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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF
GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED
DEMOCRACIES

Letter dated 23 April 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of
Belarus, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Treaty between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakstan and the Kyrgyz Republic on deepening integration in the economic and humanitarian fields, signed in Moscow on 29 March 1996 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 41 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) A. SYCHOU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of
Belarus to the United
Nations

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of
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(Signed) A. AITMATOV
Ambassador
Acting Permanent
Representative of
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Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
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Federation to the
United Nations

* A/51/50.

ANNEX

Treaty between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus,
the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic on Deepening
Integration in the Economic and Humanitarian Fields, signed in
Moscow on 29 March 1996

The Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Proceeding on the basis of the historically established ties among their peoples and their aspiration for further integration and all-round closer relations,

Aware of the need to exploit in a coordinated manner the material and intellectual potential of their States,

Recognizing the State independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Parties,

Affirming their participation in the Commonwealth of Independent States and their readiness to carry out within its framework processes to promote integration,

Guided by the generally recognized norms and principles of international law,

Have agreed as follows:

Objectives and principles

Article 1

In order to establish integrated States within the framework of the Commonwealth, the Parties have decided to focus joint efforts on deepening on a stage-by-stage basis the integration of the Parties to this Treaty in the economic, scientific, educational, cultural, social and other fields, while observing the sovereignty of the Parties, the principles of equality and mutual advantage, the inviolability of the State borders existing between them and non-interference in one another's affairs.

Article 2

The following shall be the basic objectives of integration:

Consistent improvement of living conditions, protection of personal rights and freedoms and achievement of social progress;

Ensuring the stable democratic development of the States;

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Establishment of a single economic area providing for the effective functioning of a common market for goods, services, capital and manpower, and the development of unified transport, energy and information systems;

Development of minimum standards of social protection for citizens;

Ensuring equal opportunities for receiving an education and access to the benefits of scientific and cultural achievements;

Harmonization of legislation;

Coordination of foreign policy and securing a respected place in the international arena;

Joint protection of the external borders of the Parties and combating crime and terrorism.

Economic cooperation

Article 3

The Parties shall coordinate the basic areas, stages and time-frames for carrying out economic reforms, create the necessary conditions for the functioning of a common market, and ensure equally favourable conditions for free economic activities by business entities of their States.

The Parties shall ensure an equal right to acquire, own, use and manage private property in the territory of any of these States in accordance with their national legislation.

The Parties shall establish a unified model normative basis for civil legislation and State economic regulation.

Article 4

The Parties shall conduct a coordinated price-formation policy excluding price discrimination against business entities of the Parties and shall apply the free (agreed) prices that obtain on their domestic markets.

The Parties shall complete, in 1996, the establishment of a single customs area with a common system of administration.

Article 5

The Parties shall agree on a structural policy aimed at establishing industrial and agrarian business networks based on complementarity of economies and maximum use of the advantages derived from a rational division of labour.

Article 6

The Parties shall jointly develop and implement a set of measures to provide State support for developing a production cooperative system, encouraging production-related capital investment, including the subsidization of special-purpose programmes and projects and the establishment of facilities that are of common interest, and shall promote the formation of transnational associations.

Article 7

The Parties shall consistently enhance the coordination of policies in the monetary, credit, foreign-currency and financial fields and establish an effective payment and settlement system.

Initially, the Parties shall strive to bring about a considerable reduction in inflation, stabilize exchange rates for national currencies and achieve complete convertibility of national currencies and shall guarantee equal access by persons who are residents of the Parties to the currency markets of the States parties to this Treaty. The central banks of the Parties shall establish an interbank association in order to conduct mutual consultations and coordinate measures being implemented.

At subsequent stages, the Parties shall effect a transition to unified standards and practice for regulating banking activities and, depending on the degree of integration achieved, shall introduce a single currency.

Article 8

The Parties shall establish a single scientific and technological area and ensure cooperation in conducting basic and applied scientific research, including the organization of joint scientific work on problems of common interest.

Article 9

The Parties shall expand cooperation in the field of environmental protection, including the development and adoption of unified standards for environmental safety, and shall take joint measures to prevent and eliminate the consequences of accidents, natural disasters, and nuclear and environmental disasters.

Cooperation in the social and cultural fields

Article 10

The Parties shall conduct a coordinated social policy, harmonize national social-protection systems, bring about a phased equalization of pension coverage, allowances and entitlements for war and labour veterans, disabled persons and low-income families.

Article 11

The Parties shall create conditions for maintaining and consolidating the common cultural area on the basis of historically established ties and practical contacts between creative unions and associations, persons active in cultural affairs, literature and art, and protecting the distinctive ethnic and linguistic identity of peoples.

Article 12

The Parties shall define an inter-State strategy for education and develop joint programmes for instructing students and training and retraining specialists.

The Parties shall recognize, on a reciprocal basis and without authentication, diplomas, education certificates and corresponding documents on the granting of academic degrees and titles.

Article 13

Citizens of the Parties who are permanent residents in the territory of other States Parties to this Treaty shall be granted the legal status established under their national legislation and bilateral and multilateral treaties; provision shall be made for a simplified procedure for acquisition of citizenship by citizens of the Parties.

Cooperation in other fields

Article 14

Taking into account the experience acquired in cooperation, the Parties shall enhance the mechanism for coordinating action in planning and implementing foreign policy and establishing and consolidating a common system to ensure security and the protection of State borders.

Article 15

The Parties shall coordinate work on draft laws, draw up model laws, exchange legal information, provide legal assistance with regard to cases relating to civil, family and criminal law and promote the development of jurisprudence and the training of legal personnel.

Article 16

The Parties shall ensure close cooperation on the part of law-enforcement and other competent bodies, join efforts to combat general crime and organized crime, terrorism, illegal trafficking in weapons and narcotic drugs, smuggling, illegal immigration and emigration, the manufacture and use of counterfeit payment instruments and other documents, and any actions that pose a threat to public safety or the execution of court decisions.

Bodies to administer integration

Article 17

The Parties shall establish the following joint bodies to administer integration in order to achieve the objectives of this Treaty: the Inter-State Council, the Integration Committee and the Interparliamentary Committee.

Each of these bodies shall function within the framework of the powers entrusted to it under this Treaty and the corresponding statute governing it.

Article 18

The Inter-State Council shall be the highest body for administering integration. Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers for Foreign Affairs and also the chairman of the Integration Committee, who shall have deliberative functions without a vote, shall be represented on the Council.

The Inter-State Council shall be headed by a president elected by the Heads of State of the Parties for a one-year term on a rotation basis.

The Inter-State Council shall draw up a strategy for cooperation, define its basic stages, take the corresponding decisions and monitor their implementation, and approve the statutes governing the bodies to administer integration and the procedures for their financing.

The costs of maintaining the bodies to administer integration shall be borne by the Parties at fixed rates and the funds allocated shall be used exclusively for that purpose.

Article 19

The Integration Committee shall be the standing executive body that adopts and implements measures necessary to achieve the objectives and goals of integration set forth in this Treaty.

The Integration Committee shall be composed of the first deputy heads of Government of each of the Parties as well as the ministers responsible for questions relating to cooperation with the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the economies and finances of the Parties.

The Integration Committee shall be headed by a chairman appointed by the Inter-State Council on a rotation basis.

The Integration Committee shall:

Monitor, through the Governments of the Parties, implementation of decisions by the bodies to administer integration;

Ensure, within the limits of its competence, the implementation of decisions by the Inter-State Council, integration programmes, and treaties and agreements in force between the Parties;

Establish corresponding inter-State commissions and committees, and hire independent experts in various fields of economics, law, administration and other areas of integration.

Article 20

Informational, logistical and organizational support for the activities of the Inter-State Council and the other bodies to administer integration shall be provided by the staff of the Integration Committee, who shall be hired on the basis of parity.

The bodies to administer integration shall be situated, on the basis of agreement, in the capitals of States Parties to the Treaty.

Article 21

The Integration Committee shall issue a publication - the Bulletin on the Development of Integration - in order to provide information on the practical work and results of integration by the Parties and publish official legal decisions and other documents of the administering bodies.

Article 22

The Interparliamentary Committee shall be the body for promoting interparliamentary cooperation and shall be made up, on the basis of the

principles of parity, of members of Parliament delegated by the parliaments of the Parties.

In order to bring closer and harmonize the legislation of the Parties, the Interparliamentary Committee, within the limits of its powers, shall:

Adopt model laws on the basis of which national legislation shall be drawn up,

Submit proposals relating to the development of the legal basis for integration,

Participate in other forms of legislative activity provided for in the statute of the Interparliamentary Committee.

Recommendatory decisions by the Interparliamentary Committee shall be submitted for consideration by the parliaments of the Parties in the manner prescribed by their national legislation.

Financial and legal support for integration

Article 23

The Integration Committee shall annually draw up specific proposals on the financial and budgetary aspects of integration and submit them for the consideration of the Inter-State Council.

Article 24

The Inter-State Council may take decisions that are binding on the bodies and organizations of the Parties which ensure their direct implementation as well as decisions to be incorporated into the national legislation of the Parties.

The Parties shall ensure the responsibility of officials of their State authorities for implementing the provisions of this Treaty and decisions by the joint bodies to administer integration.

Disagreement arising in the implementation of this Treaty shall be resolved by means of consultation between the Parties and, where necessary, by the Inter-State Council in accordance with a statement to that effect by the Integration Committee.

Article 25

The provisions of this Treaty shall not restrict the economic or political relations of any of the Parties with other countries of the world community, shall not be detrimental to the international legal personality of any of the Parties and shall not affect their obligations under international treaties and

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agreements adopted earlier, including those adopted within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Final provisions

Article 26

This Treaty shall be applied provisionally from the date of its signature and shall enter into force on the date on which the depositary, which the Russian Federation has been recognized as, receives notification confirming completion by the Parties of the internal State procedures required for the Treaty's entry into force.

Article 27

This Treaty is open for accession by other States which share its objectives and principles and assume in full the obligations under it.

The Parties to the Treaty, recognizing the possibility of integration at various levels within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States may sign bilateral and multilateral agreements providing for more advanced integration relations in the political, economic and other fields.

Article 28

This Treaty shall be in force for a period of five years and shall then be automatically extended for subsequent five-year periods unless one of the Parties announces its desire to terminate it at least 12 months prior to the expiry of its period of validity.

Each Party shall have the right to denounce this Treaty by so notifying the depositary in writing at least 12 months in advance.

DONE at Moscow on 29 March 1996 in quadruplicate in the Byelorussian, Kazak, Kyrgyz and Russian languages, all texts being equally authentic. The original texts of the Treaty shall be kept in the Russian Federation, which shall transmit to each of the States Parties to the Treaty its certified copy.

FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS	FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKSTAN	FOR THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
(Signed) B. YELTSIN	(Signed) A. LUKASHENKO	(Signed) N. NAZARBAYEV	(Signed) A. AKAEV
