



**RIAC-IPDS Joint Videoseminar on
Russia's Presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**

July 16, 2020

*Moscow time is applied to the draft program.
Working language: English*

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15:00-15:15 Welcoming Remarks (5-7 minutes)

Andrey KORTUNOV, Director General, Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC)

Farhat ASIF, Founder President, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies

Muhammad ASIF NOOR, Founder Director, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Secretary-General, Pakistan SCO Friendship Forum

15:15-16:30 Russia's Presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Moderator: Ksenia KUZMINA, Program Manager, RIAC

Speakers (7-10 minutes):

Mikhail KONAROVSKY, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation, Leading Research Fellow at the Institute of International Research, MGIMO University, RIAC Member

Muhammad KHAN, Professor, Department of International Relations, International Islamic University, Islamabad

Zhao HUASHENG, Professor of the Center for Russia and Central Asia Studies, Fudan University, Shanghai

Vasily KASHIN, Leading Research Fellow at the RAS Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Head of the CCEIS Section of International Military-Political and Military-Economic Problems at the Higher School of Economics, RIAC Member

Discussion points:

1. What are the priorities of Russia's presidency in the SCO? Do they create additional opportunities for Russia – Pakistan coordination in the SCO's framework?
2. How the SCO member states could deal with the consequences of COVID-19? What are the prospects for a joint response to pandemic challenges?
3. What is to be done to boost the SCO's role in regional security? How can the SCO contribute to the political settlement in Afghanistan? What are the prospects for the current situation?

4. Is there a need for reforming the SCO? What could be done to bolster coordinated policies of SCO member states in security and sustainable development?

16:30-16:40 **Conclusions**