

**JOINT STATEMENT BY  
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE OSCE  
OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY  
TREATY ORGANIZATION AT THE 974th MEETING  
OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 28 November 2013

**Regarding approaches to the reform of the OSCE human dimension,  
including the improvement of project and extrabudgetary activities**

Streamlining of the OSCE human dimension is indispensable if its activities are to be successfully adapted to the current tasks. The main problems in this area are concerned with the poor performance of human dimension events and their unwarranted politicization and excessive length. This has a negative impact on the relevance of the Organization, which is intended to promote mutually respectful dialogue and co-operation.

The Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) believe that to improve the Organization's effectiveness in assisting the OSCE participating States in fulfilling their commitments in the human dimension, priority should be given to the following steps:

- Focusing work in the human dimension not on odious criticism and mutual accusation but on devising consensus-based approaches, searching for common ground and exchanging experience and best practices;
- Providing for a balanced and appropriate reflection in the agenda of the priorities of all participating States with respect to political, civil, socio-economic and cultural rights and freedoms throughout the OSCE area;
- Ensuring that human dimension events are organized in strict accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, and regulating the participation of non-governmental organizations in them in accordance with existing international practice;
- Reducing the overall duration of human dimension events to a level commensurate with that of events in the other dimensions, *inter alia* by streamlining the agenda and procedures for holding the events;
- Focusing the agenda of Human Dimension Committee meetings on the preparation of decisions and other documents of the OSCE decision-making bodies;

- Securing the meticulous implementation by the OSCE institutions of their mandates and guarantees for their political impartiality, complete transparency and accountability of their activities to the collective bodies;
- Avoiding duplication of effort on a bilateral and multilateral level in the implementation of OSCE project and extrabudgetary activities, including in the human dimension, by increasing their transparency and accountability, and introducing corresponding changes to the OSCE Financial Rules.

The CSTO Member States believe it necessary to give these topics priority attention both in the work of the existing advisory mechanisms, including within the Human Dimension Committee of the Permanent Council and the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance, and in the context of the discussions on the Helsinki+40 process.