MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE
PACIFIC AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE SHANGHAI
COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

I. INTRODUCTION

With a view to strengthening cooperation and interaction between the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ("ESCAP") and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization ("SCO"), the Secretariat of the ESCAP and the Secretariat of the SCO (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"),

- guided by the goals and tasks of ESCAP and SCO;
- considering the basic documents of ESCAP and SCO, as well as the international agreements being in force within ESCAP and SCO;
- understanding the importance of close coordination of efforts in different areas, being undertaken in the framework of ESCAP and SCO;
- affirming their intention to work together in economic and social fields to promote regional socio-economic cooperation and support the efforts on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

have reached the following understanding:

II. AREAS OF COOPERATION

1. The Parties shall work together and encourage effective cooperation in the following priority areas:
   (a) trade and investment;
   (b) transport, energy, information and communications technology connectivity;

2. With mutual consent the Parties, in the framework of their mandates, shall share information and experience and cooperate in the other areas of common interest.

III. FORMS OF COOPERATION

Cooperation in the framework of the present Memorandum shall be carried out in the following forms:
(a) holding meetings between ESCAP Executive Secretary and SCO Secretary-General, at least once in two years, to review the implementation of joint activities and discuss future areas of cooperation;

(b) holding consultations among experts on the basis of mutual agreements;

(c) informing each other of activity programmes in areas of common interest, exchange of publications and other materials;

(d) participation in meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops related to the priority areas of cooperation and organized by the Parties;

(e) joint elaboration and implementation of various projects and activities in priority areas of cooperation.

IV. RESPONSIBLE UNITS

1. The Parties shall designate responsible units for coordination of joint activities under the present Memorandum:
   - on the part of the Secretariat of ESCAP: Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division,
   - on the part of the Secretariat of SCO: Economic and Humanitarian Section;

2. The Responsible units defined in Paragraph 1 of Chapter IV of the present Memorandum shall prepare:
   - a list of joint programmes and cooperation activities for the following year and their description;
   - a preliminary list of planned cooperation activities for the following two years;
   - concrete proposals concerning implementation of joint activities and projects in the priority areas of cooperation.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF ORGANIZATION'S EMBLEMS

The Parties recognize that the involvement of both Organizations in joint cooperation activities should be publicized. They agree that:

(1) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each Organization to joint projects in all released information documents related to such cooperation;

(2) the emblems of each Organization in documents on cooperation shall be used in accordance with the rules of each Organization on the use of emblems.
VI. MISCELLANEA

1. The Parties shall use English as the working language of their cooperation.

2. In case of discrepancy in interpretation of the provisions of the present Memorandum, the Parties shall hold consultations.

3. The Memorandum shall not impose any financial obligations on the Parties.

4. The Parties shall inform the members and associate members of ESCAP and the member states of SCO respectively of the results of their cooperation.

VII. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The Memorandum shall come into force from the date of signature and be valid until 31 December 2020.

2. The parties shall review the implementation of this Memorandum in 2017.

3. The Parties can introduce changes and supplements to this Memorandum, which shall be formalized through protocols signed by ESCAP Executive Secretary and SCO Secretary-General and shall form an integral part of the present Memorandum.

4. The validity of the present Memorandum can be terminated by either Party subject to six-month advance written notice submitted to the other Party.

Signed in Zhengzhou on 15th December 2015, in two copies in English, Russian and Chinese languages with the three texts being equally authentic.

For the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Shamshad Akhtar
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

For the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Dmitry Mezentsev
Secretary-General