

Information Note¹

- Events:** Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (PA CSTO) and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia.
- Organizers:** The Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (PA CSTO) and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia.
- Date and Venue:** 28 June 2019, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
- Participants:** The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Chamber of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, parliamentarians from Serbia, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the CSTO PA, the Russian Foreign Ministry, experts in international relations, heads of scientific institutions, political scientists, academia and media representatives.
- The 1540 Group of Experts.

Background

- On 14 May 2019, the Chairman of the Committee of the State Duma on International Affairs of the Russian Federation sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 inviting a representative of the Group of Experts to give a report on current tasks, including with regard to parliamentary diplomacy on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), at parliamentary hearings of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (PA CSTO) and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia. The parliamentary hearings were held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 28 June 2019.
- Parliamentary diplomacy, having a direct bearing on the implementation of the basic principles of international law and the UN Charter and the promotion of the foreign policy initiatives of states, plays a crucial role in the context of international relations. The parliamentary dimension of the UN, the expansion of its cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and national parliaments will be considered at the meeting.
- The parliamentary hearings, which aimed to discuss the role of parliamentary diplomacy in addressing topical issues on the international agenda were focused on today's international environment, when it is necessary to combine efforts to counter common

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challenges and threats, including nuclear non-proliferation, prohibition of chemical, biological and toxin weapons, the importance and relevance of parliamentary diplomacy

Highlights

On June 28, 2019, parliamentary hearings "The Role of Parliamentary Diplomacy in Addressing Current Issues of the International Agenda" were held in St. Petersburg. The event was organized by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in accordance with the decision taken at the 55th session of the Parliamentary Assembly. The hearings were attended by parliamentarians from Belarus, Russia, Serbia, representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Parliamentary Assembly, the PA CSTO, the CIS IPA, the Russian Foreign Ministry, experts in international relations, heads of scientific institutions, political scientists, academics and members of the media.

The participants of the hearings recognized the special role of parliamentary diplomacy in ensuring full representation of opinions and assessments of voters, maintaining direct political dialogue of the legislative bodies of sovereign states.

A 1540 Committee Expert delivered a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004), as well as on the 2016 Comprehensive Review of the resolution 1540 (2004) and the adoption of resolution 2325 (2016).

Participants concurred that countering terrorism and violent extremism is a common goal and priority for the international community, including for parliamentary institutions. They also confirmed the relevance of the provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006, noting that parliamentarians play a key role by adopting relevant legislation, allocation of budget funds and performing oversight to ensure protection from terrorist violence in line with human rights obligations.

The participants of the Conference unanimously affirmed their determination to jointly counter transnational terrorist activities and the spread of violent extremism ideas in line with international legal instruments and UN resolutions, acknowledging the central coordinating role of the UN in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, while fully respecting fundamental human rights. They also expressed their commitment to developing international mechanisms for ensuring prosecution and punishment of individuals involved in financing, planning, perpetration, justification of terrorist acts and incitement to commit those acts. In the outcome document of the Conference, participants announced their intention to expand and enhance inter-parliamentary cooperation, as well as interaction with universal, regional and sub-regional international institutions, in particular, with the UN specialized agencies for the best prevention and countering the threat of terrorism and violent extremism.

The recommendations of the parliamentary hearings will be finalized in the light of the proposals received during the event and sent to interested institutions and organizations. The final document will be published on the website of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Additional Comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.