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MC.DEL/39/21  
3 December 2021

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

**JOINT STATEMENT BY  
THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA, THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS,  
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC,  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN  
ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING THE USE OF THE INTERNET FOR  
TERRORIST PURPOSES, AT THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE  
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Stockholm, 2 December 2021

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, are deeply concerned about the terrorist attacks that have taken place in the OSCE area and beyond; we offer our heartfelt condolences to the victims' families and also to the people and governments that have been targeted. We express our serious concern over the growing use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, including the live-streaming of terrorist attacks.

We emphasize that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

We reiterate our commitment to remaining united in the global fight against terrorism, while recognizing the central and co-ordinating role of the United Nations in this regard. We reaffirm that States should play the key role in preventing and combating terrorism in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. We reiterate our commitment to the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy while fully respecting human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

The OSCE has amassed a robust set of political commitments on combating terrorism, notably those contained in Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/04 on combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/06 on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/07 on public-private partnerships in countering terrorism.

We welcome the United Nations Security Council document entitled "Comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives" (S/2017/375, annex) and call upon the participating States to follow the guidelines and best practices contained therein.

To improve the effectiveness of relevant efforts, it is essential to have strategies in place for preventing and combating terrorism, including partnerships between stakeholders at all levels, notably co-ordination among public authorities and co-operation between States, international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and the media.

The work on enhancing advanced methods and tools for combating terrorism must be continued. In this regard, we acknowledge the importance of decryption as an effective tool that can be used by the law enforcement authorities to counter terrorism. We note the initiatives by the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which can contribute to efforts to combat terrorism and to continued co-operation among the participating States.

We note with concern that terrorists craft ideas based on the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of religion to justify violence that are used to recruit new supporters and foreign terrorist fighters and mobilize resources, in particular by exploiting information and communication technologies, not least through the Internet and social media.

We express our concern over the spread – via the Internet, among other means – of hate speech and ideas inciting violence and feeding terrorism. It is essential to step up efforts to foster information literacy, particularly among young people, so as to prevent and counter hate propaganda and terrorist narratives.

We note that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an unprecedented global challenge for all the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, and that it is having an impact on common security in the OSCE area, not least in the context of terrorist threats.

We are convinced that the OSCE executive structures should continue to support the participating States in the implementation of their international obligations related to preventing and combating terrorism.

The CSTO Member States are in favour of developing co-operation with the OSCE on questions of mutual interest with a view to strengthening the international anti-terrorist front.

Thank you for your attention.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Ministerial Council.