SCO SUMMIT

Summit bears fruit in global governance

Xi's proposal offers practical solutions on intl peace, sustainable development, says FM

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Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2025 in Tianjin concluded with substantial outcomes that will advance the regional grouping's high-quality development and provide guidance for global cooperation.

Speaking at a joint news conference with SCO Secretary-General Nurlan Yermekbayev, Wang noted that the gathering was the fifth SCO summit hosted by China and the largest in scale to date.

He said President Xi Jinping's proposal of the Global Governance Initiative offers fresh Chinese wisdom and practical solutions to strengthen and improve the global governance system, making important contributions to international peace and sustainable development.

As the world undergoes profound changes unseen in a century, Wang said that the initiative comes at a critical time, when questions about what kind of global governance system should be built, and how it should be reformed and improved, have become matters of urgent concern for the international community.

He pledged that China is ready to work with other SCO countries to take the lead in advancing the initiative, launching demonstrative cooperation and contributing to global governance reform.

Regarding the SCO development strategy for the next decade, which was adopted at the summit, Wang said it sets a clear direction and lays a foundation for the organization's long-term growth.

It emphasizes that the SCO member states will continue to uphold the Shanghai Spirit, pursue mutually beneficial cooperation and support each other's development, thereby contributing to the building of a multipolar world, he noted.

On security, Wang said four SCO security centers were inaugurated to strengthen the members' capacity to address emerging threats and challenges and to more effectively safeguard regional peace and stability.

Noting that China first proposed the establishment of an SCO development bank more than a decade ago, Wang said that the summit in Tianjin officially launched the process. The bank, he said, will provide the Eurasian region with a new multilateral cooperation platform, strongly supporting infrastructure development and socioeconomic progress across SCO countries.

Wang added that SCO reform also made headway with the decision to merge the observer state and dialogue partner mechanisms into a single SCO partner mechanism, in a bid to foster a more streamlined structure, closer collaboration and more efficient operations.

Shanghai Spirit in action

The admission of Laos as a dialogue partner at the summit expanded the SCO family to 27 countries. During the summit, Pakistan and Armenia also announced the establishment of diplomatic ties, which Wang described as a vivid demonstration of the Shanghai Spirit in action.

Yermekbayev said that China's presidency represents a crucial stage in the SCO's development, adding that under China's initiatives, the organization is set to enter a new phase of sustainable growth across all areas of cooperation.

He expressed appreciation for the comprehensive and forward-looking proposals put forward by China, calling them vital to the organization's long-term progress.



Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right), who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, shakes hands with Nurlan Yermekbayev (left), secretary-general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, at a joint news conference during the SCO Summit 2025 in Tianjin on Monday. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY



Peng Liyuan (center), wife of President Xi Jinping, and spouses of foreign leaders, wave to children who sang joyfully and waved Chinese and foreign national flags to welcome them, at a pier in Tianjin, on Monday, ahead of a boat tour along the Haihe River. Peng invited the spouses of foreign leaders who were attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2025 to a tour on the river. They also enjoyed tea while taking in the riverside views. WANG JING / CHINA DAILY

Peng, spouses of foreign leaders tour Haihe River, chat over tea in Tianjin

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Peng Liyuan, President Xi Jinping's wife, invited spouses of foreign leaders who were attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2025 in Tianjin to a sightseeing tour on the Haihe River on Monday afternoon.

The 72-kilometer-long Haihe River, hailed as Tianjin's mother river, winds its way through the city and flows eastward into the Bohai Sea. The river, flanked by historical landmarks and modern architectural marvels, encapsulates the essence of Tianjin's diversity, inclusiveness, openness and innovation.

Peng warmly greeted the guests, shaking hands with them one by one before joining them for a group photo.

At the pier, a group of children sang a joyful song, *I'm Waiting for You in Tianjin*, and waved Chinese and foreign national flags to welcome them.

Peng then joined the guests on a boat ride along the river, where they learned about the city's history and development.

Peng told the guests that Tianjin is a city blending historical depth and modern vitality, and that the Haihe River has witnessed the city's development and exchanges and mutual learning of diverse cultures. Peng said she looked forward to having an unforgettable time with the guests.

During the tour, they enjoyed the riverside views, had a chat over tea and enjoyed an ensemble of *sanxian*, a three-stringed traditional Chinese instrument. They also posed for a group photo on the deck.

The guests spoke highly of traditional Chinese culture and praised the remarkable achievements in advancing Chinese modernization.

The guests included spouses of Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Nepali Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, and daughter of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

Initiative: Nations called upon to oppose hegemonism, practice true multilateralism

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Xi then urged SCO countries to set an example in championing the common values of humanity, while announcing China's decision to treat 500 patients with congenital heart disease, perform 5,000 cataract operations and carry out 10,000 cancer screenings for other SCO countries.

Xi also made an appeal for SCO countries to defend international fairness and justice, saying they should continue to unequivocally oppose hegemonism and power politics, practice true multilateralism, and stand as "a pillar in promoting a multipolar world and greater democracy in international relations".

The initiative was widely welcomed and supported during the meeting, as leaders highlighted the need for a more effective governance philosophy and system as the world is confronted with widening deficits in governance, challenges to sustainable development and rising unilateralism.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at a news briefing on Monday that Xi's launch of the Global Governance Initiative was the "biggest highlight" of this year's SCO summit.

He said that the initiative's underlying principles are fully consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. "It is designed to firmly support the central role of the UN in international affairs, and to encourage all countries to participate in the reform and development of the global governance system through the UN and other multilateral mechanisms."

Nurlan Yermekbayev, the SCO's secretary-general, said the fact that the Global Governance Initiative "was put forward on the SCO platform carries profound symbolic significance".

"Indeed, the principles enshrined in the initiative are of paramount importance, with the people-centered approach standing out in particular. After all, as we all recognize, the initiative's central purpose is to advance human development and improve people's livelihoods."

Spirit: Summit drives multipolar vision with major funding

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"Shared aspirations are the source of strength and advantage, and the will to seek commonality while shelving differences reflects vision and wisdom," Xi said, encouraging all parties to make the pie of cooperation bigger and fully utilize the endowment of every country.

To pursue mutual benefit and win-win results, he called on the SCO countries to better align their development strategies, leverage the strengths of their mega-sized markets and economic complementarity among them, and enhance cooperation across various areas including energy, infrastructure and green industry.

Highlighting the need to enhance mutual understanding and friendship through people-to-people exchanges, he said SCO member countries should jointly cultivate a garden of civilizations in which all cultures flourish in prosperity and harmony through mutual enlightenment.

To uphold fairness and justice, Xi called on the SCO to promote a correct historical perspective on World War II, and oppose the Cold War mentality, bloc confrontation and bullying practices.

"We should advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and make the global governance system more just and equitable," he said.

Xi also called for continuous SCO reform to improve its institutional structure and make its decision-making more scientific and its actions more efficient.

He said that the newly established SCO Universal Center for Countering Security Challenges and Threats and the SCO Anti-Drug Center should be put into use, and an SCO development bank should be set up as soon as possible, to provide stronger underpinnings for security and economic cooperation among member states.

Xi stressed that China always aligns its development with that of the SCO and with the aspirations of the people of member states for a better life.

To date, China's investment stock in other SCO member states has exceeded $84 billion, and its annual bilateral trade with other SCO member states has surpassed $500 billion.

"China's cumulative trade with other SCO countries has surpassed $2.3 trillion, hitting ahead of schedule the target that I had set," he said.

In the latest move of taking real actions to ensure better development of the SCO, Xi announced that China will implement 100 "small and beautiful" livelihood projects in member states that need them, provide 2 billion yuan ($280 million) in grants to SCO member states within this year, and issue an additional 10 billion yuan in loans to the member banks of the SCO Interbank Consortium over the next three years.

Starting next year, China will double the current number of SCO-specific scholarships and launch an SCO innovative PhD program to jointly train high-caliber talent in academic as well as scientific and technological research, he added.

Furthermore, Xi said that China will establish 10 vocational education Luban Workshops in SCO member states and provide 10,000 human resources training opportunities in the next five years.

So far, China has established 10 Luban Workshops in SCO countries, cultivating the technical and skilled personnel needed for the economic and social development of partner countries.

Participants said at the meeting that jointly building the Belt and Road with China has enabled all countries to share China's new development opportunities, and the three major global initiatives proposed by China have brought certainty and stability to a turbulent world.

They pledged to continue practicing the Shanghai Spirit, build consensus, and strengthen cooperation in political, security, economic, trade, scientific, technological and cultural fields.

They also agreed to coordinate efforts to tackle both traditional and nontraditional security threats, resolutely combat the "three evil forces" of terrorism, extremism and separatism, and promote higher-quality development of the SCO through deeper cooperation.

The participants also stressed that, in the face of a complex and volatile international situation, SCO member states should enhance strategic coordination, safeguard the victorious outcomes of WWII, and oppose unilateralism, hegemonism, and protectionism, among others.

During the summit, leaders of the SCO member states signed and issued the Tianjin Declaration, accepted Laos as a dialogue partner, and adopted 24 outcome documents on strengthening cooperation in sectors such as security, economy, cultural exchanges and organizational building.

They also approved a development strategy for the organization in the 2026-35 period and issued a statement on the 80th anniversary of the victory in WWII and of the founding of the United Nations.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the meeting that the SCO has brought together like-minded partners committed to shaping a just, multipolar world order.

Among the outcome documents, he said that the Tianjin Declaration reflects the agreed-upon approaches of member states to pressing issues on the global and regional agenda.

In his speech, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said that mutual understanding and solidarity among SCO member states are the key to preserving peace in the region at a time when the foundation of global security and stability is being undermined by factors such as the escalation of conflicts and the fragmentation of the global trading system.

"We believe that the SCO's voice should be even more compelling and resolute, reflecting our common political will and serving as a call for decisive action in the name of a peaceful future and sustainable progress," he said.

The summit in Tianjin was the largest in SCO history.

Li Yonghui, a research fellow of Russian studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, noted that more and more countries are joining the SCO family now.

"Countries joined the organization in pursuit of development, but their interests and priorities are not identical. Therefore, it is necessary for them to respect the differences, maintain strategic communication, build up consensus and strengthen solidarity and collaboration, in order to promote a bigger role for the organization in the global arena," she said.

Highlights of Tianjin Declaration

The leaders of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization signed and issued the Tianjin Declaration of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO. The following are highlights of the document.

The member states:

- Approved the SCO Development Strategy through 2035.
- Released a statement on the 80th anniversary of the victory in World War II and the founding of the United Nations.
- Released a statement on supporting the multilateral trading system, and expressed opposition to unilateral coercive measures, including economic measures that violate norms of the UN Charter and other international laws, and principles and rules of the World Trade Organization.
- Released a statement on strengthening the development of the digital economy.
- Released a statement on the sustainable development of energy and approved a road map for implementing the SCO energy cooperation development strategy until 2030.
- Released a statement on cooperation in the field of green industry.
- Released a statement on deepening international cooperation on artificial intelligence.
- Released a statement on effectively addressing and combating global drug-related issues.
- Released a statement on further strengthening cooperation in scientific and technological innovation.
- Signed agreements to establish new centers — the SCO Universal Center for Countering Security Challenges and Threats and the SCO Anti-Drug Center.
- Reiterated the importance of establishing an SCO development bank and decided to accelerate consultations on issues related to the operations of the financial institution.
- Welcomed the decision to grant Laos the status of a dialogue partner of the SCO.
- Expressed support for the holding of a regional climate summit in Kazakhstan in 2026 with the support of the UN.
- Spoke highly of the achievements made by China during its SCO rotating presidency in 2024-25.
- Announced that Kyrgyzstan will assume the SCO presidency for 2025-26.

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