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Security Council**

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**General Assembly**  
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Agenda item 39  
**The situation in Afghanistan**

**Security Council**  
**Seventy-fifth year**

**Letter dated 10 December 2020 from the Permanent  
Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General**

On behalf of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) – the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan – I have the honour to transmit herewith a joint statement of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CSTO member States on the situation in Afghanistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* V. Nebenzia



**Annex to the letter dated 10 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Joint statement of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the situation in Afghanistan**

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) express their deep concern about the persistent tension in the military and political situation in Afghanistan and the high level of terrorist activity in the country, which is causing the deaths of civilians.

The CSTO member States welcome the agreement between the United States of America and the Taliban movement, signed in Doha, Qatar, on 29 February 2020, as an important step in the peaceful resolution of the situation in Afghanistan and call for its full implementation.

The CSTO member States welcome the steps taken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban movement to build trust and reduce the level of violence, including the exchange of prisoners and the temporary ceasefire, and call upon the opposing Afghan parties to begin direct inclusive negotiations as soon as possible in order to establish lasting peace in the country.

The CSTO member States are particularly concerned about the continuing activity of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other international terrorist groups in Afghanistan, and the reinforcement of ISIL positions in the northern and north-eastern regions of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, in close proximity to the borders of CSTO member States.

The CSTO member States reaffirm their deep concern about the continuing large-scale production and trafficking of drugs in Afghanistan and call upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the entire global community to take more active steps to combat the Afghan drug threat.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

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