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Prevention of an arms race in outer space: no first placement of weapons in outer space

General and complete disarmament

General and complete disarmament: implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 22 February 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the six States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization – 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 to you herewith five joint statements* of the Permanent Representatives of these member States to the United Nations, as contained in annexes I (agenda item 99 (b)), II and III (agenda item 101), IV (agenda item 101 (k)) and V (agenda item 111).

I would be grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 99 (b), 101, 101 (k) and 111.

(Signed) Mirgul **Moldoisaeva**
Permanent Representative of the
Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

* Circulated in English and Russian only.



Annex I to the letter dated 22 February 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on support for the multilateral initiative on no first placement of weapons in outer space

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are greatly concerned about the growing threat of the weaponization of outer space and the prospect of its transformation into an arena for armed confrontation.

CSTO member States are pursuing activities relating to the exploration and use of outer space in full compliance with the norms and principles of international law and in the interest of promoting international cooperation and understanding and maintaining international peace and security.

They reaffirm the critical importance of taking immediate practical steps to prevent an arms race in outer space, the most effective of which remains the drafting of a legally binding agreement containing reliable safeguards against the deployment of weapons in outer space. They therefore welcome the fact that the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts has begun to work on recommendations for possible components of such a legally binding instrument, with a particular emphasis on preventing the weaponization of outer space.

Until such an agreement is concluded, CSTO member States will facilitate the efforts of the international community to keep outer space free of weapons. Promoting the multilateral initiative/political commitment on no first placement of weapons in outer space worldwide constitutes an important contribution to such efforts.

The initiative on no first placement of weapons in outer space, the only transparency and confidence-building measure currently in place to prevent an arms race in outer space, has in recent years become a major political factor in strengthening international peace, ensuring equal and indivisible security for all and increasing the predictability and sustainability of activities by States related to the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

CSTO member States reaffirm their commitment, undertaken in 2005, not to be the first to place weapons in outer space and call on other countries to follow their example and give wholehearted consideration to joining this initiative.

Annex II to the letter dated 22 February 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the context of implementing Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) attach great importance to counteracting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, which continues to threaten international peace and security.

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) is a key component of the global non-proliferation architecture, which rests on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. It provides all States with guidance on cooperation for the achievement of common goals. That very spirit of cooperation should guide the ongoing work in connection with resolution 1540 (2004).

The relevance and importance of the resolution were reaffirmed during the comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in 2016, and by the subsequent adoption of Security Council resolution 2325 (2016).

CSTO member States are working together closely to implement resolution 1540 (2004) and are open to further cooperation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant thereto and, where appropriate, with the relevant international, regional and subregional organizations. They are convinced that this joint work, coordinated by the Committee, will contribute to the more effective implementation of the resolution. They welcome the commitment of the States Members of the United Nations to implementing the resolution and note the diversity of approaches to its implementation at the national, bilateral and regional levels, including through the development of voluntary national plans to that end, partner reviews and regional workshops to exchange experiences and best practices.

The “2 + 1” (Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan plus Belarus) partner review conducted in 2016 and 2017 and the Issyk Kul partner review round (Central Asia plus Belarus) held in 2018 have laid a good foundation for developing multilateral intergovernmental cooperation on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

CSTO member States highly appreciate the regional courses organized by the Russian Federation under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Office for Disarmament Affairs for national focal points on resolution 1540 (2004) from OSCE member States, which were held in 2018 in Rostov-on-Don.

The courses provided an opportunity to strengthen cooperation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and to exchange experiences and effective practices regarding the implementation of the resolution at the national and regional levels.

CSTO member States welcome the positive momentum in the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) by countries and stand ready to cooperate further with all stakeholders to strengthen the international regime of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

**Annex III to the letter dated 22 February 2019 from the
Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations
Addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Russian]

**Statement by the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations
of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty
Organization on mutual confidence-building measures to achieve
the goals of peace and maintenance of the global
security architecture**

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) reaffirm their commitment to strengthening the central coordinating role of the United Nations in maintaining world peace and security and ensuring mutual respect, equality and trust among actors in international relations.

CSTO member States call for a world free from wars, conflicts, violence and coercion, the development by the international community of a comprehensive, equitable and mutually beneficial system of cooperation and the achievement of sustainable security for all, taking into account the legitimate interests of all States.

CSTO member States see a pressing need to build mutual confidence between individual countries and at the regional and global levels. They stress that creating a climate of mutual confidence must remain high on the international agenda as a key to maintaining the global security architecture, strengthening world peace and helping to bring about a new model of international cooperation.

CSTO member States believe that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitute a threat to peace and security.

CSTO member States believe that, in order to build confidence with regard to non-proliferation, withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should be rendered more difficult. There must be clear consequences for countries that violate the Treaty.

CSTO member States view the start of talks within the Conference on Disarmament on a legally binding agreement against the use or threat of the use of nuclear weapons as an important step towards removing incentives to possess such weapons, including for the purposes of further improving the system of assurances from nuclear-weapon States to those that have voluntarily renounced the possession of nuclear weapons, non-nuclear-weapon States and States belonging to nuclear-weapon-free zones.

CSTO member States attach great importance to the pursuit of constructive dialogue, mutual understanding and trust between nuclear-weapon States as a key to the prevention and resolution of conflicts. They welcome the reductions in nuclear weapons carried out thus far and believe that all countries possessing military nuclear capabilities should take further steps in the area of nuclear disarmament that are fair and balanced and help to strengthen the security of all States.

CSTO member States are resolved to 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 to preserve the unity and enhance the credibility of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). They therefore advocate exclusively consensus-based decision-making in the Organisation and oppose any attempts to politicize its work.

CSTO member States deem it important to strengthen and improve the global security system and urge an end to “bloc thinking”.

CSTO member States advocate the need for a return to political trust and systematic dialogue in international life. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the nuclear programme of Iran shows how multilateral diplomacy can succeed in the field of non-proliferation and provides a practical example of how to resolve complex issues through negotiations.

CSTO member States trust that the agreements regarding the Iranian nuclear programme will continue to be implemented successfully, despite the unilateral withdrawal from them by the United States of America.

CSTO member States welcome the positive developments since the beginning of the year on the Korean Peninsula, including the successful holding of the inter-Korean summit on 27 April 2018, the meeting between the leaders of the United States and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, held on 12 June 2018 in Singapore, and the decision by the leadership of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to halt nuclear tests and missile launches and close the Punggye-ri nuclear test site.

CSTO member States consider that confidence-building measures between Washington and Pyongyang will facilitate the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the normalization of relations between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the international community.

CSTO member States highly appreciate the aspiration of Pyongyang to denuclearize and urge it to follow the example of Kazakhstan, once the world’s fourth-largest nuclear power, which relinquished its nuclear capabilities and shut down one of the world’s largest nuclear test sites. Belarus took similar steps.

CSTO member States are seriously concerned about the stalemate affecting the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and urge those countries on which the entry into force of the Treaty depends to sign and/or ratify it without further delay.

CSTO member States deem the confidence-building measures in the Middle East, shaken by dramatic events that are sending shock waves well beyond the region, to be especially relevant. They stress that such mutual confidence forms the basis for the Astana dialogue, which, alongside the talks in Geneva, is contributing to the Syrian peace process.

CSTO member States consider it important to continue efforts to implement the Resolution on the Middle East of 1995, on the establishment in that region of a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, and call on the parties concerned to resume work on convening a conference on such a zone.

CSTO member States are concerned about the risk of a new round of the arms race stemming from the use of scientific advances, including in the military-technical and information and communication technology sectors.

CSTO member States also underline the need for confidence-building measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. They note that the issue can only be resolved through the drafting and adoption of a legally binding international agreement containing reliable safeguards against the deployment of weapons in outer space and the use or threat of the use of force against outer space objects. Pending the conclusion of such an agreement, the joint initiative/political commitment of CSTO member States on no first placement of weapons in outer space is an important step in the right direction. Those member States will continue to do all that is necessary to promote the initiative worldwide.

CSTO member States maintain that bringing about a swift end to the wars and conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, as well as the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation, should be a matter of universal priority. The potential for conflict on the Korean Peninsula and the waters of the South China Sea and the Arctic must be reduced.

CSTO member States are convinced that the Security Council has a particular role and historic mission in that regard.

CSTO member States call on the international community to work together for a safer world and a just world order based on mutual trust, the rule of international law and respect for the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

**Annex IV to the letter dated 22 February 2019 from the
Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Russian]

**Statement by the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations
of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty
Organization on strengthening the Chemical Weapons Convention
and depoliticizing the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition
of Chemical Weapons**

We view the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention) as one of the most successful multilateral mechanisms in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation. We note with satisfaction that 193 States are now parties to the Convention, demonstrating that its critical role is universally recognized.

We greatly value the contribution made by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to ridding the world of such weapons; in 2013 it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work.

We consider the Security Council to be the only body with the authority to determine responsibility for wrongful acts involving the use of chemical weapons. The transformation of OPCW, a highly technical entity, into a body duplicating the powers of the Council is wholly unacceptable, as is the setting of precedents in international legal practice for the attribution to other international entities of the Council's prerogatives.

We note with regret that the departure from the principle of consensus-based decision-making, which has stood the test of time, is jeopardizing the very integrity of OPCW. There is a pressing need for a joint effort by the States parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention to refocus the work of the Organisation on chemical disarmament, without political overtones and in strict accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

Annex V to the letter dated 22 February 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on enhancing its contribution to the creation of a global system to counter international terrorism

CSTO member States reaffirm and welcome the leading role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security, highly commend that global Organization for its efforts to combat international terrorism in accordance with the recognized norms of international law and acknowledge the need to build a coherent international counter-terrorism system under the auspices of the United Nations.

CSTO member States underline that any support for or justification of terrorist acts and the use of terrorists or extremists for political ends is unacceptable. They recognize the leading role of States in preventing and combating terrorism and extremism, both at the national level and through international cooperation, and call for international cooperation, free of double standards, to counter terrorism in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

CSTO member States affirm that the threat of terrorism is international in scope, broadly affecting all vital functions of the State and society. They stress their willingness to make a meaningful contribution to global counter-terrorism activities by leveraging the capacity of CSTO, engaging in intensive exchanges of information and practical experience and developing collective measures to give prior warning of, prevent and stamp out terrorist threats.

CSTO member States attach great importance to implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on countering terrorism, and to the work of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1373 \(2001\)](#) and [1988 \(2011\)](#).

They underline the need to intensify international cooperation to combat the spread of terrorist ideology and propaganda, in accordance with Security Council resolutions [1624 \(2005\)](#) and [2354 \(2017\)](#), and to tackle the issue of foreign terrorist fighters by implementing Security Council resolutions [2178 \(2014\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#). They call for effective measures to cut off the flow of material supplies to and financing for terrorism, in accordance with Security Council resolutions [2199 \(2015\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#).

CSTO member States view cooperation between the CSTO secretariat and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate of the Security Council, in line with the memorandum of understanding of 2016, as of the utmost importance and favour broader cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism. They call for closer practical cooperation with other relevant United Nations entities and more effective coordination of counter-terrorism activities and information exchange.

CSTO member States advocate a collective approach to international counter-terrorism activities that would strengthen the capacity of United Nations Member States to combat international terrorism and address the conditions leading to participation in, financing of, incitement to and justification of terrorist acts and propaganda, and to the spread of terrorist ideology.

CSTO member States stress the importance of measures taken in the framework of CSTO to establish a regional security system based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the implementation of the CSTO collective security strategy for the period to 2025 and other initiatives by the CSTO Collective Security Council relating to counter-terrorism.

Initiatives by CSTO to establish a consolidated list of recognized terrorist organizations and an index of additional international counter-terrorism measures are among the key practical steps that have been taken to strengthen regional counter-terrorism cooperation with a view to building a global counter-terrorism system.

CSTO member States stand ready to fully support proposals for collective international counter-terrorism initiatives. In that regard, they welcome the adoption of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, which was proposed by the Republic of Kazakhstan and endorsed by the United Nations. The Code is aimed at creating a broad international coalition of partner countries to counter terrorism and achieve a world free of terrorism by 2045, the centenary of the United Nations.

CSTO member States will continue to hold international events, with the participation of high-level representatives of United Nations counter-terrorism bodies and other regional organizations, and to hold and take part in joint working meetings of representatives of States and the executive and working bodies of international organizations.

CSTO member States reaffirm their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and the inadmissibility of equating terrorism with any world religion, region or State.

CSTO member States reaffirm that their Organization is open to international cooperation and constructive engagement and urge the international community to consolidate joint efforts to counter international terrorism.
