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ARMENIA

**JOINT STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES
OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION
ON STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHEMICAL TERRORISM
DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE
OPCW AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), as responsible States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (hereinafter “the Convention”), express their deep concern surrounding the threats of chemical terrorism and strongly state their adherence to a world free of chemical weapons.

They underscore that the development, production, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, storage, and use of chemical weapons by terrorist organisations is a threat to the object and purpose of the Convention and must be the subject of close attention on the part of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Proceeding from the decisive condemnation by the CSTO Member States of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, they again draw the attention of the global community to the need to unite efforts in countering terrorism within the framework of a united anti-terrorist front with the United Nations playing a central role therein, upheld by the fundamental standards and principles of international law, based on strict compliance with the United Nations Charter, and implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. They note the importance of not permitting the politicisation of matters concerning the fight against terrorism and turning them into instruments of a policy of double standards.

It is with concern that the CSTO Member States note the seventh report of the Special Advisor to and Head of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh/ISIL (United Nations Security Council document S/2021/974, dated 24 November 2021), which states that terrorist organisations active in the Middle East are not only using toxic chemicals, but have their own technological and production base to synthesise military grade toxic chemicals. As a result, chemical terrorism has already become a reality that requires the decisive, consistent, and urgent actions of all.

The CSTO Member States confirm the need to ensure that all States Parties, within their respective national legislations, prevent both private persons and legal entities from carrying out any activities prohibited by the Convention, specifically via the adoption of the appropriate criminal legislation and by establishing an effective system of export control.



They speak out in favour of expanding cooperation in preventing the infiltration of States Parties to the Convention by foreign terrorist fighters with specialised knowledge in the development, production, and use of chemical weapons; this cooperation would include boosting the effectiveness of collaboration among States Parties to the Convention. In this regard, they underscore the importance of the activities of the OPCW's Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, which provides a convenient platform for the exchange of conceptual deliberation on countering chemical terrorism, as well as information about relevant threats.

The CSTO members renew their request that the OPCW Director-General regularly report on the efforts of the OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") to maintain a dialogue with other international organisations, primarily the United Nations, as well as on the information received by the Secretariat from States Parties and other reliable sources on the activities of terrorist groups relating to the acquisition, production, use, and preparations for the use of chemical weapons, and on the related actions they have taken.

As principled and consistent supporters of effective collective measures aimed at actively countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their components, and their means of delivery, the CSTO members confirm the still-valid Russian-Chinese initiative to develop a convention on the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism, which would serve as an additional tool in establishing a reliable shield against the danger of terrorism.

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