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## Analysis of International Legal Documents Adopted Within the Framework of the Sco

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ABSTRACT

Among the main goals and objectives of the SCO economic agenda is to promote inclusive and balanced economic growth, social and cultural development, and integration into the global economy in the region through joint actions based on equal partnership to steadily improve living standards and conditions of peoples of member states and coordinate approaches.

**Keywords:**

SCO, economic agenda, economic growth, social and cultural development

Since its establishment in 2001, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has adopted a number of international legal documents that serve to shape international legal norms in the region.

Among the main goals and objectives of the SCO economic agenda is to promote inclusive and balanced economic growth, social and cultural development, and integration into the global economy in the region through joint actions based on equal partnership to steadily improve living standards and conditions of peoples of member states and coordinate approaches.

The SCO Charter defines the organization's mission, structure and goals, and serves as the legal basis of its activities. It contains provisions for cooperation in various fields, including political, economic, security and cultural cooperation, and provides the basis for the organization's activities.

According to the SCO Charter, the priority areas of SCO activity are: support and promotion of various forms of regional economic cooperation; efficient use of existing

transport and communication infrastructure; improvement of member states' transit facilities; development of energy systems; ensuring efficient use of natural resources, including the region's water resources; joint special environmental programs and projects; promotion of a favorable living environment.

The key documents on economic cooperation within the SCO are the 2001 Memorandum of Understanding on the main goals and directions of regional economic cooperation and the launch of trade and investment promotion process, the Program and Implementation Plan for development of multilateral trade and economic cooperation of the SCO member states until 2020, the List of measures to further develop project activities within the SCO.

Another important document is the Joint Declaration of SCO Heads of State. This declaration outlines the principles and goals of the SCO and serves as the basis of the organization's activities. It includes provisions to promote peace and stability in the region, strengthen mutual trust and cooperation among

member states, and create a regional security system.

On January 7, 2002, an extraordinary meeting of SCO foreign ministers was held in Beijing, at the conclusion of which a joint declaration was adopted. It outlined the common position of the SCO member states on the situation in Afghanistan and post-conflict settlement, specific areas of joint work in the field of security, organization of the fight against international terrorism, and the SCO's role and position on these issues.

Efforts have been made within the SCO to promote economic integration: On September 14, 2001, at the first SCO summit in Almaty, a Memorandum of Understanding on the main goals and directions of regional economic cooperation was signed and the process of creating favorable conditions in the field of trade and investment was begun. Multilateral and bilateral consultations on trade and economic issues were initiated and working groups on various sectoral areas of cooperation were established.

The next normative legal document adopted within the SCO is the SCO Annual Summit Declarations, which represent a summary of the results of each annual SCO summit, including decisions on key issues and agreements on future actions. They provide important guidance on SCO activities and priorities and contribute to the formation of international legal norms.

The SCO Joint Action Plan outlines specific actions and initiatives that the SCO will take to achieve its goals. It provides a roadmap for realizing SCO goals and serves as an important reference point for the development of international legal norms.

There are also Reports and publications from think tanks and research institutes that provide in-depth analysis and commentary on the SCO, its role in the region and its impact on international relations. They provide valuable insight into the SCO's role in shaping international legal norms and contribute to understanding the organization's influence on the international system.

The Declaration on Principles of Cooperation among Shanghai Cooperation

Organization Member States, adopted in June 2002, outlines the basic principles and goals of the SCO. It commits member states to promote regional peace and stability, fight terrorism and extremism as well as develop regional economic cooperation. The declaration also established the SCO as a forum for regular dialogue and cooperation among member states on these issues.

The next document is the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism. Adopted in June 2001, the convention provides a comprehensive legal framework for cooperation among SCO member states in fighting terrorism, separatism and extremism. The convention requires member states to take a number of concrete steps to counter these threats, including developing national legislation and establishing mechanisms for international cooperation. The convention also provides a framework for the exchange of information and experience among member states, as well as for the coordination of their efforts in this area.

The SCO Convention on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organised Crime, adopted in June 2003, provides a legal framework for cooperation of SCO member states in the field of combating drug trafficking and organised crime. The Convention requires member states to take a number of concrete steps to counter these problems, including the development of national legislation and the establishment of international cooperation mechanisms. The Convention also provides a framework for the exchange of information and experience among member states, as well as for the coordination of their efforts in this area.

The SCO Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, adopted in June 2004, is an agreement that provides a legal framework for cooperation among SCO member states in the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses. The agreement requires member states to establish mechanisms for mutual legal assistance, including exchange of information, transfer of criminal suspects and witnesses, and provision of technical and financial assistance. The agreement also

provides a framework for coordinating member states' efforts in this area.

The SCO Memorandum on Justice Cooperation, which was adopted in June 2005, provides a basis for cooperation of SCO member states in the field of justice. The memorandum provides for the exchange of information and experience among member states as well as the development of training programs for judges and lawyers. The memorandum also provides a framework for coordinating member states' efforts in this area and for developing mutually beneficial cooperation initiatives.

Member states act in accordance with the provisions of the 2006 Agreement on Cooperation in Detecting and Interdicting Routes of Entry into the Territory of SCO Member States for Persons Engaged in Terrorist, Separatist and Extremist Activities and the 2015 Agreement on Cooperation and Exchange on Border Issues of SCO Member States and further strengthen cooperation to prevent activities and movements of foreign terrorist fighters and terrorist groups through effective border control.

Member states also intend to strengthen cooperation in countering activities of individuals and organizations to recruit, train and use terrorists, initiate terrorist activities or legitimize terrorist acts and finance terrorist activities.

While the SCO is not a military bloc, the uncompromising fight against the threat of terrorism necessitates the development and strengthening of mechanisms aimed at rooting out terrorist activities. In this regard, the SCO will continue the practice of holding regular joint counterterrorism exercises, including peacekeeping mission exercises.

On the basis of the 2009 Agreement on cooperation between the Governments of SCO member States in the field of international information security, we will continue to strengthen practical cooperation in countering terrorism, separatism and extremist propaganda and their justification in the field of intelligence.

Illicit drug production and trafficking remain one of the most serious threats to international security, peace and stability.

Based on the 2004 Agreement on Cooperation of SCO Member States in Combating Illicit Trafficking of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, the 2015 SCO Heads of State and Government Declaration on the Drug Threat, UN conventions and resolutions, including the April 2014 UN General Assembly Special Session on drugs, the Organization aims to strengthen practical cooperation and coordination in combating illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

The key documents on economic cooperation within the SCO are the 2001 Memorandum of Understanding on the Main Aims and Directions of Regional Economic Cooperation and the Launch of Trade and Investment Promotion, the Program and Implementation Plan for the Development of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation among the SCO Member States until 2020 and the List of Measures for Further Development of Project Activities in the SCO".

The existing documents create a broad conceptual and regulatory base for development of economic relations, allow for dialogue on a wide range of cooperation issues in various sectors of economy, and work out practical steps in the economic sphere.

To this end, the SCO has established regular and formalized interaction between relevant ministries, both at the expert level and at the level of heads of relevant government bodies of member states. For example, such mechanisms as regular meetings and conferences of heads of ministries responsible for foreign economic and foreign trade activities, finance, transport, agriculture, health, culture, education and the Presidium of the Central Bank are operating successfully.

The importance of these activities is evidenced by the results of the Special Anti-Drug Operation in the SCO space. This volume corresponds to approximately 14% of the total global volume. Cooperation between the competent authorities also contributed to the seizure of more than 75 tons of precursors for the production of poisons.

Joint anti-drug operations of the competent authorities of the SCO member states

have brought significant practical results. However, it is possible to effectively counter the drug threat only by continuing to step up the efforts of the international community as a whole. To this end, SCO intends to continue its close cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Economic development as a tool of countering emerging threats and challenges to security.

Persisting imbalances in economic development in various regions of the world lead to increasing radicalization and the emergence of conflict situations that pose a threat to human life. Negative trends in the global economy exacerbate existing imbalances and ultimately lead to growing threats and challenges to security and sustainable development. In this context, the SCO advocates broad international cooperation to give impetus to global economic recovery, ensure economic and financial stability and promote sustainable, dynamic, balanced and inclusive growth in the context of ongoing economic globalization. The SCO member states share a common understanding that world trade should be based on the principles of transparency and non-discrimination based on common rights or unacceptable trade protectionism. In this context, the elimination of existing trade barriers and the prevention of the emergence of new trade barriers are considered important to create an open world economy and strengthen the multilateral trading system.

The SCO aims to take additional measures to develop the regional economy, create favorable conditions for trade development, stimulate investment, improve infrastructure, create industrial parks where the conditions are right, and improve the quality of life.

An important practical step in this direction is the implementation of the Agreement of SCO member states on facilitation of international road transport, signed at the SCO summit in Dushanbe in September 2014, which not only formalized equal conditions for regulating mutually beneficial flows of goods from Eastern Europe to the east coast of Russia and China.

Humanitarian exchanges are key to building mutual trust, friendship and good neighborliness among SCO member states; ongoing dialogue within the SCO promotes mutual learning, enrichment and, ultimately, better understanding between different cultures and civilizations. Cultural dialogue unites people on the basis of common human values and aspirations, and eliminates such manifestations as xenophobia, religious and ethnic intolerance, and discrimination based on nationality. This is the most important civilizational mission of the Organization.

The rich historical and cultural heritage of the peoples of the SCO countries is embodied in the tangible cultural heritage, which today makes up about 20% of the UNESCO Representative List. Accession to cultural heritage provides a valuable opportunity to experience the living history of the Eurasian continent, to learn the characteristics of different countries and cultures, to understand the worldview of people living there.

In this context, deepening cultural ties within the SCO, strengthening mutual understanding between peoples, respecting cultural traditions and customs of member states, preserving and promoting cultural diversity, organizing international exhibitions, festivals and contests, enhancing cultural exchange and cooperation between states, studying and preserving the region's cultural and natural heritage, promoting peace, security and sustainable development remain top priorities in SCO practice.

Existing instruments provide a broad conceptual and normative framework for the development of economic relations, allowing for dialogue on a wide range of cooperation issues in various sectors of the economy and the development of practical steps in the economic direction.

To this end, the SCO has established regular and formal interagency exchanges both at the expert level and at the level of heads of relevant government agencies of member states. For example, such mechanisms as regular meetings and conferences of heads of SCO ministries responsible for foreign economic and foreign trade activities, finance, transport, agriculture,

health, culture and education, as well as of heads of the Central Bank, are operating successfully. The SCO member states also signed the Convention on Long-Term Good-Neighborly Relations, which provides for the development of long-term good-neighborly, friendly and cooperative relations in areas of interest to the parties, in accordance with generally recognized principles and norms of international law.

In 2016, on the occasion of the SCO's 15th anniversary, SCO member states signed the Tashkent Declaration, which has become an important reference point in the development of interstate relations, countering global challenges and threats, and resolving international disputes.

Each of these international legal documents demonstrates the SCO's commitment to shaping international legal norms in the region, promoting regional peace and stability, security and economic cooperation. They provide a comprehensive framework for cooperation among SCO member states in these areas and help ensure that the organization's efforts to advance these goals are guided by the principles of international law.

In this way, the SCO provides a solid normative and instrumental platform on which to unify and converge members' positions and approaches to a wide range of regional economic challenges, focusing on common development goals into practical steps in this direction.

In conclusion, the SCO plays an important role in shaping international legal norms by providing a platform for cooperation among member countries, defining its goals and priorities, and guiding its activities through various instruments and agreements. The organization's contribution to the development of international legal norms is an important aspect of its overall influence on the international system.

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