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**STATEMENT BY
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COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION, AT THE
SECOND OSCE ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 23 and 24 June 2004

Welcoming the participants in this Conference on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), I should like to stress the relevance and significance for the CSTO of the problems appearing on the Conference's agenda.

We note with satisfaction that this Security Review Conference, having now become an annual event in the life of the OSCE, makes a valuable contribution to strengthening the politico-military dimension of pan-European security, a goal we are prepared to support with all the means at our disposal.

In the Member States of the CSTO the decisions and documents adopted by the OSCE in the interests of adapting the Organization to new political realities are highly appreciated. The latest of these is the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century.

The measures devised by the OSCE to build confidence and strengthen security and arms control are regarded in the CSTO as a good basis for harmonizing security interests and for ensuring stability and predictability in Europe and adjacent regions.

The present Conference offers us a highly appropriate opportunity to "set our clocks" with regard to all significant aspects of the situation in the broad Eurasian area.

Serious threats to the security and stability of many countries of the region are presented by international terrorism, the growing ravages of drugs and drug trafficking, outbursts of political extremism and separatism, illicit trafficking in arms, organized crime and illegal migration.

Another matter which is bound to cause concern is the failure to resolve the question of accession to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe by some new members of NATO.

The situation in Afghanistan, a country whose territory remains a source of increasing drug trafficking and vicious raids on neighbouring States by armed groups, is a long way from stability and a political settlement.

We have a very complex situation in the Trans-Caucasus as well, where there remain serious disputes fraught with the possibility of armed conflict.

This is far from being a complete list of the concerns the Member States of the CSTO would like to see as a focus of the OSCE's attention, our aim being to make use of its mechanism for strengthening security and stability in the Eurasian region.

We see possibilities for close co-operation with our OSCE partners in a number of priority areas. These include, first of all, firm opposition to the terrorist activity and drug trafficking threats emerging from the territory of Afghanistan. As an Organization, we have set ourselves the task of forming an anti-drug security ring around Afghanistan and shutting off the main avenues of drug trafficking. Essentially what this means is the beginning of a process aimed at the formation of a global anti-drug-trafficking coalition, and in this we are relying on close collaboration with other international organizations, first and foremost with the relevant bodies of the United Nations, the OSCE, the European Union (EU) and NATO. The CSTO has already initiated a whole series of practical collective measures designed to counter the threats of drug trafficking; first and foremost it instituted the so-called operation "Channel", in the course of which the co-ordinated actions resulted in the confiscation and destruction of more than four tons of narcotic drugs and precursors and criminal charges for drug smuggling were instituted in 1,500 cases. We fully intend to continue these "field" operations and to involve other States in them.

Another matter is the serious work, including preventive measures, going on in all areas where terrorism receives support, both ideological and material, whether it be political and religious extremism or the laundering of financial resources obtained through criminal acts. We in the CSTO are very seriously involved in these matters and we invite our partners in the OSCE to play a direct role in helping to put these plans and programmes into effect.

There is yet another branch of our activities, namely a serious attempt to devise and set up within the framework of the CSTO a unified border control and migration policy for the future. It is hard to overestimate the importance of common policy in these matters. In the realm of border control policy, the CSTO aims to strengthen co-operation, above all with the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC) and in this it is guided by standards laid down in decisions of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Work is in progress with a view to harmonizing and unifying national laws governing border policy and the issue of visas, in the interests of close co-ordination of the activities of border control units and migration services aimed at strengthening the security of the CSTO's external frontier.

We see a number of possibilities of developing a mechanism for co-operation on border control issues with the OSCE, and in this context a Concept for dealing with questions of border security and management is being worked out. We assume that the OSCE's declared commitment to the principle of open frontiers is to be underpinned by concrete measures aimed at easing the system for the issue of visas and removing the constraints which the expansion of the European Union has imposed on freedom of movement for citizens of countries not belonging to the EU. We are also proceeding on the assumption that border security should always be viewed in the context of the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime.

An important element of the anti-terrorist activities of the CSTO lies in the Collective Rapid Reaction Forces of the Central Asian Collective Security Region created in 2001; these are made up of military units provided by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan and

are equipped with appropriate weapons and military equipment, including Russian airforce units deployed in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Collective Rapid Reaction Forces are being especially trained for the fight against terrorist groups.

The formation of peacekeeping potential is also one of the aims of the CSTO.

Something new for us is a mechanism designed to ensure effective interaction with the media in countering contemporary challenges and threats. This involved the establishment of a unified information field designed to ensure the effective operation within the CSTO format of a collective security system with active participation of the media in activities serving the aims and purposes of the CSTO. We already have one positive experience in this respect, namely the International Anti-Terrorist Media Forum held in April of this year, which has now become institutionalized as a permanent structure operating under the aegis of the CSTO and has set itself the task of devising and implementing an inter-State information programme specifically designed for the fight against terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking.

A big help to our Organization's efforts lies in the extensive and highly practical contacts the CSTO has set up with other international organizations, notably the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council, the OSCE, the Shanghai Co-operation Organization and the Eurasian Economic Community. We are also prepared to collaborate with NATO in projects of common interest.

I should like to make the point that the statements I have uttered are not just wishful thinking — they are backed up by decisions taken very recently in the capital of Kazakhstan, Astana, by the Collective Security Council of the CSTO.

We hope that concrete measures designed to strengthen regional stability and security will emerge from this OSCE Conference.