On measures in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
aimed to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

The issues of effective counteraction against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and possible perpetration of acts of terrorism and sabotage at nuclear facilities have always been in the spotlight of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in the context of its counterterrorism efforts.

In accordance with Paragraph 5 of UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/44 “On measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” (WMD) the Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO RCTS) has been conducting work to effectively counter the WMD proliferation and possible perpetration of acts of terrorism and sabotage at nuclear facilities of the SCO member states.

The SCO member states in conjunction with the United Nations and other international organisations have been taking measures to combat terrorism and implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 of 28 April 2004 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Some SCO members have ratified “The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism” signed on 14 September 2005 in New York.

The final declarations of SCO Heads of State Council summits as well as the Main guidelines for the SCO mid-term development strategy, approved in 2012, note that the SCO consistently stands up for strengthening the strategic stability and WMD non-proliferation regimes.
Decision 231 of 25 March 2011 by the SCO RCTS Council approved a draft Protocol on cooperation between the SCO RCTS and the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, which envisages the appointment of liaison officers in charge of coordinating cooperation, conducting joint working meetings and consultations, as well as sharing information on terrorist and extremist organisations, the state, dynamics and tendencies of terrorism proliferation, and individuals providing support for international terrorist organisations.

In accordance with Decision 288 of the SCO RCTS of 14 September 2012, the Director of the SCO RCTS Executive Committee forwarded a letter to the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) on cooperation between the SCO RCTS and the UN SC CTED with the aim of following up on Decision 231 of 25 March 2011, which had approved such cooperation.

In the process of counterterrorism cooperation of the SCO member states measures are being introduced to prevent the emergence of threats of perpetrating acts of terrorism using the materials related to weapons of mass destruction.

Considering the significance and the need to focus attention on global causes of the emergence of terrorism using WMD, this work is being conducted by the SCO RCTS in the framework of the Programme of cooperation of the SCO member states on combating terrorism, separatism and extremism for 2013-2015 as well as annual Working Plans of the SCO RCTS Executive Committee. In accordance with the mentioned documents, in the 3rd quarter of 2012 the SCO
RCTS Executive Committee hosted a meeting of representatives of the competent services of the SCO member states on the issues of exposing and intercepting the illegal circulation of arms, ammunition and explosives used by terrorists, including weapons of mass destruction, as well as forms of cooperation in this field.

The SCO RCTS Protected Data Bank is being actively used and upgraded in order to ensure effective sharing of information between the competent services of the SCO member states responsible for combating terrorism, separatism and extremism, as well as for countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In order to fulfill the Agreement on cooperation between the governments of the SCO member states on combating the illegal circulation of arms, ammunition and explosives, there is regular sharing of information on crimes related to the trafficking of arms, ammunition and explosives, implicated individuals and organisations, exposed delinquencies, which can lead to the perpetration of this kind of crimes, as well as on new methods of preventing, discovering and intercepting facts of the illegal circulation of arms, ammunition and explosives.

The SCO member states conduct regular checkups with the aim of ensuring the safety of strategically important facilities and high security sites storing the materials, which can be used for the creation of weapons of mass destruction.

In accordance with the Order of maintaining working links between the SCO RCTS Executive Committee and the CIS Antiterrorist Centre (ATC), as well as the Protocol of Intentions between the SCO RCTS and the Council of Commanders of
Border Troops (CCBT) of the CIS member states, working meetings are held with the participation of CIS ATC and CCBT representatives, who also discuss the issues of countering acts of terrorism using WMD.

The current legislation of the SCO member states enables an effective implementation of a set of preemptive and legal measures aimed to expose and prevent acts of terrorism using weapons of mass destruction.

SCO Secretariat