



**EMBASSY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
IN THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

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PRESS-RELEASE

**Declaration by the heads of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation
member states on the 25th anniversary of the Collective Security Treaty and
the 15th anniversary of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation
Minsk, November 30, 2017**

We the heads of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation member states note with satisfaction that the CSTO has achieved substantial results in all spheres of its activity over the 15 years since its establishment. These achievements became possible thanks to the solid foundation provided by the Collective Security Treaty, which was signed on May 15, 1992.

The Treaty is a dynamically growing foundation for equal cooperation capable of a prompt and appropriate response to changes in the global situation, which led to the establishment of an international security organisation of regional countries, the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, in 2002. The never-changing element of our interaction is commitment to the principles of a fair and democratic world order based on the UN Charter and international law. Just as 25 years ago, our goal is to create favourable conditions for the all-round development of the CSTO member states by strengthening international and regional peace and stability, and by reliably ensuring the security of our nations. We confirm our commitment to the principle of the priority of political and diplomatic methods in conflict settlement set out in the Treaty and the CSTO Charter.

Since its establishment, the CSTO, which is a strictly defence organisation, has been acting in strict compliance with the principle of non-interference in the

internal affairs of other countries, mutual respect, equality and due regard for their legitimate interests. We condemn any attempts to settle interstate problems and international disputes through the use or threat of force, the incitement of ethnic and religious intolerance or the erosion of statehood by any other methods, including the technology of colour revolutions and hybrid wars. In light of the persisting conflict potential in international relations, the CSTO member states have taken potent efforts to ensure that the Organisation has the capability to provide a response to any attempts to destabilise the situation and disrupt peace and security in the zone of its responsibility.

We the heads of the CSTO member states believe that the legal framework of the Organisation provides conditions for advancing cooperation between the member states to a fundamentally new level, strengthening the community of their strategic goals and transforming the CSTO into one of the most effective multirole international organisations responsible for regional security.

Our Organisation continues working to improve its efforts and is expanding its organisational and operational capabilities. The CSTO member states are doing their utmost to facilitate the further comprehensive development of cooperation in all spheres of the Organisation's activity, as well as to enhance its efficiency and international prestige on the basis of the Strategy of CSTO Collective Security for the Period through 2025, which was adopted in 2016.

The member states of the Organisation are working consistently to build up their foreign policy coordination, including for developing collective responses to global and regional challenges, such as crisis response and peacekeeping activities.

Since the majority of current problems can be settled only through broad international cooperation, we consider it necessary to strengthen the coordination of international organisations towards the synergy of their capabilities.

The CSTO is making a significant contribution towards attaining this important goal. The Organisation has observer status at the UN and is actively cooperating with UN institutions and strengthening ties and establishing mutually beneficial relations with the OSCE – The Organization for Security and Co-operation in

Europe, the SCO, the CIS and other international and regional organisations and other countries.

We the heads of the CSTO member states declare that the Organisation, while prioritising political and diplomatic methods, has been working consistently to enhance the combat capability of its collective security forces and facilities and their readiness for guaranteed collective defence against any acts of aggression perpetrated against any of the CSTO member states, to strengthen regional security and stability, as well as to protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the CSTO member states.

We are focused on the need to further develop military, military and technical, and military and economic cooperation within the Organisation.

We the heads of the CSTO member states point out that the increased threats of international terrorism and extremism, weapons and drug trafficking, illegal migration, the use of information and communication technology for destructive influence and manipulation of public opinion have prompted the CSTO to adopt a policy of improving and enhancing its potential for responding to a broad range of traditional and new security challenges, including by coordinating the protection of their state borders. In this context, we reaffirm the statement of the CSTO heads of state on Ensuring Security of National Frontiers in the CSTO Zone of Responsibility, which was adopted at a session of the Collective Security Council of the CSTO in Yerevan, Armenia, on October 14, 2016.

We have taken note of the fact that foreign terrorists and fighters are sent to their home countries or other countries, some of them disguised as refugees, with the purpose of staging acts of subversion and terrorism. This calls for strengthening interstate cooperation in identifying and detaining the said foreign terrorists and fighters on the border, as well as for improving our efforts against transnational organised crime.

We urge the UN member states, international and regional organisations, as well as the entire international community to join forces within a broad

international coalition to fight international terrorism on the basis of the United Nations Charter and relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council.

In this context, the CSTO member states highly appreciate Russia's comprehensive efforts to destroy the potential of international terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the decision of the Republic of Kazakhstan to provide the Astana platform for international meetings on #Syria, which has resulted in launching the de-escalation process in that country and has created conditions for the revitalisation of the Geneva talks.

We the heads of the CSTO member states consider it vital to join forces on the basis of a comprehensive and balanced approach to settle the global drug problem, focusing on practical measures aimed at the ultimate eradication of the global drug industry and the creation of an effective system of fighting the trafficking of new synthetic drugs and other psychotropic substances.

While implementing the provisions of the CSTO Anti-Drug Strategy for 2015-2020, we are prepared to continue to contribute to the fight against the illegal production and distribution of drugs, to build up on the joint efforts against new psychoactive substances, as well as to provide comprehensive assistance to a radical decrease in the non-medical use of narcotic drugs in the CSTO countries.

Our strategic goal is to move towards a world free from drugs in keeping with the UN conventions on narcotic drugs.

We the heads of the CSTO member states stress that the cross-border nature of modern threats and challenges in the sphere of information security calls for strengthening collective efforts and for adopting balanced measures. Seeking to fight crime in the sphere of modern information technology, we intend to continue vigorous efforts to improve the information security mechanisms within the Organisation.

We consider it vital to continue applying consistent efforts against illegal migration, which is closely connected with other kinds of cross-border crime. In light of this, we will continue to enhance the efficiency of cooperation between the

concerned agencies of the CSTO member states and the entire range of joint investigation and special operations within the Organisation.

We the heads of the CSTO member states express readiness to improve the existing system of ad hoc and standing bodies of the Organisation responsible for implementing their tasks under any international conditions.

We the heads of the CSTO member states reaffirm the CSTO's openness to cooperation with other international and regional organisations aimed at creating a new Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security architecture and our resolve to take the necessary efforts so that the CSTO will continue to be a constructive factor of international relations.

We the heads of the CSTO member states declare our resolve to continue to strengthen the CSTO system of collective security and to provide all the necessary capabilities for ensuring a collective protection of the sustainable development of our states in conditions of security, as well as respect for their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.