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## **CSTO FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREE ON JOINT MEASURES TO ENSURE INFORMATION SECURITY**

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Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Kairat Abdrakhmanov took part in the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a post-Soviet security bloc including Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, the Kazakh Foreign Ministry reported on July 17.

At the meeting, the foreign ministers discussed relevant issues of global and regional security. Abdrakhmanov noted that Kazakhstan attaches great importance to joint measures aimed at countering modern challenges and threats, which are mostly of transnational nature. He paid special attention to the problem of cybercrime and illegal use of information technologies and told about a Cyber Shield system being created in Kazakhstan on the initiative of President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

In this context, the Kazakh foreign minister suggested intensifying the activities of the CSTO Coordination and Consultation Center aimed at responding to computer incidents as well as build practical interaction of experts, exchange of experience and information about recent developments to increase the protection level of strategic facilities.

During the meeting, amendments to the Agreement on the Basic Principles of Military and Technical Cooperation, initiated by the Kazakh side, were approved. In particular, the price setting procedure for military products supplied to partners at favourable conditions is being defined.

Ministers of foreign affairs of the CSTO member states adopted a Statement on joint measures aimed at ensuring information security noting concern over the growth of crimes with the use of information technologies. The sides expressed intention to keep actively working on counteracting crimes in this sphere.

It was also decided to intensify activities of the Working Group on Afghanistan under the CSTO Foreign Ministers Council.