

**STATEMENT BY MR. NIKOLAY BORDYUZHA,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY
ORGANIZATION, AT THE 2011 ANNUAL SECURITY
REVIEW CONFERENCE**

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**Working session I: Transnational threats and challenges:
strengthening the coherence of the OSCE response and interaction with
other international actors**

Mr. Chairperson,
Secretary General,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to thank you and the Lithuanian Chairmanship for the invitation to participate in and address the traditional Annual Security Review Conference – a most important event from the point of view of strengthening the politico-military foundations of pan-European and Eurasian security, something that the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) is ready to promote in every possible way.

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on Collective Security, on the basis of which the CSTO was created a decade ago. Originally established for the purpose of ensuring politico-military security, the organization has now been transformed into a fully fledged and multifunctional regional structure for countering new and traditional threats and challenges to peace and stability.

Unfortunately, it must be acknowledged that the range of these challenges is not diminishing but, on the contrary, expanding. Furthermore, in a globalizing world and in the light of the constant appearance of new technologies, these challenges are generally transnational and in the majority of cases affect entire regions. Some of these threats, for example terrorism, are in fact becoming global problems. They have a most negative and pernicious impact on political and economic processes in OSCE States.

The events of 2010 in Kyrgyzstan, a member of the CSTO, were a serious trial for the organization I represent, testing the feasibility and effectiveness of its approach to ensuring security and stability and its ability to resolve crises by peaceful means and to help strengthen the statehood of one of its participants. In the light of the lessons of the Kyrgyz crisis, an updated procedure for action in the event of crisis situations was drawn up and adopted in the

CSTO. This procedure also envisages greater co-operation with international and regional structures.

At the session of the CSTO Collective Security Council in December 2010, the Heads of State identified areas for improvement in the collective security system to ensure the territorial integrity, sovereignty and stability of the member States. Naturally, this required changes to the Treaty on Collective Security, the CSTO Charter and other documents along with the adoption of new decisions to clarify procedures for combating manifestations of extremism and provide the possibility for more flexible and prompt measures in this area.

Transnational challenges to security are continuing to grow amidst the tension in international relations and the destabilization of countries and entire regions. For example, during the period preceding our Conference, a vast arc of instability in the Arab world has been added to existing hotbeds of tension, such as Afghanistan. Upheavals of this scale in such a volatile region cannot but lead to new outbursts of extremism, attempts to step up the activities of terrorist organizations and massive illegal migration.

As we understand it, it is not only regions in North Africa and the Middle East that are involved. The Arab Spring could have extremely serious negative consequences for other countries.

As for Afghanistan, regardless of the assessment of the situation and results of the efforts of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the “outpouring” of extremism from there unfortunately not only shows no sign of stopping but is actually increasing. Its focus on the countries of Central Asia is evident. Extremists are directly threatening the governments of the countries of the region with ever increasing frequency, and their warnings of revenge for assisting in the transit of goods for ISAF are getting stronger. They are stepping up their efforts to recruit young people and train them as fighters in special training camps to infiltrate Central Asian countries. Extremist leaders are speaking openly of committing terrorist acts in Central Asian countries and destabilizing the situation in the region and are taking practical steps to prepare for such acts. This is further aided by socio-economic problems, the increased activities of extremist organizations and a sharp rise in a number of Central Asian countries in adherents of so-called non-traditional forms of Islam. All this increases the social base for recruitment to extremist and terrorist organizations.

At a time of growing transnational challenges, the CSTO is paying particular attention to the creation of the necessary force potential and co-ordinated mechanisms to ensure a possible response to virtually any problems concerned with collective security.

In the first instance, this involves the Collective Rapid Reaction Forces intended to localize armed conflicts and consisting of special units from the security authorities and the ministries of internal affairs and emergency situations to conduct counter-terrorism operations, combat rebel groups and deal with emergencies.

CSTO peacekeeping forces have been established. The Collective Rapid Deployment Forces of the Central Asian region operate as co-ordinated mechanisms to combat the drug threat, illegal migration and the consequences of man-made disasters and to ensure information security.

The CSTO Co-ordination Council consisting of the heads of the relevant agencies of the member States is successfully working to combat illegal migration. It focuses on joint operational and preventive measures and special operations within the framework of the CSTO to counter illegal migration, including trafficking in human beings. For the sixth year in a row we have been fairly successful in our comprehensive operations under the code name "Illegal", in the course of which not only specific violations of migration laws but also new channels for illegal migration have been identified and, most importantly, the activities of organized criminal groups specializing in human trafficking suppressed.

Co-operation with other States in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs is intensifying. In the last six years alone, the CSTO joint operation "Kanal" has seized more than 320 tons of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and other powerful substances, and around 10,000 weapons. A joint database has also been set up containing a wealth of information on places that manufacture drugs, the channels for and means of their transport, and the leaders and members of criminal groups.

Against the background of the worsening problem of refugees in the light of the recent events in North Africa and the Middle East, we should mention the efforts to create a regional system within the CSTO to work with asylum-seekers and refugees arriving from third countries.

All this work is carried out in close co-operation with other international structures. Co-operation with international organizations is imperative in this sphere. Transnational threats must be met with transnational solidarity and multifaceted co-ordination, which is best achieved by international agencies. In this regard, the tightening of sanctions does nothing to help the democratization of inter-State relations when much more could be achieved through constructive dialogue. I am thinking here of their application with respect to the Republic of Belarus, which is a member of the CSTO.

The CSTO member States have repeatedly demonstrated in practice their readiness to develop and expand practical co-operation with international organizations both on an individual basis and in a multilateral format.

In this connection, I should like to mention the contacts on the margins of the informal meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs in Almaty in July 2010 of officials from the United Nations, the OSCE, the CSTO, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the European Union, NATO, the Council of Europe and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia as a new element in the formation of a system of concerted action in the Eurasian region. We strongly welcome the fact that this practice has developed on the basis of mutual understanding and trust, was supported by all the participants in the meeting and, most importantly, should bear real fruit in the future.

Guided by these principles, the CSTO initiated in 2010 a meeting of the highest administrative officials of the CSTO, the CIS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Community. A decision was adopted on further steps to develop co-operation, prepare for meetings of their heads and co-ordinate the activities of these organizations, especially in combating the drug threat, terrorism and other manifestations of extremism in their areas of activity. The co-operation of the CSTO Secretariat with the CIS Counter-Terrorism Centre and the SCO Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure will also contribute to this end.

Relations between the CSTO and the United Nations are developing in a dynamic manner. In April 2011, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, addressed a meeting of the CSTO Permanent Council. Pursuant to agreements of the Secretaries General and in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the CSTO and the Joint Declaration on co-operation between the Secretariats of our organizations, intensified co-operation is taking place with the structural units of the United Nations concerned with combating terrorism and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and with preventive diplomacy.

The Declaration of the Heads of the CSTO member States on the CSTO peacekeeping forces and on the problem of the drug threat emanating from Afghanistan has been circulated in the United Nations and in other international organizations. The CSTO member States proposed to the United Nations Security Council that it should classify Afghan drug trafficking as a threat to peace and international security.

Our relations with the OSCE continue to be an important priority for us. We are engaged in dialogue on the problem of resolving the situation in Afghanistan, for which a special working group has been established at the CSTO meeting of foreign ministers. We regard the constructive co-operation with the OSCE Secretary General, Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, as extremely positive. Co-operation with him during his time in office was useful in terms of content and very cordial in terms of form, and we should like to thank him sincerely for this.

Existing contacts between the CSTO and the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit and Conflict Prevention Centre look promising. Thanks to the high level of co-operation with the Secretary General and the structural units of the OSCE, for the first time in history the CSTO and the OSCE co-ordinated their activities and exchanged assessments and plans during the period of crisis in the south of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2010.

The CSTO is interested in strengthening its ties with the European Union, including possible reciprocal participation in programmes carried out by our organizations. In April of this year, this subject was discussed at a meeting with the Deputy Secretary-General of the European External Action Service, Ms. Helga Schmid. I hope that this discussion will lead to practical contacts in the interests of security.

There is an interest in co-operation on security problems among our partners in the International Organization for Migration, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Colombo Plan and other structures.

The CSTO continues to believe that contacts with NATO, free of any political ambitions, could be constructive and useful, for example as regards the Afghan problem, including joint efforts to combat drug trafficking, respond to crises, deal with emergencies, exchange assessments on the state of the politico-military situation and ensure the interoperability of rapid reaction forces.

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Conference participants,

In conclusion I should like to emphasize that the situation in the world is not becoming more stable and that traditional and new challenges to security are not becoming less acute. In these circumstances, it is only by co-ordinating the activities of countries and international structures and pooling their capabilities and efforts that it will be possible to safeguard stability and carry out effective work to reduce the acuteness of security problems.

Thank you for your attention.