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In view of the continued existence in the world of crisis situations and conflicts, the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are willing to help consolidate a unifying agenda for a global policy aimed at reducing tension and strengthening the rule of law and democratic principles in relations between countries. The CSTO capacities are directed towards securing global and regional security and stability.

At the same time, international relations are currently characterized by an increase in regional co-operation and the growth in the influence of regional organizations, whose activities could be an important area for strengthening international security. The CSTO, together with other inter-State structures, have become meaningful instruments for safeguarding peace and mutual understanding.

The CSTO Member States are in favour of strengthening multilateral mechanisms for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and support the creation of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (CANFWZ). They welcome the willingness of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China to give negative security assurances by signing the relevant protocol without additional demands and that of the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France to hold substantive discussions on this topic with the parties to the CANFWZ Treaty. Moreover, they unconditionally support international regimes banning biological, toxic and chemical weapons, regarding such regimes as vital elements in an effective international security system.

The CSTO believes that the unilateral deployment of strategic anti-missile defence systems by one State or group of States without taking account of the legal interests of other countries and without providing the latter with legally binding guarantees could be detrimental to international security and strategic stability. It supports the initiative of the Russian Federation regarding the conclusion of a European Security Treaty, a legally binding document enshrining the principles in international law of comprehensive, indivisible and equal security for all States in the Euro-Atlantic region.

The CSTO is concerned at the development of the situation in Afghanistan, whose unpredictability creates a threat to regional security and stability. In view of the continuing activity of destructive forces within the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the growth of terrorism and drug trafficking in the country, the CSTO Member States are taking steps to counter these threats collectively. They support the efforts of the international community to increase security in Afghanistan, strengthen the legitimate government institutions of that

country and establish law and order there, and the efforts of countries in the region to build confidence and harmonize their approaches to Afghanistan.

The CSTO advocates the establishment of Afghanistan as a peaceful, prosperous, sovereign and neutral State free of terrorism and drugs.

The situation in Syria and the surrounding region gives rise to serious concern. The CSTO Member States call for a rapid resolution of the crisis by the Syrians themselves observing the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. To that end, there is a need to put a stop to the violence, wherever it comes from, as rapidly as possible and to inaugurate wide-ranging political dialogue between the authorities and the opposition without preconditions and also to continue the political and socio-economic reforms in the interests of all of Syria's inhabitants.

The CSTO Member States resolutely condemn any manifestations of terrorism and violence aimed at the peaceful population, in particular on religious or ethnic grounds, and oppose unlawful activities designed to further militarize the domestic conflict in Syria, including the illicit supply of weapons to the armed opposition militants. They support efforts to assist in a peaceful settlement in that country on the basis of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012 by the Action Group for Syria and the agreement between Russia and the United States of America in Moscow on 7 May 2013.