

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 13 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on 25 September 2019, during its presidency of the Security Council, the Russian Federation intends to hold a ministerial debate on the theme “United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in maintaining peace and security: the contribution of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in countering terrorist threats”.

In that regard, I transmit herewith the concept note on that event prepared by our delegation (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
President of the Security Council

* Reissued for technical reasons on 19 September 2019.



Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

Concept note for the Security Council debate on the theme “United Nations cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in maintaining peace and security: the contribution of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in countering terrorist threats”, to be held on 25 September 2019

Introduction

1. The global nature of modern challenges and threats requires the elaboration of collective approaches to raise the effectiveness of counteraction and enhance coordination between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security.
2. The agenda of cooperation between the United Nations and its regional partners is constantly expanding. It has gone far beyond the traditional peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts and now encompasses new counter-terrorist challenges, such as countering foreign terrorist fighters and their cross-border relocation, flows of weapons to terrorists and merging of terrorism and organized crime, preventing the spread of terrorist ideologies and propaganda, including through the Internet.

General objectives of the briefing

3. Coordinated efforts of regional organizations are even more timely against the backdrop of the global problem of the return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters, spreading their ideology and striving to create new strongholds in various parts of the world. These regional organizations also need to further strengthen their cooperation with relevant United Nations structures with a view to effectively addressing this dangerous phenomenon, which would make a significant contribution to global counter-terrorism efforts in the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
4. Bearing in mind the attempts of the major international terrorist groups, namely ISIL, Al-Qaida and their affiliates, to create a network of “sleeping cells” in the wide space of Eurasia, and especially in the Central Asian region, States and specialized entities need to significantly intensify their cooperation in the counter-terrorism sphere and improve mechanisms for interaction between law enforcement and judicial authorities, as well as armed forces.
5. The debate will focus on the contribution of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to countering threats to peace and security in the region, especially when it comes to combating terrorism, as well as suppressing various related forms of supply to terrorist groups through the trafficking of drugs, weapons, persons and artefacts, and through other illegal activities.
6. The practical interaction of these organizations with the United Nations is systemic in nature, covers key issues on the international agenda and is based on relevant resolutions, agreements, declarations and memorandums adopted and signed both between secretariats and relevant agencies of the organizations.

7. Participants of the debate will have an opportunity to discuss modalities for further development of relations between SCO (including its Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure), CIS (including its Anti-Terrorism Center) and CSTO with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

8. Due to the proximity of the borders of Afghanistan to SCO, CSTO and CIS member States, it is planned to pay special attention during the discussions to the situation in Afghanistan and the threats posed by international terrorism and drug trafficking coming from its territory.

9. In more general terms, the discussion would include consideration of approaches of the three aforementioned organizations and their members to further joining efforts, including within the United Nations, to counter the global terrorist threat and create a broad counter-terrorism front based on universally recognized principles of international law, primarily those enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Questions for consideration

10. What is the role of regional and subregional organizations in assisting Member States in their efforts to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, counter-terrorism resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, as well as in enhancing the effectiveness of the relevant specialized projects?

11. What is the contribution of regional organizations in countering terrorist threats, in particular, in resolving the global problem posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters?

12. What measures and “best practices” developed in the framework of CIS, CSTO and SCO could be used to maintain peace and security in other regions and countries?

Briefers

13. The list of briefers is to be confirmed.
