

# Security of the New Silk Road in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

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**Abstract.** In the proposed research work, it is argued the need to strengthen the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's capacity to ensure security and stability which is involved in the implementation of the project of the "Economic Belt of the New Silk Road".

**Key words:** *the SCO, China, Russia, Central Asia, OBOR, security.*

## Introduction

During the work of the Boao Asian Forum in March 2015, the State Committee for Development and Reform of the People's Republic of China published the Action Plan on "Joint Construction of the New Silk Road and Belt" (hereinafter referred to as the Economic Belt of the New Silk Road). The main objectives of the project are to create" infrastructure, the financial and telecommunication interconnectedness of the participating countries, as well as to remove trade barriers in their relations.

The geographic directions of the New Silk Road are defined in several variants. Some of them (China-Central Asia (CA), Russia and the Baltic countries, China-the countries of the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean through Central and West Asia) include the territories of the countries-members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which in China are considered as an active participant in the project.

The Chinese plan is put by many experts into doubt due to a number of factors. First, its realization can be hampered by periodically increasing in- stability within the Central Asian republics and in the region as a whole [1]. Secondly, for successful functioning of the way through more than a dozen state borders, it is necessary to unify and greatly simplify the customs and insurance standards of different countries, and most importantly to ensure political stability and the rule of law along the whole route. And this is not guaranteed by any country today. Moreover, the situation of internal instability and the difficult bilateral relations between the states of the region can complicate the solution of these tasks. Finally, one can not ignore the fact that Central Asia and the entire Middle East are covered by a network of terrorist and radical extremist cells.

The last factor was noted at the International Conference on Afghanistan by the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, General of the Army V. Gerasimov organized by the Russian Defense Ministry in October 2015 in Moscow. According to him, along with the crisis in the Middle East region, where a significant part of the territories of Syria and Iraq remain under the control of a terrorist organization "The Islamic State" (ISIS), the situation in Afghanistan is of particular concern. The growing terrorist activity hinders the development of this country, and a significant influx of drugs, weapons and trained fighters from its territory threaten the neighbors

and, first of all, the countries of Central Asia, which are, except for Turkmenistan, SCO members. Therefore, the chief of the General Staff stressed, "it is necessary to jointly seek measures, the implementation of which will restore peace and tranquility in this long-suffering country, prevent the expansion of the zone of instability into neighboring regions" [2].

From the China's point of view, many countries should be connected to the project of the "One Road - One Belt", also enter the SCO. It is no coincidence that in November 2013, half a month after Xi Jinping's presentation of the OBOR project in Astana, Kazakhstan, the Organization worked on the concrete study of the "economic belt" at the 13th meeting of the heads of government of the participating countries. The topic was continued at the SCO summit in Ufa, Russia, in the summer of 2015. Moreover, this forum raised not only economic problems, but also issues of ensuring security.

It is noteworthy that so far the SCO has been avoided speaking on this topic. But in conditions of instability in the Central Asian region (CAR), taking into account the problems of Afghanistan and the threats of transferring the activities of the Islamic state to the territory of Central Asia and the Caucasus, it will be logical if the SCO, as a participant in the ESMP project, concludes that it is necessary to create format to neutralize security threats in the Organization's space. Moreover, one can not ignore the fact that some of the participants in the SCO (for example, Iran) are directly bordered by the destabilized Middle East region and, along with Russia, are participants in the coalition forces fighting with the ISIS in Syria.

On the other hand, recently established Eurasian Economic Union by the members of SCO, namely Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Belarus and Armenia (non-members of the SCO) has been facing some internal problems related to the customs and trade

barriers among them. The consequences of the OBOR with the Eurasian Economic Union including certain economic policies of each separate states as Nurly Zhol of new internal and external political- economic project of Kazakhstan need to find the way of synchronizing with each other in order to keep balance between them. Another important issue of the SCO is the expansion of the organization and internal conflicts. Newly accepted members India, Pakistan, Iran and other observer member states have their own interests and point of view in each issue which can contradict from founder members of the organization. Unfortunately, we have observed the reanimation of one the conflicts at the border of India and China which is the hot points of the relations, recently.

All this is the reason for the relevance of this research work.

#### ***The attitude of the SCO to the project of the "Economic belt of the Silk Road"***

Presenting the OBOR concept at a lecture at "Nazarbayev-University" in Astana, Kazakhstan (September 2013), the Chinese leader Xi Jinping formulated a five-point action program:

- Strengthening the coordination of the CAR countries in the political field;
  - Intensification of the construction of a unified road network;
  - Development of trade by eliminating trade barriers, reducing the costs of trade and investment, improving the speed and quality of economic operations in the region;
  - Increase in foreign exchange flows due to the transition to settlements in national currencies;
- Strengthening the role of people's diplomacy, expansion of direct ties between the peoples of the countries in the region.

The program can distinguish three components "working on":

- regional security;
- the development of trade and economic relations;
- to deepen the cultural and humanitarian ties of the participants in this project.

In turn, A. Lukin in his article "The Idea of the Economic Belt of the Silk Road and the Eurasian Integration" also identified several significant points in the Chinese approach [3].

First, the deepening of cooperation is proposed to be carried out at the expense of the internal resources of the states of the region, including China and Russia.

Secondly, the draft deals with the cooperation of the Central Asian states, primarily with China and Russia and with other SCO member states (for example, India, Pakistan and Iran).

Thirdly, Xi Jinping in the first part of his speech, speaking about the political component, notes the need for political interaction as the basis for economic cooperation.

Fourthly, the Chinese leader calls the interaction between the international organizations functioning here, the SCO and the EEA, the most important factor in deepening cooperation in the region. This means that China does not consider the Eurasian integration actively promoted by Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus, as contradicting Chinese interests or competing with the SCO, but, on the contrary, considers it useful.

V. Ya. Vorobyov, the first Russian national coordinator for the SCO, therefore poses a number of questions: "Is it meant to orient the preparation of the medium-term development strategy initiated by the SCO to provide all-round support to the Chinese project, in other words, in practice, to conduct its incorporation in the SCO strategy? Or, maybe, on the contrary the embodiment of the Chinese idea will go through the existing structures of the SCO? Finally, will the role of the Chinese initiative be reduced to further stimulating the revival of the economic component of the Organization, in which

there really is a need?" [4].

The answer to these questions was given at the Bishkek Economic Forum of the SCO countries (June 23, 2014), where China's initiative to create an economic belt within the framework of the Silk Road was specifically discussed. The central theme of the forum was modern challenges to the economic development of the SCO region and overcoming the shortage of economic cooperation of the SCO member states. Speakers at the forum noted that the total financial and economic potential of the SCO member countries is practically not used to form a region-wide economic space. Therefore, the project to create the Economic belt of the Silk Road, proposed by the PRC, may be one of the options for resolving the issue of closer and integrated cooperation. As stated the former Secretary General of the SCO, Dmitry Mezentsev "The Shanghai Cooperation Organization accepts and supports the proposal of China to create the Economic belt of the Great Silk Road. The economic belt should add new jobs, promote the development of national infrastructures, activate national markets, but should not become a factor of tension in a competitive environment" [5].

In this regard, it seems that: firstly, the program to create the "Economic belt of the Silk Road" could become a catalyst for multilateral economic cooperation of the SCO states and be held under the auspices of this organization. This would allow to concentrate the greatest amount of resources, as well as to stimulate the economic development of the states of Central Asia without the intervention of extra-regional forces;

Secondly, the program is largely designed to ensure the geopolitical interests of its participants. It is no accident that the states participating in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization or participating in it as observers (Iran, Afghanistan) are involved in it. The interaction between the new Chinese project and the Eurasian Economic

Union also corresponds to the focus on regional coordination, which was confirmed at the May meeting of the leaders of Russia and China, and then at the BRICS and SCO summits in Ufa. It should be noted that the EAEC, the SCO and the group of participants in the OBOR program are characterized by cross-membership. And the permanent members in these structures are Russia and China, which, being permanent members of the UN Security Council, significantly increase the political weight of each association by their participation.

Obviously, taking into account all this, at the summit in Ufa the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization unanimously supported the initiative of China. This is stated in the message on the results of the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO member states. "The member states support the initiative of the People's Republic of China to create an economic belt of the Silk Road. They consider it important to establish consultations and information exchange between the relevant departments of the SCO member states" [6], the message says. This, in fact, gives a start to concrete work on the implementation of the concept put forward by the Chinese leader in constructing OBOR.

However, it should be noted that such a start is impossible without the creation of an appropriate working group within the SCO, which would be engaged in a specific study, and subsequently the implementation of the concept of building the OBOR in close association with the program of the Eurasian Economic Union.

As for Russia itself, it seems, they are eager to develop the trans-Eurasian corridors that pass through its territory as actively as possible. It is, first of all, the Transsib, and in the long term - the Northern Sea Route. The goal is their subsequent integration into the Economic belt of the Silk Road. In this case, the reasons

for turning the competition of the named paths into confrontation with the created paths within the framework of the OBOR will be much less, and the prize will be more palpable.

Briefly summarizing what has been said, we note the interest of the SCO member countries in implementing the OBOR project that is advantageous for them. But one should not forget about those challenges and difficulties that can seriously complicate this realization.

***The main challenges of the implementation of the OBOR project in space of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Islamic fundamentalism as the main factor of regional instability***

As of the end of 2015, the composition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has significantly expanded. It was attended by 16 countries, including: permanent members - Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan; observers - Iran, Mongolia and Belarus; partners in the dialogue Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Nepal. Thus, the SCO space now covers most of Eastern Eurasia. The Organization includes two permanent members of the UN Security Council and four nuclear powers. Of the threats listed above by the Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation for all SCO members, the Taliban and other Islamist organizations, the fundamentalists of the "Islamic State" are most at risk and are being activated in the territory of Afghanistan after the departure of the main forces of the Western coalition. We consider the threats that emanate from them in more detail.

Since 2013, the "Islamic state" is actually defined as an unrecognized quasi-state with a Shariah form of government. In June 2014, it proclaimed itself a world caliphate. Controlling the vast territories of Iraq and Syria, the extremists planned to spread their activity to Russia, Central and South-East Asia, especially as

militants from many countries of the world, including European states, Russia and many other countries, which are members of the SCO in this or that status [7]. A serious obstacle to these plans was the active participation of Russia, Iran and Turkey in repelling the aggression of the ISIS against Syria.

Nevertheless, in our opinion, the danger emanating from the extremists of the "Islamic state" can be realized in the two most probable variants, depending on the outcome of the military actions against the ISIS.

Even if the military formations of ISIS extremists are defeated in Syria and Iraq, this will not mean that their organization or movement will disappear definitively, and the situation in the Middle East is stabilizing.

The surviving ISIS network structures can move to guerrilla action, organizing massive terrorist attacks not only in Iraq and Syria.

It should be noted that, acting in accordance with the goals agreed in advance with the Syrians, Russian military corps in Syria achieved serious results. Destroyed dozens of points of command of ISIS gangs, their ammunition depots and other infrastructure, hundreds of terrorists and a large number of military equipment, which allowed the Syrian army to launch a counteroffensive, and many of the anti-government forces agreed to the armistice proposed by Russia and laid down their arms. At the same time, Russia invariably advocates the formation of the widest possible coalition to counter extremists and terrorists. At the same time, Russia calls on "all interested parties to join the work of the information center in Baghdad" [8].

According to the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin, Russia managed to establish business contacts with Middle Eastern states. "We are in the negotiation process with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Jordan, Israel and other countries, making attempts to establish cooperation with the US and Turkey," he noted

[9]. However, not all these attempts were successful. All this testifies to the fact that even in the event of a military defeat of the ISIS formations, the instability that borders on chaos in the countries of the Middle East will continue for a long time. And the likelihood of implementing the above variant of the development of the situation in this region is quite high.

The second option is related to the situation in Afghanistan and poses a direct threat to a number of SCO member states. From various sources it is known that on the side of the ISIS number of fighters from 5 to 7 thousand people from Russia and the CIS countries. Having been defeated in the Middle East, they are already beginning to infiltrate unstable Afghanistan, as well as in the territory of Central Asian and other SCO member states, in order to apply the practical skills of conspiracy, mine-war and warfare in Syria and Iraq in the conditions of the city. According to the intelligence services, ISIS creates autonomous combat cells, ready to commit terrorist and sabotage acts.

According to the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, there are up to 50,000 militants in Afghanistan united in more than 4,000 detachments and groups of various types. Their basis is the Islamist movement of the Taliban, numbering up to 40 thousand militants. In addition, there are from 2 to 3 thousand militants of the "Islamic state", and their numbers are constantly growing [10].

With the beginning of the operation of Russian military security services in Syria, fighting actions have been intensified in Afghanistan. The Taliban launched a powerful offensive against the cities and provinces of northern Afghanistan. They took the city of Kunduz, a 300-thousand population provincial center, 70 km from the border with Tajikistan. It is true, the Afghan army with the help of American aviation succeeded in driving the Islamists out of the city. But the Taliban left Kunduz in an organized manner and carried away with them the

weapons, vehicles and millions of dollars they had stolen from the city banks, seized from the Afghan army.

In addition, leaving Kunduz, the Taliban still control most of the regions of this province, focusing on the eastern and northern directions towards the Tajik border. Thus, this fact has not only a symbolic meaning. Politically, the Taliban has proved to be a strong military force, claiming a share of power over the territory of Afghanistan. The geostrategic significance of the event is that the road to Kabul and further north of the country opens to the borders of Tajikistan, which provides access to Central Asia.

Simultaneously with the seizure of Kunduz, the Taliban unleashed battles with government forces in neighboring provinces. They are aimed at establishing control of the strategic road leading through the tunnel under the Salang pass to the north of Afghanistan. The Taliban have also been monitoring a number of counties in Badakhshan for several months, which is confirmed by the official authorities in Kabul. This area becomes the main bridgehead for Islamists to cross the river Panj to Tajikistan and unites them with local radicals.

The situation in Afghanistan is aggravated by the inadequate training and equipment of the Afghan security forces, which prevents them from effectively conducting operations against illegal armed groups. At the same time, active and successful actions by extremists against government forces prevent official Kabul from solving the tasks of stabilizing the political and socio-economic situation in the country, and this increases the population's distrust to the central government.

The combination of these factors leads to the conclusion that the problem of instability in Afghanistan will not be solved in the foreseeable period of time. These factors contribute to the further aggravation of the situation in the state, the establishment of control over extremists

over whole provinces, the merging of terrorist groups with organized crime and, as a consequence, the increase in the production of opiates and drug trafficking, the worsening socio-economic situation of ordinary Afghans, the growing number of unemployed, the outflow of citizens from the country and strengthening the political position of extremist organizations.

Other factors of regional instability

Assessing the situation in Afghanistan and the Central Asian region, one can not fail to take into account the "external factor", because signs of subversive activity in the territory of the Central Asian Region states do not cease. Moreover, after the activation of euromaidan in Ukraine, the funding of non-governmental organizations in Kyrgyzstan has sharply increased.

Against this background, extremely uneasy and sometimes hostile relations between individual states that are members of the SCO are extremely negative. For example, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, can not agree on water use issues.

For example, the former President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, did not even exclude that water problems in the Central Asian region in the near future "may be aggravated to such an extent that they will not only cause serious confrontation, but even wars". Border problems have not been resolved in the region. Permanent border conflicts break out on the border of Tajikistan with Kyrgyzstan, Kyrgyzstan with Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan with Tajikistan. In short, most Central Asian countries have serious claims to each other.

Also, some Russian politicians and scholars claim that, in Washington, frank irritation provokes the contribution of China, India, Iran and Russia to the peaceful construction and economic development of Afghanistan and other Central Asian Republics. According to them, Americans fear that Kabul can

finally enter into the sphere of influence of the SCO [11], especially since Afghanistan, having observer status, expects full membership in this Organization.

It is quite obvious that external destructive factors will continue to use the incompleteness of the formation of the SCO and the absence of effective practical mechanisms for ensuring the security of its members within the framework of the Organization. In this connection, the need to clarify the status of the SCO and increase the Organization's ability to ensure regional security and stability will be on the agenda.

Some approaches to increasing the SCO's capacity to ensure regional stability and security of the OBOR project

In principle, the problem of increasing the SCO's ability to ensure the security of its participants against various kinds of military threats has long been on the agenda. At various forums, the Institute of the Far East of the Russian Academy of Sciences has repeatedly offered solutions to this problem. But each time these proposals were not understood by the majority of both Russian and Chinese colleagues. And most importantly - in the ministries of foreign affairs of both states and among the bureaucratic apparatus of the SCO. But lately, "the ice is broken."

As a positive fact and partial solution of the problem of ensuring the collective security of the SCO participants, it is possible to consider the institute of anti-terrorist exercises "Peace Mission" created under this Organization. Thanks to regular maneuvers, many procedural and regulatory issues concerning the stay of troops and military equipment in the territory of other states were discovered and solved. Commanders, staffs and troops gained the experience of joint actions in the solution of various combat missions and the implementation of all types of support for combat operations conducted by coalition forces and forces. With the admission of new states to the SCO, the

number of participants in these maneuvers will obviously expand.

On the other hand, it is the realization that the military and political situation in the region and around it is complicated, and its further escalation can occur in an avalanche, led to the understanding that all this requires constant monitoring of the emerging situation and rapid response in a time- scale, close to the real. Hence, the attitude of many member states of the SCO to the ability (or inability) of the Organization to provide an adequate response to the security challenges of its members is changing. In our opinion, the following are the priority tasks of the SCO in this regard:

facilitating the transformation of Afghanistan from the current "exporter" of instability, drugs and terrorism into qualitatively different - a single and self- sufficient state;

preventing the creation in Central Asia of extra-regional actors of a bridgehead for destabilizing the situation in the countries of the region by the method of subversive actions and "color revolutions", as well as to control the vulnerable rear areas of China, Iran and Russia;

non-admission of direct aggression from external side against the SCO member states;

organization of the security system of a single economic, transport and logistics space and other infrastructure facilities throughout the SCO;

counteracting unconventional threats, primarily drug trafficking, illegal migration, arms smuggling, etc.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov proposed a vision of strengthening the SCO's capacity to meet security challenges at a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Organization in Dushanbe in September 2014. To strengthen the security of the SCO countries, he proposed to transform the Regional Anti-terrorist Structure into a Center to Combat new challenges and threats, to begin with, extending its activities to the sphere of combating drug

trafficking. In order to counter the spread of extremism in the countries of Central Asia, the Russian minister invited the SCO countries to sign a framework agreement on cooperation on border issues.

In turn, the Russian Defense Minister, Army General S.K. Shoigu proposed an initiative to create a new body under the SCO - the apparatus of the national military advisers at a meeting of heads of defense departments of the SCO member states in June 2015 (St. Petersburg). According to him, such a body could become a generator of ideas for the leadership of the Organization in terms of preparing recommendations for a more active use of the military capabilities of the SCO member states in the interests of security.

Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation's Armed Forces, Colonel-General S. Istrakov, in his speech at the International Conference on Afghanistan in Moscow, developed this idea. In his opinion, the apparatus of national military advisers (or an ad hoc working group) can be formed under the SCO Secretariat (or under the Council of Defense Ministers of this organization), respectively. This body is expected to deal with issues of cooperation with both the national armed forces, and with the SCO, the CSTO, the CIS Antiterrorist Center. Through this apparatus (working group) there will be an exchange of data on the organizations of extremists, illegal armed formations, the methods and tactics of their actions [12].

It should be noted that the ideas put forward by the officials of the Ministry of Defense of Russia in many respects resonate with the earlier proposals of the Institute of the Far East of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Practical proposals on increasing the SCO's ability to deal with the security problem have also been put forward by the Chinese side. During his visit to Kazakhstan in 2014, Premier of the State Council of China, Li Keqiang stated that the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization should become the defender of Eurasia. During his address at the XIII SCO summit at the level of prime ministers, he called for the creation in this Organization of a new center that will work on forecasting future security problems for Eurasia. He also called on his partners to work out mechanisms that would contribute to the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking along with cybercrimes. In Astana, Li Keqiang also singled out Afghanistan as a state that needs support to maintain "internal stability", achieve reconciliation and restore the country's economy [13]. Finally, Chairman of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping at the summit in Ufa during his speech at the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO in an enlarged format made a rather capacious and radical proposal on the content: "It is necessary to strengthen the capacity and create a strong security wall in the region. Political contacts and coordination should be strengthened, response measures should be developed and the security of the authorities, the political system, and public stability in all member states of the Organization jointly protected. It is necessary to strengthen cooperation with Afghanistan in the field of security, to help Afghan security forces in increasing combat effectiveness, to play a big role in promoting national reconciliation of Afghanistan and restoring the economy of this country" [14].

One can not help but notice that the ideas put forward by the officials of the Ministry of Defense of Russia in many respects resonate with the earlier proposals of the Institute of the Far East of the Russian Academy of Sciences [15].

Attention is also drawn to the practical steps of our Chinese partners in the sphere of legal support for the proposals made above. According to the Xinhua News Agency on December 28, 2015, the 18th session of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress of China adopted the Law of the People's



Republic of China on Combating Terrorism [16].

Official Beijing, commenting on the application of the new law, does not focus on the possibility of operations abroad, but on internal threats. At the same time, this law allows the Chinese army to conduct anti-terrorist operations outside the PRC. The adopted law establishes that the fight against terrorism has been introduced by the state in the national security strategy. It is envisaged to build up the capacity to combat terrorism through the integrated application of political, economic, legal, cultural, educational, foreign policy and military methods for counter-terrorism work. According to the law, a governing body on anti-terrorist activity will be established in the country, which will simultaneously manage and manage counter-terrorism work on a national scale.

Thus, the People's Liberation Army of China will theoretically receive the right to act in the same way as the Russian military security services in Syria. In general, with all the complicated relations between the states related to the SCO, their readiness to act as a united front against the common threat comes to the fore. This means their understanding that the priority projects for the SCO are not only strategic programs for economic development, but also the development of practical cooperation in the field of security.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, I would like to note that it is possible to invent and offer many different options for increasing the SCO's capacity to ensure the security of the Organization's participants. But it is necessary to take the first practical steps in this direction-to create, either in the Regional Antiterroristic Structure (RATS) or in the structure of the SCO Secretariat, a small group of professionals (possibly from the military counselors proposed by the Russian Defense Minister S.K. Shoigu) who would directly engage in the development and implementation of the nominated Russia and China

proposals. That is, to prepare the concept of regional security of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, in which the following provisions could be reflected:

the structure of the SCO entities covered by the action of this document;

vital common and special interests of the SCO members;

types of external and internal threats to these interests;

objectives and tasks of cooperation of SCO members in the field of security;

the structure and structure of bodies directly responsible for ensuring security;

methods for ensuring security, as well as the procedure for allocating the necessary resources for this, and using them in the event of a threat to the Organization as a whole or to individual participants;

order of interaction with the CSTO and other security organizations, as well as some other issues.

It is also advisable to determine the order of monitoring of sources of threats, exchange of relevant information, establish the procedure for decision-making and the procedure for their implementation by the relevant structures of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Subsequently, the aforementioned group of military advisers could form the basis of the Committee for the Coordination of Military Cooperation or another body providing the management of the forces and means allocated to it. The essence is not in the name, but in the ability to solve the tasks assigned to this management body.

At the same time, in order to make the regional security mechanisms of the SCO work in practice, it is necessary, in our opinion, to specify a clear time-frame for the implementation of the announced proposals on enhancing the SCO's capacity to ensure regional stability and allocating resources for their implementation. In this case, the SCO has a chance to become an influential subject and, along with the CSTO,

one of the foundations of the regional security architecture, which is able to ensure, among other things, the successful implementation of OBOR projects. Otherwise, expectations from SCO activity in the sphere of ensuring regional security and stability will be in vain.

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