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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1565th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 May 2026

Visit to the OSCE by a delegation from the Collective Security Treaty Organization

Mr. Chairperson,

From 18 to 21 May this year, in connection with the Russian Federation's chairmanship of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), a CSTO delegation led by Secretary General Talatbek Masadykov visited Vienna and held a number of events at the OSCE.

In particular, the CSTO representatives were received by OSCE Secretary General Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu. There was a professional exchange of views on the security situation in the OSCE area, and the need was emphasized to restore expert-level dialogue between the secretariats of the two organizations, which has been virtually non-existent in recent years amid an acute geopolitical crisis.

The first step in this direction was the meeting that took place between members of the CSTO delegation and the senior management of the Transnational Threats Department of the OSCE Secretariat, during which the importance of efforts to counter the challenges and threats facing the Central Asian States was reaffirmed, not least in the light of the situation in Afghanistan, which continues to be unstable.

An informal discussion between members of the CSTO delegation and the Swiss Chairmanship team served as a welcome opportunity to communicate the approaches of the leadership of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on a range of issues relating to regional security and potential co-operation with the OSCE.

On 19 May, a round table was held at the Hofburg with the theme "CSTO: Together for Strengthening International Peace and Stability". Participants from the CSTO Member States, along with experts from the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, shared their assessments of the Collective Security Treaty Organization's activities and the situation in the CSTO's area of responsibility. Representatives of Austrian and Swiss civil society and academia also joined in the discussion.

We would stress that the CSTO is a politico-military association that operates exclusively within its area of responsibility, as delimited by the national frontiers of its Member States, and does not seek to

address security issues beyond its borders. In its work, the CSTO remains committed to the fundamental OSCE principle whereby no State or group of countries may advance its own security at the expense of the security of others, and whereby a polycentric structure must be based on the principle of equal and indivisible security and on an inclusive approach to the collective maintenance of peace and stability.

It is worth noting that we regard the CSTO as an important factor in upholding regional security – a factor whose significance is growing in view of the deteriorating politico-military situation in the OSCE area.

We would hope that the contacts which took place will have a practical impact and facilitate the search for ways out of the current global crisis of international security.

Thank you for your attention.