

Draft declaration

We, the representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, have convened at the premises of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Centre, for a high-level meeting devoted to regional cooperation and preventive diplomacy in Central Asia.

1. We welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of resolution 72/7 on 17 November 2017, on the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, which reaffirms the Centre's significant role and the importance of encouraging political dialogue directed towards collective action to address common challenges in the region.
2. On this occasion, we take note of the Centre's fourth Programme of Action, for the period 2018-2020, and its five priority areas in support of the Central Asian Governments' efforts to address existing and potential challenges and threats that the region is facing;
3. We encourage the Centre to further implement its mandate and activities and take advantage of new opportunities and dynamics to promote dialogue and enhance cooperation among all of the Central Asian states to respond to transnational threats and support sustainable development in the region;
4. We reiterate the importance of consolidating regional dialogue and cooperation mechanisms in Central Asia and reaffirm our commitment to effectively use the UNRCCA as a political platform for that purpose;
5. We welcome the participation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and confirm our engagement with Afghanistan on issues of mutual interest affecting peace and security and our support to regional initiatives that promote the greater integration of Afghanistan and Central Asia;
6. We recommit to the principle of prevention and encourage the Centre to continue its efforts to enhance the potential of the region to overcome challenges to peace, stability and sustainable development through preventive diplomacy and dialogue;
7. We also congratulate Turkmenistan on the occasion of the upcoming International Day of Neutrality on 12 December, as per General Assembly resolution 71/275, adopted on 2 February 2017, at the initiative of Turkmenistan.

Ashgabat, 11 December 2017