

MC.IO/3/14
4 December 2014

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**WRITTEN CONTRIBUTION BY
THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION
SECRETARIAT FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Basel, 4 and 5 December 2014

This year, the work of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) to deal with the tasks before it took place against the backdrop of an increasingly complex global situation and escalating tension at its external borders, in particular in the immediate vicinity of the western and southern boundaries of the organization's Member States. The situation in Ukraine is of particular concern to the CSTO Member States. The crisis and the armed conflict that has broken out there with the support of outside forces have already claimed many thousands of victims including civilians, drawn many countries including some far beyond its borders into a dangerous confrontation and soured the atmosphere in multilateral institutions. Matters have been made worse by the bad press and sanctions used against Russia and other CSTO Member States on an unprecedented scale. Another source of considerable danger has been the upsurge of political and religious extremism and the increased activity of the terrorist groups Al-Qaida and Islamic State, which also contain Central Asian members who could destabilize the situation in their places of permanent residence on returning from the Near and Middle East.

The political compromise reached in Afghanistan has not eliminated the risk that the situation could deteriorate rapidly and even become explosive. The reduction of the foreign military presence in Afghanistan against the background of the refusal by the Taliban and their allies to recognize the results of the presidential elections in the country, coupled with the potential breakdown of the agreements on sharing power in the new Afghan leadership will do nothing to overcome the threat of destabilization in the region. The situation in Afghanistan has developed as predicted by the CSTO and has led to the adoption of urgent measures to strengthen its Member States' borders with that country.

These negative trends in conjunction with the longstanding security threats and challenges in the Central Asian region of the CSTO (such as illicit drug trafficking, organized crime, illegal migration and territorial disputes) make it imperative to strengthen the collective mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution by political, diplomatic and other means and for joining forces with other international organizations – in Central Asia primarily the United Nations and the OSCE.

The CSTO leadership is undertaking mediation initiatives in that regard and is actively developing its relations with those bodies. Co-operation is being developed with partners, including within the framework of the working group on Afghanistan under the

CSTO Council of Foreign Ministers. Representatives of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department and other sections of the OSCE Secretariat have begun attending meetings of that working group. An exchange of information on the situation in the regions of Afghanistan that border on CSTO Member States is taking place within various frameworks, including at the Secretary General level in the two organizations.

Senior OSCE Secretariat officials have regularly attended CSTO events in Moscow and CSTO Secretariat members have attended OSCE events.

We have co-operated with the OSCE on the practical level through the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe. A presentation on the College was delivered at the CSTO Secretariat and CSTO Secretary General Mr. Nikolay Bordyuzha and Secretariat specialists have given lectures on the organization's work. In 2015, a training course for Border Management Staff College participants is planned to be held at the Advanced Training Institute of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in Domodedovo. Similar collaboration has been agreed on with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.

The leadership of the CSTO Secretariat and the OSCE Secretary General Mr. Lamberto Zannier have also discussed the situation in Ukraine and the current situation and future prospects for co-operation between the two organizations in the area of crisis response.

With regard to combating international terrorism and extremism in 2014, targeted measures have been implemented in the CSTO on consolidating the work of the intelligence services and the law enforcement agencies of the CSTO Member States. In connection with strengthening the co-ordination mechanism to facilitate synergies between the intelligence services and the law enforcement agencies, a working group on combating terrorism and extremism has been launched. It has noted a number of practical measures for maximizing the potential of the CSTO to prevent crisis situations in Member States and for using the special task units in combating international terrorism and extremism in the organization's area of responsibility.

That was the aim of strengthening the anti-terrorist component of the CSTO collective forces and, in particular, of the developing of the special task units and of holding a joint exercise entitled "Co-operation 2014" on devising procedures for repelling terrorist attacks, freeing hostages and arresting members of organized criminal groups, among other things.

A process is under way in the CSTO peacekeeping forces to strengthen a police component that could carry out peacekeeping duties, including outside the CSTO area of responsibility.

With regard to combating illicit drug trafficking, the existing CSTO co-ordination mechanisms and collaboration among the relevant competent bodies have been upgraded. Measures have also been taken to reduce demand for illicit drugs, to prevent the illicit trade in narcotics and psychotropic substances and to provide treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts in Member States.

In May 2014, the special anti-narcotics operation "Kanal – Yuzhnyj Kapkan" [Channel – Southern Trap] was conducted in the CSTO Member States, and the local

anti-narcotics operation “Kanal – Dolina” [Channel – Valley] was conducted in September 2014.

Measures for combating cybercrime activity have been developed in the CSTO. To that end, we have not only upgraded the legal and regulatory basis for co-operation, but have also been undertaking specific measures to eliminate the use of this medium by extremists with a view to destabilizing the situation in the organization’s area of responsibility.

This is an outline of the multifaceted CSTO activities to combat transnational threats and challenges in Central Asia and other CSTO collective security regions and of the organization’s participation in international co-operation aimed at addressing these problems.