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

Letter dated 2 March 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, by which the Assembly granted the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) observer status in the Assembly, and the Assembly resolutions on the cooperation between the United Nations and CSTO, I have the honour to communicate the following.

The Republic of Tajikistan, as Chair of CSTO in 2020 and 2021, is pleased to share two CSTO joint statements, one on the prohibition of the development and production of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, and one on ensuring comprehensive stability in the world, both adopted on 23 February 2021 in New York (see annexes 1 and 2).

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

> (Signed) Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov Permanent Representative



Annex I to the letter dated 2 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the prohibition of the development and production of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons

23 February 2021 New York

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) emphasize the pressing need to develop agreed multilateral approaches for responding to new challenges in international and regional security, including: the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction; the weaponization of outer space; the use of information and communications technologies for destructive purposes; and the falling of weapons of mass destruction into the hands of terrorist groups and organizations.

The evolution of scientific and technical progress and the growing role of transnational corporations and other non-State actors demonstrate the need to take effective measures to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction, and also the need to take immediate practical steps, primarily through the relevant entities of the United Nations system and the Conference on Disarmament, to identify and eliminate legal gaps in those areas.

The CSTO member States advocate continued monitoring of the situation relating to the possible development of new types of weapons of mass destruction and are in favour of establishing conditions conducive to the development, when necessary, of specific recommendations on identifying the types of such weapons and on undertaking negotiations on identified types of such weapons.

To that end, the CSTO member States support the resolution adopted on a triennial basis by the General Assembly, entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".

We believe that the preventive approach set out in the resolution helps to prevent an arms race and to strengthen the United Nations disarmament machinery, of which the Conference on Disarmament, as the only multilateral forum for negotiations on matters of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, is a key element.

Bearing in mind the evolving international situation, and the increase in global threats and the need to respond to them, the CSTO member States welcome the adoption of the aforementioned resolution by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.

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Annex II to the letter dated 2 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on ensuring comprehensive stability in the world

23 February 2021 New York

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are deeply concerned about the increase in global instability, the multiplication of risks and threats, and the deepening strife in international relations.

The principles of equal responsibility for peace and stability, mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs are ever more frequently disregarded.

We are witnessing the deliberate erosion of the existing architecture of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which is substantially undermining international security and stability.

There are ever more factors that have a negative impact on comprehensive stability. The development and deployment of global missile defence systems, the threat of the weaponization of outer space and the prospect of the arms race moving to a new technological level could lead to even greater quantitative and qualitative imbalances with regard to conventional weapons, and they present ever more significant risks to international peace and security and impede further progress in disarmament, including nuclear disarmament.

In that context, the CSTO member States once again declare their commitment to the concept of comprehensive stability based on cooperation and equal and indivisible security, and advocate the restoration of trust and constructive dialogue with a view to preventing the risks of an arms race and the further escalation of military activity, to the detriment of long-term security interests.

The CSTO member States are concerned about the decision of the United States of America to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (1987), as a result of which the Treaty is no longer in effect.

We note that, despite repeated calls by the CSTO member States and other countries, possible ways of resolving the problems relating to the Treaty and ensuring its viability on the basis of substantive and professional dialogue between the parties and mutual transparency measures have not been fully implemented. We emphasize the importance, in the current circumstances, of efforts to ensure predictability and stability with regard to missiles.

The CSTO member States greatly appreciate the role of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (2010) in supporting comprehensive stability. We emphasize the need for its strict implementation and welcome the agreement between Russia and the United States to extend the Treaty. We also call upon all States possessing military nuclear capabilities to engage in discussion of possible ways to ensure that the process of reduction and limitation of nuclear arms is multilateral in nature.

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The CSTO member States reaffirm their commitment to the goal of a nuclear-free world and their belief that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the basis for moving towards nuclear disarmament while strengthening international stability and equal and indivisible security for all States without exception. We call for the integrity and viability of the Treaty to be preserved within the framework of our international obligations. We reaffirm the right of all States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and emphasize that the threat or use of force against nuclear power plants is unacceptable.

It is a matter of concern that, to date, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has not entered into force. The CSTO member States urge all States on whose actions the fate of the Treaty depends, in particular the eight remaining annex 2 countries, to ratify the Treaty without delay.

The CSTO member States are in favour of strengthening existing treaty regimes with regard to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation and developing new ones on a consensual basis. The United Nations and its multilateral disarmament machinery play a central role in that process. We emphasize the need to increase the effectiveness and coherence of the work of the key elements of that machinery: the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament.

The CSTO member States are greatly concerned about the growing threat of the weaponization of outer space and its transformation into an arena for armed confrontation. In that connection, we are in favour of starting negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament as soon as possible on a legally binding international instrument with reliable safeguards against the weaponization of outer space, 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. We particularly emphasize the importance of the international initiative/political commitment on no first placement of weapons in outer space, as a first step towards the conclusion of the treaty and as the most important transparency and confidence-building measure with regard to space activity. The CSTO member States call upon all countries that have not yet done so to join the international initiative on no first placement of weapons in outer space.

The CSTO member States will consistently support efforts and initiatives to strengthen the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, and the authority of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, on the basis of the consensus decisions of its governing bodies.

The CSTO member States reaffirm their commitment to complying with and strengthening the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, including by adopting the Protocol to the Convention with an effective verification mechanism, and call upon the States parties to the Convention to intensify their consultations and cooperate with one another to resolve issues relating to the implementation of the Convention.

We emphasize that it is unacceptable to establish international mechanisms that duplicate the functions of the Convention and bypass the United Nations Security Council. We are in agreement that any decisions regarding the Convention must be discussed, prepared and adopted only with the participation of all States parties.

In response to the global threats of chemical and biological terrorism, the CSTO member States support the launch of negotiations, in the Conference on Disarmament,

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on an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism, as part of the Conference's balanced programme of work.

The CSTO member States support concerted efforts by all States to strengthen comprehensive stability in all its aspects as the basis for ensuring durable peace and reliable, equal and indivisible security for all. We call upon all members of the international community to work together to enhance the viability of key multilateral instruments relating to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation and to strive for strict and full implementation of the agreements and arrangements concluded by all the parties involved.

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