



The Institutional Development of SCO & Geopolitics of Central Asia

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Abstract: The international system had been marked by significant global changes throughout the twentieth century. This complexity characterizes the nature of international relations at the start of the twenty-first century. One significant feature of Modern international relations is global collaboration and incorporation of regions in proximity. From the mid-twentieth century to present decade, political and economic regional organizations are rapidly emerging in different regions. In the Eurasia, the cycle of regional cooperation and incorporation evolved slowly. The Central Asian Republics (CARs) attempted to create new bilateral and multilateral ties after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990s. The nations of the world have entered into new era of multilateral cooperation which evolved principal international organizations. CARs made efforts and joined other regional actors to co-found different regional organizations like the Eurasian Economic Community (EEC), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Although these organizations face a variety of obstacles in their growth but their success is distinct. The SCO had been Eurasia's largest effective political organization.

Keywords: Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Central Asian Republics, Geopolitics

1. The New Geopolitics of Central Asia

In the post-Soviet era, Central Asia experienced political, financial, social, and cultural shifts along with strategic adjustments and a transition of regional and global ties. There are several reasons that make Central Asia a significant area on the global arena. That may include, firstly, the existence of abundant energy supplies in Central Asia and the Caspian sea, secondly, the geopolitical position of Central Asia between world powers such as Russia, China, India and Iran, and thirdly, the problem of Afghanistan, that could be considered a vector of possible threats to surrounding countries and other nations of the world due to illicit drug development and terrorism in Afghanistan.

All of these aspects have allowed regional and international members to participate in Central Asian political affairs, and resultantly post-Soviet Central Asia is essential to the strategic and geo-economic interests of the major regional and global forces. These international actors may include the USA, the European Union, NATO, and the OSCE. From a geopolitical viewpoint, the Western states have attached increasing importance to the central position of Central Asia being at the crossroads of Eurasia[1]. Some analysts are of the view that we see a return to the nineteenth-century Great Game, but with new players. Previously, Central Asia has been a significant and primary concern for different empires.

It should be remembered that in the past Central Asia had different titles, meanings and borders and went through complex connections between politics and culture. In earlier times the area had a variety of names i.e. Turan ("land of Turks"), Transoxiana ("over the Oxus (Amu-Darya)"), Maverannahr (Arabic for "beyond the river"), and Turkestan, which includes an Eastern part (China's contemporary Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region) and a Western part (Central Asia). Tsarist Russia slowly annexed Central Asia in the latter half of the

19th century, taking the local forces—the Emirates of Bukhara and Kokand and the Khanate of Kokand—into the Soviet colonial influence.

As regards the current Central Asian countries, the Soviets (as juridically autonomous but de facto subordinate republics, the union members) formed them as political factions with their institutional and administrative structures and territorial borders, mostly during 'national demarcation' of 1924–25, that split the current institutions in Central Asia into many new ethnic groups. In the meantime, the area began to be referred to as *Srednyaya Aziya* (Middle Asia), a phrase that in fact only included the four kingdoms for political purposes. Kazakhstan was treated as a single body and thus the whole region was referred to as *Srednyaya Aziya*. The language used by both, Russia and CARs, has experienced a change since the dissolution of the USSR. The five newly independent southern states (now including Kazakhstan) have adopted the term *Tsentrálnaya Aziya* (Central Asian states) as unified designation [1]. The newly independent post-Central Asian nations are faced with complicated threads involving global terrorism, religious fundamentalism, illegal drug smuggling, transnational water exchange, cross border crime and border security problems. The security risks in Central Asia are multinational but they are also national and interrelated and intertwined with regional security.

2. From the Shanghai Five to the SCO

In 1996, Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan entered a collective treaty to establish an alliance called *Shanghai Five* with a view to taking steps to strengthen border security and political cooperation in the region.

Following the dissolution of the USSR, the Central Asian countries and Russia acquired the contested cross-border areas at the outer borders, especially on the Chinese border. Before the collapse of the Soviet Union on the boundaries with China, there were twenty-five unresolved regions, many of which fell on the territories of Central Asian countries. Talks in this relation were taking place but the question of contested regions in border areas remained unresolved [2]. From 1992, as independent states, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan began negotiations with China. As a consequence, border demarcation treaties between China and the Central Asian republics were concluded. In specific, Kyrgyzstan and China concluded a crucial agreements relating to the Kyrgyzstani-Chinese border demarcation in 1997 and 1999. Under those deals, nearly 70% of the disputed areas went to Kyrgyzstan and 30% to China. Contracts have also been concluded on boundary demarcation between China and Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, resulting in the conflicting regions was separated primarily on mutually advantageous grounds.

The SCO has passed through many phases of growth and major improvements over the years of its life. The SCO has participated in a qualitative and quantitative evolution over the brief time, during which it set targets for the organization and developed its aims and goals. The SCO creation and growth phase comprises two main stages. The first period started in 1996, when the principles and institutional frameworks for the creation of the member countries' multilateral ties were established. This era was marked by normalizing relationships with regard to a number of main problems: e.g. protection, prevention of potential conflicts between member states.

In specific, a deal on the reciprocal reductions of military in border areas were concluded at the Summit of the Shanghai Five grouping in Moscow in 1997. At the Almaty Summit in 1998, in addition to strengthening collaboration on regional defense, the deal also included aspects of trade and economic exchange. The 1999 Bishkek Communiqué signed by the Heads of States reported the key task of the first activity cycle – implementing confidence-building steps and sustaining border management cooperation [3].

The first phase was also marked by the extension of the operations of the group, namely collaboration in countering terrorist threats, extremism and sectarianism, widening of the negotiating process, and gatherings of heads of law enforcement agencies and security departments, foreign ministers, and defense ministers. At the Fifth Summit held in Dushanbe in 2000, participated by Uzbek President Islam Karimov, the efforts of the parties to establish collaboration in a number of key regions—defense, safety, law enforcement, foreign policy, finance, ecology, water resources and culture—were once again brought to the fore.

The Shanghai Five's transition to the SCO occurred in Shanghai in June 2001 at a conference of representatives from Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan at which Uzbekistan met the organization as a new member state. The year 2001 can be considered as the start of the second phase in the organization's history. The involvement of Uzbekistan in the SCO has performed a significant role in revitalizing the organization, according to some analysts. A SCO Declaration was introduced at the Shanghai Summit on 15 June 2001. This noted that the organization's primary objective was to enhance the all-encompassing collaboration between the Member countries on safety, defense, foreign policy, environment,

culture and other matters, with coordination aiming at enhancing peace and security. The organization's transition launched a new period of its operation and its transition from a very narrow global mechanism for addressing and resolving border conflicts into a comprehensive way of debating wide-ranging issues on all dimensions of multilateral relations [4]. Adopted at a conference in Shanghai, the SCO Declaration and the Agreement on the Countering Terrorism, Sectarianism and Racism, adopted at a meeting in Shanghai, have been circulating as official UN documents. The participants of the SCO will work together to deter, identify and punish illegal actions, hold meetings, organize roles to deal with them, and exchanging information, as per the Convention. The SCO Permanent Secretariat has functioned in Beijing since 2004.

3. The SCO and Security Challenges

The horrific incidents of Sept 11, 2001 in America and the resulting new geopolitical realities contributed to a rethinking of the SCO's aims and priorities, its purpose, and its position in the modern world [4]. The founding text, the Organization's Charter (Statute), was ratified at a conference in St. Petersburg in June 2002, and the St. Petersburg Declaration was introduced. It declared the organization's openness towards third country participation and the recruitment of new members, suggesting that member states opposed the concept of national separation and autarchy.

The Declaration also mentioned the common purpose of the member countries to promote the advancement of each SCO member country through collaborative efforts centered on the shared potential and to face new challenges and risks together. It should be noticed that the ASEAN, India, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, the USA and other states showed an interest in the SCO by then. A few of those states expressed their willingness to become a member of SCO. At that time, moreover, the SCO planned to incorporate many levels of involvement in its operations, namely permanent (full) participation, dialog collaboration, individual initiatives, and observer status [5].

The organization's establishment as an international organization was concluded at the yearly SCO meeting in Moscow in 2003. Documents were authorized to govern the operations of the SCO's legislative bodies, as were the organization's colors, the nominee for the first executive secretary, and even the SCO's budget formulation and execution agreements. With respect to the SCO's geopolitical importance, it should be noticed that this organization is the only collective security system where China is not only a member state but also the primary decision maker. The SCO in the geographical sense, according to many scholars, symbolizes the global community's aspiration to create a multi polar world and to some degree that is an indicator of its roots.

In specific, Dr. O. Antonenko of the Global Institute for Strategic Studies (London) noted that the SCO, putting together China, Russia and Central Asia, had become an essential local club and forum for combating terrorism and fostering economic integration between Member States [6]. Vyacheslav Kasimov, from Uzbekistan, was elected as the first Director of the RATS Executive Committee. The Centre's staff consisted of 30 member countries officials. Funding was administered on a collective basis as follows: Russia and China each contributed 25 per cent, Kazakhstan 21 per cent, and the remainder were contributed by other member countries. In a couple of years, the RATS set up a single list of terrorist groups and individuals engaged in terrorist acts on SCO territories.

Color revolutions in Georgia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan have acted as a significant catalyst for cohesion within the SCO. In this regard, the SCO Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, in July 2005, that embraced many important papers, such as the Agreement on Collaboration in Emergency Situations between the governments of the SCO Member countries; Regulations for the Permanent Representation of the SCO Member countries on the Regional Anti-Structure; and the Agreement on the Organization of Emergency Situations, is of concern.

Mongolian President Nambaryn Enkhbayar, Iran's Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref, Pakistan's Premier Shaukat Aziz, and India's Foreign Minister Natwar Singh participated in summit. The SCO member states reached the decision to offer observer status to Iran, India, and Pakistan, with Mongolia having received the status as early as 2004. The SCO could enhance anti-terrorism initiatives and economic interaction in the context of co-operation with India, Pakistan and Iran. It should be noticed that Pakistan is considered to be major country active in the war against global and regional terrorism, though at the same time, it has suffered intense terrorist activities. One may note South and Central Asia's relatively pronounced, near connection between terrorism. Another observer member of the SCO, Iran, is geographically and historically related to Central Asia. Iran and the SCO have taken an identical position on the Afghan issue and the war against terrorism and have an alignment of views [7].

As for economic cooperation, the SCO has tremendous potential in two major sectors in South Asia: transportation and oil. South Asia is a crucial element of the Indian Ocean, and the possibility of exposure to it is an important target for SCO member countries' economic growth. India and Pakistan's involvement in collaboration on energy would be a fair and advantageous expansion of collaboration within the SCO. Both countries are significant transit countries. The Declaration introduced at the Astana Summit revealed the SCO's behavior towards various global and regional issues. In specific, in recognition of the positive trends of stabilization in Afghanistan, the members of the SCO emphasized that "they find it appropriate, considering the completion of the active phase of the non-terrorist campaign in Afghanistan, for the members of the coalition participating to decide on the final date for the temporary use of infrastructure and for the existence of military contingents on the territory of SCO member countries [9].

This claim gave rise to a big-scale global impact, with a number of Western observers viewing it as non-American, but the claim did not, as per observers on the SCO states, mean that the organisation was being turned into a non-Western bloc because the Western coalition's military establishment retained its presence in the region. In July 2006 the Shanghai Summit was devoted to the SCO foundation's fiftieth anniversary. Many legal documents have been registered, such as the SCO Fifth Anniversary Declaration; Declaration of Heads of SCO Member countries on Global security; Decision of the Council of Heads of SCO Member countries on the acceptance of the 2007–2009 SCO Member countries Coordination Program on Terrorism, Sectarianism and Extremism Curbing;

Agreement between SCO Member countries on Collaboration in the Detection and Obstructing of Channels of Stimulation in the Territory of SCO member countries and of people involved in Murderer, Separatist, and Extremist Activities; Agreement on the outcomes of the SCO Business Council Foundation Meeting. As per the SCO, its member countries constitute a land area of more than 30 million square kilometers, or three fifths of Eurasia, with a populace of more than 3.5 billion, that is to say slightly less than half of the total populace of the globe [8]. The fact that Mongolia, Iran, India and Pakistan were added to the SCO as observer states greatly increased the geographical, demographic, and financial spectrum whereby India and Pakistan inducted as full member states in SCO which increased organizational political weight. Nevertheless, it is significant that, to date, the member states of the SCO include four atomic-weapon nations, and two of them—Russia and China—are permanent members of the UN Security Council.

It should be observed that, since the creation of the SCO, scholars and analysts have held various views about the organization's aims and goals. Thus, some writers (mostly from Europe and America) consider the creation of the SCO as Russia and China's initiative to create a new anti-U.S. military alliance which may prompt to combat the United States in the region. Yet a number of CIS, China, and other experts are of the view that the SCO as an agency is tasked with proactive and positive activities. Therefore, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the head of the International Institute of Energy Policy and Diplomacy, Valery Salygin, of the Moscow State Institutes of Global affairs (MGIMO), emphasizes that the "Organisation [SCO] is not hostile to other countries or multilateral organizations"[9].

The major focus of the SCO was to grasp international political and security concerns by hosting numerous international conferences, workshops, and round tables worldwide. In Jan 2006, the Global Centre for Strategic Studies in London organized an international conference on "10 years of the Shanghai Co-operation Mechanism and Regional Security Issues in Central Asia." Academics and experts from different states addressed the conference. During the conference, diverse views and perspectives on the challenges and prospects of SCO were heard. Professor Gennady Chufirin of the Moscow Institute of Global economics and International affairs mentioned that the SCO has attracts a lot of global attention and has the ability to provide stability not only in Central Asia but also beyond the region. Chinese Professor Zhao Huassheng found the progress of the SCO to be very optimistic and claimed that the leaders of the SCO had adopted essential agreements and agreed a long-term economic cooperation plan, the first step being to enhance trade terms and investment, the second step being to improve conditions of trade and investment.¹

With regard to the aims of the SCO, it should be stated that each state is of course interested, first and probably most important, in safeguarding its national interests and concerns. But on the other side, the protection of SCO member countries is faced with common problems and threats that require cooperation of efforts and actions to provide protection. The findings of sociological surveys and interviewing with specialists from Central Asia and Russia in 2006–2007 showed that the majority of experts (90%) regarded the SCO as Eurasia's main effective organization[10]. Throughout the days of the June 2010, SCO Summit in Tashkent, horrific events occurred in the southern areas of Kyrgyzstan, when hundreds of civilians, mainly ethnic Uzbeks, were killed. These events have become a test of strength for the SCO, as Kyrgyzstan is located between China, Kazakhstan,

Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The condition in Kyrgyzstan therefore became a main priority for the SCO conference in Tashkent.

The Declaration introduced at this summit includes a broad statement on member countries' position on this matter. The Declaration states that, "In the light of developments in the Republic of Kyrgyz, Member countries reassert their position of mutual assistance on principle. They are objected to intervention in the domestic affairs of sovereign countries, and also to acts that can cause conflict in the region, and are in favor of solving any conflict through diplomatic and political means alone, by dialogue and negotiations." The phase of SCO's creation and growth in the first and early second periods was full of complexities and issues. A common definition of terrorism that would be transparent and understandable with respect to an offender's identity has not yet been accepted at world level. The SCO also lacks a growing network of opinions and viewpoints about how to fight terrorism. That calls for urgent clarification. SCO observers will also relate to the process of defining terms about the specific manifestations related to terrorism and extremism.

4. The Economic Dimension of the SCO

One issue within the SCO, particularly at its start, was that the organization had no significant multilateral economic engagement mechanism. The economic relations between the SCO member states were largely bilateral in nature, and it took time to initiate various collective projects to recognize and lay the groundwork for multilateral economic cooperation.

A change in preferences is currently noted, mainly on China's proposal, on economic matters in the SCO's agenda. China is following a strategy of creating a free trade zone (FTZ) for the SCO. Whereas the states of Central Asia and Russia have to postpone the date of establishment of a free trade zone due to many factors, such as the fears of Chinese expansion. The date of establishment of a (FTA) has to be delayed, and China is escalating bilateral FTZs. For instance, many small FTZs were produced on the border areas between Kazakhstan and China.² In discussing the economic and security ties between China and its Central Asian allies in the SCO, it should be noticed that participation of the Shanghai community does not need compulsory involvement in particular economic projects of all parts as per the practice developed in the organisation. Specific economic ventures may be in the SCO format, even when they are done at the bilateral stage rather than having total involvement.

The scenario has slowly improved since 2005. A significant task is the establishment of SCO collaboration in the spheres of trade, industry, and investment. The action plan implementing the SCO's Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation Program illustrates measures to facilitate collaboration in these fields. Authorized by the Council of Heads of Governments of SCO member countries on 30 Oct 2008, the action plan includes 85 programs and events. The Action Plan explicitly calls for project implementation in areas like trade and investment, financing and taxation, natural resource protection and environmental security, customs processes, transport, research and emerging technology, agro-industrial complexes, information and telecommunications technology.

The SCO holds routine ministerial meetings which are accountable for political, financial and commercial activities. The Business Council and the SCO Interbank Association were founded by the SCO too. Throughout this time the specific and specialist working groups carried out work on enforcing the financial decisions taken by the SCO. Within the context of the SCO, twenty organizations have been founded whom operations focus on the issues of economic integration. Ad hoc working groups also function in places like customs, trade, information and communications technology, transportation, road building, logistics, and farming.

Exports to China from states within the area are mostly raw materials. From 2001 to 2010, the share of raw materials in Central Asian countries' export supplies to China grew from nearly 84.4% to 92% (of which more than 67% were natural resources, about 21% were ferrous and nonferrous metals, over 1% were chemicals and fabric raw materials). For the remainder 8%, 15.6% is made up for finished steel (due to Kazakhstan's supply of this product), utilities, other forms of manufacturing equipment (supplied from Uzbekistan), and also small quantities of textile, light manufacturing and food colorings.

During the same time, the amount of full goods in shipments from China to the states of the (CAR) increased from 77.5 per cent to over 90 per cent (of which machinery and equipment contributed for around 46 per cent, chemicals more than 8.4 per cent and meat and other products about 34.6 per cent). The remaining 10 to 23% were in the service business. Although supplies of raw materials were completely missing with the exception of the delivery of metals to Uzbekistan in small quantities^[11]. The framework of China's trade with the states of Central Asia is defined by the 'goods in exchange for raw materials' concept that is not beneficial to

the lengthy-term economic development of the Central Asian states. Considering the fact that some Central Asian countries have spurred on a path towards industrialization of import-substitution and have made efforts to increase the share of high value added exporting of goods (Uzbekistan and, to some extent, Kazakhstan), the position of exports of raw commodities remained paramount.

In China, expanding the joint transport infrastructure is becoming a target, as it will give China links to Europe's transport markets via Central Asia. There are some important improvements in the development of the "China-CAR" transport infrastructure. As per Chinese data, 87 transport routes—43 passengers' routes and 44 cargo routes—presently link China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The overwhelming majority of these roads are described by vehicle roads.

China has concluded bilateral and even multilateral road communications treaties with all representatives of the Central Asian SCO (a tripartite deal with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, and a four-party deal with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan), providing a legal framework and clear assurances for regional road communication.

Today, the interaction in the energy industry between China and the member countries of the Central Asian SCO is being passed out at the bilateral stage, but an issue has been brought up before the organisation regarding a mutual format for energy collaboration. To enhance and coordinate the SCO's initiatives in introducing shared energy resources initiatives, and also to resolve the energy issues of all SCO member countries, its political and expert societies are increasingly debating the concept of forming a SCO Energy Club across the lines proposed by Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Fifth Anniversary Countries that manufacture are Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and later, perhaps, Turkmenistan. Countries that consume are China, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India and Pakistan. Provided some SCO countries' dynamic economic growth and as per some analysts, there is possibility for the development of an interconnected market in the near future, and the development of pipeline networks and substantial water supplies. There is already a trend within the organization, that is to say, the growing trend of controlling the interests of both consumers and producers, given the fact that, in theory, it is not easy to achieve understandings in these sensitive realms as energy and foreign policy: the SCO member countries have some inconsistencies on foreign collaboration between them.

China is involved in large hydrocarbon acquisitions, whereas Russia is worried about the potential transfer of Central Asian energy flows from its transport networks to the East, a move that China has promoted. Central Asian states have consolidated their hydrocarbon export paths such as a way to bypass the Russian Federation. The SCO conference was held at Yekaterinburg (Russia) in June 2009. Throughout the meetings opinions were conveyed on cooperation and joint measures to alleviate and resolve the effects of the international economic and financial crisis in the member countries of the SCO, and also to ensure and improve political and economic stability.

It was stated at this gathering that China is allocating 10 billion USD to the SCO states. This Chinese strategy can be clarified, first, by simply making assistance and support to SCO partners and, second, by the need to consolidate their economic credit portfolios. A Joint Communiqué was concluded following the Yekaterinburg Forum that established practical steps to foster collaboration within the SCO system. The SCO Convention against Terrorism was supported, and a paper was released on the organization's legislative and legal system to meet the standards and modify the particulars of new problems and risks.

The leaders of SCO member countries ratified the Declaration of Yekaterinburg that declared that global cooperation is one-source resource for addressing today's pressing issues, like energy and food protection, climate change, and financial collapse. The Declaration also acknowledged the need to strengthen collaboration, in the first place, with the UN Security Council, with the SCO observer states, Afghanistan, and regional and global organizations.

5. International Cooperation and Membership Issues

The SCO has formed cooperative relations with various foreign and regional organizations, such as the UN, ASEAN, and CIS. At the UN General Assembly the SCO received observer status. The exchanging of ideas and experiences on the execution of investment and developmental projects, the creation of relations with other countries and the creation of financial and research institutions was envisaged through a Memorandum between the SCO and the ASEAN secretariat.

As for the Eurasian Economic union, data on collaboration in trade, energy, climate, transportation corridors and telecommunications is shared in compliance with the related documents registered. Collaboration also occurs in the fields of literacy, health care facilities, recreation, science and culture.

It should be noticed that a number of analysts have called attention to the potential for collaboration and a joint working relationship between the SCO and NATO in ensuring stability and peace in Afghanistan. Numerous joint military exercises between the CSTO and the SCO have been conducted. Under the presidency of Uzbekistan, the SCO continued its mission in 2009 to expand the organization's global recognition and collaboration. In specific, as stated above, an agreement on collaboration between the UN and the SCO was approved in Dec 2009 as part of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly, that was a new chance to enhance collaboration between the two organizations on matters of safety and stability, cultural, social and human growth, and in other areas of common interest. In April 2010, a joint agreement on collaboration between the SCO and the UN was concluded during the tour of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Tashkent, Organization of key values and lines of cooperation between the two organizations. Other model of collaboration within the organization that was developed by Belarus and Sri Lanka at the 2009 summit, entered into force in April 2010—collaboration with foreign countries and Dialog Partnership.

The SCO Conference was conducted in Tashkent in June 2010, in which many sensitive documents were registered, such as the Declaration of the Tenth Session of the Council of Heads of SCO Member countries, Rules on the process for admitting new participants to the SCO, The SCO Laws of Procedure, established on the proposal of Uzbekistan, were designed to promote the improvement of the legal system of the organization. A significant development in the humanitarian field was an announcement about the establishment of a special SCO University, which represents the collaborative efforts of many of the organization's leading academic institutions.

All the documentation signed, in particular the Regulation on the Entry of New recruits to the SCO, were of great significance to the organization's growth, and to enhance its international image and reputation. Under these Rules, a State intending to meet the SCO should belong to the Eurasian zone, Have diplomatic relations with all SCO member states, have SCO observer status or SCO dialogue member status, sustain active trade and investment and charitable ties with SCO member countries, are not subject to International sanctions and are not involved in military conflict with any other country or entity.

The paper's key importance is the definition and corroboration of the principles for integrating other states into the SCO. It offers excellently-defined requirements for countries that wish to join. Moreover, this agreement greatly limited prospects not only for Iran but also for the U.S for membership in the SCO [11]. There are varying perspectives on the SCO's partnerships with various countries and foreign organizations. The European Union should also improve collaboration with the SCO in its current policy in Central Asia, as per Dr. Oksana Antonenko. In her opinion, the European Union should not neglect the SCO and its increasing position in Central Asia. Not only does the European Union regard the SCO in a strategic context but its contributions to regional stability and growth needs to be acknowledged. Collaboration between the European Union and the SCO would enhance regional cooperation, economic development and Central Asian stability. Dr. Sidharth S. Saxeena and Dr. Prajjakti Kallra stated that, with growing collaboration between Russia, China and the states of the area in Central Asia, along with strengthened coordination in a wider sense, also with the observer states (India, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan), the SCO is becoming increasingly valuable for leading actors like the U.S, the European Union and others. With respect to the lengthy-term interests of the organization's limited participants (the states of Central Asia), Japan's involvement in SCO practices will be an extension of the room for financial and political balance.

It is therefore necessary to stress that, under the current conditions; Japan has ample opportunities to participate more effectively in the Central Asian area and to initiate collaboration with the SCO as well. Japanese researcher Iwashita Akihiro has suggested granting Japan an ad hoc role at SCO conferences, probably a guest role. For instance, pre-summit activities may involve the development of an SCO plus Alpha format; or a movement system from guests to partner status. The structure should be set out in the context of the SCO Plus Three (European Union, USA, and Japan), the SCO Regional Platform, and so on; thus connecting the SCO with other local organizations, like the (SAARC), ASEAN, and the Six-Party negotiations on North Korea. In the future, the SCO needs to establish close relations with countries from different regions.

As already stated, catastrophic events occurred in the southern areas of Kyrgyzstan during the 2010 SCO Summit in Tashkent, when hundreds of civilians were murdered. The terrible events in Kyrgyzstan have shown that global and foreign organizations like the SCO have to focus more on conflicts reduction and pay closer attention to problems of stabilization and sustainability.

6. Conclusion

Via its institutional and political development, the SCO has gone via a range of stages and currently constitutes a global instrument for organizing regions of multilateral collaboration. Nevertheless, there are many challenges

in the creation of the SCO, such as a lack of dispute resolution mechanisms, and financial and stabilization issues, in which the majority of initiatives are funded mainly by Chinese investment, although other states, especially Russia, may advance a more effective investment policy within the SCO system. It is clear that collaboration needs to be developed between the SCO and major European and Asian states, the USA and international bodies. In the long run, the SCO may create new possibilities for collaboration and interaction among member countries, and also collaboration with other international organizations to enhance regional and international security.

The following may be proposed for continuing and extended collaboration within the SCO design structure:

- Future institutional structure growth, particularly with regard to local projects, like cross-border water distribution and ecological issues;
- Solid cooperation and joint ventures on Central Asia and Afghanistan between the SCO and the European Union, N.A.T.O, O.S.C.E, C.I.S, S.C.O, E.E.C and C.S.T.O;

Future prospects in Central Asia for multilateral global cooperation would depend on the alignment of national, regional, and foreign interests. Firstly, a strong dialog between the Central Asian republics themselves is important. All the geopolitical, financial, economic, and protection problems in Central Asia are linked together and strategies could come together. Future regional collaboration with strong global collaborations will facilitate greater security, economic reform and democratization.

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