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SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION, AT THE SPECIAL SESSION  
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**Challenges arising from current migration trends**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished Conference participants,

First of all, I should like to thank the organizers of the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference for giving me this opportunity to speak in this working session on behalf of the Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

Previous speakers have already provided a detailed review of the threats arising from the migration situation in the OSCE area, which allows me to dwell more on the CSTO's work to control migration and deal with the problem of trafficking in human beings.

I should like to make it clear that I shall be talking only about migrants external to the CSTO Member States and shall not touch on the subject of labour migration in the CSTO area, to Russia from the countries of Central Asia, etc.

**Migration control**

The Co-ordinating Council of the Heads of Competent Bodies was established to combat illegal migration in accordance with the decision of the CSTO Council of Collective Security of 6 October 2007.

The Council currently consists of the heads of the migration authorities of the Russian Federation and the Kyrgyz Republic, the head of police of the Republic of Armenia, and the heads of the Ministries of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Tajikistan.

According to the approved resolution, the basic tasks of the Co-ordinating Council include safeguarding co-operation by the competent authorities so as to improve the effectiveness of measures to combat illegal migration and associated criminal activities.

Since then, it has successfully carried out six annual packages of preventive measures and special operations to combat illegal migration, including trafficking in human beings, under the code name Nelegal.

A working group has been formed to organize the practical co-operation and co-ordination of the work of the competent authorities in the CSTO Member States. It is made up of the heads of organizational units in the migration services, internal affairs authorities (police) and security and border services. These are the same authorities that are directly involved in the organization and methodology for the administrative prosecution of violators of migration law and investigations aimed at the identification and criminal prosecution of the organizers of illegal migration channels and trafficking in human beings. The working group effectively operates as the international staff headquarters for conducting operations.

The targeted work in this area has produced impressive results. Operations in 2015 brought to light over 180,000 violations of migration law; more than 30,000 persons were deported from the CSTO Member States; there were over 31,000 criminal cases, including 651 connected with illicit arms trafficking and 386 with illegally crossing State borders. The data for 2016 will be available in due course.

### **Combating trafficking in human beings**

It is well known that trafficking in human beings is a complex criminal offence with a high degree of latency, and the methods used to identify such situations and uncover crimes therefore play a special role.

The defining elements of the work to counter trafficking in human beings have been incorporated in the annual Nelegal operation. Because of its limited time span and the greater focus on identifying criminal activities in the field of illegal migration, the comprehensive implementation of measures to identify crimes connected specifically with trafficking in human beings has proved quite difficult.

With that in mind, a concept has been elaborated for co-ordinating investigations and special operations by the competent authorities of the CSTO Member States in combating trafficking in human beings. The concept clearly defines the aims and tasks, plan of action, stages and working mechanisms for the exchange of information, co-operation and co-ordination. In devising the concept, consideration was given to the importance of problems and obligations by States in connection with the implementation of the provisions of basic international documents ratified by the CSTO Member States. Account was also taken of the fact that crimes of this nature are usually on a scale threatening national security and are committed by organized criminal groups, the majority of which have huge interregional and international links. For that reason, concerted efforts and co-operation by the competent national authorities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations are extremely important.

Following the successful accomplishment of the measures in 2014, the heads of the CSTO Member States were given sanction to carry out similar activities this year.

In the co-ordinated investigations and special measures to combat trafficking in human beings within the Nelegal operation today, particular attention is being paid to the

departure of citizens of the CSTO Member States for the Middle East region and their return to the countries of origin. At the same time, the evolution of the migration crisis in Europe is being monitored. In our opinion, potential migration threats to the CSTO Member States emanate in the first instance from countries in the region with critical politico-military and socio-economic situations. The CSTO Secretariat is continuing to monitor the migration situation in the region.

Thank you for attention.