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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Follow-up to the implementation at the national,
regional and international levels of all
commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial
Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the
world drug problem**

**Conference room paper submitted by Kazakhstan in its
capacity as Chair of the Collective Security Treaty
Organization in 2024, entitled “Statement of the Council of
Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty
Organization on Countering Drug Abuse among Children
and Youth and Promoting their Healthy Lifestyle”****

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Statement of the Council of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on Countering Drug Abuse among Children and Youth and Promoting their Healthy Lifestyle

We, the Members of the Council of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (hereafter – CSTO) guided by the goals and objectives of the Counter Narcotics Strategy of the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization for 2021–2025, adopted by Decree of the CSTO Collective Security Council of 2 December 2020, as well as by the Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the Fight against the Global Drug Threat of 23 November 2022, express serious concern about the continued high level of trafficking in and non-medical use of drugs, which contribute to the spread of drug dependence among children and youth.

The drug abuse problem among children and youth has become global in nature. Among the key factors affecting the negative development of the drug situation in the CSTO Member States are expanding synthetic drug trafficking and non-medical use of psychotropic substances, passage of the main drug trafficking routes via the territory of the CSTO Member States, misuse of information communication technologies as well as modern financial instruments in criminal activities.

We underline that despite the complex measures to counter illicit drug trafficking among children and young people that are undertaken by the law-enforcement and other national authorities and organizations of the CSTO Member States, the crime situation in this field remains complicated.

We note the efforts of the Republic of Belarus as the CSTO Chair as well as other Member States of the Organization to develop and implement an effective system of legislative measures aimed at countering the illicit drug threat, including establishing prompt control over the emerging new psychoactive substances as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle among children and young people.

We express our concern about the intensification of the activities of supporters of drug-liberal approaches, who promote the need to weaken state control over drug trafficking, the possibility of their non-medical (recreational) consumption, as well as other measures aimed at diluting the threat perception posed by drugs in the minds of children and young people.

We stand firmly against the revision of the drug control system in order to weaken control over illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors as well as against the legalization of use of narcotic substances for non-medical purposes.

We believe that an effective solution to countering drug abuse among children and youth requires not only domestic efforts, but also well-coordinated international cooperation.

We support the need of further strengthening the effectiveness of cooperation between law-enforcement authorities of the CSTO Member States in detecting and countering the activities of organized criminal groups, illicit financial flows, laundering the proceeds of crime.

We consider the development within CSTO of coordinated methods of detecting drug-related crimes with the use of information communication technologies as well as preventing drug-related crime by creating a technical barrier to remote drug sales transactions and cash withdrawals by criminals as timely areas of CSTO activities in countering illicit drug trafficking.

We state the need to improve measures to prevent the involvement of children and youth into drug-related criminal activities and to protect them from abusing drugs, in particular through broad awareness-raising campaigns, promotion of a healthy lifestyle, including with participation of educational, cultural, public health institutions, social environment of the individuals and families.

We stand for further strengthening cooperation among legislative bodies in order to improve national legislation and exchange of law enforcement experience in the CSTO area of responsibility in order to enhance the effectiveness of drug use prevention activities to prevent the involvement of children and youth into drug trafficking and abuse as well as to practically implement a set of measures to curb the activities of financial, organizational and informational channels of drug dealer networks.

We underline that we are ready to continue working on promoting joint initiatives in the area of drug use prevention among children and youth in other international parliamentary organizations.

We are confident that through joint efforts CSTO Member States will succeed in achieving a decline in drug abuse among children and youth and improve the results of activities to counter the negative trends in drug dynamics in the CSTO area of responsibility as a whole.
