

**INTERNATIONAL LEGAL REGULATION OF THE FIGHT  
AGAINST TERRORISM IN FRAMEWORK OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES**

<b>Abstract:</b>	<p><i>Fight against international terrorism is also led by a regional organization such as the Commonwealth of Independent States, which demonstrates the experience of effective counter-terrorism in the format of cooperation between CIS member states. This is done on the basis of the Treaty on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism (1999) drawn up in the provisions of the Protocol on the procedure and implementation of joint counter-terrorism measures on the territories of the CIS member states.</i></p> <p><i>Programs to combat international terrorism and other manifestations of extremism, for example, developed for the period 2020-2022, come to coordinate the efforts of the CIS states. With the understanding of the extent of the real threat of terrorism, the idea of creating a coordination center arose in the CIS, which later materialized through the creation of the CIS Anti-Terrorism Center (2000). The CIS is in a state of constructive dialogue with various international organizations to find effective ways to combat terrorism.</i></p> <p><i>The article will highlight the activities, the political and legal framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States as a regional security organization in the field of combating and preventing terrorism. The priority areas of cooperation between the CIS and other international organizations in the field of combating terrorism will be also analyzed.</i></p>
<b>Keywords:</b>	<b>International terrorism; international cooperation; fight against terrorism; security threat; the Commonwealth of Independent States; the Commonwealth of Independent States; Anti-terrorism Center</b>
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Modern terrorism has an international character and is distinguished by public exposure, media presence, organization and mass character. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the fight against terrorism remains one of the most persistent problems, the solution of which requires the efforts of the entire world community, as well as the mobilization of all the mechanisms created. The CIS countries faced the threat of terrorism and extremism long before the events of September 11, 2001, after which the fight against terrorism evolved on a global scale.

The Commonwealth of Independent States is a regional international organization designed to regulate relations between countries that were previously part of the USSR. It was founded on December 8, 1991 and now brings together a number of post-Soviet states: the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan. Since August 2005 Turkmenistan left the CIS full members and received the status of an associate member. From December 1993 to August 18, 2009, Georgia was part of the CIS<sup>1</sup>. Ukraine, along with Russia and Belarus, signed on December 8, 1991 the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This act went down in history as the "Belovezhskaya agreement". Ukraine received the official status of a "founding country of the Commonwealth". On December 10, 1991, the Supreme Council (Verkhovna Rada) of Ukraine ratified the Treaty on the Establishment of the CIS, but later the Verkhovna Rada refused to ratify the CIS Charter. That is, Ukraine did not formally join the Commonwealth<sup>2</sup>.

All CIS member states are also members of the UN and the OSCE. Consequently, they are fully responsible for the obligations imposed by the UN Charter and international law. Thus, the preamble to the CIS Charter states that this Commonwealth is acting in accordance with the generally recognized principles and rules of international law, the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and other documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This provision means that, in implementing any of its activities, the community relies primarily on these agreements and that any agreements and treaties concluded by the organization should not contradict them<sup>3</sup>.

Speaking of threats to the security of the countries of the Community, it should be noted that this region is characterized by the presence of weak borders

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<sup>1</sup> Internet portal of the CIS, <https://e-cis.info/>, (1.05.2022)

<sup>2</sup> *Вышла ли Украина из состава СНГ? Зачем ей быть в СНГ вместе с Россией?* <https://regnum.ru/news/polit/2547491.html>, (01.05.2022)

<sup>3</sup> *Устав Содружества Независимых Государств 22 января 1993 года*, <https://docs.cntd.ru/document/1903017>, (01.05.2022)

(in the Afghan direction), disputed ones (especially between Armenia and Azerbaijan), adjacent areas of prolonged conflict, including areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan. CIS threats include drug trafficking and arms smuggling; socially motivated mass labour migration, which is both illegal and legal but uncontrolled at the same time, as well as terrorism.

According to the Russian expert B. Milnikov, first Head of the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Center (from November 200 to November 2006), the operational situation in the fight against terrorism is characterized by the development of several dangerous tendencies. These trends are generated both by external factors associated with the development of international terrorism and by internal motives inherent in the CIS states.

External factors are:

- the emergence or revival of the old geopolitical claims of some neighbouring states towards the CIS countries,
- the transfer on one's own territory of the confrontation of some foreign political forces with their political opponents,
  - regional conflicts,
  - the stepping-up of extremist manifestations of several foreign terrorists, religious, national radical and other foreign organizations.

Internal causes and factors:

- economic crisis, unfair privatization, unemployment and impoverishment of a significant part of the CIS population;
- rising nationalism, ethnic intolerance, religious extremism and separatist sentiments;
- increased feeling of social unrest, insecurity among the significant masses of citizens;
- the loss of ideological and spiritual orientation in life, increased despair and social aggression;
- increase in crime, decrease in the authority of administrations, the law, confidence in its ability to ensure the safety of citizens;
- the presence of a significant illegal "market" for weapons and the relative ease of their acquisition;
- the presence of a significant contingent of individuals who went through the "school of war" in Afghanistan, Transnistria, Tajikistan, Chechnya and other "hot spots";
- the poor job of law enforcement agencies, state and public institutions to protect the rights of citizens, as well as a number of other reasons <sup>1</sup>.

One of the first counter-terrorism treaties adopted by CIS member states was the Cooperation Agreement for the Protection of Civil Aviation from Illegal Intervention of 26 May 1995. The next document providing for counter-terrorism

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<sup>1</sup> Борис МЫЛЬНИКОВ, *Новые вызовы: международный терроризм и иные проявления экстремизма, пути (направления) взаимодействия*, <https://cis.minsk.by/page/1426>, (01.05.2022)

measures was the Agreement on the Cooperation of CIS Member States in the fight against crime. However, the Treaty on the Cooperation of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the Fight against Terrorism of 4 June 1999 (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Belarus did not sign this Treaty) is the fundamental international act of the CIS in the field of counter-terrorism, according to which ways of cooperation were identified by the competent authorities, among which we can highlight: the reciprocal exchange of information; carrying out requests received for conducting operational search measures; providing information and analytical assistance in assessing the state of the physical protection system for objects with high technological and environmental risk, developing and implementing measures to improve this system; organizational and legal support for cooperation, including an analysis of the regulatory and legal framework for the counter-terrorism activities of the CIS Member States; drafting of laws, making recommendations to improve the legislative process and law enforcement in the fight against terrorism and extremism; conducting joint counter-terrorism exercises; organizing the advanced training and education of the employees of the competent authorities; conducting scientific and representative events, etc.<sup>1</sup>.

The core of the legal bloc, which provides comprehensive and diversified regulation of the fight against terrorism, is represented by: the Regulation on the organization and implementation of joint counter-terrorism measures in the territory of the Community of October 7, 2002; and the concept of cooperation of the Member States in the fight against terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism of 26 August 2005; the Treaty of the CIS Member States on combating the legalization (money laundering) of illegal income and terrorist financing of 5 October 2007; the Concept for the further development of the Commonwealth of Independent States of 5 October 2007; the Concept of cooperation of the CIS member states in the field of combating the legalization (money laundering) of proceeds of crime, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, adopted on 11 October 2017; Information Exchange Agreement of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the field of counter-terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism, as well as their financing, 3 November 2017; Decision of the CIS Council of Heads of State of 16 September 2016 on the "Declaration of the additional joint efforts to combat international terrorism" and others.

A distinct contribution to the fight against terrorism has been the so-called model legislation. It is noteworthy that the standard laws (model) represent international legal standards adapted to the conditions of the Commonwealth and are elaborated by the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly (IPA CIS) within the convergence of the legislation of the CIS states. In general, the model law is

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<sup>1</sup> *Agreement on Cooperation of the CIS participant states in the fight against terrorism. (Minsk, 4 iune 1999), <https://www.cisatc.org/1289/135/152/275>, (01.05.2022)*

constructed as an independent and complete act, which without any modification can be included in the legal system of each state<sup>1</sup>.

Within the Commonwealth of Independent States, a model law "On Combating Terrorism" was adopted (8 December 1998, amended on 4 October 2004), which defined the following key concepts: "terrorism", "terrorist attack", „preparing for a terrorist attack", "attempted terrorist attack", "terrorist", „terrorist group", "terrorist organization", "the fight against terrorism", "counterterrorism operation", "area of conducting a counterterrorism operation". According to the legislation, terrorism is defined as attacks, which include specific actions – explosions, arson, which carry "the danger of human death, causing significant material damage or the occurrence of other dangerous consequences from a social point of view". At the same time, it was assumed that such an illegal violent attack should have had a characteristic purpose, namely „breach of public safety, intimidation of the population or influence of decision-making by the authorities..."<sup>2</sup>.

Thus, the model law "On Combating Terrorism" of the new edition and the amendments adopted at the twenty-fourth plenary session of the IPA CIS on 4 December 2004, formed the basis of the Treaty on Cooperation of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the fight against terrorism, in which the parties agreed that „terrorism is an illegal criminal attack committed to violate public safety, to influence decision-making by the authorities, to intimidate the population, manifested in the form of:

- violence or threat posed against private individuals or legal persons;
- destruction or threat of destruction of property associated with danger of human death;
- causing significant property damage or other socially dangerous consequences;
- assassination attempt on an official or public figure;
- attacks on a representative of a foreign state enjoying international protection, as well as on the office space or vehicles of persons receiving international protection;
- other actions falling within the concept of terrorism in accordance with the national law of the Parties, as well as other generally recognized international legal acts aimed at combating terrorism"<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Николай Давыдов, Майя Рубцова, *Модельное законодательство как средство обеспечения безопасности и противодействие терроризму и экстремизму*, "Евразийский союз ученых", No. 3, 2016, p. 38

<sup>2</sup> *Модельный закон. „О борьбе с терроризмом", 8 декабря 1998 года*, <https://www.legislationline.org/ru/documents/id/14964>, (01.05.2022)

<sup>3</sup> *Agreement on Cooperation of the CIS participant states in the fight against terrorism. (Minsk, 4 iune 1999)*, <https://www.cisatc.org/1289/135/152/275>, (01.05.2022)

Mention should also be made of the model law "On Countering the Financing of Terrorism" (2006), amendments and additions to the Model Codes of Criminal Procedure for CIS member states on countering terrorism and extremism, „on combating organizations and persons whose activities are aimed at committing terrorist attacks on the territory of other states" (2004), which serves the purpose of preventing, detecting and suppressing the activities of organizations and persons carrying out terrorist attacks on the territory of other states, the model law "On Combating Extremism" (2009), which establishes the basic principles, organizational foundations for combating extremism, as well as the responsibility for its implementation, the model law "About Counteraction to Terrorism" (2009), which establishes the basic principles of combating terrorism, organizational foundations for preventing and combating terrorism, minimizing and (or) eliminating the consequences of manifestations of terrorism etc.

In this normative act, the following definition of terrorism was proposed – "the ideology of violence and the practice of influencing decision-making by state authorities, local authorities or international organizations associated with intimidation of the population and (or) other forms of illegal violent actions"<sup>1</sup>.

The auxiliary unit of the legal framework for counter-terrorism activities in the Commonwealth countries also consists of the rules contained in the Model Law "On Participation of a State in Peace Support Operations" (2004), Model Law "About Control of Turnover of Radioactive Materials" (2004) and a number of other acts.

In addition, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member States, at its 36<sup>th</sup> plenary session, held on 16 May 2011, adopted a model law "About Bases of the Regulation of the Internet" which is capable of resolving the problems of prosecuting private individuals and legal entities who post material of an extremist and terrorist nature on various networks.

An important step in the fight against terrorism was the signing on 28 September 2018 by seven CIS countries of an Interstate Agreement on cooperation in the fight against information technology crimes. This document creates a legal basis and defines clear forms of interaction. In addition, the fight against information technology crimes was selected in 2019 as a separate field of activity. Keeping the continuity of the fundamental documents adopted within the CIS and completing them taking into account the modern realities, at the summit of the heads of government on October 25, 2019, the Strategy for ensuring the information security of the CIS member states was approved<sup>2</sup>.

It should be noted that after the adoption by the IPA of the CIS, model laws are offered to Commonwealth countries exclusively as models for local law, but at

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<sup>1</sup> Модельный закон „О противодействии терроризму”, 3 декабря 2009 года, <https://www.cisatc.org/1289/135/154/249>, (01.05.2022)

<sup>2</sup> Stanislav Chernyavskiy, *Community of Independent States as an Organization of Regional Security. Post-Soviet Issues*. No. 7(2), 2020, pp. 142-153, <https://www.postsovietarea.com/jour/article/view/240/228>, (20.04.2022)

the same time are not binding for adoption in full context, and CIS countries independently determine what to implement in their legislation. As a result, today we can see a different interpretation in their legislation of the key category, although there are some semantic similarities.

In addition to direct counter-terrorism documents within the CIS, interstate treaties such as the Collective Security Treaty of 15 May 1992; The agreement on cooperation of border troops in the field of border control at check points through borders of the State Parties of the Commonwealth of Independent States with the states which are not entering the Commonwealth in 1998; The agreement on cooperation of the State Parties of the Commonwealth of Independent States in fight against illegal migration in 1998; Bishkek Memorandum of 1999 on cooperation and interaction between law enforcement agencies and special services in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, "Shanghai Five" Member States, etc.

The main document defining the practical measures for organizing cooperation in the fight against terrorism are the documents of the cooperation program of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the fight against terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism. Currently in force, in accordance with the decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States of 11 October 2019 "The cooperation program of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the fight against terrorism and other violent extremist manifestations for 2020-2022"<sup>1</sup>. The main developer of the program is the CIS Anti-Terrorism Center. An analysis of this document allows us to talk about the scope and depth of the work plan for this period: from purely organizational-legal and organizational-practical measures to further improving information and analytical support to combat terrorism and extremist activities.

The objectives of the program include:

- preparing proposals to the Council of Heads of State, the Council of Heads of Government and other CIS bodies on directions for the development of cooperation in the fight against terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism;
- developing the legal framework for cooperation between CIS member states;
- improving and harmonizing national legislation;
- carrying out agreed and/or joint activities;
- interaction with international organizations;
- implementation of information and analysis activities and scientific and methodological work in the field of counter-terrorism and other violent

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<sup>1</sup> *Программа сотрудничества государств – участников Содружества Независимых Государств в борьбе с терроризмом и иными насильственными проявлениями экстремизма на 2020-2022 годы*, <https://www.cisatc.org/1291/1334>, (20.04.2022)

manifestations of extremism, information support for cooperation;

- staff training, professional development of specialists from the competent authorities of the CIS Member States.

Among the planned activities reflected in the program, we should also mention the joint counter-terrorism exercises in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2020), the Russian Federation (2021), the Republic of Kyrgyzstan (2022)<sup>1</sup>.

The main activity on the cooperation of the CIS member states in the fight against terrorism is carried out by the statutory bodies of the Commonwealth, such as the Council of Heads of State, the Council of Heads of Government, the Council of Ministers of Home Affairs, the Council of Ministers of Defence.

However, in order to increase the effectiveness of the steps taken by states in their cooperation, it was decided to set up a permanent body to carry out all current activities in this field. The Anti-Terrorism Center (CIS ATC) became such a body, established in 2000 by decision of the CIS Council of Heads of State.

The Statute of the Anti-Terrorism Center<sup>2</sup> defines the Anti-Terrorism Center as a permanent specialized sectoral body of the Commonwealth of Independent States, whose main tasks are: maintaining a special database of international terrorist organizations and their leaders, as well as non-governmental organizations providing assistance to terrorists; organizing counter-terrorism exercises and participating in the preparation of the regulatory framework for counter-terrorism. It should be noted that the Center, in carrying out its activities, uses the capabilities of the anti-terrorist units of the security services, as well as the special services of the CIS member states and the United Information Database of these services. It has the right to request the information it needs from the competent authorities and departments of the CIS member states, as well as to set up regional divisions (offices, representative offices, branches).

One of the visible results of the CIS ATC activities is the development of interstate cooperation programs between the CIS member states in the fight against international terrorism and other manifestations of extremism; preparation of international treaties and standard legislative acts; monthly release of information and analytical materials that reflect the operational situation and not only on the territory of the CIS countries. The centre's specialists are directly involved in the review and approval of draft documents submitted for examination by the highest Commonwealth bodies – the CIS Council of Heads of State and the CIS Council of Heads of Government.

The main areas of cooperation between the CIS Member States, their competent authorities, as well as the CIS statutory and sectoral cooperation bodies set up to coordinate and interact in the fight against terrorism and extremism, are:

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<sup>1</sup> *Idem*

<sup>2</sup> *The Statute of the Anti-Terrorism Center*, <https://www.cisatc.org/132/166/189>, (15.05.2022)



1. Developing the counter-terrorism potential of the CIS member states and the Commonwealth as a whole;
2. Prevention, detection, suppression and investigation of terrorist and extremist crimes, as well as the minimization of their consequences;
3. Promoting the inevitability of punishment for terrorist and extremist crimes;
4. Improving the legal framework for cooperation in the fight against terrorism and extremism;
5. Analysis of the factors and conditions leading to the emergence of terrorism and extremism and forecasting trends in their development and manifestation in the territories of the CIS member states;
6. Providing assistance in the rehabilitation of persons affected by terrorist and extremist crimes;
7. Preventing the use or threat of use for terrorist purposes of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, radioactive substances, toxic substances and other dangerous substances, materials and technologies for their production;
8. Combating the financing of terrorist and extremist activities;
9. Countering terrorism as a threat for all means of transport, life support facilities and critical infrastructure;
10. Preventing the use or threat of use of local or global computer networks for terrorist purposes (combating cyber terrorism);
11. Interaction with civil society and the media to increase the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism and extremism;
12. Combating the propaganda of terrorism and extremism;
13. Participation in the international community's counterterrorism activities, including interaction within international organizations and collective counterterrorism operations, and joining forces in contributing to the development of a comprehensive strategy to combat new challenges and threats under the auspices of the United Nations;
14. Providing assistance to third states interested in cooperating with CIS member states in the field of combating terrorism and extremism in all its manifestations;
15. Improving the material and technical basis of the fight against terrorism and extremism, developing, among other things, special technical means and equipment for supplying anti-terrorist units <sup>1</sup>.

The Anti-Terrorism Center of the member states is led by a Head appointed (dismissed) by decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States on a proposal from the Council of Heads of Security Agencies and Special Services of the CIS member states. The Head of the Center has three deputies: from the Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs (first deputy), the

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<sup>1</sup> *Сотрудничество в сфере борьбы с международным терроризмом и иными проявлениями экстремизма*, <https://e-cis.info/cooperation/3140/77660/>, (10.03.2022)

Council of Ministers of Defence and the Council of Border Troops Commanders from the CIS member states. In accordance with the regulations of the Anti-Terrorism Center in the CIS member states, the head of the Center, his first deputy and his other deputies may not be representatives of a single state. In carrying out their duties, they shall respect the interests of all CIS member states<sup>1</sup>. Colonel General E. Sysoev was appointed as the Head of the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Center by the decision of the Council of the Heads of the CIS States dated 15 October 2021<sup>2</sup>.

Following the interaction of the competent authorities of the CIS member states with the Center for the settlement of problems concerning counter-terrorism and extremism, the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth states introduced the Regulation on Plenipotentiary Commonwealth Representatives to the CIS ATC. The deputy heads and plenipotentiaries of the member states of the Commonwealth hold a permanent meeting to resolve issues of interaction between the Center and the competent authorities of the CIS member states.

The need to step up the CIS Anti-Terrorism Center's efforts to establish a system of measures to combat extremism and terrorism was predetermined by forecasting the situation in the region and analyzing information from the competent authorities of the Central Asia region states (CA). To this end, the Department of the CIS Anti-Terrorism Center for the Central Asia Region, located in Bishkek, was established in 2001.

The CIS Anti-Terrorism Center and its regional office in Bishkek are currently considered the only interstate and interdepartmental structure uniting security staff, ministries of internal affairs, special services, and ministries of defence and border services of the Commonwealth member states<sup>3</sup>.

Planned joint counter-terrorism exercises are of particular importance in the context of strategic planning for interaction issues between CIS member states in the fight against terrorism. Since 2001, joint military instructions of special counterterrorism detachments have been taking place in CIS countries. In the years 2001-2002, they took place with the participation of special services from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan ("South – Antiterror"), in 2003, with the participation of Russia and Ukraine ("Azov – Antiterror"), and on 28-30 June 2004, on the territory of Moldova ("West-Antiterror- 2004"), with the participation of special services from Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine, followed by the instructions "Caspian-Antiterror-2005" (Republic of Kazakhstan), "Atom-Antiterror-2006" (Republic of Armenia), „Baikonur-Anti-Terror-2007" (Kazakhstan), "Anti-Terror Bastion-2008" (Belarus), "Donbas-Anti-Terror- 2011" (Donetsk, Ukraine), "Don-Anti-Terror-2012" (Kazakhstan), "Ala-Too- Antiterror-

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<sup>1</sup> *Executives CIS*, <https://www.cisatc.org/132/164>, (10.03.2022)

<sup>2</sup> Head OF CIS ATC, <https://www.eng.cisatc.org/132/164/9093> (10.03.2022)

<sup>3</sup> Андрей Пашкевич, *Управление антитеррористическим сотрудничеством государств-участников СНГ: социально-технологический подход. Диссертация на соискание ученой степени кандидата социологических наук*, Белгород, 2017, р. 100

2013” (on the territories of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and Ukraine), ”Zhetyssu-Antiterror-2014” (the Republic of Kazakhstan), ”Cyber-antiterror-2016” (the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation), ”Dushanbe-Antiterror-2017”, ”Ararat-Antiterror-2019” (Yerevan, Armenia), ”Issyk-Kul-Antiterror-2018” (Cholpon-Ata - K rg zstan), ”Caspian-Antiterror-2020” (was postponed due to the pandemic), ”Caspian-Antiterror-2021”.

The most important area of work of the CIS ATC is the coordination of the interstate search for terrorists. In recent years, ATC has accumulated detailed information on 10,000 people on the interstate search list, of which more than 5,000 are people who take (or have taken part) in hostilities on the territories of non-CIS states. Almost 4,000 photos of people in these categories were collected, which made the search much easier. As a result of the information provided by the center, dozens of people were identified and detained, whose data were transmitted by the initiators of the search, and measures were taken to extradite them. Security agencies and special services of the CIS member states, with the assistance of the CIS ATC, carry out a set of coordinated search activities under the code name ”Tral-Antiterror”<sup>1</sup>.

We agree with the Russian expert K. Burtnyi, who considers that a series of recommendations can be formulated as a proposal to increase the effectiveness of counter-terrorism in CIS countries and within the functioning of ATC:

- the priority of preventive measures, the elimination of root causes, origins, not the elimination of the consequences of terrorist attacks, should be pivotal;
- participating countries must systematically implement counter-terrorism measures, i.e. not only at the political, economic and social level, but also at the ideological, propagandistic and educational level;
- unification of the national legislation of the CIS member states;
- respond flexibly to terrorist threats with the involvement of analysts and experts of various profiles in the governmental and public structures of the CIS member states;
- take appropriate counter-terrorism measures according to the degree, nature and extent of the terrorist threat (to keep the balance of force and ”humanitarian” measures)<sup>2</sup>.

Within the CIS ATC, scientific work is also being carried out in order to study the urgent problems of terrorism and to organize the fight against its threats. Meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board set up at the CIS ATC are held, whose members participate in drafting proposals aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism and other manifestations of extremism, preparing draft legislative acts, draft legal acts and international treaties; carry out an analysis of the international treaties and national law of the CIS member states governing

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<sup>1</sup> Stanislav Chernyavskiy, *Op. cit.*, p. 149

<sup>2</sup> Константин Буртный, *Сотрудничество стран СНГ в борьбе с терроризмом*, „Военный академический журнал”, No. 2(14), 2017, pp.74 –80

counterterrorism relations, in order to draw up proposals aimed at harmonizing and aligning the entire legal framework for cooperation in this field with the norms of international law, as well as harmonizing the counter-terrorism laws of CIS member states; participates in the preparation and conduct of seminars, symposia, round tables, conferences, meetings dedicated to the fight against terrorism and other manifestations of extremism in the CIS member states<sup>1</sup>.

Representatives of leading research and education institutions, specialized universities of security agencies, special services and law enforcement agencies in the CIS member states participate in the work of the Scientific Advisory Board on a permanent and temporary basis. In choosing the topics for meetings, the Scientific Advisory Board is guided by requests from the states, specific terrorist threats, the emergence of new terrorist technologies and destabilization algorithms, and the combination of technological, legal and managerial approaches makes it possible to formulate a consolidated position of scientists on each specific issue and provides the competent authorities with an algorithm for them. The center prepares methodological recommendations, collections of materials, monographs, which are later used in the practical activities of the security agencies and in the educational process of the specialized higher education institutions in the Commonwealth countries<sup>2</sup>.

The member states of the Commonwealth consider that international cooperation should become an effective tool in the fight against terrorism and extremism and advocate for the strengthening of its legal basis in accordance with the UN Charter, Security Council resolutions and the UN General Assembly. Strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation is one of the priority areas of activity of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the fight against terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism<sup>3</sup>.

The Anti-Terrorism Center successfully develops cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate of the UN Security Council (CTED), The Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Action against Terrorism Unit (OSCE ATU), the International Criminal Police Organization - Interpol (an Interpol database office has been set up and operates within the CIS ATC), the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO RATS), Central Asian Regional

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<sup>1</sup> Олеся Репинская, *Сотрудничество по противодействию терроризму в формате СНГ*, "Гуманитарные, социально-экономические и общественные науки", No. 4, 2015, pp. 174-178

<sup>2</sup> Научно-консультативный совет при АТЦ СНГ, <https://www.cisatc.org/1289/136/147>, (10.03.2022)

<sup>3</sup> Андрей Бондаренко, *Международное сотрудничество Антитеррористического центра государств – участников Содружества Независимых Государств*. <https://e-cis.info/cooperation/2845/78314/>, (10.02.2022)

Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC).

In order to strengthen international cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism, the CIS ATC and the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO RATS) have signed a protocol on cooperation in ensuring the security of major international events on the territories of the CIS and SCO Countries. As noted by Zhang Xinfeng, Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, the co-operation mechanism for ensuring security and safety at major international events, set up in 2008, has been launched more than 20 times in 6 years. It has played a major role in a number of such important large-scale events, such as the Beijing Olympics, the 2010 EXPO in Shanghai, the APEC Summit in Vladivostok, and the Winter Olympics in Sochi<sup>1</sup>.

In June 2014, the Anti-Terrorism Center and the The Eurasian Group (EAG) on Combating Money Laundering and financing of terrorism signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. According to the document, the parties will exchange information, legislation and other legal acts of the CIS member states and the EAG member states, statistical data as well as methodological recommendations on combating the financing of terrorism<sup>2</sup>.

An important step in strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism was the signing on 28 May 2018 of the "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Interaction" between the CSTO Secretariat, the SCO RATS Executive Committee and the CIS Anti-Terrorism Center. According to the document, the parties, on the basis of reciprocity, undertook to inform each other "about the current terrorist and/or extremist challenges and threats, the results of their activities in the field of counter-terrorism and extremism, ongoing and planned anti-terrorism and/or anti-extremism actions". Shortly, a permanent trilateral "Expert group" was set up, which discussed, in particular, international and regional security issues, including security threats posed by international terrorist organizations located in Afghanistan and the measures taken to neutralize them<sup>3</sup>.

In 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between the CIS ATC and the UN, represented by its Office of Counter-Terrorism, which makes it possible to launch joint counter-terrorism projects and programs to support the balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, exchanges information, conducts joint events and consultations in the field of preventing and combating terrorism. Earlier in 2016, CIS ATC became a member of the UN

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<sup>1</sup> Ришат Нигматуллин, *Деятельность международных организации по совершенствованию нормативной базы борьбы с терроризмом: история и тенденции развития*, "Правовое государство: теория и практик", No. 4, 2014, p. 158.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 159

<sup>3</sup> Юлия Карпенко, Михай Шумилов, *Институционализация антитеррористического сотрудничества на евразийском пространстве: проблемы и перспективы*, „Евразийская интеграция: экономика, право, политика”, No. 1, 2021, p. 95

Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Executive Committee's Global Research Network. On 25 September 2019, the UN Security Council hosted a briefing on CIS, SCO and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) cooperation with the UN and the contribution of these organizations to the fight against terrorist threats<sup>1</sup>. It was noted that the CIS, SCO and CSTO have extensive experience in the fight against terrorism and make a significant contribution to ensuring stability on the Eurasian continent and in Central Asia countries. At the same time, the regular raids by foreign terrorists on the territory of Central Asia countries, as well as the recruitment of various terrorist associations operating in the region, including those associated with ISIS, are worrying. Northern Afghanistan risks becoming a new fulcrum for ISIS-led international terrorist organizations. One of the activities of the CIS, SCO and CSTO should be the fight against the involvement of citizens in terrorist activities at all stages: from the "indoctrination" stage to returning from regions with „increased terrorist activity" after gaining so-called „combat experience"<sup>2</sup>.

With regard to the Commonwealth's cooperation with other international and regional organizations, in addition to the UN, relations with the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe are constantly evolving. Seminars, consultations, conferences, meetings of heads of organizations and other events are held under the auspices of the OSCE, with the aim of both understanding security challenges and threats and developing practical measures to combat terrorism.

Contact was established with the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism, CODEXTER (2003-2017). In 2018 CODEXTER became the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Committee<sup>3</sup>. ATC of the CIS had the status of observer at CODEXTER.

In recent years, co-operation between CIS Member States' financial intelligence units has become more active in identifying and tracking cash flows from economic offences, as well as in suppressing attempts to channel them into terrorist financing.

In planning cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism activities, it is of the utmost importance to take into account modern trends, both global and local, in the development of public relations, as well as their impact on the degree of counter-terrorism. Analyzing current trends in the area under consideration, Head of CIS ATC (since 2006 to 2021), Colonel General A. Novikov notes that "the pandemic has imposed certain restrictions on the formats of international cooperation, including in the fight against terrorism. A number of activities related to the involvement of large groups of specialists and their relocation to the territory

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<sup>1</sup> Stanislav Chernyavskiy, *Op. cit.*, p. 149

<sup>2</sup> В Совбезе обсудили сотрудничество ООН с СНГ, ШОС и ОДКБ в борьбе с терроризмом, <https://news.un.org/ru/story/2019/09/1363642>, (10.05.2022)

<sup>3</sup> Committee of Experts on Terrorism (2003-2017), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/counter-terrorism/codexter>, (2.05.2022)

of the partner states, for example, in the framework of joint counter-terrorism exercises, including Caspian-Anti-Terrorism-2020, have been postponed for a later date...”<sup>1</sup>.

However, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the state of cooperation in the fight against terrorism cannot be determined as being unequivocally negative. A significantly constructive effect on the development of cooperation between CIS member states in the field of combating extremism and terrorism has been provided by the unique experience gained during the pandemic in the interaction of CIS special services with emergency units, military departments and health authorities. Without the enhanced work of all departments and services, without the stable links between them, it is impossible to improve the mechanisms of interaction and coordination of cooperation.

As we can see, the CIS is in a state of constructive dialogue with various international organizations to find effective ways to combat terrorism. All the member states of the CIS are members of both the UN and the OSCE. Consequently, they are fully responsible for the obligations imposed by the UN Charter and international law. Within the framework of the CIS, a legal mechanism has been defined that makes it possible to combine the forces and means of allied states in order to suppress terrorist acts.

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<sup>1</sup> Юлия Сергеева, Константин Алябьев, *Вопросы обеспечения взаимодействия государств – участников Содружества Независимых Государств в борьбе с терроризмом*, "Академическая мысль", No. 1, 2021, p. 116

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