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General and complete disarmament: confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

Letter dated 8 December 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to General Assembly resolution [59/50](#) of 2 December 2004, in which the Assembly granted the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) observer status in the Assembly, and to Assembly resolutions on the cooperation between the United Nations and CSTO, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

The Republic of Tajikistan, as the previous Chair of CSTO, in 2020–2021, is pleased to share a declaration of the CSTO Collective Security Council adopted in Dushanbe on 16 September 2021 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 100 (t).

(Signed) Jonibek **Hikmat**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 8 December 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

We, the members of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), on the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of the Collective Security Treaty and the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Organization itself, declare a firm commitment to developing cooperation among member States in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of the Collective Security Treaty of 15 May 1992, the CSTO Charter of 7 October 2002 and the CSTO collective security strategy for the period to 2025.

The CSTO member States are committed to establishing an equitable and sustainable multipolar world order based on the rule of international law, multilateral cooperation with a central coordinating role for the United Nations, and the diversity of cultures and civilizations.

The CSTO member States oppose attempts to replace the universally recognized norms and principles of international law with divisive concepts that would return the international community to the days of opposing blocs and dividing lines.

In order to strengthen peace, ensure international and regional security and stability, and protect, on a collective basis, the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty, the CSTO member states will continue to work on their priority areas by consistently implementing the commitments, international treaties, decisions, policy documents and agreements recorded in the outcome documents of meetings of the Collective Security Council and other CSTO statutory bodies.

We note with satisfaction that CSTO, over the years of its existence as a multifunctional collective security structure with real tools and effective mechanisms, has built up the necessary capacity to counter a wide range of contemporary challenges and threats.

In the current challenging environment of intensified inter-State competition, growing international tension, and the shrinking of space for constructive engagement in addressing both traditional and new challenges and threats, the CSTO member States reaffirm their unity and determination to consistently work towards the strengthening international and regional security and the equitable resolution of international disputes on the basis of universally recognized norms and principles of international law.

The CSTO member States condemn the application of unilateral coercive restrictive measures by individual states or a group of countries, which violates the prerogative of the United Nations Security Council and constitutes gross interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

We are deeply concerned about the continuing high level of threats to security in the CSTO area of responsibility and to the sovereignty of its member States. We consider any encroachment on the sovereign territory of CSTO member States to be a serious violation of international law, and in warning against such actions, we reaffirm our commitment to previously adopted statements and decisions, including those concerning the construction of a security system on the external borders of

CSTO member States, in the interests of ensuring their security, territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The deteriorating situation in Afghanistan is cause for alarm. We express our readiness, if necessary, to take effective measures to ensure the security of the southern borders of the area of responsibility of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in accordance with the decisions of the Collective Security Council.

We support the emergence of Afghanistan as a peaceful and independent State, free of terrorism and narcotics. We call on all parties involved in the conflict to engage in substantive negotiations towards a peace settlement as soon as possible. In that context, we believe it advisable to make use of the existing options for negotiations on Afghanistan, including the mechanisms of the extended “Troika” and the Moscow format, as the most effective tools for supporting the process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The CSTO member States firmly believe that there is no alternative to solving existing international problems by political and diplomatic means, and they give priority to the development of coordinated approaches to the issues of improving the international situation and countering the challenges and threats that the CSTO member States have to deal with. In that regard, they note the increased relevance of a broad dialogue aimed at overcoming inter-State contradictions, restoring trust and strengthening international security and stability.

We note the importance of developing and adopting joint statements as an effective form of demonstrating the agreed positions of CSTO member States on a wide range of topical international issues in order to promote them jointly at leading international forums.

We are in favour of increasing the effectiveness of multilevel political consultations among CSTO member States, within which framework we can develop coordinated collective responses to emerging challenges and threats.

The CSTO member states will continue to work together to develop the CSTO observer and CSTO partner institutions in order to improve the Organization’s system of external relations and its ability to contribute to strengthening international and regional security. The Organization will deepen cooperation with the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in areas of common interest.

Taking into account the development of the military and political situation in the world and, in particular, in the CSTO area of responsibility, the member States will continue the progressive development of the forces and resources of the collective security system with a view to enhancing their readiness to address their mandated tasks.

The member States appreciate the effectiveness of the military exercises regularly conducted by the Organization and intend to continue this practice.

In the area of military-economic and military-technical cooperation, the CSTO member States intend to pay greater attention to the establishment of cooperative ties among defence enterprises and organizations and to the full implementation of the plan to equip the CSTO Collective Rapid Reaction Forces with modern weapons, military and special equipment and special facilities.

At the same time, the CSTO member States confirm that military and political cooperation within CSTO is not directed against third countries or other international organizations, but serves exclusively the security interests of the Organization’s member States.

The CSTO member States are in favour of strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and reaffirm the abiding value of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as an important factor in maintaining international security.

The CSTO member States will continue to make joint efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space and to preserve outer space for peaceful purposes. In that connection, they confirm the urgent need to develop a legally binding instrument on the basis of the Russian-Chinese draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, and also the importance of the international initiative on no first placement of weapons in outer space, to which all CSTO member States are full parties.

The CSTO member States advocate the development of cooperation and coordination within CSTO on biological security issues.

The CSTO member States strongly condemn terrorism and extremism in all their forms and manifestations and consider unacceptable the practice of States using terrorist and related extremist organizations as tools for pursuing their own political and geopolitical interests. In order to counter threats of terrorism and extremism, they stress the importance of cooperation at the bilateral, regional and global levels, with a central coordinating role for the United Nations.

The CSTO member States are in favour of preserving and strengthening the existing international legal regime in the field of drug control based on the three major United Nations conventions and are against the legalization of certain types of narcotic drugs.

The drug control strategy of CSTO member States for the period 2021–2025, approved in 2020, creates additional scope for measures to significantly reduce illicit drug trafficking and the non-medical use of drugs, establish an effective system of protection against the illegal importation of drugs, expand mechanisms for preventing the illegal manufacture of narcotic drugs and the cultivation of drug crops in the territory of CSTO member States and undermine the economic basis for the drug trade. The ongoing CSTO regional drug control operation “Kanal” is proving to be effective.

The CSTO member states will continue to promote international efforts aimed at ensuring information security, combating illegal migration, and protecting people from natural and man-made disasters.

We express our firm intention to expand the CSTO media presence in order keep the broadest possible cross-section of the public better informed about the Organization’s activities.

The CSTO member States highly appreciate the presidency of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Organization in 2020–2021, which has contributed to the further steady development of CSTO and the increased level of cooperation in all areas of its activities.
