

DECLARATION BY THE HEADS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION

We, the heads of the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) — the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan — are pleased to note that the implementation of the decisions of the Dushanbe meeting (2003) of the Collective Security Council has imparted positive momentum to the expansion of the work of the CSTO as a regional international organization and to the process of adapting it to a dynamically changing geopolitical situation.

Committed to ensuring international stability and security by peaceful political means, the CSTO Member States attach very great importance to the effective countering of contemporary threats and challenges, especially such threats as terrorism, extremism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We declare our readiness to continue in our efforts towards practical co-operation with other international organizations and bodies within the area of the Commonwealth of Independent States and also with the United Nations, the OSCE, the Shanghai Co-operation Organization and NATO, including the holding of joint events.

The Member States of the Organization reiterate their position in support of a speedy resolution of the situation in Afghanistan, the eradication in that country of terrorism in all its manifestations and violent forms of extremism, along with the threats relating to narcotic drugs emanating from Afghan territory. We are ready to participate in international efforts towards post-conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan and the creation of anti-drug “security zones” along the outer border of the CSTO Member States.

The CSTO Member States resolutely condemn the terrorist act committed in Grozny on 9 May this year, as a result of which the President of the Chechen Republic, Mr. Akhmed Kadyrov, lost his life. This monstrous crime once again shows that terrorism represents one of the most serious threats to peace and security and confirms the need to step up efforts to counter this threat.

The CSTO Member States emphasize once more the need to restore sovereignty to Iraq as soon as possible while ensuring a central role for the United Nations.

The CSTO Member States welcome the political guarantees of restraint made earlier by NATO and support the ratification and entry into force of the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the accession thereto of the new members of NATO not yet Parties to the CFE Treaty.

The CSTO Member States will continue in their efforts to ensure the further development and improvement of the forces and resources available to the collective security

system, the expansion of co-operation in military-technical and military-economic matters and the equipping of national armed forces with modern weapons and military equipment shared among the members of the Organization.

The CSTO Member States will endeavour to make as much use as possible of the potential of their co-ordinated activities in foreign policy, security and defence in the interests of strengthening global and regional stability.

President of the Republic of Armenia	President of the Kyrgyz Republic
President of the Republic of Belarus	President of the Russian Federation
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan	President of the Republic of Tajikistan

Astana, 18 June 2004