

FSC.DEL/208/09
18 November 2009

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA, THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS,
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC,
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN AND
THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

The member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are convinced that the state of affairs in the sphere of “hard security” has a decisive effect on the level of stability, co-operation, confidence and predictability in the OSCE region. The insufficient attention paid to this matter in previous years has resulted in undesirable consequences for the pan-European process and inter-State relations in the region. Urgent steps are needed to rectify this situation and create an effective system of common, equal and indivisible security for all the States within the OSCE area while strictly observing the commitments adopted by States at the highest level not to strengthen their security at the expense of the security of others.

The proposal by the Russian Federation to draft and conclude a Treaty on European Security is aimed at resolving these problems. The CSTO member States support that initiative and intend to assist in its promotion in various international forums, including the OSCE.

We need to strengthen the pan-European commitments and principles in the area of “hard security” by transforming them from political to legal commitments. It is of paramount importance to ensure the uniform interpretation and observance of these commitments and principles. It is also necessary to overcome the fragmentation of European security associated with an insufficient level of interaction and co-ordination in the work of the existing international security organizations in the OSCE area, whose agendas overlap, duplicate one another and frequently compete with one another.

In this connection, the CSTO member States are in favour of holding meetings of the heads of the CSTO, NATO, the European Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the OSCE in 2010 to discuss the security strategies adopted in these organizations and to co-ordinate their positions with a view to forming an indivisible area of security. The Platform for Co-operative Security adopted in 1999 will provide a fine basis for work in this area.

The discussion of the idea of a Treaty on European Security and its substantive content should be carried out in various multilateral forums concerned with the problem of “hard security”, including the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). In the light of the FSC mandate adopted in 1992, the focus should primarily be on the principles governing

relations between States in the area of security, arms control issues and confidence-building measures as well as crisis resolution.

One of the key elements of the Treaty on European Security should be to set the basic parameters for arms control, confidence-building, restraint and reasonable sufficiency in military doctrine. In view of its competence and its unique experience in forming a regulatory structure in the politico-military sphere, the FSC may become the main platform for the discussion of the “disarmament” provisions of the proposed Treaty.

Enshrining the fundamental norms and principles of international law in the Treaty on European Security and their observance when resolving crisis situations and settling conflicts in the OSCE area is extremely relevant. The FSC is called upon to make its contribution to this work alongside the Permanent Council.

The CSTO member States are in favour of intensifying the Security Dialogue under way in the Forum, which must be focused not on secondary issues but on the key security problems in the region.

First of all, we need to resume the wide-ranging and in-depth discussion of the role of arms control and confidence-and security-building measures in the new security conditions in the OSCE region. In this context, there is a need to conduct a review/inventory of all the OSCE’s politico-military tools and to examine ways of increasing the effectiveness of existing instruments and also the possibility of drawing up new agreements. On the basis of this work, it would be possible to determine whether it is worth adopting a new Programme for Immediate Action in the area of arms control and confidence-and security-building measures.

The CSTO member States are convinced that conventional arms control in Europe should play a particularly important role in ensuring confidence, security, stability and predictability in the region. In that connection, they are in favour of stepping up the negotiations to find a way out of the crisis surrounding the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty), including making use of the potential of the Joint Consultative Group, in the interests of restoring the viability of the Treaty regime as soon as possible and securing the entry into force of the Agreement on Adaptation.

The most important component of the efforts in the politico-military dimension of the OSCE’s activities is improving the pan-European regime of confidence-and security-building measures. The CSTO member States believe it is necessary to carry out a review and on the basis of this to update the Vienna Document 1999 in the interests of bringing it into line with the changed realities and requirements of the day. Work on the updated version of that document must be carried out in a targeted manner, focusing on those provisions that require updating and development. The participating States could identify a possible set of such provisions together in advance. Until the new version has been finally agreed upon and approved, the existing Vienna Document must continue to be implemented in full.

Effective implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, including projects to assist the participating States in this area, are an important part of the work of our Organization in the politico-military field. Also relevant is the idea of drafting an action plan

on SALW; this idea fits into the general context of efforts to “take stock” of the OSCE’s politico-military tools.

With a view to resolving all the tasks set out above, the CSTO member States are ready for constructive co-operation, geared towards the achievement of concrete results, with other participating States.