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**STATEMENT BY MR. VALERIY SEMERIKOV,  
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COLLECTIVE  
SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION, AT THE OSCE ANNUAL  
SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 1 and 2 July 2008

Mr. Chairman,

Co-operation between the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the OSCE is developing at quite a brisk pace. Topical issues are regularly discussed at various levels. Businesslike relations have been established with the OSCE's Action against Terrorism Unit and Conflict Prevention Centre. Openness and candour are characteristic features of our co-operation. There are excellent prospects for the further development of our partnership, which is necessary if we are to improve the effectiveness of our joint efforts in combating terrorism, extremism, the drugs trade, various forms of trafficking (in weapons as well as human beings) and illegal migration. We view as a promising area for our joint activities co-operation in matters of crisis response and conflict prevention. The creation of a peacekeeping potential within the CSTO will help to promote co-operation of this kind.

We regard as a particularly urgent matter the stepping up of joint efforts to counter the flow of narcotic drugs from Afghanistan, the creation of *cordons sanitaires* around the borders of that country and the maintenance of border security in Central Asia. Co-operation along these lines falls entirely within the terms of the decision of the OSCE Madrid Ministerial Council meeting on Afghanistan.

In carrying out this task more effective use might be made of the experience of the International Anti-Narcotics Preventive Operation (Kanal), which is annually conducted by the CSTO member States. Since 2006 a similar operation has been planned within the CSTO and is being carried out to combat illegal migration. We are confident that a more active involvement of OSCE experts in these projects would help to expand their scale and to enhance their effectiveness in countering the drugs trade. In this context the question of the training of personnel for border, customs and other anti-narcotics services within the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan along with the strengthening and improvement of protection arrangements along the border with that country needs to be dealt with separately.

I believe that these questions will be discussed in greater detail at the OSCE expert conference scheduled for 17 and 18 July of this year.

Particular attention should be given to counter-terrorism activities. The convening by the OSCE of a conference on further steps for comprehensive partnership in this area is as

never before an urgent and topical matter. We shall have an opportunity to share the experience gained from our work, all the more since in 2004 there was created under the aegis of the CSTO a non-governmental organization known as the “International Anti-Terrorist Media Forum”, which is now successfully operating and playing an important role in ensuring information security. The practical implementation of the proposals developed by the Media Forum will help to create a broad civil society front against terror and the spread of narcotic drugs.

At the recent consultations held in the CSTO Secretariat on interrelations with pan-European agencies it was noted that the OSCE’s effectiveness could be enhanced by including in its political agenda key issues having to do with a quick response to contemporary threats and challenges facing all the participating States.

We are firmly convinced that “collective security” can be ensured only through co-ordinated, purposeful and concerted work by all the international organizations, which bring to bear an enormous potential and enjoy great authority within the international community. Unfortunately, we are unable today to say that this work is beyond criticism or that it does not require further improvement. Confirmation of this can be seen in the actions of certain extra-regional organizations and individual countries in one of the regions that is particularly unstable in terms of security, namely Central Asia.

We hope that the meeting that we are proposing by high-ranking officials from international organizations (the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Community, the CSTO, the OSCE and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization) will be supported in the OSCE and will help to promote further co-ordination and intensification of our efforts to tackle the many problems connected with how best to ensure security.

Thank you for your attention.