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TREATY ORGANIZATION, AT THE 2017 ANNUAL  
SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

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**Opening session**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I thank the organizers for the invitation and opportunity to present the point of view of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). I particularly appreciate the fact that different points of view can be presented on an equal basis on the platform of this leading pan-European organization.

The CSTO carefully watches over the collective security of its Member States, safeguarding it through the pooling of efforts and resources on the basis of a strategic partnership.

The Organization has transformed itself into an active structure capable not only of safeguarding the collective security of its Member States but also of making a substantial contribution to peacekeeping and stability in the region. Its Members fully understand that the security of the pan-European and Eurasian space is indivisible and that it is not possible to create privileged “islands of security”.

The main item on the CSTO’s own agenda is combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Member States take the position that terrorism must be countered on the basis of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, with a central co-ordinating role being played by the UN and its Security Council. Joint efforts by the international community should aim at destroying the military capacity of international terrorism, putting up a solid barrier to the supply of information, financial, material and technical resources and considering the restoration of peace and the stabilization of post-conflict countries and regions.

In their efforts to counter international terrorism, the CSTO countries emphasize the importance of refusing to support non-constitutional and illegal activities in any country that lead to the destruction of statehood.

The CSTO Member States are unfailingly committed to peace and stable development and support the pooling of efforts by all States to resolve pressing humanitarian problems on the basis of the generally accepted norms and principles of international law. They stress the need for compromise solutions, the establishment and strengthening of trust among States, and direct channels of communication between them. The CSTO has also formed its own peacekeeping force.

The CSTO peacekeeping force can be deployed both in the Organization's area of responsibility and also outside of it. In the first case, it acts on decisions by the CSTO Collective Security Council, but for peacekeeping operations outside the territory of its Member States it can become involved on the basis of a UN Security Council mandate. The CSTO crisis-response system is subject to ongoing improvement, which we will be describing later in the relevant session.

On the whole, the CSTO States strive to build relationships with members of the international community on the basis of the principle of the indivisibility of security and to refrain in international relations from the threat or actual use of force, giving priority in the resolution of problems through political and diplomatic channels.

It is precisely by employing political methods that it has been possible to prevent conflict situations and incidents involving Member States from deteriorating, without having to resort to peacekeeping units. As a result there are no conflicts at the moment between the Members of the Organization.

A highly important focus in the work of the CSTO remains political co-operation with international organizations and foreign countries in the interests of pooling efforts for the sake of fostering stability and strengthening peace. The Organization has established close relations with the UN, the OSCE, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and we are working on widening them even further. We are willing to build up contacts with all interested partners.

In conclusion, the CSTO has repeatedly suggested practical co-operation to colleagues from NATO in order to combine efforts to confront transnational challenges to security, above all international terrorism and trafficking in narcotic drugs. We have not seen any willingness from the other side.

It stands to reason that the scale of modern challenges and their transborder nature should prompt us to consolidate our efforts and not to drift further apart. The terrorists have no problem working with one another.

Thank you for your attention.