**STATEMENT**

**by the Council of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization**

**regarding the events in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

**due to the deteriorating security situation in its northern provinces and combat activity near the Tajik-Afghan border**

July 1, 2021
Dushanbe

Due to the deteriorating security situation in the immediate vicinity of the southern borders of the Republic of Tajikistan, a CSTO Member State, the Council of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization:

Expresses its concern regarding the high level of combat activity in Afghanistan, particularly in its northern provinces, amid the withdrawal of foreign military presence, and calls on the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban Movement to cease violence in order to ensure favourable conditions for advancing the peace process and establishing Afghanistan as an independent and neutral state.

Strongly condemns terrorist attacks in Afghanistan against civilians and stresses that the activities of ISIS and other international terrorist groups constitute a key instability component in the IRA.

Expresses its concern regarding the extremely high level of drug production in Afghanistan, being a major source of income for terrorist groups in the IRA, and calls on the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, including the Afghan National Assembly, to increase their efforts to combat this scourge.

Calls on the international community, including national parliaments and international parliamentary organizations, to increase humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in order to prevent the flow of Afghan refugees into neighbouring countries.

Expresses its commitment to support through parliamentary diplomacy the Afghan National Assembly, all Afghan ethnic groups and political forces, including the Taliban Movement, to advance the national reconciliation process with a view to ending the war and stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan as soon as possible.

Reaffirms its readiness to contribute to the improvement and harmonization of the IRA’s legislation in the area of combating terrorism and illegal drug trafficking drawing on the lawmaking experience accumulated by the Assembly, including the developed model laws and recommendations.