

Joint Statement

Fifth Meeting of Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Central Asian states Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

28 November 2014

The fifth annual Meeting of Central Asian Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 28 November 2014. It was attended by Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, and Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Uzbekistan was represented at the level of the country's Embassy in Ashgabat. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

The purpose of the event was to discuss ways in which UNRCCA could assist the countries of Central Asia in addressing more effectively existing and emerging threats to stability and security in the region. Views on current security developments in Central Asia were exchanged, and participants also discussed the potential impact on countries in the region of the drawdown of international combat forces in Afghanistan.

Special guests of the event were Nicholas Haysom, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNAMA, Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, and Saroj Kumar Jha, World Bank Regional Director for Central Asia.

In the course of the meeting, the Centre's past and future activities were discussed, and participants had the opportunity to provide their comments to UNRCCA's new Programme of Action for the period 2015-17.

Participants stressed the need for joint responses to the manifold common challenges of the region. The importance of working together, bilaterally and multilaterally, towards increased regional security through preventive diplomacy initiatives and continued cooperation with the United Nations and regional organizations was confirmed.

Appreciation and support were expressed in relation to the efforts of the Regional Centre to create conditions conducive for achieving durable solutions to regional challenges, taking into account interests and needs of all Central Asian countries.

Ashgabat, 28 November 2014