

Chapter 9

“China’s 70-Year Development and the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind”: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Perspective



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More than a month ago, China celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

In a relatively short period of history, China has become a world leader in economic development. As its economic potential is gradually transformed into political potential, we can see that China has become a prestigious world power, which is also consistent with its status as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. China’s growing influence in the world is playing an increasingly important role in solving regional and global problems, but it is also bringing many new challenges to China as it moves closer to the centre of the world stage.

Fundamental changes in the global governance and the international order are accelerating. Countries are increasingly interconnected and interdependent, and international forces are becoming more balanced and equal. The pursuit of peace and development has become the theme of this era.

Economic globalization has led to the redistribution of global resources and a profound adjustment of the international landscape. Meanwhile, the informatization of the society has brought the world closer together, and the exchange and integration of cultures has further promoted cultural diversity.

These changes show the direction in which history is moving. They are relevant to the well-being of the people around the world and need to be safeguarded by us together. At the same time, global instability and uncertainty are on the rise: economic growth is deficient in momentum, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening, a series of acute problems are plaguing many regions, non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, cybercrime, and climate change are spreading across the globe, and we human beings are facing many common challenges.

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As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and the world's second largest economy, China has shouldered its responsibilities in line with its position in addressing regional and global issues and made its due contribution to the peace and harmonious development of the international community.

To this end, President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China has put forward an important initiative of building a community with a shared future for mankind. He proposed simultaneous efforts in political, security, economic, cultural, and ecological areas to build an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful new world of lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

Thus, China offers the world a new model of human development. That is, the world should develop in a peaceful way. With the continuous expansion of cooperation between China and other countries of the world, the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind has been increasingly recognized and supported by the international community.

Peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit are the trend of the times. Facing profound changes in the international landscape and taking into account the objective needs of all countries, the countries of the world must work together to promote the establishment of a new type of international relations with cooperation and mutual benefit at its core.

9.1 The SCO Is a New Model for World Development

Conceptually, the idea of building a community of a shared future for mankind is very similar to the main principles of the SCO, that is, the SCO's principles of non-alignment, non-targeting, and openness to other countries and organizations, as well as the principles of equality and mutual benefit, and solving all problems through mutual consultation.

The SCO aims to establish a democratic and equitable framework for international relations. Its development potential lies in the fact that all member states are equal and there is no domination, pressure, or coercion within the organization. The SCO is an example of how countries of different sizes, levels of development, cultures and national traditions can coexist in harmony. It has created conditions for dialogue among its member states on coordinated development and achieving common goals and values.

The most attractive feature of the SCO is the "Shanghai Spirit" that champions mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for the diversity of civilizations, and pursuit of common development.

The SCO fully recognizes the Qingdao Summit's profound interpretation of the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind: "The member states reaffirm their commitment to the purposes and tasks of the *SCO Charter*, to the *SCO Development Strategy until 2025*, to promoting policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people-to-people bonds, and to developing cooperation in security, energy, and agriculture. We should promote

a new type of international relations based on mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win–win cooperation, and establish a common vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind.”

At the subsequent Bishkek Summit, the leaders of the member states reiterated this position: “The member states stress the importance of building a new type of international relations based on mutual respect, fairness, justice, win–win cooperation, and establishing a common vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind.”

Therefore, the SCO can be regarded as a model, which has creatively established a new type of open international relations. A case in point is its successful mechanism for regular multilateral consultations on key regional and international issues. This has provided a good platform and common basis for resolving issues involving the vital interests of all parties. The SCO has established partnerships with other regional and international organizations, first and foremost with the United Nations. In short, the SCO has become an influential international organization with a growing voice on the international stage. Many countries are looking forward to cooperating with the SCO.

The activities of the SCO are of particular relevance in today’s world, where the fight against terrorism, the restriction of the spread of extremist ideology, and the prevention of the incitement of terrorist acts are becoming increasingly urgent. Particularly concerned about actions in this area, the SCO member states are making every effort to prevent social radicalization and any form of extremism, racial intolerance, and xenophobia, and have accumulated some experience which could provide some reference for other regional and international organizations regarding relevant activities.

The constructive partnership among the SCO member states allows them to take advantage of their geographical proximity and economic complementarity to further explore cooperation projects in various fields and disciplines.

All of this is fully in line with the development goals and values set by the United Nations, namely, peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom. It is also closer to the reality of current international relations.

Interaction and cooperation in this regard are of strategic importance for ensuring the stability and security of the Eurasian space and the world, since the area covered by the SCO was once the cradle and dissemination centre of almost all major civilizations, religions, and cultures, shaping the ethos of the modern world and having a great impact on the development of all areas of international society including politics, economy, culture, and morality.

With the accession of India and Pakistan, the SCO has become the largest and the most universal regional organization in the world. The SCO is also the only organizational mechanism and platform for dialogue among major powers in the area. Located at the centre of Eurasia, the SCO member states, together with the SCO observers and dialogue partners, constitute a framework for extensive cooperation in the Eurasian space.

Finally, I would like to point out the close relationship between the SCO and the People's Republic of China. I want to stress that China has played a constructive role in developing the SCO.

Firstly, actively supporting the initiative of establishing the SCO, China became a founding member of the organization. The SCO was the first international organization to declare its establishment on Chinese territory, with its headquarters located in the capital of China. China is also the birthplace of the world-renowned "Shanghai Spirit."

At present, Beijing's views need to be taken into account in solving relevant issues in the region and around the world. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China's role in maintaining international security and stability is of vital importance to the world.

Secondly, I would like to point out that the SCO is indeed a new type of international organization. It represents a future model for building a balanced and effective system of international relations and embodies the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind.

World civilization is facing new challenges. Building a community with a shared future for mankind is one of the ways to deal with these challenges, with the SCO playing a key role in reshaping the world.

On this occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, on behalf of the SCO Secretariat and myself, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to China on this great festival and wish all Chinese friends a happy holiday!