

**United Nations General Assembly  
Plenary Meeting**

**Agenda item 16 “The situation in Afghanistan”**

**New York, 28 November 2006**

**Statement**

**by His Excellency Andrei Dapkiunas  
Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations**

**on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization Member States (Armenia,  
Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)**

Madam President,

I have the honour to make a statement on behalf of the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization – Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

We support the conclusions made in the report of the Secretary-General “The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security” as well as the draft resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on Afghanistan. We thank Germany for coordination of work on the revision of the draft resolution.

We note a certain progress achieved in the process of political formation of Afghanistan. The new Constitution has been adopted, presidential and parliamentary elections have been held. It was possible to resolve these tasks to a large extent due to the significant and diverse support from the UN. It is important to maintain the coordinating role of the United Nations during the post-Bonn period.

At the same time the Collective Security Treaty Organization Member States are concerned about the new outbreak of violence provoked by the Taliban and Al-Qaida. The deterioration of the security situation not only hinders the process of the reconstruction of Afghanistan but also questions the results achieved in the political, social and economic fields. Considerable growth of casualties during the military operations compared to the previous year is deeply regrettable. It is important to ensure comprehensive implementation of the sanctions regime imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

The creation of a stable Afghan statehood is the key factor of the long term stabilization in the country. Stability of the state system in Afghanistan is a basis for normalization of

the security situation as well as successful conduct of the social and economic reforms and implementation of international programme on the rehabilitation approved by the United Nations.

The Collective Security Treaty Organization Member States are interested in peace, stability and economic prosperity in Afghanistan. Two out of seven Collective Security Treaty Organization Member States – Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – are the northern neighbours of Afghanistan. Twenty five percent of the Afghanistan frontier fall at the southern borders of the countries of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

The activity of the Collective Security Treaty Organization aimed at providing security in the zone of its responsibility. In order to defend the collective and national interests of its Member States the Collective Security Treaty Organization strengthens its potential for countering the global challenges and threats, including international terrorism, extremism and illegal circulation of narcotics.

Therefore “Afghan direction” remains one of the priorities in the activity of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

CSTO is ready to contribute to the solution of security problems both by minimizing their consequences and by addressing their root causes.

We believe that establishment of a diverse regional cooperation is an important factor of promoting the settlement in Afghanistan. Such regional cooperation may include cooperation between Afghanistan and neighbouring countries on a wide range of security issues, economic projects, as well as countering the threat posed by cultivation, production of and trafficking in drugs. The special working group on Afghanistan aimed at establishing of such cooperation was created within the Council of Foreign Ministers of CSTO.

CSTO is concerned by the growth in production of drugs in Afghanistan. Trafficking in drugs from Afghanistan poses a serious threat for regional and global security. CSTO takes challenges caused by the geographical location of its Member States with due responsibility. We consider our mission in tackling the flow of drugs by all possible means in close cooperation with the members of anti-drugs coalition. The problem of international crime in modern environment can be effectively addressed only by the joint efforts of law-enforcement agencies of different countries.

The most recent example of practical anti-drug trafficking activity of CSTO Member States is the successful implementation of international preventive operation “Channel – 2006”. The operation “Channel” has been held regularly from the year 2003 by the law-enforcement agencies of CSTO Member States. In 2004 the Coordination Board of heads of the agencies was created. The efficiency of the collective efforts within CSTO is growing annually.

The goal of the operation was to close off the drugs trafficking flows from Afghanistan into the territories of the states participating in the operation, as well as to expose and

suppress the smuggling of the heroin production components to the Central Asian states and Afghanistan. The 2006 operation resulted in the removal from the illegal circulation of approximately 5 tones of drugs. Besides, 500 firearms and more than 28 thousand of ammunition rounds have been confiscated.

The international community should intensify its efforts to provide a comprehensive assistance to the Government of Afghanistan to eliminate the root causes hindering the process of stabilization and post conflict rehabilitation of the country. The CSTO Member States possess necessary knowledge and experience, as well as economic and technological potential, which may be effectively utilized in this respect. In particular CSTO can play indispensable role in the realization of projects in the frames of Afghanistan-Compact. We are also ready to provide the wide range of not expensive high-quality products necessary for the successful realization of projects, including by performing possible orders placed in CSTO Member States by donors or international organizations.

In conclusion, Madam President, I would like to emphasize that the Collective Security Treaty Organisation performs a responsible role in providing security in the region. The geographical location of CSTO Member States in immediate proximity to Afghanistan, on the one hand, and Europe, on the other hand, shows the role of the Organisation as a serious stabilizing factor in the region.