

Statement Delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan at the  
SCO Foreign Minister's Meeting on the Sidelines of UNGA Session

**Excellencies,  
Honourable Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a matter of great honour and privilege for me to address this gathering of Foreign Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. In the integrated world of today, the regional organizations like SCO have greater role to play for coordinating actions and policies for peace and development. We are highly appreciative of SCO Secretariat and China for bringing us together on this platform.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This year marks the entry of Pakistan into this prestigious and multifaceted organization, as a full member. We are grateful to SCO members for their support to Pakistan in obtaining full SCO membership. As a responsible member of SCO, Pakistan will continue to play its valuable role in regional peace, security and development by adhering to the goals and principles of SCO Charter and Shanghai Spirit.

**Distinguished Excellencies,**

Even before acquiring full membership in SCO, Pakistan developed deep association with this organization by being an active Observer state. Three evils "Terrorism, extremism and separatism" identified by SCO have been fought well by Pakistan. Enormous sacrifices have been made by people and security forces of Pakistan. Pakistan's full membership will allow us to share our experiences and extend cooperation in our joint fight against these three evils.

The expansion of SCO will bring more dynamism in the organization and will strengthen its role in promoting mutual economic development and peace in the region.

**Excellencies,**

For peace and stability, it is also imperative to resolve regional issues through mutual efforts and coordination. The effort of SCO members for reviving SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group is a significant step towards the materialization of stability in Afghanistan, Pakistan also shares SCO's

concerns over rising tensions in Korean peninsula and in the Middle East. In Syria, we call for protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, cessation of hostilities and violence by all sides. We are hopeful that the Astana talks will help find an acceptable solution to the Syrian crisis within the framework of Geneva process.

**Excellencies,**

The role of United Nations in resolving these conflicts is beyond any doubt. Pakistan supports strict adherence to the goals and principles of the UN Charter and advocates peaceful settlement of ongoing disputes which have created turbulence in world affairs, under the auspices of UN principles. The efforts of SCO is strengthening the pivotal role of United Nations in combating the challenges of the modern are welcoming. The partnership between UN and SCO is yet to reach its full potential and both sides should continue to identify new areas of cooperation.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Multilateralism is a prominent feature of current geo-political scenario. The world is smoothly progressing towards economic interdependence. In addition to UN, the efforts of SCO in further extending cooperation and collaboration with other international/regional structures such as CICA, CSTO, CIS, ASEAN, ICRC and Eco will help strengthen the bonds of friendly neighbourlines not only among the member states but with the surrounding regions as well.

In the end, I would like to emphasize that Pakistan regards SCO as an extremely important organization as it will allow us to promote regional connectivity and reflect our interest in regional peace, stability and development.

Let us make a pledge that we, SCO member states, will work together and cooperate with each other in making world a better place.

**Thank You.**