

**STATEMENT BY MR. NIKOLAY BORDYUZHA,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY  
ORGANIZATION, AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE  
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 15 April 2010

Distinguished Chairpersons of the Permanent Council and the Forum,  
Distinguished Secretary General,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I regret that circumstances connected with the visit last month to Moscow by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the change in the schedule for the signing of the Joint Declaration on Co-operation between the Secretariats of the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) prevented me from travelling to Vienna on the date originally planned and from addressing the participants of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Nevertheless, permit me to thank the Kazakh Chairmanship and the Hungarian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation for their renewed invitation and for their expeditious organization of this joint meeting.

I should like to point out that the leadership of the CSTO countries supports the programme and priorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the OSCE. This has been set out in particular in a separate statement adopted on 25 March in Moscow by the foreign ministers of the CSTO member countries, the text of which, as far as I know, has been distributed in the OSCE. Of particular importance among the proposals made by the Chairmanship is the one calling for the convening of an OSCE Summit this year to mark the 35th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the 20th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and a number of other significant dates in the history of the European process.

In addition, we view approvingly Kazakhstan's proposal to hold this year a meeting of senior officials from the OSCE, NATO, the European Union, the CSTO and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to co-ordinate their efforts to ensure security in the Euro-Atlantic region. Given that it is planned to hold an informal forum of the foreign ministers of the OSCE participating States on 16 and 17 July in Almaty, it would make sense in our opinion to consider the possibility of organizing a meeting of regional organization heads on the "fringes" of that important event.

My previous address in this hall at a Permanent Council meeting for the purpose of providing information regarding the Collective Security Treaty Organization, its principal areas of activity and our plans for the future took place in February 2007. During the three years that have elapsed since then, we have succeeded, as we see it, in substantially increasing the capabilities of our organization, in adopting a number of important decisions and, what is most important, in organizing our work so that the CSTO has taken its place as one of the active players in ensuring a regional security system in Eurasia.

One of our organization's priority objectives is the development of co-operation with other international structures with a view to ensuring comprehensive, equal and indivisible security for all States. In recent years the CSTO foreign ministers have adopted statements in support of proposals to establish a new Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security architecture, including efforts to advance the proposal by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, calling for the conclusion of a Treaty on European Security.

At a meeting held on 25 March of this year the CSTO foreign ministers called on all countries as well as international organizations operating in the security sphere to join their efforts and to engage during the period immediately ahead in systematic collective work on this project at a number of international forums.

The most noteworthy events in the development of relations between the CSTO and other organizations would certainly include the international conference organized by the CSTO Secretariat in 2009 on the subject "The status and prospects for co-operation between the Collective Security Treaty Organization and international structures to ensure regional collective security" along with round tables in 2010 involving experts from the member States. The CSTO Parliamentary Assembly is also contributing to this process.

Meetings of the CSTO Collective Security Council and of the organization's statutory bodies are engaged in discussing issues having to do with collaboration with international and regional organizations with a view to ensuring security and maintaining stability, above all in the CSTO's area of operation.

Currently prominent aspects in this work continue to be the countering of such threats as the spread of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, extremism, trafficking in narcotic drugs, organized crime, illegal migration and the use of information for destructive purposes. Growing importance is being given to efforts to prevent and eliminate the consequences of man-made, natural and environmental disasters.

There have also been contacts on the question of a settlement of the Afghan conflict, the countering of challenges to the security of the CSTO member countries emanating from the territory of Afghanistan, and the provision of assistance to facilitate the transit of goods for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Co-operation between the CSTO and international agencies is particularly focused on working together with the key organization responsible for global security, namely the United Nations. The CSTO, which has enjoyed observer status in the General Assembly since December 2004, maintains relations with the specialized agencies of the United Nations, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Following the entry into force of the documents regarding CSTO peacekeeping forces and the establishment of the organization's own

peacekeeping capability, interaction with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations under the United Nations Secretariat and the prospect of the organization's participation in peacekeeping operations under a United Nations mandate are becoming issues of practical importance for the CSTO. In general terms the CSTO is very actively involved in deepening the United Nations ties with regional organizations.

An additional impulse to co-operation between the CSTO and the United Nations is expected from the resolution adopted on 2 March of this year at the 64th session of the General Assembly on co-operation between the two organizations and also from the Joint Declaration signed on 18 March of this year calling for co-operation between the Secretariats of the CSTO and the United Nations.

One of the priority areas for the CSTO is the expansion of co-operation with the OSCE, the world's largest regional organization dealing with the problems of security on the basis of its unique concept of common, comprehensive, indivisible and co-operative security.

We are conducting a dialogue with the OSCE on issues connected with the resolution of the situation in Afghanistan, a subject area dealt with in the CSTO by a special working group of co-ordinators under the CSTO Council of Foreign Ministers. A useful tool here is the regular exchange of information with the OSCE Secretary General, Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, who has taken part in meetings of the CSTO Collective Security Council and who in 2009 addressed a meeting of the Permanent Council of the CSTO, at which time he noted that co-operation between the two organizations was developing in a fairly successful manner – a view that we also share.

At the invitation of the OSCE senior officials, CSTO representatives attend OSCE Ministerial Council meetings, the Annual Security Review Conference, meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation and also seminars and conferences on specific subjects. In addition, in the summer of 2008 they took part in the OSCE counter-narcotics conference in Vienna.

Contacts have been established with the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit and the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC). An agreement has been reached to hold consultations between the CSTO Secretariat and the CPC, the most recent of which took place on 11 March of this year in Moscow and was attended by Mr. Herbert Salber, the Director of the CPC.

A renewed confirmation of the usefulness of a pooling of efforts by the CSTO and the OSCE was provided by the intensive consultations in the wake of the recent events in the Kyrgyz Republic. For the first time in post-Soviet history representatives of the CSTO, the OSCE, the European Union and the United Nations co-ordinated their efforts to provide various kinds of assistance to Kyrgyzstan to help it overcome its internal governmental crisis and restore normality to life in the country, organizing an exchange and a joint assessment of information as the situation unfolded there. Much credit in this work should go to Mr. Zhanybek. Karibzhanov, the Special Envoy of the Kazakh Chairmanship.

For our organization the politico-military sphere is one of its priority concerns. We note with satisfaction in that connection the adoption at the Athens OSCE Ministerial Council meeting of Decisions No. 16/09 and No. 15/09 on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation and also on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. We hope that the adoption of these documents and their implementation in good

faith by all OSCE participating States will generate fresh momentum and make it possible to step up co-operation between our two organizations within the OSCE's "first basket".

The CSTO intends to continue to pool its efforts with the OSCE with a view to ensuring security and stability in the Eurasian region and to use that organization's experience in the area of monitoring and crisis management. Our organization is prepared to carry out joint projects in the field of security.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The CSTO welcomes the decisions adopted by the OSCE Ministerial Council in Athens on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability (2/09) and also on further measures to support and promote the international legal framework against terrorism (3/09).

The CSTO can make a real contribution to the implementation of these decisions by closely co-ordinating its efforts with the relevant international and regional organizations.

Recently, our organization has taken a number of concrete steps to that end. Specifically, the CSTO has established its own Collective Rapid Reaction Forces (CRRF). The mission of these diversified forces with their own air transport capability is to prevent the emergence of armed conflicts, combat international terrorism and organized crime, eliminate the channels used for the proliferation of weapons and narcotic drugs, and deal with the consequences of natural and man-made disasters. In addition to elite troop formations provided by the armed forces of the member States, the CRRF are made up of special-purpose (police) detachments for fighting organized crime, counter-terrorism units and detachments provided by the ministries for emergency situations of the member States for dealing with the consequences of emergency situations.

We gained our first experience in the training and use of the CSTO Collective Rapid Reaction Forces during a joint comprehensive training exercise conducted on the territory of Russia and Kazakhstan from August to October 2009, with maximum transparency ensured as regards the composition of the forces and the resources called upon in the exercise and regarding the missions and results achieved.

Collective Rapid Reaction Forces have been created in the Central Asian region, and joint operational and combat training exercises are being conducted. In this regard, we think it advisable to revisit the proposal by the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation to introduce an exchange of information on multinational or collective rapid reaction forces with a view to improving confidence-and security-building measures in Europe. Here obviously proper account will have to be taken of specific aspects pertaining to the creation and operation of such forces in the CSTO, the European Union and NATO. We believe that by ensuring an engaged and open dialogue it should be possible to find answers to the questions arising in this connection that will satisfy all concerned.

Peacekeeping forces have been created to carry out the CSTO's peacekeeping functions. The authority to decide on the possible use of these forces, at the request of any CSTO member State, lies with the Collective Security Council. There is also nothing to rule out the use of CSTO peacekeeping forces outside the territory of the organization's member States, but only with the approval of the United Nations Security Council.

Virtually since the moment of its inception, the Collective Security Treaty Organization has always regarded as one of its main tasks concerted action by its member States to combat drug trafficking.

As you are aware, the CSTO is engaged in a comprehensive preventive operation known as “Kanal”, which is aimed at identifying and interdicting routes used in the illegal transportation of narcotic drugs and their precursors. The effectiveness of this operation is ensured by the fact that it involves a great variety of personnel from the most diversified agencies in the CSTO member States: drug control, internal affairs (police), border and customs control, State (national) security and financial monitoring.

This operation has resulted in the identification and interdiction of drug smuggling routes from Afghanistan, in the closing of the international and interregional channels used for the supply of synthetic drugs from Europe, in the disruption of the work of clandestine laboratories, in the prevention of precursors from finding their way into the illegal traffic and, in the final analysis, in the undermining of the economic basis of the drugs trade. Since 2009 the operation has had the status of an ongoing CSTO project.

From 2003 to 2009, there have been 13 active phases in this operation, which, in addition to the responsible agencies of the CSTO member States, involved as observers law enforcement agencies from more than 20 countries, including Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, China, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iran, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States of America, along with such international structures as the OSCE, Interpol and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism.

These operations resulted in the seizure of around 222 tons of illicit narcotic drugs, including 10.5 tons of heroin, four tons of cocaine, 40 tons of hashish as well as 7,688 firearms and more than 247,000 rounds of ammunition.

Since 2007 the CSTO has had in operation a Co-ordination Council for Emergency Situations, which consists of the heads of the departments for emergency situations in the member States. The necessary measures are being taken to enhance the effectiveness of this body. It would be advisable to set up a single information space to permit the prediction of emergency situations and to make possible the necessary monitoring. There should also be a single system for technical support and personnel training for the emergency ministries.

Recent years have seen a considerable stepping up within the CSTO of efforts to counter illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, and we naturally welcome Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/09 on migration management.

The Co-ordination Council consisting of the heads of the competent agencies within the CSTO countries with responsibility for combating illegal migration has since 2007 successfully carried out co-ordinated preventive measures and special operations code-named “Illegal-2008” and “Illegal-2009” against illegal migration. The last such operation alone resulted in the detection by the migration services and law enforcement agencies of the CSTO member States of 106,923 violations of migration laws and the uncovering of 297 organized criminal groups involved in illegal migration and human trafficking.

The CSTO Parliamentary Assembly is working energetically to harmonize legislation to counter illegal migration and trafficking in human beings.

As part of the efforts to meet today's threats, particular attention needs to be paid to joint activities to ensure international information security.

There is a high level of co-operation within the CSTO on the part of specialized security and internal affairs agencies (police) to counter crimes involving modern information technology.

In September 2009, for the first time a joint operation code-named "Proxy" to counter information-related crimes was carried out with the participation of security agencies and internal affairs bodies (police) from all the CSTO member States. The operation led to the identification of information assets that are used to destabilize the situation in member States and that are employed by terrorist and extremist groups and also of organized criminal associations specializing in the dissemination of materials prohibited under the law.

We believe that joint activities similar to the "Proxy" operation are helping to create a more orderly national information environment in each country, enabling us to draw up proposals at the national level to improve interaction in this area of co-operation.

Distinguished Chairpersons,

On 5 March of this year we marked the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which brings together 190 countries. The NPT Treaty is as relevant today as it was 40 years ago. Issues of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of atomic energy will continue to dominate the world agenda in the future as well. In keeping with the spirit of the OSCE Ministerial Declaration on Non-Proliferation, the CSTO foreign ministers have adopted a statement on the holding in 2010 of the NPT Review Conference.

We believe that the Russo-American Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed last week in Prague, will have a positive effect on the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime, making it possible to expand the nuclear disarmament process and accord it a multilateral character over the longer term. If the countries that possess nuclear weapons join the Russo-American efforts, the disarmament process will undoubtedly acquire the necessary momentum.

In conclusion, I cannot but mention one further, in our view, very important document adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Athens. I am referring to the Ministerial Declaration on the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of the End of World War II, a document that we fully support.

That war was one of the greatest tragedies to befall the people of Europe and the entire world. The war was accompanied by violations of human rights and freedoms along with crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity. We mourn all those who perished – the victims of the war, the Holocaust, occupation and repression. We honour the veterans and all those who fought to bring about the victory of humanity over fascism, dictatorship, oppression and aggression.

For the CSTO member States that war was also known as the Great Patriotic War, in which our peoples defended their land against the fascist occupiers. In this regard, in addition to other events to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Great Victory of 1941–1945, the CSTO foreign ministers adopted a statement on this subject on 25 March 2010.

I should like to thank you for your attention and I am now ready to answer any questions you may have.