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Agenda item 130 (t)

**Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and  
other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations  
and the Collective Security Treaty Organization**

**Security Council  
Seventy-fifth year**

**Letter dated 10 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative  
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 (CSTO) – 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 herewith a declaration of the CSTO Collective Security Council on collective security and a statement of the CSTO Collective Security Council on the establishment of an equitable and sustainable world order (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 130 (t), and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* V. Nebenzia



## **Annex I to the letter dated 10 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

### **Declaration of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization**

The members of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), following the meeting of the Council held on 2 December 2020, hereby declare the following.

In the years since its inception, CSTO has taken up its rightful place among authoritative international and regional organizations and has become a powerful force for regional stability and sustainable development. The Organization is an effective multifunctional structure for ensuring collective security in a comprehensive manner and fully meets the goals of consolidating peace and international and regional security on the basis of the generally recognized rules and principles of international law.

The member States reaffirm their determination to consistently implement the Collective Security Treaty, the Charter of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the founding documents and decisions of the Collective Security Council, which specify the key areas of development of the Organization, including the CSTO collective security strategy for the period up to 2025.

In the year of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945, the member States note with alarm the decay of mechanisms for ensuring security in the world and the continuing escalation of tension, including in the Eurasian area.

CSTO will increase its involvement in global efforts to ensure peace and security, consistently advocating the resolution of international and regional conflicts, in particular armed conflicts, by exclusively peaceful political and diplomatic means, within the framework of internationally recognized negotiation formats based on the generally recognized principles and rules of international law and without selectivity. To that end, the member States will continue the practice of holding joint consultations with a view to coordinating their foreign policy positions on international and regional security issues.

Given the global nature of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the risk of the emergence of new epidemics, the CSTO member States, with a view to improving public health, intend to continue to exchange experience concerning the prevention and control of infectious diseases, the training of specialists and the enhancement of the system for monitoring and responding to emergency situations.

The CSTO member States welcome the mutual support and the provision to one another of humanitarian aid and assistance in efforts to combat COVID-19.

The CSTO member States emphasize the coordinating role of the World Health Organization in averting public health threats and are in favour of building its capacity.

They affirm their solidarity with and support for the call of the United Nations Secretary-General for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world in the wake of the spread of a new type of coronavirus disease.

CSTO will continue to intensify its cooperation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies in areas of common interest, including the practical engagement of the collective peacekeeping forces of CSTO in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The member States support the adoption of a resolution at the seventy-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

The member States welcome the outcome of the Security Council meeting held in New York under the Russian presidency on the subject of the contribution of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in countering terrorist threats, and the holding in Vienna under the chairmanship of Tajikistan of a plenary meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, consisting of a dialogue on security issues on the theme of the role of CSTO in countering security threats in the region.

The member States, which firmly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, are focused on further intensifying their collective efforts to combat terrorism, under the central coordinating role of the United Nations, by implementing in full the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, on the basis of the collective action plan of the CSTO member States for the implementation of the Strategy for the period 2019–2021, which was adopted in Bishkek on 28 November 2019. They support continued efforts to conclude the work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as soon as possible.

They note the importance and relevance of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, initiated by Kazakhstan, which is aimed at strengthening international cooperation and the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture. At the same time, the member States will step up their efforts to avert the threats posed by international terrorism, including threats connected with the financing, training and equipping of foreign terrorist fighters for use as mercenaries in armed conflicts and with their return from conflict zones to their countries of nationality.

The member States are ready to intensify joint steps to counter international terrorism, neutralize its resource base and prevent citizens' recruitment for and involvement in terrorist activity, and they note that the preventive measures carried out in the CSTO area for the first time in 2019 under the name "Naemnik" (Mercenary) were highly effective.

In connection with the evolving situation in the Middle East, the member States note the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters returning to their countries of origin. The member States will work to improve mechanisms for the exchange of information on such individuals and their movements and will continue to cooperate through the competent agencies.

The member States support the continuation of joint work to prevent extremist activity, including through the working group on countering terrorism and extremism of the CSTO committee of security council secretaries.

The member States welcome the work of the working group on Afghanistan of the CSTO Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and note its cooperation with the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the relevant entities of the United Nations.

With a view to monitoring the situation and identifying threats to collective security in a timely manner, the member States are considering the possibility of establishing a CSTO fusion centre.

The member States note the successful implementation of the CSTO counter-narcotics strategy for the period 2015–2020 and the high practical value of the strategic document adopted for the next five-year period aimed at preventing the smuggling of Afghan drugs into the area for which the Organization is responsible and combating organized drug gangs.

The CSTO member States are implementing a list of supplementary measures for reducing tension in the Tajik-Afghan border area.

On the basis of the agreement on cooperation with regard to information security, which entered into force in 2019, the member States will step up practical cooperation on joint efforts to counter information-related threats and challenges, including through operation “PROKSI”.

There is a growing need for joint action to avert biosecurity risks and threats, given their cross-border nature.

Bearing in mind military and political developments, the member States will continue to enhance the capacity of the forces and resources of the collective security system and boost the preparedness of the troops (collective forces) of CSTO to undertake the tasks assigned to them on the basis of the plan for the development of military cooperation between the CSTO member States for the period 2021–2025 and the relevant decisions of the Collective Security Council. They also emphasize the need to draw on the experience of the Russian Federation in combating terrorist groups in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The member States will continue to conduct regular joint exercises. In that context they commend the effectiveness of the yearly joint exercises.

The CSTO member States intend to continue to equip the CSTO Collective Rapid Reaction Forces with modern weapons and military and special hardware to ensure a high level of operational readiness to effectively counter new challenges and threats.

The member States reaffirm that military cooperation within the framework of CSTO is not aimed against third countries and serves the interests of guaranteeing security for the States members of the Organization and ensuring stability throughout the Eurasian area.

The member States favour the development of a system of collective response by the Organization to emergency situations and reaffirm their readiness to participate in the efforts of the international community to avert and mitigate such situations.

CSTO will continue to develop its cooperation with non-member States and international organizations involved in security matters, including by granting observer status and partner status with CSTO in accordance with the CSTO Charter.

The member States will continue their efforts to publicize and raise awareness of the Organization’s work. In that connection, they note the “CSTO Days” held in the Russian Federation in October 2020.

The member States are committed to facilitating the continued progressive development of the Organization and stepping up their cooperation in all areas of CSTO activity, and they commend the results achieved under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation in 2019 and 2020, which have helped to bolster constructive and fruitful cooperation and the development of alliances between the member States of the Organization.

For the Republic of Armenia  
For the Republic of Belarus  
For the Republic of Kazakhstan  
For the Kyrgyz Republic  
For the Russian Federation  
For the Republic of Tajikistan

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**Annex II to the letter dated 10 December 2020 from the  
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the  
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement of the Collective Security Council of the Collective  
Security Treaty Organization on the establishment of an equitable  
and sustainable world order**

We, the members of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), believe that one of the priority tasks for humanity in the twenty-first century is to establish the right conditions, guarantees and prospects for the development of future generations. We believe that humanity has the opportunity, together, to ensure the preservation of peace, stability and security for all and to find an appropriate response to contemporary challenges and threats. The tasks that humanity faces can be addressed only in the context of an equitable and rational world order based on the generally recognized principles and rules of international law.

We believe that only through joint efforts will we be able to tackle global challenges and ensure global security for humanity. The time has come to show vision and strategic wisdom, return to the path of mutual respect and harmonious development, and renew the spirit of unity in the United Nations, whose seventy-fifth anniversary we have celebrated this year.

Global and regional problems must be addressed through dialogue and cooperation, on the basis of multilateral collective approaches in an atmosphere of openness, inclusivity and predictability.

The establishment of a new international order based on the principle “security for one is security for all” will, without doubt, be a complex and lengthy process. The international community must fully break free of confrontational thinking and the drive to monopolize and dominate in international affairs. Scenarios and formulas rooted in any kind of national exceptionalism or based on, among other things, hatred and open hostility, are absolutely unacceptable. Such approaches have generated new human tragedies, conflicts and tensions. Disputes and differences of opinion must be resolved peacefully, unilateral actions must be avoided and policies of diktat and the threat or use of force must be categorically rejected.

Any actions aimed at inciting inter-ethnic hatred are unacceptable. The diversity of cultures and civilizations in the world must provide the foundation for their cross-fertilization, so as to jointly advance along the path of progress, and not the foundation for conflict. The defining requirement for peace in the current circumstances is not a clash of civilizations but the need for global cooperation.

Recognizing the central coordinating role of the United Nations in international relations, we will help to strengthen the global system that has taken shape under the auspices of the United Nations for countering new challenges and threats on the basis of international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations.

We believe that the initiatives of CSTO member States aimed at maintaining and strengthening the global security and stability architecture are important. We call upon States and the international community to give them their full support.

We are committed to the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and are ready for joint work to build a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community from Vancouver to Vladivostok. We emphasize that there is no alternative to the peaceful settlement of conflicts through

negotiations within agreed formats, as set out in the declaration adopted at the OSCE summit held in Astana in 2010.

We believe in the principle that the security of one is inextricably linked to the security of all others. Precisely such a unifying approach forms the basis for the joint efforts of the CSTO countries to create a world free of dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones with different levels of security.

In that context, we propose to organize a meeting of authorized representatives of CSTO, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, OSCE, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union to discuss the security strategies adopted by those organizations, as a first step towards establishing an indivisible security space.

For the Republic of Armenia

For the Republic of Belarus

For the Republic of Kazakhstan

For the Kyrgyz Republic

For the Russian Federation

For the Republic of Tajikistan

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