

COMMUNIQUE

of the Third Meeting of Health Ministers

of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

1. We, the Ministers of Health of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), taking into account the global nature of the spread of the novel coronavirus infection and pursuing the common goal of preventing threats to the health and well-being of the population of the SCO member states, call for uniting the efforts of the SCO member states in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. We are deeply concerned about the threat to the health, safety, and well-being of the population of the SCO countries caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which continues to spread around the world.

3. We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity, and enhanced cooperation among the SCO member states.

4. We believe that combatting the epidemic posed by the novel coronavirus infection COVID-19 requires decisive, coordinated, and inclusive multilateral efforts, with the United Nations system performing the central role in accordance with the rules, recommendations, and technical guidelines of the World Health Organisation. To this end, we note the effective collaboration that has taken place with the World Health Organisation, other international organisations, and associations in combatting the coronavirus infection COVID-19.

5. We are committed to sharing any available reliable and accurate data regarding the novel coronavirus infection COVID-19 and the spread of the disease by exchanging information, scientific knowledge, and best practices in matters concerning prevention and treatment. To this end, we welcome the publication of the Overview of the Best Practices of the SCO Member States to Counter the Spread of COVID-19 in order to promote the most effective practices and positive experience in the fight against the disease.

6. We believe that the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of consistently implementing the Agreement between the Governments of the SCO Member States on Cooperation in the Public Health of 2011. Special attention should

be paid to further improving the effectiveness of collaboration between the SCO member states in preventing, detecting, and jointly responding to situations involving epidemiological threats. In this regard, we are unanimous in our opinion about the need to bolster coordination in countering the threat posed by epidemics in the SCO space within the framework of the Meeting of Ministers of Health.

7. We intend to continue collaborating with each other to support the health and well-being of the population of the SCO member states.

8. We extend our gratitude and support to all healthcare professionals, medical professionals, scientists, and researchers around the world who are working in the difficult and challenging conditions caused by the coronavirus infection (COVID-19) pandemic.