

SPEECH BY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE SHANGHAI  
COOPERATION ORGANISATION ZHANG DEGUANG  
AT THE 60<sup>TH</sup> HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(New York, September 16, 2005)

Mister President!

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver my speech. It is the first time that a representative of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation has mounted this majestic rostrum of the United Nations. Allow me on behalf of all the member states and observer states of the SCO to extend our warmest congratulations on the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Organisation!

Since the moment of its creation, the UN has been working to fulfill mankind's most cherished dream – that the tragedy of war should never be repeated and that the sun of peace could always shine in the human world. On numerous occasions in the past this grand assembly hall was the scene of strong appeals and genuine calls for peace, issued by many countries, and witnessed great efforts and outstanding contributions, made by the UN to the cause of safeguarding peace.

Tremendous changes have taken place in today's world; mankind has left behind the era of war and peace and entered a new era of peace and development. Nevertheless, the UN continues to play an irreplaceable role in modern international affairs; basic principles, enshrined in the UN Charter, remain an indisputable cornerstone of modern international relations;

protecting the central role and high authority of the UN remains a common responsibility and common task of the international community.

It goes without saying that the UN also needs to carry out rational and necessary reforms in order to respond more effectively to new situations, new challenges and threats, emerging in the globalisation age, and to deal more actively with an enormous and difficult task of boosting peace and development in the world. While reforming the UN, one must observe principles of broader consensus, not set a timetable for the sake of the reform, as well as not impose any voting on drafts, which still remain a source of major controversy.

Mr. President,

Compared to the eventful sixty-year history of the UN, the SCO history has just begun. Four years ago in the city of Shanghai leden of Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan announced the birth of this new organisation of regional cooperation. The SCO makes efforts to strengthen good-neighborly relations, mutual trust and friendship between its member states; contributes to effective cooperation between its member states on economy, trade, transport, energy, tourism, environmental protection and humanitarian affairs; combats forces of terrorism, separatism and extremism; protects peace, security and stability in the region; promotes the creation of democratic, just and rational international political and economic order. Internally, the SCO is guided by the Spirit of Shanghai, based upon "mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for diversity of cultures and aspiration for joint development"; externally, the SCO observes principles of non-alignment, non-direction against other states and regions, as well as outside openness.

Within a short period of several years the SCO has basically completed its work on mechanism building and achieved noticeable progress in launching practical cooperation in various fields and establishing external ties. A recent summit in Astana outlined strategic plans, aimed at further development of the SCO, and, following the admission of Mongolia to the SCO as observer state, accepted Pakistan, Iran and India as new observers. We are pleased to note that main goals and principles of the SCO have been receiving much broader recognition and that the SCO is now heading towards its five-year anniversary with confidence and determination.

In December of last year, the SCO was given observer status at the UN General Assembly, which signaled a good start in establishing our cooperation with the UN. The SCO has already established close contacts and become engaged in active cooperation with the UNESCAP, UNDP and other UN-led agencies, as well as signed memoranda of understanding with the ASEAN and CIS. We are ready and hope to establish such cooperative ties with a greater number of other international organisations in order to make a joint contribution to the cause of peace and development in the region and in the whole world.

Mr. President,

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation has a population of nearly 1.5 billion and covers 3/5 of the Eurasian continent. We are deeply conscious of our responsibility and we are ready to carry out this historic mission with honor.

Thank you for your attention!