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**General Assembly
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Seventy-sixth year****Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and
other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations
and the Collective Security Treaty Organization****Letter dated 16 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of
Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

With reference to General Assembly resolution [59/50](#) of 2 December 2004, in which the Assembly granted the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) observer status in the General Assembly and to Assembly resolutions on the cooperation between the United Nations and CSTO, I have the honour to inform the following.

The Republic of Tajikistan, as the Chair of CSTO for 2020 and 2021, is pleased to share a joint statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CSTO member States on efforts to stabilize the situation in the Middle East and North Africa, adopted on 20 February 2021 in Moscow, Russian Federation (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 130 (t), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mahmamin **Mahmaminov**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on efforts to stabilize the situation in the Middle East and North Africa

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are concerned about the ongoing conflicts and crises in the Middle East and North Africa, which continue to be a source of threats to regional and international security, including the security of CSTO member States, in the form of the spread of terrorism and radical ideology.

The Ministers share the view that the unresolved question of Palestine is a key factor of instability in the Middle East. They reaffirm their support for the peaceful resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on the two-State solution and the universally recognized international legal framework, including Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

They call on all parties to refrain from unilateral steps that do not contribute to strengthening regional stability and impede the creation of an independent, viable and fully sovereign Palestinian State in accordance with Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [338 \(1973\)](#). They stress the need for the parties to resume negotiations as soon as possible to achieve a comprehensive, just, lasting and mutually acceptable settlement.

The Ministers reaffirm their commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria. They stress the importance of continuing the fight against terrorism in order to finally eliminate Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations recognized as such by the Security Council.

They highlight the need to mobilize international efforts to provide assistance to all Syrians in need throughout the country without politicization, discrimination or preconditions, and to facilitate the safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin.

The Ministers express their support for advancing a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process under the auspices of the United Nation, in accordance with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), and for facilitating the establishment of a broad intra-Syrian dialogue on national reconciliation involving representatives of all ethnic and religious groups of Syrian society. They emphasize the important role of inter-Syrian consultations in the Constitutional Committee in Geneva, established pursuant to the decisions of the Congress of the Syrian National Dialogue held in Sochi and within the framework of the Astana format.

The Ministers reaffirm their strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya, and to the principle of non-interference in its internal affairs. They underscore that there is no alternative to a political solution to the internal Libyan conflict through dialogue between and led by the Libyans themselves. They express support for international efforts to hold inter-Libyan talks under United Nations auspices on a ceasefire and post-conflict settlement in Libya within the framework of the dialogue mechanisms mandated by the Berlin Peace Conference of 19 January 2020.

They note the need to step up their efforts to avert the threats posed by international terrorism, including threats connected with the financing, training and equipping of foreign terrorist fighters for use as mercenaries in armed conflicts and with their return from conflict zones, including the Middle East, to their countries of nationality.

The Ministers stress the need for an early end to the acute internal political conflict in the Republic of Yemen and the establishment there of inclusive negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations. There is general agreement that progress towards the resolution of the many problems facing that country, including the issues of its territorial and State structure, can be made only through dialogue and consideration of the interests of all leading Yemeni political forces.

They also stress the importance of providing emergency humanitarian assistance to Yemenis and ensuring rapid, safe and unhindered access for relevant supplies to all areas of the Republic of Yemen, irrespective of which side controls them at the time.

The Ministers reaffirm their commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. They underscore the importance of non-interference in its internal affairs. They call on the international community to lend its full support to Iraq in continuing its fight against the remnants of ISIL and other terrorist groups until their complete elimination. They support the efforts of the Iraqi Government to maintain the unity of the Iraqi people and rebuild the regions of the country liberated from terrorist groups.

The Ministers express their support for the efforts of the transitional Government of the Sudan to achieve peace, security, stability, national cohesion, comprehensive democratic change, equitable socioeconomic development and improved State institutions.

The Ministers advocate the establishment, with the participation of all States of the Persian Gulf region, of joint mechanisms to respond to challenges and threats and to promote a constructive, unifying agenda in the Gulf region.

They stress the importance of fostering dialogue among all States of the Middle East and North Africa on the basis of the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-use of force, non-interference in internal affairs, respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the settlement of conflicts exclusively by peaceful and diplomatic means, with an unwavering reliance on international law and the Charter of the United Nations.