



Delhi University Model United Nations Conference

7-9 APRIL 2016

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

BACKGROUND GUIDE

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear participants,

It is our outmost pleasure to welcome you all to this special session of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. We congratulate you all for participating in DUMUN 2016 and assure you that we will make every possible effort to facilitate discussions and decision-making throughout the Conference.

The SCO region has the potential to turn into one of the world's most robust economic powerhouses. With a large share of the world's population and India and China as two of its most important members, it can prove to be one of the strongest economic axes in the world. Yet, its current structure is devoid of formal arrangements for economic cooperation and integration. It is this gap that we hope to fill through our deliberations.

We hope this study guide will serve as the starting point of your research and hope it will motivate you to explore in detail the road ahead for the bloc. We request you to prepare for the conference with utmost professionalism. On our part, we assure you that intelligent debate will be appreciated to the fullest. In addition, we will remain at your disposal for anything you may need and we will be more than happy to assist you in any possible way!

We thank you for your cooperation and we are looking forward to meeting you all in April.

Warmest regards,

Kartikeya Batra

Secretary-General of the SCO

Anna Sinha

Deputy Secretary-General of the SCO

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

Founded in 2001, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) can be described as an inter-governmental organization consisting of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The six member states occupy territory that accounts for three-fifths of the Eurasian continent and have a population of 1.5 billion, a quarter of the world's population. In addition to the six member states, the SCO has two new acceding members, Indian and Pakistan, four observer nations, and six dialogue partners. The following map reflects the current membership status of nations within the SCO. The initial intent of setting up the SCO was to demilitarize borders, and was later expanded to a larger gamut of international security-related concerns. Of late, however, the SCO's interests have expanded into the domain of international economic relations too.



Figure 1 - Source: SCO; Council on Foreign Relations

Economic cooperation within SCO: too much focus on energy cooperation?¹

Economic cooperation has become one of the organization's more pressing goals in recent years. However, issues related to energy security have dominated this narrative.

Several SCO member states—notably Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan—possess some of the world's largest reserves of oil and natural gas, driving interest in expanded energy cooperation among members. At a June 2006 summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin called for an "energy dialogue, integration of our national energy concepts, and the creation of an Energy Club." During that meeting, member states discussed establishing a "unified energy market" for oil and gas exports, while also promoting regional development through preferential energy agreements. However, the plans never materialized due to diverging interests between energy consumers and energy producers. China is looking to tap energy resources for its growing demand and while Kazakhstan and Russia are dominant energy exporters, Uzbekistan increasingly needs its energy resources for domestic development and consumption, and the economies in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan remain weak. Members "prefer to keep national control over their production, supply, and consumption mechanisms and agreements," according to Julie Boland, a former Federal Executive Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Still, regional energy cooperation occurs outside of SCO auspices. Russia has secured agreements with several of its Central Asian neighbors to build gas pipelines. China's energy diplomacy similarly follows a bilateral course. For example, the Central Asia–China Gas Pipeline consists of multiple lines, both completed and still under construction, running more than 1,100 miles through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

¹ Source: CFR Backgrounders; available at <http://www.cfr.org/china/shanghai-cooperation-organization/p10883>

Beijing also pledged a \$16.3 billion fund to integrate the region, reviving old trade routes as part of China's Silk Road Economic Belt. Though China's flurry of activity has been uprooting Russia's traditionally dominant influence in the region, energy deals between Beijing and Moscow are also on the rise.

Nevertheless, energy cooperation is but one facet of the economic exchanges among SCO members. At the Ufa summit held in 2015, member states adopted the SCO Development Strategy, which included bolstering finance, investment, and trade cooperation as a priority over the next ten years. China has pushed the organization to focus on economic cooperation with proposals like launching a development fund and a free-trade zone. In the past, many of these initiatives were "met with skepticism". However, Central Asian member states, in need of infrastructure and energy investment, have been responsive to these overtures, despite Russian sensitivities to China's expanding influence in former Soviet satellites.

In the following paragraphs, we will discuss the two sub-domains within the larger sphere of economic cooperation that the conference session will be focused on: enhancing financial cooperation and international trade within the region.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Board will be following standard UNA-USA Rules of Procedures. Any changes/innovations (if at all) will be notified to the delegates during the conference.

FLOW OF DEBATE

The debate in the SCO shall unfold in several different parts. The chart below shows the various stages of debate that unfold as per the UNA-USA procedure.

Roll Call: The Chairperson will announce each country's name. After a delegate hears her/his country's name, she/he should answer "present" or "present and voting."

Setting the Agenda: The agenda at hand for the SCO is: "Enhanced Economic Integration: Assessing Possibilities of Free Trade Areas and Better Financial Cooperation". Given that this committee has a single agenda, there shall be no motion to set the agenda. The agenda for the committee shall, by default, be the aforementioned.

Debate

There are two forms of debate: Formal and Informal. Both run parallel to each other. The Committee can move between Formal and Informal debate by moving and passing relevant motions.

- Formal Debate: Formal debate revolves around the General Speakers' List. The Chair begins by asking all delegates interested in addressing the other members to raise their placards. The Chair then chooses delegates to be placed on the list. A country may only be on the Speakers' List once, but delegates may add their country at the end of the list after their speech.

- Informal Debate: Informal debate involves discussions outside of the Speakers' list. This can take two forms: Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses. During a moderated caucuse, the Chair will call on

delegates one-by-one so that each can address the committee in short speeches on a specific issue chosen by the committee through majority voting. During an unmoderated caucus, delegates can move about in the committee room, and lobby with fellow delegates.

Documentation: The Executive Board looks forward to a unanimous ‘Joint Communiqué’ or a ‘Joint Declaration’ at the end of the debate.

Closure of Debate: Once the speaker’s list is exhausted, the committee automatically moves to voting. Also, once a delegate feels that his or her country's position is clear to others and that there are enough draft documents on the floor, he or she may make a motion to proceed into voting procedure by moving for the closure of debate.

Voting Procedures: Once a motion to close debate has been approved, the committee moves into voting procedure. Amendments are voted on first, followed by a vote on the outcome document. Once all the outcome documents are voted on, the committee moves to the next topic on the agenda (which will, however, not be the case in the case of our single-agenda committee).

LINKS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The following web links may be useful for further research. Delegates may kindly note that while the below list contains web links from a variety of sources, the Executive Board will only accept official Government documents, documents from multilateral organizations and news reports from state news agencies and Reuters as credible pieces of evidence.

- [Resource-1](#)
- [Resource-2](#)
- [Resource-3](#)
- [Resource-4](#)
- [Resource-5](#)
- [Resource-6](#)
- [Resource-7](#)
- [Resource-8](#)
- [Resource-9](#)
- [Resource-10](#)
- [Resource-11](#)
- [Resource-12](#)
- [Resource-13](#)
- [Resource-14](#)