the field of ecology and the protection of environment, paying attention to environmental cooperation in the border areas.

V
The criminal attacks of international terrorism in New York, Moscow, Bali and other areas of the world show that terrorism, separatism and extremism pose a serious threat to the security of sovereign states, as well as to world peace and stability. Factors causing uncertainty in global security have increased. The Heads of State of Russia and China maintain that there may be no double standards in addressing these problems, and that it is necessary to counter terrorism by the joint efforts of all states. Russia and China are determined to take purposeful and necessary practical steps, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, in the tough fight against terrorism in all its manifestations.

The sides reaffirm that the terrorists and separatists of Chechnya and "East Turkestan" are part and parcel of international terrorism. They must be condemned and made an object of joint struggle by all states of the world. For the purpose of the effective protection of the security and stability of their states and the promotion of peace and prosperity on the regional and even global levels, the sides will increase mutual support in the field of combating terrorism and intensify coordination and international cooperation in this area.

In June 2002, in St. Petersburg, the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) signed an agreement setting up a permanent SCO Regional Antiterrorist Structure. The Heads of State of Russia and China highly evaluate the potential for antiterrorist cooperation of this organization and want it to start its practical work as soon as possible.

The sides also highly appreciate the activities of the Russian-Chinese Working Group on fighting terrorism, and especially stress that the constructive and confidential dialogue that has developed therein is fully in accord with the level of relations of strategic partnership existing between Russia and China.

VI

Since the events of September 11, 2001, the international situation has undergone deep and complex changes. International terrorism and other nontraditional challenges pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Local conflicts have not been extinguished, there persist the hotbeds of tension and instability and the gap between
South and North has widened even more. Peace and the development of mankind are faced with challenges that cannot be ignored.

The Heads of State of Russia and China believe that the harmonious coexistence of all countries of the world and its diversity, the democratization of international relations will help to strengthen global stability and security. The sides hold that peace and development are the keynote of the contemporary epoch, that in the conditions of the strengthening of the key tendencies for the formation of a multipolar world and economic globalization the peoples of all countries are interested in shaping an equitable and rational new international political and economic order which would guarantee the ongoing development and equal security of all states.

Russia and China favor strengthening the central role of the United Nations as the principal mechanism for safeguarding international security and cooperation in a multipolar world, and advocate the further enhancement of the efficiency of the UN and, in particular, its Security Council.

The two sides believe that at a time of globalization and scientific and technical progress, countries are becoming increasingly more inter-dependent. It is necessary to formulate an overall strategy for sustainable development of the mankind. The military, political, economic, ecological and human contents related to international security are inter-linked and such a concept should form the basis of the overall strategy mentioned above.

The Heads of State of Russia and China believe the two sides' coordination on strategic stability issues is of great significance to fortifying international security and global and local stability. The two sides will cooperate within the framework of bilateral relations and related international forums; promote the formulation and adoption of effective measures in arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their carriers. The two sides will make further efforts to advance their joint proposal on the conclusion of an international agreement on the prevention of deployment of weapons in outer space.

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The two sides will continue their close coordination in resolving the issue of missile proliferation. They hold that it is necessary to further explore and advance the proposal for multilateral talks so as to formulate a legally binding agreement on global missile non-proliferation mechanism. The United Nations and other multilateral organizations should play a major role in this area. Russia and China are ready to continue bilateral dialogue on export control related to non-proliferation.

The two sides attach great importance to interstate cooperation on protection and promotion of human rights. They believe that there should be no "double standards" in this area, and stand against the use of human rights problems for imposing pressures in international relations.

The two sides stress it should become a norm of interstate relations to resolve regional conflicts by political and diplomatic means and through dialogues and negotiations.

The two sides maintain that the Iraq issue should be thoroughly resolved through political and diplomatic means on the basis of strictly observing resolutions of the UN Security Council. They are willing to further cooperate within the UN framework on this issue.

The two sides have a discussion on the Middle East situation and express grave concern over the prolonged Palestine-Israel confrontation. They believe that the use of force can never resolve their differences and a political solution conforms to the long-term interests of all nations. The goal of the political solution is the peaceful co-existence of Israel and Palestine as two countries within their safe and recognized boundaries.

VII

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has become an important factor in maintaining regional peace, security and stability, as well as a pillar in the future structure of a multipolar world. In the current complicated international situation, it is in the common interests of SCO member countries to inject new vigor into the organization so that it can take a more active part in regional and international affairs for the promotion
of peace and prosperity in Asia and the creation of cooperative atmosphere for dialogues on an equal footing.

The Heads of State of Russia and China, therefore, maintain that it is of primary importance to strengthen cooperation within the framework of the SCO.

Russia and China are willing to work with the other member countries of the SCO to speed up the improvement of the SCO mechanism, set up the SCO Secretariat and Regional anti-terrorism structure at an early date, intensify the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism and take measures to curb drug trafficking and other forms of cross-border crime, deepen the extensive cooperation of the sides in economic and cultural fields, and actively carry out exchanges and cooperation between the SCO and other international organizations and countries to safeguard peace and development of the region and the world as a whole.

VIII

The Heads of State of Russia and China hold that to strengthen multilateral cooperation in the field of security in the Asian-Pacific region is one of the key factors in consolidating global strategic stability. The two countries will strive to establish in the Asian-Pacific region an effective regional multilateral cooperation system to ensure stability and security in the region.

The Heads of State of Russia and China express concern over the prospects and possible results of cooperation between interested countries in establishing a theater missile defense system in East Asia on a bloc basis, and reiterate that such cooperation should not destroy regional and global security and stability. Both sides urge all interested countries to strengthen dialogue on the issue of theater missile defense systems in East
Asia on a bloc basis. Russia and China will continue consultations on the issue within the bilateral framework.

The two sides have discussed Central Asian situation. They point out that it is crucial to maintain stability and security in the region.

Both sides point out that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plays a constructive role in establishing a new type of interstate relations in the Asia-Pacific region, and hold that the ASEAN Regional Forum is an effective mechanism for conducting political dialogue on regional security issues. Both sides reiterate that they will carry out close cooperation within the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Russia reiterates its positive attitude toward the further development of "ASEAN + 3" dialogue and cooperation mechanism. China will provide necessary assistance to Russia for the establishment of contacts between Russia and the mechanism in the fields of common concern.

Both sides hold that comprehensively advancing economic, trade, investment and technological cooperation within the framework of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a major contribution to the stability and development in the Asia-Pacific region. Both sides are willing to conduct regular consultations on APEC affairs to exchange views and coordinate their positions.

Both sides speak highly of the Asia-Europe Meeting's contributions to pushing forward the further development of a new equal partnership between Asia and Europe. The Chinese side supports Russia's entry into the Meeting.

The Heads of State of Russia and China welcome the establishment of a nuclear-free area in related regions in Asia, and hold that such a nuclear-free area should fully take into consideration the interests and concerns of all countries.

The Heads of State of Russia and China support the continuation and advancement of the relaxation process in recent years on the Korean Peninsula, especially the dialogue and
cooperation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK), and are for the normalization of relations between the DPRK and Japan and the implementation of the results achieved at the Pyongyang summit.

Both sides hold that it is crucial to peace and security in North-East Asia to maintain a nuclear-free status of the Korean Peninsula and the system for non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Both sides emphasize that the United States and the DPRK should, as always, abide by all agreements reached before including the 1994 framework agreement, and realize, on this basis, the normalization of their relations in the principle of conducting constructive and equal dialogue for catering to mutual concerns. Both sides will continue to develop good-neighborly friendship and cooperation with the DPRK and the ROK so as to facilitate peace and prosperity in the region.

Both sides completely support the work done by the Afghan Interim Authority to bring the country's situation back to normal in line with the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-Establishment of Permanent Government Institutions signed in Bonn, the Loya Jirgah's (Grand Assembly) decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council. Both sides express the concern over the instability of the Afghan situation, the rampant activities of the residual Taliban forces, the intensifying contradictions among different ethnic groups and the increasing output of drugs. Both sides stress that the UN's leading role in solving Afghan issues must be upheld.

The Heads of State of Russia and China declare that they are willing to continue to conduct intensive and mutually-trusted political dialogue, expand and deepen economic cooperation of mutual benefit, boost cooperation in international affairs, and consolidate the friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

President of the Russian Federation Chairman of the People's Republic of China
V.V.Putin Jiang Zemin
TREATY OF GOOD-NEIGHBORLINESSE AND FRIENDLY COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA
(2001)

The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China (hereafter known as the "contracting parties"), in view of the historical tradition of good-neighborliness and friendship between the people of Russia and China, hold that the Russian-Chinese Joint Declarations and Statements signed and adopted by the heads of states of the two countries from 1992 to 2000 which are of great significance to the development of bilateral relations, firmly believe that to consolidate the friendly and good neighborly ties and mutual cooperation in all fields between the two countries is in conformity with the fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries and conducive to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in Asia and the world, reiterate the obligations committed by each party in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other international treaties of which it is a signatory, with the hope of promoting and establishing a just and fair new world order based on universally recognized principles and norms of international laws, endeavor to enhance relations between the two countries to a completely new level, determined to develop the friendship between the people of the two countries from generation to generation, have reached agreement as follows:

Article 1

In accordance with universally recognized principles and norms of international laws and on the basis of the Five Principles of mutual respect of state sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence, the contracting parties shall develops the strategic cooperative partnership of good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation and equality and trust between the two countries from a long-term view and in a comprehensive manner.
Article 2

In handling their mutual relations, the contracting parties will neither resort to the use of force; or the threat of force nor take economic and other means to bring pressure to bear against the other. The contracting parties will only solve their differences through peaceful means by adhering to the provisions of the "United Nations Charter" and the principles and norms of universally recognized international laws.

The contracting parties reaffirm their commitment that they will not be the first to use nuclear weapons against each other nor target strategic nuclear missiles against each other.

Article 3

The contracting parties respect each other's choice for the course of political, economic, social and cultural development in line with their nation's actual conditions so as to ensure a long-term and stable development of relations between the two countries.

Article 4

The Chinese side supports the Russian side in its policies on the issue of defending the national unity and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation.

The Russian side supports the Chinese side in its policies on the issue of defending the national unity and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China.

Article 5

The Russian side reaffirms that the principled stand on the Taiwan issue as expounded in the political documents signed and adopted by the heads of states of the two countries from 1992 to 2000 remain unchanged. The Russian side acknowledges that there is only one China in the world that the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. The Russian side opposes any form of Taiwan's independence.
Article 6

The contracting parties point out with satisfaction that each has no territorial claim on the other and both are resolved to make active efforts in building the border between the two countries into one where ever-lasting peace and friendship prevail. The contracting parties will adhere to the principles of non-encroachment upon territories and national boundaries as stipulated in international laws and strictly observe the national boundary between the two countries.

The contracting parties shall continue to hold talks on the pending boundary alignment of the sectors which China and Russia have not yet arrived at an agreement through consultations. Prior to the settlement of these issues, the two sides will maintain the status quo in such boundary sectors.

Article 7

In accordance with the current agreements, the contracting parties shall adopt measures to increase trust between their militaries and reduce military forces in the border areas. The contracting parties shall expand and deepen confidence building measures in the military field so as to consolidate each other's security and strengthen regional and international stability.

The contracting parties shall make efforts to ensure its own national security in accordance with the principle of maintaining reasonable and adequate weapons and armed forces.

The military and military technology cooperation of the contracting parties carried out in accordance with the relevant agreements are not directed at third countries.

Article 8

The contracting parties shall not enter into any alliance or be a party to any bloc nor shall they embark on any such action, including the conclusion of such treaty with a third country which compromises the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the other
contracting party. Neither side of the contracting parties shall allow its territory to be used by a third country to jeopardize the national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the other contracting party.

Neither side of the contracting parties shall allow the setting up of organizations or gangs on its own soil which shall impair the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the other contrasting party and their activities should be prohibited.

Article 9

When a situation arises in which one of the contracting parties deems that peace is being threatened and undermined or its security interests are involved or when it is confronted with the threat of aggression, the contracting parties shall immediately hold contacts and consultations in order to eliminate such threats.

Article 10

The contracting parties shall employ and perfect the mechanism for regular meetings at all levels, above all the summit and high-level meetings, to conduct periodic exchanges of views and co-ordinate their stand on bilateral ties and on important and urgent international issues of common concern so as to reinforce the strategic cooperative partnership of equality and trust.

Article 11

The contracting parties stand for the strict observation of universally acknowledged principles and norms of international laws and oppose any action of resorting to the use of force to bring pressure to bear on others or interfering in the internal affairs of a sovereign state under all sorts of pretexts and both are ready to make positive efforts to strengthen peace, stability, development and cooperation throughout the world.

The contracting parties are against any action which may constitute a threat to international stability, security and peace and will conduct mutual co-ordination with
regard to the prevention of international conflicts and bringing about their political settlement.

Article 12

The contracting parties shall work together for the maintenance of global strategic balance and stability and make great efforts in promoting the observation of the basic agreements relevant to the safeguard and maintenance of strategic stability.

The contracting parties shall actively promote the process of nuclear disarmament and the reduction of chemical weapons, promote and strengthen the regimes on the prohibition of biological weapons and take measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and their related technology.

Article 13

The contracting parties shall strengthen their cooperation in the United Nations and its Security Council as well as other United Nations Special Agencies. The contracting parties shall work to reinforce the central role of the United Nations as the most authoritative and most universal world organization composed of sovereign states in handling international affairs, particularly in the realm of peace and development and guarantee the major responsibility of the UN Security Council in the area of maintaining international peace and security.

Article 14

The contracting parties shall energetically promote the consolidation of stability of the surrounding areas of the two countries, create an atmosphere of mutual understanding, trust and cooperation, and promote efforts aimed at setting up a multi-lateral co-
ordination mechanism which complies with the actual situation of the above-mentioned areas on issues of security and cooperation.

**Article 15**

In accordance with the two countries' inter-governmental agreements concerned and other documents relating to the handling of creditor's rights and liabilities, each side of the contracting parties recognizes the lawful right of ownership of the assets and other properties which belong to the other side and which are located within the territory of the other contracting party.

**Article 16**

On the basis of mutual benefit, the contracting parties shall conduct cooperation in such areas as economy and trade, military know-how, science and technology, energy resources, transport, nuclear energy, finance, aerospace and aviation, information technology and other areas of common interest. They shall promote economic and trade cooperation in border areas and local regions between the two countries and create necessary and favorable conditions in this regard in accordance with the laws of each country.

The contracting parties shall energetically enhance and develop exchanges and cooperation in culture, education, health, information, tourism, sports and legal matters.

In accordance with their national laws and international treaties of which they are a party, the contracting parties shall protect and maintain intellectual property rights, including copyright and other relevant rights.

**Article 17**

The contracting parties shall conduct cooperation in world financial institutions, economic organizations and forums, and in line with the rules and regulations of the above-mentioned institutions, organizations and forums, make efforts to promote the
participation of a contracting party in the above-mentioned institutions of which the other contracting party is already a member (or member state).

Article 18

The contracting parties shall cooperate in promoting the realization of human rights and fundamental freedom in accordance with the international obligations each is committed and the national laws of each country.

In line with the international obligations each of the contracting parties is committed and the laws and regulations of each country, the contracting party shall take effective measures to guarantee the legal rights and interests of legal persons and natural persons of the other contracting party who reside within its territory, and provide the necessary legal assistance over civil and criminal matters.

The departments concerned of the contracting parties, in accordance with relevant laws, shall conduct investigation and seek a solution to the problems and disputes arising from the process of carrying out cooperation and business activities by the legal persons and natural persons within the territory of the other side of the contracting parties.

Article 19

The contracting parties shall carry out cooperation in the protection and improvement of the environment, prevention of cross-border pollution, the fair and rational use of water resources along the border areas and the use of biological resources in the northern Pacific and boundary river areas; make joint efforts in protecting rare floras, faunas and the natural ecosystem, and conduct cooperation in preventing the outbreak of major accidents arising from natural disasters or due to technical reasons and eliminating their after-effects.

Article 20

The contracting parties, in accordance with the laws of each country and the international obligation each has committed, shall actively cooperate in cracking down terrorists,
splitsists and extremists, and in taking strong measures against criminal activities of organized crimes, illegal trafficking of drugs, psychotropic substances and weapons. The contracting parties shall conduct cooperation to crack down on illegal immigration, including the crack down on illegal transportation of natural persons via its territory.

**Article 21**

The contracting parties attach great importance to the exchanges and cooperation between the central (federal) legislative organs and law enforcement agencies of the two countries.

The contracting parties shall promote with great efforts the exchanges and cooperation between the judicial organs of the two countries.

**Article 22**

This Treaty neither affects the rights and obligations of the contracting parties in other international treaties of which they are a party to it, nor is it directed against any third country.

**Article 23**

To implement the present Treaty, the contracting parties shall actively promote the signing of accords in specific realms which are of interests to both sides.

**Article 24**

This Treaty needs to be ratified and shall come into force from the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification. The exchange of instruments of ratification shall take place in Beijing.

**Article 25**

The term of validity of the present treaty is twenty years. If neither side of the contracting parties notify the other in writing of its desire to terminate the treaty one year before the
treaty expires, the treaty shall automatically be extended for another five years and shall thereafter be continued in force in accordance with this provision.

Done in Moscow on July 16, 2001 in two copies, each in the Russian and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

Representative of the Russian Federation

Vladimir Putin

Representative of the People’s Republic of China

Jiang Zemin
Shanghai Cooperation Organization Charter
(Xinhua)

The People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan being the founding states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (herein after SCO or the Organization),

Based on historically established ties between their peoples;

Striving for further enhancement of comprehensive cooperation;

Desiring to jointly contribute to the strengthening of peace and ensuring of security and stability in the region in the environment of developing political multi-polarity and economic and information globalization;

Being convinced that the establishment of SCO will facilitate more efficient common use of opening possibilities and counteracting new challenges and threats;

Considering that interaction within SCO will promote the realization of a huge potential of good neighborliness, unity and cooperation between States and their peoples;

Proceeding from the spirit of mutual trust, mutual advantage, equality, mutual consultations, respect for cultural variety and aspiration to joint development that was clearly established at the meeting of heads of six States in 2001 in Shanghai;

Noting that the compliance with the principles set out in the Agreement between the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan on Strengthening Confidence in the Military Field in the Border Area of 26 April, 1996, and in the Agreement between the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan on Mutual Reductions of Armed Forces in the Border Area of 24 April, 1997, as well as in the documents signed at summits of heads of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the
Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan in the period from 1998 to 2001, has made an important contribution to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the region and in the world;

Reaffirming our adherence to the goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, other commonly acknowledged principles and rules of international law related to the maintenance of international peace, security and the development of good neighborly and friendly relations, as well as the cooperation between States;

Guided by the provisions of the Declaration on the Creation of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization of 15 June, 2001, has agreed as follows:

**Article 1:**

**Goals and Tasks**

The main goals and tasks of SCO are:

To strengthen mutual trust, friendship and goodneighborliness between the member States;

To consolidate multidisciplinary cooperation in the maintenance and strengthening of peace, security and stability in the region and promotion of a new democratic, fair and rational political and economic international order;

To jointly counteract terrorism, separatism and extremism in all their manifestations, to fight against illicit-narcotics and arms trafficking and other types of criminal activity of a transnational character, and also illegal migration;

To encourage the efficient regional cooperation in such spheres as politics, trade and economy, defense, law enforcement, environment protection, culture, science and
technology, education, energy, transport, credit and finance, and also other spheres of common interest;

To facilitate comprehensive and balanced economic growth, social and cultural development in the region through joint action on the basis of equal partnership for the purpose of a steady increase of living standards and improvement of living conditions of the peoples of the member States;

To coordinate approaches to integration into the global economy;

To promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the international obligations of the member States and their national legislation;

To maintain and develop relations with other States and international organisations;

To cooperate in the prevention of international conflicts and in their peaceful settlement;

To jointly search for solutions to the problems that would arise in the 21st century.

**Article: 2**

**Principles**

The member States of SCO shall adhere to the following principles:

Mutual respect of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity of States and inviolability of State borders, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, non-use of force or threat of its use in international relations, seeking no unilateral military superiority in adjacent areas;

Equality of all member States, search of common positions on the basis of mutual understanding and respect for opinions of each of them;

Gradual implementation of joint activities in the spheres of mutual interest;

Peaceful settlement of disputes between the member States;
SCO being not directed against other States and international organizations;

Prevention of any illegitimate acts directed against the SCO interests;

Implementation of obligations arising out of the present Charter and other documents adopted within the framework of SCO, in good faith.

**Article 3**

**Areas of Cooperation**

The main areas of cooperation within SCO shall be the following:

Maintenance of peace and enhancing security and confidence in the region;

Search of common positions on foreign policy issues of mutual interest, including issues arising within international organizations and international fora;

Development and implementation of measures aimed at jointly counteracting terrorism, separatism and extremism, illicit narcotics and arms trafficking and other types of criminal activity of a transnational character, and also illegal migration;

Coordination of efforts in the field of disarmament and arms control;

Support for, and promotion of regional economic cooperation in various forms, fostering favorable environment for trade and investments with a view to gradually achieving free flow of goods, capitals, services and technologies;

Effective use of available transportation and communication infrastructure, improvement of transit capabilities of member States and development of energy systems;

Sound environmental management, including water resources management in the region, and implementation of particular joint environmental programs and projects;

Mutual assistance in preventing natural and man-made disasters and elimination of their implications;
Exchange of legal information in the interests of development of cooperation within SCO;

Development of interaction in such spheres as science and technology, education, health care, culture, sports and tourism. The SCO member States may expand the spheres of cooperation by mutual agreement.

**Article: 4**

**Bodies**

1. For the implementation of goals and objectives of the present Charter the following bodies shall operate within the Organization:

   The Council of Heads of State;

   The Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers);

   The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs;

   Meetings of Heads of Ministries and/or Agencies;

   The Council of National Coordinators;

   The Regional Antiterrorist Structure;

   Secretariat.

2. The functions and working procedures for the SCO bodies, other than the Regional Antiterrorist Structure, shall be governed by appropriate provisions adopted by the Council of Heads of State.

3. The Council of Heads of State may decide to establish other SCO bodies. New bodies shall be established by the adoption of additional protocols to the present Charter which enter into force in the procedure, set forth in Article 21 of this Charter.
Article: 5
The Council of Heads of State

The Council of Heads of State shall be the supreme SCO body. It shall determine priorities and define major areas of activities of the Organization, decide upon the fundamental issues of its internal arrangement and functioning and its interaction with other States and international organizations, as well as consider the most topical international issues.

The Council shall hold its regular meetings once a year. A meeting of the Council of Heads of State shall be chaired by the head of State organizing this regular meeting. The venue of a regular meeting of the Council shall generally be determined in the Russian alphabetic order of names of the SCO member States.

Article: 6
The Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers)

The Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) shall approve the budget of the Organization, consider and decide upon major issues related to particular, especially economic, spheres of interaction within the Organization.

The Council shall hold its regular meetings once a year. A meeting of the Council shall be chaired by the head of Government (Prime Minister) of the State on whose territory the meeting takes place.

The venue of a regular meeting of the Council shall be determined by prior agreement among heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the Member State.

Article: 7
The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall consider issues related to day-to-day activities of the Organization, preparation of meetings of the Council of Heads of State
and holding of consultations on international problems within the Organization. The Council may, as appropriate, make statements on behalf of SCO.

The Council shall generally meet one month prior to a meeting of the Council of Heads of State. Extraordinary meetings of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall be convened on the initiative of at least two member States and upon consent of ministers of foreign affairs of all other member States. The venue of a regular or extraordinary meeting of the Council shall be determined by mutual agreement.

The Council shall be chaired by the minister of foreign affairs of the member State on whose territory the regular meeting of the Council of Heads of State takes place, during the period starting from the date of the last ordinary meeting of the Council of Heads of State to the date of the next ordinary meeting of the Council of Heads of State.

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall represent the Organization in its external contacts, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

Article:8
Meetings of Heads of Ministries and/or Agencies

According to decisions of the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) heads of branch ministries and/or agencies of the member States shall hold, on a regular basis, meetings for consideration of particular issues of interaction in respective fields within SCO.

A meeting shall be chaired by the head of a respective ministry and/or agency of the State organizing the meeting. The venue and date of a meeting shall be agreed upon in advance.

For the preparation and holding meetings the member States may, upon prior agreement, establish permanent or ad hoc working groups of experts which carry out their activities in accordance with the regulations adopted by the meetings of heads of ministries and/or
agencies. These groups shall consist of representatives of ministries and/or agencies of the member States.

**Article: 9**

**The Council of National Coordinators**

The Council of National Coordinators shall be a SCO body that coordinates and directs day-to-day activities of the Organization. It shall make the necessary preparation for the meetings of the Council of Heads of State, the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. National coordinators shall be appointed by each Member State in accordance with its internal rules and procedures.

The Council shall hold its meetings at least three times a year. A meeting of the Council shall be chaired by the national coordinator of the member State on whose territory the regular meeting of the Council of Heads of State takes place, from the date of the last ordinary meeting of the Council of Heads of State to the date of the next ordinary meeting of the Council of Heads of State.

The Chairman of the Council of National Coordinators may on the instruction of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs represent the Organization in its external contacts, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Council of National Coordinators.

**Article: 10**

**Regional Antiterrorist Structure**

The Regional Antiterrorist Structure established by the member States of the Shanghai Convention to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism of 15 June, 2001, located in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic, shall be a standing SCO body.

Its main objectives and functions, principles of its constitution and financing, as well as its rules of procedure shall be governed by a separate international treaty concluded by the member States, and other necessary instruments adopted by them.
Article:11
Secretariat

Secretariat shall be a standing SCO administrative body. It shall provide organizational and technical support to the activities carried out in the framework of SCO and prepare proposals on the annual budget of the Organization. The Secretariat shall be headed by the Secretary-General to be appointed by the Council of Heads of State on nomination by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

The Secretary-General shall be appointed from among the nationals of member States on a rotational basis in the Russian alphabetic order of the member States' names for a period of three years without a right to be reappointed for another period.

The Secretary-General deputies shall be appointed by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on nomination by the Council of National Coordinators. They cannot be representatives of the State from which the Executive Secretary has been appointed.

The Secretariat officials shall be recruited from among nationals of the member States on a quota basis.

The Secretary-General, his deputies and other Secretariat officials in fulfilling their official duties should not request or receive instructions from any member State and/or government, organization or physical persons. They should refrain from any actions that might affect their status as international officials reporting to SCO only.

The member States shall undertake to respect the international character of the duties of the Secretary-General, his deputies and Secretariat staff and not to exert any influence upon them as they perform their official functions. The SCO Secretariat shall be located at Beijing (the People's Republic of China).

Article:12
Financing
SCO shall have its own budget drawn up and executed in accordance with a special agreement between member States. This agreement shall also determine the amount of contributions paid annually by member States to the budget of the Organization on the basis of a cost-sharing principle.

Budgetary resources shall be used to finance standing SCO bodies in accordance with the above agreement. The member States shall cover themselves the expenses related to the participation of their representatives and experts in the activities of the Organization.

Article:13
Membership

The SCO membership shall be open for other States in the region that undertake to respect the objectives and principles of this Charter and to comply with the provisions of other international treaties and instruments adopted in the framework of SCO.

The admission of new members to SCO shall be decided upon by the Council of Heads of State on the basis of a representation made by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in response to an official request from the State concerned addressed to the acting Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

SCO membership of a member State violating the provisions of this Charter and/or systematically failing to meet its obligations under international treaties and instruments, concluded in the framework of SCO, may be suspended by a decision of the Council of Heads of State adopted on the basis of a representation made by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. If this State goes on violating its obligations, the Council of Heads of State may take a decision to expel it from SCO as of the date fixed by the Council itself.

Any member State shall be entitled to withdraw from SCO by transmitting to the Depositary an official notification of its withdrawal from this Charter no later than twelve months before the date of withdrawal. The obligations arising from participation in this Charter and other instruments adopted within the framework of SCO shall be binding for the corresponding States until they are completely fulfilled.
Article:14
Relationship with Other States and International Organisations

SCO may interact and maintain dialogue, in particular in certain areas of cooperation, with other States and international organizations.

SCO may grant to the State or international organisation concerned the status of a dialogue partner or observer. The rules and procedures for granting such a status shall be established by a special agreement of member States.

This Charter shall not affect the rights and obligations of the member States under other international treaties in which they participate.

Article:15
Legal Capacity

As a subject of international law, SCO shall have international legal capacity. It shall have such a legal capacity in the territory of each Member State, which is required to achieve its goals and objectives.

SCO shall enjoy the rights of a legal person and may in particular:

- conclude treaties;

- acquire movable and immovable property and dispose of it;

- appear in court as litigant;

- open accounts and have monetary transactions made.

Article:16
Decisions-Taking Procedure

The SCO bodies shall take decisions by agreement without vote and their decisions shall be considered adopted if no Member State has raised objections during the vote
(consensus), except for the decisions on suspension of membership or expulsion from the Organization that shall be taken by "consensus minus one vote of the member State concerned".

Any member State may expose its opinion on particular aspects and/or concrete issues of the decisions taken which shall not be an obstacle to taking the decision as a whole. This opinion shall be placed on record.

Should one or several member States be not interested in implementing particular cooperation projects of interest to other member States, non-participation of the above said member States in these projects shall not prevent the implementation of such cooperation projects by the member States concerned and, at the same time, shall not prevent the said member States from joining such projects at a later stage.

**Article:17**

**Implementation of Decisions**

The decisions taken by the SCO bodies shall be implemented by the member States in accordance with the procedures set out in their national legislation.

Control of the compliance with obligations of the member States to implement this Charter, other agreements and decisions adopted within SCO shall be exercised by the SCO bodies within their competence.

**Article:18**

**Permanent Representatives**

In accordance with their domestic rules and procedures, the member States shall appoint their permanent representatives to the SCO Secretariat, which will be members of the diplomatic staff of the embassies of the member States in Beijing.
Article: 19
Privileges and Immunities

SCO and its officials shall enjoy in the territories of all member States the privileges and immunities which are necessary for fulfilling functions and achieving goals of the Organisation.

The volume of privileges and immunities of SCO and its officials shall be determined by a separate international treaty.

Article: 20
Languages

The official and working languages of SCO shall be Russian and Chinese.

Article: 21
Duration and Entry into Force

This Charter shall be of indefinite duration.

This Charter shall be subject to ratification by signatory States and shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of the deposit of the fourth instrument of ratification.

For a State which signed this Charter and ratified it thereafter it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification with the Depositary.

Upon its entering into force this Charter shall be open for accession by any State.

For each acceding State this Charter shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of receiving by the Depositary of appropriate instruments of accession.

Article: 22
Settlement of Disputes
In case of disputes or controversies arising out of interpretation or application of this Charter member States shall settle them through consultations and negotiations.

Article:23
Amendments and Additions

By mutual agreement of member States this Charter can be amended and supplemented. Decisions by the Council of Heads of State concerning amendments and additions shall be formalized by separate protocols which shall be its integral part and enter into force in accordance with the procedure provided for by Article 21 of this Charter.

Article:24
Reservations

No reservations can be made to this Charter which contradict the principles, goals and objectives of the Organization and could prevent any SCO body from performing its functions. If at least two thirds of member States have objections the reservations must be considered as contradicting the principles, goals and objectives of the Organization or preventing any body from performing its functions and being null and void.

Article:25
Depositary

The People's Republic of China shall be the Depositary of this Charter.

Article:26
Registration

Pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, this Charter is subject to registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations.

Done at Saint-Petersburg the seventh day of June 2002, in a single original in the Chinese and Russian languages, both texts being equally authoritative.
The original copy of this Charter shall be deposited with the Depositary who will circulate its certified copies to all signatory States.