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زبانهای اروپایی

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## Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

To date, there are no concrete links established with LAC countries, nor with the integration mechanisms of the Latin Caribbean region.



Made up of 8 Member States and 4 observers, it aims to promote political, commercial and economic cooperation, among other areas of mutual interest.



### *Members*

Eight Member States: China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Four observer states interested in joining as full members: Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia (Iran signed a Memorandum of Obligations to become a permanent member of the SCO summit at the last SCO Summit).

Six "Partners in dialogue": Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey (the latter raises the possibility of joining as a full member). SCO member States account for about a quarter of global GDP and about 44% of the world's population. They occupy 60% of Eurasia and 25.5% of the world's territorial extension.

It is a body fully recognized by the UN.

### *Main objectives*

The organization's antecedent was a 1996 agreement between China and Russia and three of the former Soviet republics: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, known as the "Shanghai Five," with the aim of resolving border tensions. In 2001, the SCO was formed to deal with regional security issues with information exchange between intelligence services, combating regional terrorism, ethnic separatism and religious extremism.

It unites four nuclear powers (half of the world's nuclear states). The main objectives are: to strengthen mutual trust and good relations between member

countries; to promote effective cooperation in politics, trade and economy, science and technology, culture and education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, to promote peace, security and stability in the region, aiming at a new international, democratic, just and rational political and economic order.

### *The SCO for regional powers*

For China: Central Asia is key as an area from which much of the energy resources and raw materials come, hence the growing investment in infrastructure such as gas pipelines (example: China-Central Asia Gas Pipeline, 1833 km) and transport. China is one of Central Asia's great trading partners. The agreement is useful in resolving the ongoing border tensions in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

For Russia: Central Asia is its area of influence. It remains one of the main economic partners as well as the main military supplier to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and has military bases in these three countries. One of the potentialities of the SCO is to be a counterweight against Western sanctions.

For India: Russia is its main military and oil supplier. Central Asia is key in strategic terms and for access to energy as well. One example is the TAPI, a gas pipeline project between Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India, held back by conflicts in Afghanistan. With China, relations strained by support for Pakistan.

### *Comparison with other integration schemes (2021)*

The SCO concentrates more population than the TMEC and the EU combined, due to the weight of China, 18% of the world's population.

However, the BRICS and the TMEC carry a greater weight than the SCO. What would happen if the BRICS join the SCO? Can Brazil and South Africa enter as a NATO-style "extra-regional partner"?

TABLA

ORGANIZACIÓN	PIB	POBLACIÓN
ORGANIZACIÓN DE COOPERACIÓN DE SHANGHAI	23.9	41.4
BRICS	25.6	41.1
TMEC	25.4	4.7
UNIÓN EUROPEA	16.9	5.7

Fuente:  
Banco mundial

[celag.org](http://celag.org)

### *Relations with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)*

To date, there are no concrete links established with LAC countries, nor with the integration mechanisms of the Latin Caribbean region.

In 2019 Cuba participated in the international forum of the SCO to discuss medical innovation and collaboration. Cuba was represented by Yamira Palacios, head of the Marketing Office of Servicios Médicos Cubanos S.A.

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