

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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**NOTE VERBALE DATED 26 SEPTEMBER 2006 FROM THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF BELARUS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
TRANSMITTING THE STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION
(CSTO) ON THE OCCASION OF THE CREATION OF A
NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN CENTRAL ASIA¹**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to submit the text of a statement by Sergei Martynov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, on the occasion of the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus kindly asks the secretariat to distribute the text of the mentioned statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

¹ Originally issued as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council under the symbol A/61/466-S/2006/766 of 26 September 2006.

**Statement by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs
of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization**

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are, as a matter of principle, consistent supporters of the adoption of effective international measures aimed at actively combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.

We welcome the establishment of a new nuclear-weapon-free zone and the efforts made by the Central Asian States, four of which are States members of CSTO, to establish such a zone.

The signing of the Treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia is a significant contribution to ensuring global and regional security and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which is particularly relevant in the context of the global campaign against terrorism and prevention of the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists.

There is no doubt that the establishment of a new nuclear-weapon-free zone will also help strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and will give new impetus to negotiations within the framework of the United Nations on the entire range of nuclear non-proliferation issues.

We believe that only joint, consistent and persistent efforts can prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In this connection, we call upon all countries to intensify and consolidate their efforts, both within the framework of the United Nations and within other international organizations, to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.
