*Unofficial translation*

**JOINT STATEMENT**

**of the Collective Security Treaty Organization Member States**

**on the 30th anniversary of the closure**

**of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site**

August 29, 2021, marks the 30th anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site by the Decree of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev. The termination of the activities of the test site in 1991 was an important milestone in promoting the idea of a universal ban on nuclear tests.

Taking into account this important event, the UN General Assembly declared August 29 as the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

The CSTO Member States confirm their commitment to maintaining peace and security, emphasize the contribution of Kazakhstan, which renounced the possession of nuclear weapons, to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, maintaining international security and stability.

Since the closure of the Semipalatinsk test site, Kazakhstan has carried out substantial work to rehabilitate its territory and adjacent areas, as well as ensure radiation safety and restore the environment. Since 2004, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the Republic of Kazakhstan have implemented a number of joint projects at the site that have made a significant contribution to eliminating proliferation threats and strengthening physical security.

The closure of the test site provided an important impetus to international efforts that contributed to the establishment of a moratorium on nuclear testing around the world, as well as the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia in 2006.

The CSTO Member States support the resolution adopted in December 2020 by the UN General Assembly International Cooperation and Coordination for the Human and Ecological Rehabilitation and Economic Development of the Semipalatinsk Region of Kazakhstan.

The CSTO Member States recognize that the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is an integral part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. They note that the moratoriums on nuclear tests imposed by the nuclear powers are an important component of international efforts aimed at preventing the resumption of nuclear tests, but they cannot replace legally binding obligations arising from full participation in the CTBT. In this regard, the CSTO Member States support the early entry into force of the Treaty, which requires the remaining eight countries from Appendix 2 of the CTBT to join it.

The CSTO Member States declare their firm commitment to efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, based on strict observance of international law.

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