



Shanghai Cooperation Organization
Remarks of Secretary-General Rashid Alimov
60th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Vienna, 13 March 2017

Mme. Chairperson,
Distinguished members of the Commission,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. To start with, I would like to congratulate the delegates and guests of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with its anniversary session. Over the past 60 years, the Commission has worked hard and contributed significantly into mobilizing the international community for the fight against the narcotic evil.
2. Cooperation in the fight against illicit drug trafficking has been one of the priorities for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization since its establishment. Associating itself with the international community on the issue of narcotic drug threat, the SCO expresses a deep concern over the escalation of illicit drug trafficking. The problem obviously presents a big challenge to international security and sustainable economic development. **The Organization's basic approaches on this global issue are set out in the SCO Member-States' Statement at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the World Drug Problem.**
3. Today every country in the world has experienced the destructive effects of the narcotic drug pandemic. The alarming growth of drug business and drug abuse in recent years has deeply affected all areas of life, undermining governmental institutions and social foundations, delivering a highly destructive blow to the nations' gene pool.
4. The SCO's legal framework, primarily the SCO Member-States Agreement on Cooperation in Combatting Illicit Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, provides a foundation for the SCO Member-States' effective cooperation in this area.
5. The roadmap towards this goal was set out in the SCO Anti-Drug Trafficking Strategy and the Action Program for its Implementation in 2011. The SCO Member-States apply it to launch comprehensive cooperation against narcotic

drugs, to improve the legal framework of interaction, take measures on drug demand reduction, harmonize the national laws, as well as to take prophylactic steps on drug abuse and drug rehabilitation.

6. **The SCO** provides an efficient three-level institutional mechanism for interaction of the Member-States' counternarcotic agencies facilitating their cooperation at the expert and administrative levels to deal with a **wide** range of urgent issues.

7. The SCO Member-States hold joint operations on countering illicit drug trafficking aiming at coordination of actions and achieving practical goals, especially in spheres of seizing narcotic drugs and precursors and blocking the channels of their supply.

8. **In 2011 – the first half of 2016**, the counternarcotic agencies of the SCO Member-States seized some 69 tons of heroin, over 17 tons of raw opium, near 350 tons of marijuana and 28 tons of hashish. The quantity of heroin seized amounts to 14 percent of global heroin seizure. Experts acknowledge that this corresponds to millions of saved lives, loss of billions of US dollars for drug cartels, and delivers a heavy blow to the **organized** drug crime.

9. The above examples are the evidence of **consistency, commitment** and high efficiency of joint efforts against the drug threat. However, it is also clear that to fight this threat effectively we need to continue to consolidate the efforts of the whole international community.

10. The SCO calls for redoubling international efforts to resolve the global drug problem based on a comprehensive and balanced approach and common and shared responsibility of states.

11. At the same time, the SCO Member-States stand for maintaining and strengthening the current international drug control system, on the basis of the three main UN conventions and with the UN in a central coordinating role.

12. We must focus on practical measures aimed at rooting out the production of illicit drugs worldwide, including eradication of the illicit narcotics cultivation and the processing facilities for them.

13. **The SCO also calls for** creating an effective system of legal response to the emergence of new synthetic narcotic drugs and other psychoactive substances and for strengthening cooperation in drug rehabilitation and effective drug demand reduction.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is ready for this kind of work.