

MC.IO/1/14  
29 November 2014

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

**WRITTEN CONTRIBUTION BY THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
INDEPENDENT STATES FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF  
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Basel, 4 and 5 December 2014

The activities in 2014 of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) focused as before on developing inter-State co-operation in key areas such as the economy, humanitarian partnership and safeguarding stability and security.

For reasons that are known, the Republic of Belarus continued to hold the chairmanship of the CIS in 2014.

Under the Belarusian chairmanship meetings were held of the Council of the Heads of State in Minsk, the Council of the Heads of Government in Minsk and Ashgabat, and the Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow and Minsk.

Unfortunately, Ukraine was less active this year in its co-operation within the Commonwealth. Its representatives nevertheless participated in the work of many CIS bodies.

The subject of Ukraine was discussed objectively and with great interest by the supreme bodies within the CIS. In particular, at the meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the CIS in Minsk this October, the presidents voiced concern at the escalation of the confrontation in Ukraine, called for a rapid attainment of peace and social accord and expressed their support for the negotiating process that has been launched.

Economic co-operation remained the priority focus in the activities of the CIS Member States in accordance with the Concept for Further Development of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In this area, a fundamental thrust was the implementation of the provisions of the Commonwealth of Independent States Free Trade Agreement, in particular the drafting of documents developing trade and economic links between States. Vigorous efforts were made to reach agreement on the draft Agreement on Free Trade in Services and the Protocol on the Rules and Regulations for State Procurement. The positive trend in the reduction of cases of special protective, anti-dumping and compensatory measures in mutual trade continued. A series of measures was carried out to implement the Inter-State Programme of Innovative Co-operation by the CIS Member States until 2020.

In November, the Council of the Heads of Government of the CIS adopted a plan of priority measures in the sphere of humanitarian co-operation by the CIS Members States for

2015–2016, and planned measures for 2015–2017 to implement the strategy for developing co-operation by the CIS Member States in the tourism sector until 2020, all of which are designed to further develop the wide-ranging humanitarian partnership.

Bearing in mind that the joint victory in the Great Patriotic War is a vital factor in strengthening friendship and good-neighbourliness in the Commonwealth, in October the Heads of State issued an appeal to the peoples of the CIS Member States and the international community in connection with the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War from 1941 to 1945. The appeal is intended to reinforce the grateful memory of the deeds of the older generation and the sources of victory and to preserve the historical truth about the war and its lessons.

It mentions the need to resolutely oppose efforts to glorify the Nazi movement, revive the fascist ideology and spread xenophobia and racism. The appeal also contains a call to the international community to pool its efforts to build a just and secure world order based on the aims and principles of the United Nations and confirms the willingness of the CIS Member States to strengthen multilateral international co-operation as much as possible to safeguard sustainable peaceful development and progress in all States.

The Council of the Heads of State further declared 2015 in the Commonwealth as the Year of Veterans of the Great Patriotic War from 1941 to 1945.

The abiding interest of the CIS Member States in facing up to contemporary threats and challenges and strengthening the global and regional security architecture together was confirmed in the documents adopted by the Commonwealth. At the Minsk summit, for example, a declaration was adopted by the Heads of State preserving and strengthening the international drug control system. It expressed the commitment of the countries of the CIS to preserve and strengthen the international drug control system based on fundamental United Nations documents. The Council of the Heads of State also approved the co-operation programme for 2015 to 2019 by the CIS Member States to counter illegal migration and the concept for co-operation by the CIS Member States to counter trafficking in human beings.

This year the co-operation of CIS bodies with a number of international organizations was continued. One notable event in this regard was the adoption by consensus on 11 November 2014 at the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution on co-operation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The CIS Member States seek to strengthen co-operation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in matters of common interest. They are willing to intensify constructive dialogue and note the important role played by the OSCE and its instruments in helping to settle the crisis, stabilize the situation and establish sustainable peace in Ukraine, including the implementation of the relevant Minsk agreements. The CIS countries support the OSCE's aims and attach great importance to the Helsinki+40 process and its results.