



General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 May 2024

Original: English

Seventy-eighth session

Agenda items 14, 16, 64 and 71

Culture of peace**Macroeconomic policy questions****Zone of peace, trust and cooperation of Central Asia****Promotion and protection of human rights**

Letter dated 26 April 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

I would like to bring to your attention the statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the granting to the Commonwealth of observer status in the General Assembly (see annex I) and the joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on ensuring safe working conditions for journalists and preventing infringements of their rights (see annex II), which were delivered on 12 April 2024.

I would be grateful for the circulation of the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14, 16, 64 and 71.

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia



Annex I to the letter dated 26 April 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the granting to the Commonwealth of observer status in the United Nations General Assembly

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan,

With reference to the resolution entitled “Observer status for the Commonwealth of Independent States in the General Assembly” adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-eighth session,

Guided by the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage measures for regional cooperation to advance the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the openness of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to broad cooperation with friendly States and international organizations in accordance with international law, on the basis of the principles of respect and mutual consideration of interests,

Note with pleasure the thirtieth anniversary of the granting to CIS of observer status in the United Nations General Assembly;

Declare that the Commonwealth gives priority to building cooperation with the United Nations in a wide range of areas, including in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States”;

Call for the further deepening of cooperation and the coordination of efforts between CIS and the United Nations, their executive bodies, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and the specialized bodies of the Commonwealth;

Declare our readiness to expand the fruitful collaboration between CIS and the United Nations by deepening and enhancing existing relations and establishing new areas of joint work aimed at maintaining international peace and security, ensuring inter-ethnic harmony, protecting human rights and promoting economic and social progress.

Annex II to the letter dated 26 April 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on ensuring safe working conditions for journalists and preventing infringements of their rights

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan,

Reaffirming their commitment to the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, including those enshrined in resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations and in the decisions of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on creating safeguards for the work of journalists;

Taking into account the provisions of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Information of 9 October 1992, the Agreement on the Sharing of Materials of the National News Agencies of the CIS Member States of 18 September 2003 and the Convention on the Status of Correspondents Representing a Media Outlet of a CIS Member State in Other Commonwealth States of 16 April 2004;

Considering the freedom to disseminate information and citizens' freedom of access to information to be a condition and tool for building mutual trust;

Emphasizing the paramount importance of ensuring, in accordance with national laws, that journalists and media workers are able to work freely, independently and safely, and of ensuring that media representatives have access to official sources of information on the political, socioeconomic and cultural life of the States to which they are accredited and that they are allowed to participate in press conferences and other similar events;

Striving to provide the international community with an objective and complete overview of the sociopolitical, economic and cultural life of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

Maintaining that the adoption of restrictions against journalists in connection with information transmitted to them and disseminated by the media is unacceptable, except in cases of violation of the law of the country of accreditation;

Emphasize the need to ensure the safety of journalists and media workers;

Note that the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right of access to public information are essential components of modern society that are guaranteed by fundamental international human rights instruments;

Express their commitment to considering journalists and media workers on assignment in areas of armed conflict to be civilians and protecting them as such in accordance with international law;

Reaffirm the importance of respecting the right to freedom of movement within the State of accreditation, with the exception of areas and facilities to which entry is subject to special procedures under national laws;

Advocate the protection of media rights and media plurality, and note that unjustified bans on the professional activities of the media and journalists are unacceptable;

Call upon the relevant universal and regional organizations and specialized institutions to denounce impunity for crimes against journalists, media workers and associated personnel, and to take action on the basis of the principles of even-handedness and impartiality;

Consider acts of violence and threats of the use of force against media representatives to be unacceptable, and call for fair and impartial investigations into such crimes and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice;

Call upon all interested partners to join efforts to achieve the goal of enhancing the safety of journalists and to protect the right of every citizen to reliable information;

Encourage States to exchange, on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national laws, information on cases of attacks and acts of violence against journalists.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth member States emphasize the importance of:

Further promoting objective and comprehensive coverage by the media of events in the Commonwealth member States and beyond, and providing the public with access to a variety of information to enable each individual to verify the accuracy of facts and objectively assess events;

Developing a unifying positive agenda in the information environment, and preventing the dissemination of news that provokes inter-ethnic and religious discord and programmes with content that is offensive to the peoples and national values of the CIS member States;

Providing journalists with equal rights of access to official sources of information on the political, socioeconomic and cultural life of the countries to which they are accredited, and allowing them to participate in press conferences and other similar events;

Establishing and ensuring safe and favourable conditions for journalists and media personnel to carry out their work, including preventing infringements of journalists' rights on any grounds;

Condemning all attacks and acts of violence against journalists and media personnel without distinction;

Taking appropriate steps to bring to justice perpetrators of crimes against journalists and media personnel;

Providing legal, psychological and financial support to journalists who have experienced violence, harassment and threats.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth member States intend to facilitate:

Strengthened cooperation in training journalists to ensure their own safety when covering armed conflicts, counter-terrorism operations and natural disasters;

The development of cooperation to protect journalists from harassment on the Internet, including unlawful acts that prevent journalists from carrying out their legitimate professional activities;

Regular exchanges of best practices and experiences in ensuring the safety of journalists and the media, including those relevant to new challenges posed by advances in information and communication technologies;

More effective international cooperation in ensuring the safety of journalists without distinction.
