

**«INTERNATIONAL LEGAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SAMARKAND SUMMIT
OF THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION
ORGANIZATION (SCO)»**

Rushana Murodullaevna Aliakbarova,

First-year Master's degree in Mass Media Law, Faculty of Master's Degree and Distance
Learning of Tashkent State University of Law

Supervisor: D.Sh. Umarkhanova,

Doctor of Law, Dean of the Department of "International Law" of the
Tashkent State Law University

Since its inception, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has played a significant role in strengthening peace and stability in the region, expanding economic and cultural cooperation among member states, and strengthening the regional security system.

The main goals of the SCO are to maintain regional stability and security, promote economic cooperation and development, and expand cultural exchange and understanding among member states. The organization also seeks to address global and regional security issues such as terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking, and cybercrime.

Historically, the world seen from Samarkand was not fragmented, but whole and indivisible. This is the essence of the unique phenomenon of the "Spirit of Samarkand", on the basis of which fundamentally new forms of international exchange were created, including the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The Samarkand Summit, held in Samarkand in September 2022, was historic in terms of the number of negotiations and events. These include the Samarkand Declaration, signed by the heads of state and government of the member states. At the initiative or with the support of the Chinese side, the SCO Declaration on Ensuring Global Food Security, the Declaration on Ensuring International Energy Security, the Declaration on Solving the Climate Change Problem, and the Declaration on Ensuring Reliable, Sustainable, and Diversified Supply Chains were adopted. The SCO has also entered a new phase of expansion, unprecedented in the number of countries seeking certain statuses within its framework. The proposals put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping relate to such important areas of cooperation as trade and investment, financial cooperation, energy security, food security, counterterrorism, and humanitarian exchanges.

As it is known, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was created at an important historical moment when the Cold War ended and the old world order gave way to a new world order. The member states of the SCO have many differences in terms of territorial size, aggregate power, national characteristics, historical, cultural, and religious roots. Gradually, new ways of cooperation were developed that meet regional realities and correspond to the

aspirations of the member states. The values and principles of the "Shanghai Spirit" include mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for multiculturalism, and a commitment to common development. This approach rejects the traditional thinking of the Cold War era, goes beyond the theory of zero-sum games, and rejects the legitimacy of claims about clashes of civilizations. The SCO accepts and applies the principles of non-alignment, non-confrontation, and non-targeting, and advocates equality between large and small states. All decisions in the organization are made on the basis of consensus. The SCO has brought new thinking to regional and global governance in world politics and created a new model of international relations based on a commitment to partnership and cooperation, not conflict.

Today, the "age of change" and the COVID-19 pandemic are so intertwined that the problems of one overlap with the problems of the other. The lack of world peace, the lack of development, the complexity of governance and the decline in confidence are fueling tensions. The strategic economic game between China and the US continues to evolve. The US is building trade barriers with China and is "looking for a way out of broken chains." The US constantly creates barriers. The spillover effects of the Ukraine crisis mean that the European region is now in the same precarious security situation as it was at the end of the Cold War. Most European countries are under inflationary pressure, and the social situation of their citizens continues to deteriorate. At a time when the United States and other countries pursuing unilateral, protectionist, and hegemonic policies, the problems of global economic recovery are becoming increasingly difficult to overcome, and the consequences of instability and uncertainty in the international and regional environment are increasingly severe. In this context, the Samarkand summit attracts great attention and is of particular importance for the world community.

The SCO Anti-Crisis Committee held in Samarkand opened new horizons in the relations and regional cooperation of the SCO member states and paved the way for the creation of a new regional and international order. The continuous development and modernization of the SCO shows that the organization keeps pace with the times, meets the requirements of regional stability and takes into account the fundamental interests of the citizens of the member states. The Organization is becoming an increasingly important force in promoting the creation of a society with a common destiny of humanity.

The SCO Summit in Samarkand has already made history both in terms of the number of documents prepared and adopted, and in terms of the dynamics of the participation of new states in the SCO activities. This is a brilliant achievement of the policy of openness and integration of Uzbekistan into the world economy pursued by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The Uzbek leader also noted that international cooperation that meets the interests of all cannot be realized without multilateral institutions. Despite some shortcomings, multilateral institutions continue to function as important subjects of interstate cooperation both at the regional and global levels. After a three-year pandemic pause, which seriously disrupted trade, economic and industrial ties, the SCO countries and citizens need direct communication.

International and regional organizations can help countries overcome differences, promote mutual understanding, strengthen political and economic cooperation, expand trade and facilitate cultural and humanitarian exchanges.

Indeed, the SCO is a unique interstate structure that has managed to integrate countries with different cultural and civilizational norms, its own foreign policy principles and national development models. In a short historical period, the SCO has come a long way and has become an integral part of the modern world political and economic order.

Today, the SCO is the largest regional organization in the world, covering a huge geographical area and covering about half of the world's population.

Uzbekistan has assumed the responsibility of chairing the SCO and has chosen a strategy of high development of the SCO by opening new horizons of cooperation and using the untapped resources available in each country.

According to experts, the Samarkand Initiative is aimed at uniting states and peoples from different economies, geographies and cultures.

The Samarkand Solidarity Initiative for the Sake of Security and Common Prosperity is one of the most important initiatives of the summit, expressed by the leadership of Uzbekistan.

This proposal of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev was a logical continuation of the program document presented before the Samarkand summit. The Samarkand initiative can be considered as a concrete response to the main challenges and problems of the modern world order, in particular, to the lack of mutual trust, which Mirziyoyev outlined in his document. The Samarkand Initiative is designed to encourage States and peoples with different economies, geography and culture to common thinking and search for new approaches to ensure security and sustainable development.

Successful models of interaction within the SCO are transferred to the global level and form the basis for new forms of international cooperation.

The SCO Samarkand Summit showed an example of how to start a new and inclusive dialogue based on the principles of mutual respect, trust and constructive cooperation for the sake of common security and prosperity. The Samarkand Summit of the SCO Heads of state has become a platform for rapprochement and reconciliation of countries with different foreign policy priorities.

In conclusion, we may say that the SCO summit in Samarkand opened new horizons in relations and regional cooperation between the member States and marked the beginning of a new regional and international order. The continuous development and modernization of the SCO shows that the organization meets the trends of the times, meets the requirements of regional stability and takes into account the fundamental interests of the citizens of the member states. The Organization is becoming an increasingly important force in promoting the creation of a society with a common destiny of humanity.

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