



COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION



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**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
OPEN DEBATE**

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

New York

20 March 2007

STATEMENT

**ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES OF
THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION
(ARMENIA, BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN,
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, TAJIKISTAN, UZBEKISTAN)**

**ANDREI DAPKIUNAS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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

We support in principle the conclusions made in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and appreciate the briefing by Mr. Tom Koenings, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Afghanistan.

We note a certain progress in the process of reconstruction of Afghanistan. Eight out of twelve benchmarks set in the Afghanistan Compact for 2006 have been accomplished. The international community continues to take an active part in the normalisation of situation in the country.

At the same time the Collective Security Treaty Organisation Member States are concerned with the outbreak of violence provoked by the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Deterioration of security situation not only hinders the process of the reconstruction of Afghanistan but also questions what has been accomplished in the political field. It is important to ensure comprehensive implementation of the sanctions regime imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

CSTO is still concerned with production of drugs and drug trafficking in Afghanistan. Findings of the UNODC report “2006 Afghanistan Opium Survey” show the increasing scale of cultivation of narcotic plants, production and illegal circulation of drugs.

Trafficking in drugs from Afghanistan poses a serious threat to regional and global security. CSTO considers as its mission in this regard the stopping by all possible means and in close cooperation with the members of anti-drugs coalition of the flow of drugs. The most recent example of practical anti-drug trafficking activity of the CSTO Member States is the successful implementation of the international preventive operation “Channel–2006”. The operation “Channel” is being held regularly starting from 2003 by the law-enforcement agencies of the CSTO Member States. As a result of this operation channels of smuggling of the heroin production components were detected and eliminated, tons of illegal drugs, large amount of firearms and ammunition were confiscated.

Recognising the importance of military and humanitarian aid provided in the framework of international assistance for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, we are confident that it is high time to address closely economic and social problems of the country. Grave social and economic conditions are one of the reasons for the increasing support for the Taliban and Al-Qaida, consolidation of positions of the extremists and increase in their resistance to the local authorities. The situation in Musa Kala proves that point.

In this regard it is important to focus efforts on creating favourable conditions for the development of economy and creation of new jobs in the country. New economic opportunities for better life will contribute to the creation of conditions for trade and economic activity, bring down drug production and terrorist activity.

We believe that during the post-Bonn period the United Nations should keep its leading role in Afghan affairs. This includes coordination of peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts of the international community undertaken within the framework of implementation of the Afghanistan Compact.

The Collective Security Treaty Organisation Member States are interested in peace, stability and economic prosperity in Afghanistan. There are a number of examples of successful economic cooperation of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation Member States with Afghanistan:

- participation of Uzbekistan in reconstruction of the “Mazari Sharif – Kabul” highway and rebuilding of 11 bridges,
- supplies of electric power from Uzbekistan to the northern regions of Afghanistan under privileged contract conditions,
- export of electric power from Tajikistan to Kunduz province,
- settling key issues to ensure active and long-term work of major companies from the Russian Federation in Afghanistan.

In this respect we consider the strengthening of regional cooperation, including interaction between Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries on a wide range of security issues, economic projects and fighting the threat of drug trafficking as a factor of great importance. To promote such cooperation a special working group on Afghanistan was established within the Council of Foreign Ministers of CSTO. The CSTO Member States have put forward several proposals, in particular, in the field of development of trans-border transport communications. It is worthy to mention the initiative on creation of the International Trans-Afghanistan Transport Corridor.

The CSTO Member States possess necessary knowledge and experience, as well as economic and technological potential which may be effectively utilised in this respect. In particular, CSTO can play an indispensable role in implementation of projects in the framework of the Afghanistan Compact. We are also ready to provide the wide range of inexpensive high-quality products necessary for the successful implementation of projects, including the possible placement of orders of donors or international organisations in the CSTO Member States.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that the Collective Security Treaty Organisation performs a responsible role in providing security in the region. We will further constructively participate in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.