

**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
16 December 2019
English
Original: Russian

General Assembly
Seventy-fourth session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-fourth year

**Letter dated 5 December 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

On behalf of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization – the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan – I have the honour to transmit a statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on efforts to stabilize the situation in the Middle East and North Africa, adopted on 27 November 2019 in Bishkek (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) D. Polyanskiy
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 5 December 2019 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States
members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on efforts
to stabilize the situation in the Middle East and North Africa**

Bishkek, 27 November 2019

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization are concerned about the persistent tension in the Middle East and North Africa, which continues to be a source of threats to the security of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, including in the form of the spread of terrorism and radical ideology.

They call for the settlement of conflicts by exclusively peaceful means through dialogue based on the principles and norms of international law and the fundamental role of the United Nations.

The Ministers reaffirm their support for the creation of an independent, viable and fully sovereign Palestinian State within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. They urge all parties involved to avoid actions that undermine the prospects for a two-State solution. They underscore the need for the early resumption of negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement based on the existing international legal framework, including the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative.

The Ministers express their support for international efforts, particularly in the framework of the Astana format, to ensure stability and security in Syria on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

They highlight the need to continue the fight against terrorism in Syria and for measures to prevent its sponsorship, in order to eliminate Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Nusrah Front and all other terrorist organizations recognized as such by the Security Council.

They welcome the start of the work of the Constitutional Committee of Syria, which is an important step in advancing the political process led by Syrians themselves and facilitated by the United Nations, including for the establishment of broad intra-Syrian dialogue on national reconciliation involving representatives of all ethnic and religious groups of Syrian society.

The Ministers express concern at the persistence of flashpoints in Syria and continue to closely monitor developments. They note that long-term stability in the Syrian Arab Republic, including in the northeast of the country, can only be achieved by respecting and fully restoring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State and by ensuring the safety of civilians, who comprise diverse ethnic and religious communities in the country.

Stressing the importance in Syria of humanitarian operations by the Russian Federation and of the humanitarian mission by the Republic of Armenia, the Ministers call on the international community to intensify its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the civilian population and to assist in the post-conflict recovery of the country, including through the reconstruction of socioeconomic infrastructure, water and electricity supply facilities, schools and hospitals. They note the importance of

facilitating the voluntary return of Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of permanent residence.

The Ministers express their commitment to the principles of international law and to Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [497 \(1981\)](#) on the Syrian Golan Heights.

The Ministers reaffirm their strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya, and to the principle of non-interference in its internal affairs. They underscore that there is no alternative to a political solution to the internal Libyan conflict through dialogue between and led by the Libyans themselves. They express support for the mediation efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya, Mr. Salamé, in accordance with his mandate as approved by the Security Council, to promote national reconciliation with the ultimate aim of establishing unified State institutions that can effectively address the challenges faced, including the fight against terrorism and extremist ideology.

The Ministers welcome the Stockholm Agreement on the normalization of the situation in Yemen, concluded in Sweden in December 2018, and call for its full implementation in practice as a first and necessary step towards the resumption of the process of a political settlement aimed at establishing lasting peace. They support the relevant efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Mr. Griffiths.

The Ministers reaffirm their commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. They underscore the importance of non-interference in its internal affairs. They call on the international community to lend its full support to Iraq in continuing its fight against the remnants of ISIL and other terrorist groups until their complete elimination. They highly appreciate the efforts of the Iraqi Government to maintain the unity of the Iraqi people and achieve national reconciliation. They support the efforts of the Iraqi Government to rebuild the regions of the country liberated from terrorist groups.

The Ministers express support for the efforts of the transitional Government of the Sudan to achieve peace, security, stability, national cohesion, comprehensive democratic change, equitable socioeconomic development and improved State institutions.

The Ministers are concerned about the deterioration of the situation in the Persian Gulf region, which could lead to the outbreak of a large-scale military confrontation with very negative consequences for all countries involved as well as for regional and international security.

They are concerned by the decision of the United States of America to withdraw unilaterally from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and advocate its further systematic implementation based on the commitment of all parties involved to their obligations, while respecting the carefully calibrated balance of interests underpinning the comprehensive arrangements. They support efforts towards a de-escalation of the situation surrounding JCPOA and express their firm resolve to provide effective assistance in accordance with the Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

They call upon all parties to exercise restraint and take steps to reduce tensions and restore confidence. They note the significant positive potential of the Russian concept for collective security in the Persian Gulf area.

They stress the importance of fostering dialogue among all States of the Middle East and North Africa on the basis of the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-use of force, non-interference in internal affairs, respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the settlement of all disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.