

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1792
24 August 2006

ENGLISH
Original: CHINESE and
RUSSIAN

**LETTER DATED 16 AUGUST 2006 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE STATEMENT OF
THE HEADS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE SHANGHAI
COOPERATION ORGANIZATION ON INTERNATIONAL
INFORMATION SECURITY, ISSUED ON 15 JUNE 2006
IN SHANGHAI, CHINA¹**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the heads of member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on international information security, which was issued on 15 June 2006 in Shanghai, China.

I would be grateful if this letter and the attached statement could be distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Cheng Jingye
Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs
Head of Delegation of the
People's Republic of China
to the Conference on Disarmament

¹ Originally issued as annex II to a General Assembly document issued under the symbol A/60/973.

**Statement of the heads of the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation
Organization on international information security**

(Shanghai, 15 June 2006)

The heads of the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as “SCO” or “the organization”) - the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People’s Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, met in Shanghai on 15 June 2006 and made the following statement.

The rapid development and extensive application of new information and communication technology (ICT) is one of the most important features of the world today. Reaching into all areas of human activity, information and communication technology has created a global information environment that has a direct impact on the political, economic, defence-related, sociocultural and other aspects of national security and of the wider system of international security and stability. The information environment is becoming a factor which shapes the vitality of society, and information is one of a country’s most valuable assets and most important political and economic resources.

The heads of State believe that information and communication technology has created enormous potential to develop individuals’ capabilities and to achieve human rights and freedoms more fully. Such technology opens up new opportunities, and encourages the emergence of new instruments to enable the State and society to operate more efficiently and to establish a global partnership for sustainable development, security and prosperity.

Meanwhile, the heads of State express their concern at the present genuine threat that information and communication technology may be used in ways which could seriously harm the security of individuals, societies and States and undermine the basic principles of equality, mutual respect, non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-use of force and respect for human rights. Moreover, the danger that information and communication technology could be used for criminal, terrorist and military-political ends that run counter to the maintenance of international security could manifest itself in a civilian or military context and result in serious political and socio-economic effects on a national, regional or worldwide scale, and in the destabilization of the societies of States.

The heads of State recall the useful efforts their countries have made to enhance national information security. They nevertheless recognize the extensive negative impact of the destructive use of information and communication technology by criminals, terrorists, criminal and terrorist gangs and organizations, and even some countries, for military and political purposes, affecting other countries and sometimes even the whole world. The use of information and communication technology for such purposes could cause global disaster on just as destructive a scale as an attack using weapons of mass destruction.

The heads of State emphasize that information and communication technology should not only act as a carrier in the information world, but also, more importantly, promote closer ties and better integration among diverse cultures and civilizations, in circumstances of respect for religious sensitivities and people’s traditions, across the territories of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and elsewhere.

The heads of State also emphasize that the transnational nature of information and communication technology and contemporary threats and challenges makes it imperative for States to step up their information security efforts through joint action at bilateral, regional and international levels. Only with coordinated and complementary measures will States be able to respond suitably to information-related threats and challenges to security.

The heads of State consequently support United Nations efforts to examine current and potential information security threats and ways to eliminate them, and to investigate suitable international proposals aimed at strengthening security of the global information and telecommunication systems; they deem it important to continue those efforts.

The heads of State welcome the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixtieth - anniversary - session of resolution 60/45, of 8 December 2005, on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, and express their willingness to promote the implementation of the recommendations it makes.

The heads of State declare that the member States hold similar positions on key issues concerning international information security and intend to work in concert within the framework of SCO to cope with new information challenges and threats while abiding by international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With this in mind, the heads of State have decided to establish a group of experts on international information from the SCO member States, involving representatives of the SCO Secretariat and the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure, to formulate a plan of action for international information security and define ways and means to tackle all aspects of international information security issues within the framework of the organization.

(Signed): Nursultan **Nazarbaev**
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(Signed): **Hu Jintao**
President of the People's Republic of China

(Signed): Kurmanbek **Bakiev**
President of the Kyrgyz Republic

(Signed): Vladimir **Putin**
President of the Russian Federation

(Signed): Emomali **Rakhmonov**
President of the Republic of Tajikistan

(Signed): Islam **Karimov**
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
