

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE
COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION AT THE
2010 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

14 to 16 June 2010

Working Session I: Transnational threats and challenges

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Conference participants,

First of all, I should like to thank you on behalf of the Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) for this opportunity to say a few words about the main questions involved in strengthening security and confidence in this area within the Eurasian space. In view of the extremely tense situation in Kyrgyzstan, he is unable to take part in this forum himself.

Just two months ago in this room, the CSTO Secretary General informed those present about the organization's work and the problems facing it, so I will refrain from going into further detail in that regard.

I shall merely mention that the goal of the CSTO's work is the continuation and expansion of international dialogue on current problems of collective security, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the means for their delivery and technologies for their development.

In line with this, the CSTO member States regard the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, which was signed in Prague this April, as an important element of the international security architecture, reflecting a vital contribution by Russia and the United States to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The impossibility of ensuring peace and stability on the continent without combining the efforts of the international and regional organizations working in this area is now becoming increasingly evident. The joint endeavours in early April this year to overcome the domestic crisis and stabilize the situation in Kyrgyzstan and to prevent a continuation of the bloodshed there may serve as an example of co-operation among international and regional organizations operating in Central Asia, namely the United Nations, the CSTO, the OSCE and the European Union (EU). I believe that there is also a need today to co-ordinate our steps for stabilizing the situation in that country.

The situation in Kyrgyzstan was discussed at the meeting of the CSTO Heads of State on 8 May of this year in Moscow. The presidents of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, while regarding what was happening as an internal affair of the Kyrgyz Republic, expressed their serious concern at the events of April 2010, events that resulted in an unconstitutional change of government. A number of decisions were adopted on specific measures with a view to normalizing the situation, preventing violence, restoring law and order, ensuring human rights and freedoms in the Kyrgyz Republic and legitimizing the institutions of power. Proposals on those measures have now been drawn up at a meeting of security council secretaries of the CSTO countries.

The readiness and commitment to engage in constructive co-operation with other countries and international organizations to that end was also confirmed.

We commend the efforts of the leaders of Kazakhstan, which is currently chairing the OSCE, Russia, other countries and regional organizations to normalize the situation in Kyrgyzstan. I might mention that Bishkek is being provided with humanitarian and other forms of assistance with a view to stabilizing the situation as quickly as possible.

Distinguished Conference participants,

There is a general understanding within our organization as regards the need to devise a new security architecture in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian space on the basis of the principle of the rule of international law and with a central role played by the United Nations. With a view to achieving this goal, the CSTO attaches great importance to the promotion within the OSCE of the initiative to conclude a new legally binding Treaty on European Security, which would make it possible to create common, equal and indivisible politico-military security for all the States of the region.

The CSTO is in favour of holding a meeting of the heads of regional organizations (the OSCE, NATO, the CSTO, the EU and the Commonwealth of Independent States) on the margins of the informal meeting of OSCE foreign ministers to be held in Almaty this July for the purpose of exchanging information on the work of these organizations in the area of security, including a discussion on the proposed treaty.

We are currently studying the OSCE experience and are preparing proposals with a view to improving the mechanism of preventive diplomacy, including early warning and conflict prevention and resolution within our organization. The OSCE has considerable know-how in this area and it would be useful to employ it in the CSTO's work. At the same time, so as to avoid misunderstandings in certain situations, we believe that the time has come to work together to devise uniform conflict prevention principles and peaceful, political and diplomatic means of conflict resolution.

We regard as useful the regular exchange of information between the senior officials of the CSTO and the OSCE. We believe that the positive experience of contacts with the OSCE Secretary General and among representatives of our organizations will help to develop co-operation in the interests of ensuring international security and maintaining regional stability in the OSCE area, including the CSTO's area of responsibility.

Extremely relevant is capacity-building for joint activities by the CSTO and the OSCE to combat international terrorism, illicit trafficking in arms and narcotic drugs from Afghanistan, and countering illegal migration, trafficking in human beings and money-laundering. Co-operation to strengthen the borders of Central Asian States with Afghanistan and train the relevant personnel (notably Afghans) could undoubtedly be very effective.

With regard to the creation of multinational rapid reaction forces within the framework of various security structures (I might mention that there are Collective Rapid Reaction Forces within the CSTO), it would seem useful to return to the Russo-Belarusian proposal for an information exchange on military contingents of this kind. There is no doubt that this kind of exchange on a voluntary basis could serve to strengthen confidence in the military sphere.

We are ready to help improve the situation as regard conventional arms control in Europe, and we hope that together it will prove possible for us to find a way out of the deadlock in this area.

The Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE has, in our view, helped to promote a number of aspects of the organization's work. We are confident that our Kazakh colleagues will do much to improve the work and strengthen the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue on the basis of equal rights and to increase its contribution to European security and co-operation.