

Translated from Russian

Sir,

Pursuant to paragraph 23 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 78/115 of 7 December 2023, we have the honour to provide information on the measures adopted by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to prevent and eliminate international terrorism.

In the CIS member States, work in this area is carried out with due consideration for the leading role of the United Nations and the development of cooperation with other international institutions and specialized bodies.

The regulatory and legal system established in CIS is being steadily improved to take into account the changing operational environment owing to the threats posed by international terrorist organizations.

The treaty on countering the legalization (laundering) of the proceeds of crime, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, concluded by the CIS member States on 15 October 2021, entered into force in 2023.

The treaty is aimed at strengthening international cooperation and expanding mutual assistance, and at depriving criminals of the proceeds of crime and other means used to commit crimes. To implement the treaty, the parties are cooperating in the harmonization of legislation; the provision of legal assistance, including the seizure, freezing and confiscation of funds; information-sharing; investigative activities; and the recognition of lists of individuals, entities, groups and organizations involved in terrorist activities and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In 2023, as part of implementing the programme of cooperation among the CIS member States in combating terrorism and extremism for the period 2023–2025, approved by the CIS Council of Heads of State on 14 October 2022, organizational and practical measures were carried out with the aim of:

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Preventing, detecting and suppressing attempts to infiltrate the CIS member States by groups and individuals who have been trained to carry out terrorist and extremist activities or who have taken part in hostilities in third countries as part of terrorist groups;

Preventing, detecting and suppressing the activities of terrorist and extremist organizations aimed at preparing and committing crimes of terrorism and extremism and at engaging persons residing in CIS member States in terrorist and extremist activities, including to participate in hostilities in third countries as part of terrorist and extremist organizations and illegal armed groups;

Locating, detaining and extraditing persons on inter-State wanted lists for committing crimes of terrorism and extremism, including as part of terrorist and extremist organizations and illegal armed groups in third countries, who are residing in CIS member States;

Detecting and blocking transit routes, including illegal migration channels, in the CIS member States used by members of and persons involved in terrorist and extremist organizations.

These measures continue to be implemented by the security agencies and special services of the CIS member States and are also carried out as part of coordinated and comprehensive special preventive activities and operations.

In 2023, Commonwealth bodies, in cooperation with the competent authorities of the CIS member States, implemented:

The “Tral – anti-terror” and “Identification” coordinated search activities;

Preventive measures to counter the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in arms, ammunition, explosives, explosive devices and dual-use goods;

The “Barrier” international operation to identify persons involved in financing terrorism;

The “West 2023” and “Marzbon 2023” joint special border operations.

As a result of this work, 147 persons were detained, 7 wanted persons were identified in prison institutions of the Commonwealth countries and 138 persons involved in financing terrorism were identified. In addition, 105 citizens of Commonwealth countries who were on inter-State wanted lists for involvement in extremist and terrorist activities were deported or extradited to their countries of origin. A total of 3,798 firearms, 152,112 rounds of ammunition, 304.5 kg of explosives and 359 explosive devices were seized from illicit trafficking.

The CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre coordinated the joint counter-terrorism exercise of the competent authorities of the CIS member States entitled “Eurasia and counter-terrorism 2023”, during which the coordination of security agencies, special services and law enforcement bodies was fine-tuned to detect and suppress plans to carry out terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure facilities and densely populated areas. For the first time, the exercise was conducted jointly with the counter-terrorism exercise of the competent authorities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member States, which enabled the competent authorities of the CIS and SCO States to gain experience in organizing the exchange of information when carrying out coordinated measures to detect and suppress planned terrorist attacks.

The first CIS conference on combating terrorism and extremism, which was attended by the heads of the competent authorities of 13 Commonwealth and SCO member States and the working structures of 10 CIS bodies and 8 international organizations, including the United Nations, contributed to improving scientific support for counter-terrorism activities. The event was illustrative of the ongoing process of strengthening Eurasian cooperation and enabled practical exchanges and the consolidation of CIS and SCO counter-terrorism efforts, thus building a united front for the promotion of common interests on the international stage.

Systematic efforts continue to be made to develop and populate the specialized databank of the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre. The information contained in the databank is actively used by the special services of the CIS countries to prevent, detect, suppress and investigate unlawful terrorism-related acts.

Outreach activities have been carried out to ensure counter-terrorism cooperation among the security agencies and special services of the CIS member States. In cooperation with the print and electronic media, the results of joint counter-terrorism activities implemented by the competent authorities of the CIS States have been showcased, terrorist ideology has been discredited and constructive forces in society have been consolidated to comprehensively combat this phenomenon.

On 13 October 2023, the CIS Council of Heads of State approved the next inter-State programme of joint measures to combat crime for the period 2024–2028.

The programme includes legal and practical measures to combat cross-border crime in all its forms, including measures to combat illicit trafficking in arms and narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursors, and potentially dangerous new psychoactive substances, trafficking in persons, illegal migration, corruption, the legalization (laundering) of the proceeds of

crime, the financing of terrorism and cybercrime.

The measures adopted by CIS bodies to prevent and eliminate international terrorist activities are ongoing.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

S. Lebedev
CIS Executive Secretary
