

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a prominent international alliance that focuses on political, economic, and security cooperation among its member states. The organization, initially established by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, has expanded its reach over the years, with countries like India and Pakistan also joining as full members.

Turkmenistan, while not a full member of the SCO, has been an active participant in the organization's activities. As a guest attendee, Turkmenistan has shown consistent interest in the SCO's objectives, particularly in the spheres of economic and security cooperation.

Economically, Turkmenistan and the SCO have found significant common ground. Turkmenistan, possessing the fourth largest natural gas reserves globally, holds a strategic position in the Eurasian energy landscape. The SCO member countries, especially China, have significant investments in Turkmenistan's gas sector. The China-Central Asia gas pipeline, which transits through Turkmenistan, is a testament to the SCO's economic collaboration with Turkmenistan. The SCO's objectives of regional economic integration align well with Turkmenistan's ambition to diversify its energy exports.

Moreover, Turkmenistan's geographical location makes it a crucial player in the SCO's vision of connecting Asia and Europe through the Belt and Road Initiative. Turkmenistan's active participation in the initiative can bring about infrastructural development and economic growth.

In conclusion, while not a full member of the SCO, Turkmenistan's collaboration with the organization encompasses critical areas of mutual interest, including economic cooperation, security, and infrastructural development. This partnership not only benefits Turkmenistan by enhancing its economic prospects and strengthening its security but also assists the SCO in realizing its vision of regional integration and cooperation.

Aylale HEMRANAZAROVA,
Student of the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of Turkmenistan.