

ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЕ
Генерального секретаря ШОС В.И.Норова
на 63-й сессии Комиссии ООН по наркотическим средствам
(Вена, 2 марта 2020 года)

Dear Ms. / Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. First of all, I would like to welcome the participants of the 63rd session of the UN Commission on narcotic drugs and emphasize the Commission's crucial contribution to coordinating the efforts of the international community to combat drug trafficking.

The Secretariat of the Shanghai cooperation organization is always attentive to the work of its annual sessions and strives to effectively supplement their content.

2. The SCO member States have consistently assumed that the illicit cultivation, production, trafficking, sale and distribution of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors pose a serious threat to the stability and security, health and well-being of their population.

3. We believe that the solution to the world drug problem should be implemented on a multilateral basis, through effective and broad international cooperation, as reflected in the 2009 Political Declaration.

4. We express serious concern about the ongoing drug expansion from the territory of Afghanistan and the Golden triangle region.

Our Organization has become an important platform for coordinating international cooperation in the field of drug control in Afghanistan.

We call for increasing interstate, interregional and global cooperation to counter this threat.

In this regard, I would like to note that one of our last implemented initiatives in this area was the adoption of the Road map for further actions of the SCO – Afghanistan Contact group in June 2019, which is aimed at strengthening cooperation with the Afghan authorities, including the anti-drug track.

5. The widespread use of new types of psychoactive substances, including through the Internet, is also extremely alarming.

Currently, according to experts, the drug trade accounts for up to 60% of all transactions in the Darknet.

The joint fight against this phenomenon has become one of the priority areas of cooperation within the framework of the updated Anti-Drug strategy of the SCO Member States and the action Program for its implementation.

As part of the approved Work plan for the implementation of these documents, the next "Web" international anti-drug operation of the SCO competent authorities will take place from 23 to 27 March, 2020.

Its task is to stop the supply of synthetic drugs and counter the use of Internet resources and virtual payment systems in the drug business.

We are working closely with the United Nations office on drugs and crime to counter these dangerous trends in illicit drug trafficking.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize the relevance and practical significance of the joint high-level event held today by the SCO and UNODC in terms of effectively neutralizing the drug threat in the shadow segment of the Internet, the so-called "Darknet".

In addition, the meeting of experts of the Paris Pact Initiative on preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals, organized in November 2019 with the assistance of the SCO Secretariat, marked a trend towards increasing the share of new types of psychoactive substances in the Afghan drug traffic.

We support the further development of the monitoring system for new types of chemicals through the International narcotics control Board.

We also consider it important to continue the dialogue in order to develop a universal legal framework within the UN to prevent the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes.

6. The focus of the SCO Member States' attention is on the growing symbiosis of drug trafficking with other cross-border challenges and threats.

In this context, the phenomenon of narcoterrorism is a particular concern, where the proceeds of drug trafficking fuel terrorist activities.

To attract the attention of the international community to this problem, a joint high-level event of the UN and SCO was held in New York on 19th of November, 2019, with the participation of the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

7. The SCO member States stand for the inviolability of the three UN anti-drug conventions, considering them as the cornerstone of the modern system of international drug control.

We proceed from the imperative of strict compliance with their provisions, including the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes.

At the same time, we regret to note that the trends observed today towards the legalization of cannabis for recreational purposes contribute to the erosion of established international anti-drug law.

8. In conclusion, I would like to confirm our readiness to engage in an open and inclusive dialogue with all interested states, regional and international organizations on countering illicit drug trafficking.

The SCO is ready to continue to complement global efforts in this direction with appropriate regional mechanisms and initiatives.

We look forward to collective and fruitful work with UNODC, including involving our colleagues from the European Union and the ASEAN, in order to turn the Eurasian continent into a space free of drug trafficking.

Thank you for your attention.