

FEATURE

2018 SCO Summit

Xi chairs 2018 SCO summit to draw up blueprint for shared future

Source: Xinhua|2018-06-10 20:59:49|Editor: Mu Xuequan
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-06/10/c_137244791.htm



Chinese President Xi Jinping chairs the 18th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, June 10, 2018. Xi delivered a speech during the meeting. (Xinhua/Li Xueren)

QINGDAO, June 10 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping chaired the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization** (SCO) annual summit Sunday, aiming to bring the group to a shared future of common prosperity amid global instability and uncertainty.

The 18th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO in east

China's port city of Qingdao marked the first gathering of leaders of all its eight member states -- since India and Pakistan were admitted as full members last year.

The SCO accounts for 20 percent of the global economy and 40 percent of its population.

Joined by leaders from across Eurasia and heads of international organizations at a roundtable meeting, Xi hailed the 17-year-old organization as "a new model for regional cooperation" and shared ideas on how to tackle global challenges.

The two-day summit saw leaders sign documents in diverse fields including security, trade facilitation and people-to-people exchanges, sending out a signal of unity and collaboration, against the backdrop of global challenges such as hegemony, power politics, security threats, unilateralism and trade protectionism.

"We should, guided by the Shanghai Spirit, work closely to build an SCO community with a shared future, move toward a new type of international relations, and build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity," Xi said.

CREATIVE VISION OF SHANGHAI SPIRIT

Xi attributed the SCO's strength to the Shanghai Spirit, which champions mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development.

Now the spirit is embodied with rich content as shown in Xi's speech at the summit.

"We should uphold innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development," he said, calling for resolving issues regarding unbalanced development.

He proposed common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.

"We should reject the Cold War mentality and confrontation between blocs and oppose the practices of seeking absolute security of oneself at the expense of the security of other countries," he said.

The president stressed open and inclusive cooperation for win-win outcomes.

"We should reject self-centered, short-sighted and closed-door policies," he said.

"Equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness between cultures should be championed."

He also called for extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits in global governance.

A ROADMAP FOR ACTION

The Qingdao summit went beyond theories and concepts, outlining a roadmap for concrete action.

Strength of unity and mutual trust should be built up with states respecting each other's choice of development paths and accommodating each other's core interests and major concerns, according to Xi.

Xi stressed the need to cooperate on combating terrorism, separatism and extremism, and conduct a "Peace Mission."

China would train 2,000 law enforcement officers for all parties in the next three years to enhance law enforcement, Xi said.

The SCO's economic component has grown more prominent in recent years, and Xi proposed increasing the complementarity of development strategies and pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative to achieve shared growth through discussion and collaboration.

China's package for common development included setting up a 30-billion-yuan (4.7 billion U.S. dollars) special lending facility within the SCO Inter-bank Consortium.

Calling for closer ties through people-to-people and cultural exchanges, Xi said China would provide 3,000 training opportunities in human resources development for SCO member states in the next three years to enhance public understanding and support for the SCO.

The SCO will also expand partnership networks in international cooperation,

contributing to resolving important issues and improving global governance.

The SCO was established in 2001 by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members last year at the Astana summit in Kazakhstan. Its observer states are Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.

The Qingdao summit is one of the four international events Xi chairs in China this year, practicing "major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics."

The other three events are the Boao Forum for Asia annual conference in April, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation summit in September and the First China International Import Expo in November.

They are all aimed at building "a new type of international relations" and "a community with a shared future for humanity" -- two ideas Xi has expounded over the past five years.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (6th R, front) poses for a group photo with other leaders and guests ahead of the 18th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, June 10, 2018. Xi chaired the meeting and delivered a speech. (Xinhua/Gao Jie)