

The President of Uzbekistan proposed a new direction of security cooperation within the SCO



On August 31 – September 1 this year, the regular summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Tianjin, China. At the summit, the leaders of the member countries discussed global and regional security issues, the economy, and international cooperation. As a result, 20 documents were signed, the main of which were the Tianjin Declaration and the SCO Development Strategy until 2035.

Since its inception, one of the key priorities of the Organization's activities has been cooperation in the field of security. Today, as the system of international relations undergoes profound upheavals and the previous order based on universally recognized norms and principles of international law is losing its stability, further expansion and deepening of cooperation in this area are becoming even more in demand.

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan noted in his speech, "the systemic crisis of trust, the escalation of conflicts, the weakening of multilateral institutions, and the fragmentation of the global trading system are undermining the foundations of the international architecture of security and stability".

In such unpredictable conditions, the SCO can become one of the strong pillars for ensuring a stable and just world order. Throughout its history, the Organization has actively promoted and implemented the principles of non-alignment, non-confrontation, and non-direction against third parties, as well as fostering peace through dialogue and cooperation.

The need for coordinated approaches and new mechanisms for trust and security is precisely what underpins the initiative proposed by the Leader of Uzbekistan for the adoption of a Declaration on Strengthening Multilateral Partnership for Nuclear Security.

According to the President, its adoption "will become a solid foundation for the development of peaceful atom and emergency response, an important contribution to the global non-proliferation regime under the auspices of the United Nations".

In other words, Uzbekistan proposes to include nuclear safety issues in the sphere of cooperation within the

SCO. At the same time, Tashkent's approach is focused not only on controlling atomic weapons and preventing the proliferation of nuclear technologies, but also considers the context of technological development, protection, and response to possible accidents or threats.

Why does the President of Uzbekistan, in particular, put the initiative forward right now?

First, global instability. The world is facing increasing uncertainty – a crisis of confidence, escalating military conflicts, and weakening multilateral institutions are undermining international security.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), global security continued to deteriorate in 2024, military spending continued to increase, and a new nuclear arms race accelerated.

According to a SIPRI analysis, global military spending in 2024 grew by 9.4% and reached \$2.7 trillion, or 2.5% of the world's GDP. At the same time, according to SIPRI Director D. Smith, there are signs of a new nuclear arms race that "is gaining strength and carries far more risk and uncertainty than the last one".

In such circumstances, when the world has become more vulnerable to nuclear risks and conflicts, solidarity within the SCO is becoming the key to peaceful cooperation in Eurasia.

Second, there is a need for new mechanisms of trust. Current challenges require not only negotiations but also coordinated approaches and trust mechanisms, including in the field of nuclear safety. The Declaration can become such a mechanism that strengthens collective resilience, demonstrating the common position of the SCO countries on preventing atomic risks.

Third, the peaceful potential of the atom. There is a growing interest in peaceful nuclear energy in the developing SCO countries, including Uzbekistan. In the modern era of rapid technological growth and evolving threats, it is becoming necessary to update the format of cooperation and expand the security framework.

Fourth, strengthening the SCO's role as a responsible participant in the global security system. As the Leader of Uzbekistan noted in his speech, "the SCO's voice should sound even more convincing and firm as an expression of our common political will, as a call for decisive action for a peaceful future and sustainable progress". Support for the non-proliferation regime and UN standards in the field of nuclear safety will emphasize the SCO's commitment to international obligations, strengthen the Organization's authority and role as a responsible, open, and inclusive mechanism serving the cause of peace, stability, and prosperity on a global scale.

Thus, Uzbekistan's initiative to adopt the Declaration on Strengthening Multilateral Partnership for Nuclear Security is a pragmatic and timely step aimed at enhancing regional security, fostering trust in the infrastructure, and promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

In modern conditions, where problems of cross-border threats and technological competition are becoming increasingly acute, such a document can evolve from a declaration to an actual roadmap for long-term cooperation in the field of nuclear safety.

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