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**General and complete disarmament**

**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 Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on improving international engagement and cooperation to strengthen global and regional security, 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 98, 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 Collective Security Council of the Collective  
Security Treaty Organization on improving international  
engagement and cooperation to strengthen global and  
regional security**

We, the members of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, note with concern the continuing deterioration of the international security situation and the weakening of the legal mechanisms for its maintenance, the growing risks and threats to stability in this regard and the increasing level of potential conflict in various regions of the world.

The arms control architecture established over the decades is being gradually destroyed or weakened, and there is a real prospect of an arms race in outer space and of the transformation of outer space into an arena for military confrontation. We regret the termination of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and are deeply concerned about the future of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expires in February 2021. In that regard, we look forward to the extension of that landmark treaty.

We call upon all States to work together to strengthen and develop the existing system of international agreements on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

In international relations, there is an increasing trend towards attempting to resolve problems through the threat or use of force and interference in the internal affairs of States, destructive outreach targeting individual countries and the use of a policy of double standards. There are attempts to erode the fundamental principles of international law, which leads to the fragmentation of the international community in the fight against contemporary challenges and threats. However, many pressing global challenges have not been adequately addressed.

The number of flashpoints and conflict zones that could lead to further escalation of the situation in the world is growing. The situation in various regions – the Middle East, North Africa, the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan – continues to be a potential source of threats to international security.

In this context, we reiterate the need to improve the engagement and cooperation of the entire international community in order to strengthen international and regional security based on respect for the norms and principles of international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations.

We advocate restoring confidence and constructive dialogue in order to prevent the risk of an arms race and the further escalation of dangerous military activity to the detriment of long-term security interests. In accordance with international law, we call for strengthened coordination and enhanced effectiveness in countering international terrorism and related extremism, in combating illicit trafficking in drugs and arms and illegal migration, in cooperating to protect populations from natural and human-induced disasters and in ensuring information security.

We stress the importance of combining the efforts of States and international and regional organizations to strengthen comprehensive stability in all its aspects as a basis for lasting peace and reliable, equal and indivisible security for all, with the United Nations in a central coordinating role.