

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1852

9 September 2008

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 9 SEPTEMBER 2008 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2008 IN MOSCOW

On behalf of the delegations of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization - Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, dated 4 September 2008, on the issue of nuclear disarmament.

I should be grateful if this letter and the attached statement could be issued and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): **A. Zhankuliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the Conference on Disarmament

STATEMENT
by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members
of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

4 September 2008

Moscow

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), note the vital importance of further efforts for the active and intense development of partner cooperation within the framework of CSTO, with a view to strengthening global security and strategic stability and jointly countering emerging threats to peace, including international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, we consider it necessary to preserve and build on the key arrangements in the sphere of strategic offensive arms, which have served, over the last few decades, as the foundation for the maintenance of international stability and security.

We regard the fulfillment by the States parties of their obligations under the START Treaty as a major step on the path to nuclear disarmament and a genuine contribution to the realization of the goals set forth in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

We welcome the intention of the two parties to the United States-Russian Strategic Framework Declaration, adopted on 6 April 2008 in Sochi, to carry out strategic offensive reductions to the lowest possible level and to continue development of a legally binding arrangement to replace START following its expiry on 5 December 2009.

We consider that such an arrangement could incorporate all the best elements of the current START Treaty, while setting new reduced and verifiable levels for both strategic carriers (intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers) and the warheads deployed on them.

We are convinced that the achievement of such an arrangement would guarantee stability and predictability in strategic relations among the major nuclear countries and strengthen confidence in progress towards the total destruction of nuclear weapons in the world.

**Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Armenia**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Belarus**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Tajikistan**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kyrgyz Republic**
