

No. 31139

MULTILATERAL

Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States (with declaration and decisions). Adopted at Minsk on 22 January 1993

Authentic text: Russian.

Registered by Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States, acting on behalf of the Parties, on 3 August 1994.

MULTILATÉRAL

Charte de la communauté des États indépendants (avec déclaration et décisions). Adoptée à Minsk le 22 janvier 1993

Texte authentique : russe.

Enregistrée par le Secrétariat exécutif du Commonwealth des États indépendants, agissant au nom des Parties, le 3 août 1994.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]¹CHARTER² OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

The States voluntarily united into the Commonwealth of Independent States (hereinafter referred to as Commonwealth),

proceeding from the historic community of their peoples and from the relations established among them,

acting in accordance with the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations Organization, Helsinki Final Act³ and other documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, aspiring to ensure economic and social progress of their peoples by means of joint efforts,

with firm resolve to realize the provisions of the Agreement¹ on Foundation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Protocol to this Agreement as well as the items of Alma Ata Declaration,

developing cooperation among their countries to ensure world peace and security, as well as with the aim to maintain civil peace and national accord,

¹ Translation provided by the Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States — Traduction fournie par le Secrétariat exécutif du Commonwealth des Etats indépendants.

² Came into force on 22 January 1994, i.e., one year after the Charter had been adopted, for the following States which had deposited their instrument of ratification with the Government of Belarus by that date, in accordance with article 41:

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>
Azerbaijan.....	14 December 1993
Belarus	18 January 1994
Russian Federation	20 July 1993
Tajikistan.....	14 August 1993

Subsequently, the Convention came into force one year after the Charter had been adopted in respect of each of the following countries after they deposited their instrument of ratification with the Government of Belarus by that date, in accordance with article 41:

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>
Uzbekistan.....	9 February 1994
(With effect from 9 February 1994.)	
Armenia	16 March 1994
(With effect from 16 March 1994.)	
Kyrgyzstan	12 April 1994
(With effect from 12 April 1994.)	
Georgia.....	19 April 1994
(With effect from 19 April 1994.)	
Kazakstan.....	20 April 1994
(With effect from 20 April 1994.)	
Republic of Moldova*	27 June 1994
(With effect from 27 June 1994.)	

* For the text of the reservation made upon ratification, see p. 98 of this volume.

³ *International Legal Materials*, vol. XIV (1975), p. 1292 (American Society of International Law).

wishing to provide conditions for preservation and development of cultures of all the peoples of member states,

aspiring to improve mechanisms and to enhance the efficiency of the Commonwealth cooperation,

have resolved to adopt the Charter of the Commonwealth and agreed upon the following:

CHAPTER I. PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

Article 1

The Commonwealth shall be based on sovereign equality of its members. The member states shall be independent and equal subjects of international law. The Commonwealth shall serve further development and enhancement of the relations of friendship, good neighbourhood, inter-ethnic accord, confidence, mutual understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation among member states.

The Commonwealth shall not be a state and shall not be supranational.

Article 2

The purposes of the Commonwealth shall be:

accomplishment of cooperation in political, economic, ecologic, humanitarian and other spheres,

the all-round balanced economic and social development of member states within the framework of common economic space, the interstate cooperation and integration,

ensurance of the rights and basic freedoms of individuals in accordance with the universally recognized principles and norms of international law and documents of CSCE,

cooperation among member states to ensure world peace and security, realization of effective measures aimed at the reduction of arms and military expenditures, elimination of nuclear and other kinds of mass extermination weapons, achievement of the general and complete disarmament.

promotion of freedom of communications, contacts and travels in the Commonwealth for the citizens of its member states,

mutual legal assistance and cooperation in other spheres of legal relations,

pacific settlement of disputes and conflicts among the states of the Commonwealth.

Article 3

With the view to attain the objectives of the Commonwealth and proceeding from the generally recognized norms of international law and from Helsinki Final Act, the member states shall build their relations in accordance with the following correlated and equivalent principles:

respect for sovereignty of member states, for imprescriptible right of peoples for self-determination and for the right to dispose their destiny without interference from outside

inviolability of state frontiers, recognition of existing frontiers and renouncement of illegal acquisition of territories,

territorial integrity of states and refrain from any acts aimed at separation of foreign territory,

refrain from the use of force or of the threat of force against political independence of a member state,

settlement of disputes by peaceful means, which can cause no danger to international peace, security and justice,

domination of international law in the interstate relations

non-interference into domestic and foreign affairs of each other

ensurance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, ethnic background, language, religion, political and other views,

fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the documents of the Commonwealth, the present Charter being one of them.

concern for the interests of each other and of the entire Commonwealth, rendering assistance in all the spheres of their relations based on mutual accord.

bringing together the efforts and rendering support to each other with the aim to establish peaceful conditions of life for the peoples of the Commonwealth member states, to ensure their political, economic and social advancement,

development of mutually beneficial economic, scientific and technical cooperation, the expansion of integrational processes.

spiritual unity of their peoples, which is based on respect for their uniqueness, close cooperation in preservation cultural values and cultural exchange.

Article 4

The spheres of joint activity of the member states, based on equality of rights, and realized by common coordinating institutes in accordance with the obligations, assumed by the member states within the framework of the Commonwealth, shall be as follows:

ensurance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

coordination of foreign political activities,

cooperation in formation and development of common economic space, common European markets, customs policy,

cooperation in development of transport and communication systems,
health care and protection of environment,
issues of social and migration policy,
struggle against organized criminality,
cooperation in the field of defence policy and protection of external frontiers.
The present list may be supplemented on the mutual agreement of member states.

Article 5

The multilateral and bilateral agreements in various spheres of relations among the member states shall be a fundamental legal base for the interstate relations.

The agreements concluded within the framework of the Commonwealth shall correspond to the purposes and principles of the Commonwealth, to the obligations of the member states under the present Charter.

Article 6

The member states shall assist in cooperation and development of links between state organs, public associations, economic structures.

CHAPTER II. MEMBERSHIP

Article 7

The original members of the Commonwealth shall be the states which have signed and ratified the Agreement on the Foundation of the Commonwealth of Independent States of December 8, 1991 and the Protocol to this Agreement of December 21, 1991 by the moment this Charter is adopted.

The member states of the Commonwealth shall be the original members which have assumed the obligations contained in the present Charter within one year after its having been adopted by the Council of Heads of States.

The membership of the Commonwealth is open to any state sharing the purposes and the principles of the Commonwealth and assuming the obligations under the present Charter, should all the members agree to it.

Article 8

On the basis of the decision taken by the Council of Heads of States a state willing to participate in certain kinds of activities of the Commonwealth may join it as an associate member on the conditions determined by the agreement on the associate membership.

On the decision of the Council of Heads of States the representatives of other states may attend the sittings of the Commonwealth organs as observers.

Participation of associate members and of the observers in the work of the Commonwealth organs shall be governed by their rules of procedures.

Article 9

A member state shall have the right to terminate its membership in the Commonwealth. Such member state shall in writing inform the depositary of the present Charter about its intention 12 months before the termination of its membership.

Shall any commitments arise during the period of participation in the present Charter, they shall be of binding nature for the respective states till their complete fulfilment.

Article 10

Violation of the present Charter by a member state, the systematic non-fulfilment of its obligations under agreements, concluded within the framework of the Commonwealth, or of decisions of the Commonwealth organs shall be considered by the Council of Heads of States.

Measures, acknowledged by the international law, may then be undertaken against such a state.

CHAPTER III. COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND MILITARY-POLITICAL COOPERATION

Article 11

The member states shall pursue the coordinated policy in the field of international security, disarmament and arms control, formation of Armed Forces and shall maintain security in the Commonwealth, including that with the help of groups of military observers and of collective peace-keeping forces.

Article 12

Should the threat to sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of one or several member states or to international peace and security arise, the member states shall immediately employ the mechanism of mutual consultations to coordinate their positions and to undertake measures to eliminate this threat, including the peace-making actions and the use, in case of necessity, of the Armed Forces as the realization of the right for individual and collective self-protection pursuant to Article 51 of UNO Charter.

The decision on the joint use of Armed Forces shall be taken by the Council of Heads of States of the Commonwealth or by the interested member states of the Commonwealth taking into consideration their national legislations.

Article 13

Each member state shall undertake the necessary measures to ensure the stable situation in the external frontiers of the Commonwealth member states. On the basis of mutual agreement the member states shall coordinate the activity of the Frontier Troops and of other competent services, which exercise control over and bear the responsibility for the observation of the established procedure of crossing the external frontiers of the member states.

Article 14

The supreme organ of the Commonwealth on the issues of defence and guarding of the external frontiers of member states shall be the Council of Heads of States. The Council of Heads of Governments shall coordinate the military and economic activity of the Commonwealth.

Cooperation of member states in realization of international agreements and in settlement of other issues in the field of security and disarmament shall be organized by way of mutual consultations.

Article 15

Concrete problems of military and political cooperation among member states shall be governed by specific agreements.

CHAPTER IV. PREVENTION OF CONFLICTS AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Article 16

The member states shall take all the possible measures to prevent conflicts, giving priority to those on inter-ethnic and inter-confessional grounds, which are likely to entail the violation of human rights.

On the basis of mutual accord they shall render each other assistance in settlement of conflicts, including those within the framework of international organizations.

Article 17

The Commonwealth member states shall refrain from actions, which are likely to cause losses to other member states and result in the aggravation of eventual disputes.

The member states shall in good faith and in the spirit of cooperation do their utmost for fair and pacific settlement of their disputes by means of negotiations or for the achievement of the agreement on the proper alternative procedure of the settlement of the dispute.

Should the member states fail to settle the dispute with the help of means described in the second part of the present Article, they may submit it to the Council of Heads of States.

Article 18

The Council of Heads of States shall have powers at any stage of the dispute, which in case of its development may cause threat to peace or security in the Commonwealth, to recommend a proper procedure or methods of its settlement to the parties.

CHAPTER V. COOPERATION IN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND LEGAL FIELDS

Article 19

The member states shall cooperate in economic and social fields in the following directions:

formation of common economic space on the basis of market relations and of free transition of goods, services, capitals and labour resources,

coordination of social policy, elaboration of joint social programmes and measures on relaxation of social tension caused by the economic reforms,

development of transport, communication and power systems,

coordination of credit and fiscal policy,

promotion of development of trade and economic relations among the member states, encouragement and mutual protection of investments, promotion of standardization and certification of industrial products and goods, legal protection of intellectual property, stimulation of development of common information space, realization of joint measures for protection of environment, rendering mutual assistance in elimination of the consequences of ecologic disasters and of other kinds of emergency situations, implementation of joint projects and programmes in the field of science, engineering, education, health care, culture and sports.

Article 20

The member states shall cooperate in the field of law, in particular, by means of concluding multilateral and bilateral agreements on rendering legal assistance and shall enhance rapprochement of national legislations.

Should a contradiction arise between the norms of national legislations of member states, governing the relations in the fields of joint activity, the member states shall conduct consultations and negotiations with the view of elaboration of proposals on elimination of the contradictions.

CHAPTER VI. ORGANS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATES AND COUNCIL OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS

Article 21

The Council of Heads of States shall be the highest body of the Commonwealth.

The Council of Heads of States, in which all member states are represented at top level shall discuss and take decisions on the principal issues relating to the activity of the member states in the field of their mutual interests.

The Council of Heads of States shall hold its regular meetings twice a year. The extraordinary meetings of the Council may be convened as initiated by one of the member states.

Article 22

The Council of Heads of Governments shall coordinate cooperation among the executive power organs of member states in economic, social and other spheres of mutual interests.

The Council of Heads of Governments shall hold meetings four times a year. The extraordinary sessions of the Council may be convened as initiated by the government of one of the member states.

Article 23

The Council of Heads of States and the Council of Heads of Governments take decisions on the basis of consensus. Any state may declare its lack of interest in this or that issue which should not be considered as an obstacle for taking a decision.

The Council of Heads of States and the Council of Heads of Governments may have joint meetings.

The work of the Council of Heads of States and of the Council of Heads of Governments shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure.

Article 24

Heads of States and Heads of Governments shall preside at the meetings of the Council of Heads of States and of the Council of Heads of Governments on a rotating basis according to the Russian alphabetic order of the names of the Commonwealth member states.

Meetings of the Council of Heads of States and of the Council of Heads of Governments shall be held, as a rule, in Minsk.

Article 25

The Council of Heads of States and the Council of Heads of Governments shall institute the working and subsidiary organs on both permanent and temporary basis.

These organs shall be formed of the member states representatives who are conferred the respective powers on.

Experts and consultants may be assigned to take part in their meetings.

Article 26

To take decisions on issues of cooperation in particular spheres and to elaborate the recommendations for the Council of Heads of States and for the Council of Heads of Governments the conferences of the heads of the respective state bodies shall be summoned.

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Article 27

The Council of Foreign Ministers, on the basis of the decisions of the Council of Heads of States and of the Council of Heads of Governments shall coordinate the foreign political activity of member states, including their activities in the international organizations, and shall organize consultations on the issues of world policy, which are of mutual interest.

The Council of Foreign Ministers shall perform its activities in compliance with the Regulations approved by the Council of Heads of States.

THE COORDINATION AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Article 28

The Coordination and Consultative Committee shall be a permanent executive and coordinating body of the Commonwealth.

In the course of fulfilment of the decisions of the Council of Heads of States and of the Council of Heads of Governments the Committee shall:

elaborate and put forward the proposals on cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth and on development of socio-economic relations,

facilitate the realization of the agreements on certain directions of economic relations,

organize conferences of representatives and experts for preparation of draft documents, which are to be submitted to the sessions of the Council of Heads of States and of the Council of Heads of Governments.

ensure conducting of sessions of Heads of States and of Heads of Governments,
promote the work of other organs of the Commonwealth.

Article 29

The Coordination and Consultative Committee shall consist of the permanent full-fledged representatives, two from each state, and of the Coordinator of the Committee, the latter to be appointed by the Council of Heads of States.

To ensure the organizational and technical provision for the work of the Council of Heads of States, of the Council of Heads of Governments and of other bodies of the Commonwealth, there shall be a Secretariate to the Coordination and Consultative Committee, headed by the Coordinator of the Committee - the Deputy Chairman of the Coordination and Consultative Committee.

The Committee shall perform its activities in conformity with the Regulations approved by the Council of Heads of States.

The seat of the Committee shall be the city of Minsk.

THE COUNCIL OF DEFENCE MINISTERS

Article 30

The Council of Defence Ministers shall be an organ of the Council of Heads of States on the issues of military policy and of military construction of the member states.

The Allied Armed Forces Chief Command shall rule the Allied Armed Forces as well as the groups of military observers and the collective peace-keeping forces in the Commonwealth.

The Council of Defence Ministers and the Allied Armed Forces Chief Command shall exercise their activities on the basis of the respective regulations, adopted by the Council of Heads of States.

THE COUNCIL OF THE FRONTIER TROOPS CHIEF COMMANDERS

Article 31

The Council of the Frontier Troops Chief Commanders shall be an organ of the Council of Heads of States on the issues of guarding the external frontiers of member states and of ensuring stable situation there.

The Council of Frontier Troops Chief Commanders shall exercise its activity on the basis of the respective Regulations, adopted by the Council of Heads of States.

THE ECONOMIC COURT

Article 32

The Economic Court shall function with the aim to ensure the observation of economic obligations within the framework of the Commonwealth.

Under the jurisdiction of the Economic Court there shall be settlement of disputes, arising while the economic obligations are being executed. The Court may also settle other disputes, referred to its jurisdiction by the agreements of the member states.

The Economic Court shall also have the right to interpret the provisions of agreements and of other acts of the Commonwealth on economic issues.

The Economic Court shall exercise its activities in compliance with the Agreement on the Status of the Economic Court and with the Regulations on it, adopted by the Council of Heads of States.

The seat of the Economic Court shall be the city of Minsk.

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Article 33

The Commission on Human Rights shall be a consultative body of the Commonwealth and shall supervise the observation of obligations on human rights assumed by the member states within the framework of the Commonwealth.

The Commission shall consist of the representatives of the Commonwealth member states and shall function on the basis of the Regulations, approved by the Council of Heads of States.

The seat of the Commission on Human Rights shall be the city of Minsk.

ORGANS OF BRANCH COOPERATION

Article 34

On the basis of agreements among member states on cooperation in economic, social and other spheres, there may be set up the Branch Cooperation Organs, which shall elaborate the coordinated principles and regulations of such cooperation and facilitate their practical implementation.

The Organs of Branch Cooperation (councils, committees) shall perform the functions stipulated by the present Charter and by the regulations on these organs, and ensure the discussion and the settlement on multilateral basis of the issues of cooperation in the respective branches.

The Organs of Branch Cooperation shall be composed of the heads of the respective executive power organs of the member states.

The Organs of Branch Cooperation within the terms of their competence shall issue the recommendations, and, if necessary, shall submit the proposals to the consideration of the Council of Heads of Governments.

THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Article 35

The official language of the Commonwealth shall be Russian

CHAPTER VII. THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

Article 36

The Interparliamentary Assembly shall conduct the interparliamentary consultations, discuss the questions of cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth, elaborate joint proposals in the sphere of activity of national parliaments.

Article 37

The Interparliamentary Assembly shall consist of parliamentary delegations.

The organization of the Interparliamentary Assembly activities shall be executed by the Council of the Assembly, which shall consist of the Heads of parliamentary delegations.

The procedure issues of the Interparliamentary Assembly activities shall be governed by the respective Regulations.

The place of residence of the Interparliamentary Assembly shall be St.Petesburg.

CHAPTER VIII. FINANCING

Article 38

The expenses for financing the activities of the Commonwealth organs shall be distributed on the basis of share holding of member states and shall be established in compliance with the specific agreements on the budgets of the Commonwealth organs.

The budgets of the Commonwealth organs shall be adopted by the Council of Heads of States after their having been submitted by the Council of Heads of Governments.

Article 39

The questions of financial and economic activities of the Commonwealth organs shall be considered under the procedure, stipulated by the Council of Heads of Governments.

Article 40

The member states themselves shall bear the expenses resulting from the participation of their representatives, experts and consultants in the work of meetings and of the Commonwealth organs.

CHAPTER IX. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 41

The present Charter shall be ratified by the signatory states in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

The ratifications shall be transmitted to the Government of the Republic of Belarus which shall notify other signatory states of each deposit of ratifications.

The present Charter shall come into force for all signatory states upon the deposit of ratifications of all the signatory states, or for signatory states which will have their ratifications deposited one year after the present Charter has been adopted.

Article 42

The amendments to the present Charter may be initiated by any member state. The proposed amendments shall be considered in accordance with the rules of the procedure of the Council of Heads of States.

The amendments to the present Charter shall be adopted by the council of Heads of States. They shall come into force upon their ratification by all member states in accordance with their constitutional processes on the date the Government of the Republic of Belarus receives for deposit the last ratification.

Article 43

While ratifying the present Charter the Commonwealth member states may do reservations and statements on Chapters III, IV, VII and on Articles 28,30,31,32,33.

Article 44

The present Charter shall be registered in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations Organization.

Article 45

The present Charter is drawn up in one copy in the official languages of the signatory states of the Commonwealth. The authentic copy shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall transmit the certified copies of it to all the signatory states.

The present Charter is adopted on January 22, 1993 at the meeting of the Council of Heads of States in Minsk.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

DECLARATION BY THE COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

The agreements adopted and mechanisms elaborated in the framework of the Commonwealth make it possible to use international law to address problems of political, economic, humanitarian, military and other forms of cooperation.

The Heads of State members of the Commonwealth of Independent States are agreed that the Commonwealth possesses the necessary potential to improve its work on the basis of the existing agreements. At the same time, all participants in the Minsk meeting of heads of State of the members of the Commonwealth Independent States affirm their determination to make continued efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the economic and political spheres.

The States, whether or not they have signed the Decision of the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States, will, in the first instance, focus their efforts on finding ways out of the economic crisis and on the development of effective links between their economic agents during the transition to a market economy.

The Heads of State consider vital the systematic removal of the existing obstacles to the development of mutually advantageous economic cooperation.

The Heads of State believe that the relations of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and above all their economic relations, will serve to ensure the necessary conditions for normal cooperation among these countries.

The Decision on the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States is open for signature by those States which wish to sign it.

DONE at Minsk on 22 January 1993 in one original in the Russian language. The original is deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall send a certified copy to States which have signed this Declaration.

For the Republic of Armenia:

L. TER-PETROSSIAN

For the Republic of Belarus:

S. SHUSHKEVICH

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:

N. NAZARBAEV

For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan:

A. AKAYEV

For the Republic of Moldova:

With the exception of the political sphere,
M. SNEGUR

For the Russian Federation:

B. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Tajikistan:

E. RAKHMONOV

For Turkmenistan:

S. NIYAZOV

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:

I. KARIMOV

For the Republic of Ukraine:

L. KRAVCHUK

Minsk, 22 January 1993

DECISION BY THE COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

The Heads of State of the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States have decided:

1. To adopt the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States (attached hereto) and to recommend it for ratification.

2. Until the entry into force of this Charter, the Commonwealth shall function in accordance with the agreements concluded and the decisions adopted within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

DONE at Minsk on 22 January 1993 in one original in the Russian language. The original is deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall send a certified copy to States which have signed this Decision.

For the Republic of Armenia:

L. TER-PETROSSIAN

For the Republic of Belarus:

S. SHUSHKEVICH

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:

N. NAZARBAEV

For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan:

A. AKAYEV

For the Republic of Moldova:

For the Russian Federation:

B. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Tajikistan:

E. RAKHMONOV

For Turkmenistan:

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:

I. KARIMOV

For Ukraine:

Minsk, 22 January 1993

LIST OF THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES WHO SIGNED THE DECISION ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES AT MINSK ON 22 JANUARY 1993 ON THE ADOPTION OF THE CHARTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

Levon Hakop Ter-Petrossian
President of the Republic of Armenia

Stanislav Stanislavovich Shushkevich
Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbaev
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Askar Akayevich Akayev
President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan*

Boris Nikolaevich Yeltsin
President of the Russian Federation

Emomali Sharipovich Rakhmonov
Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan

Islam Abdughanievich Karimov
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The instrument of accession to the Decision by the Council of Heads of State of the Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the adoption of the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States has been ratified by:

Heydar Alirzaogly Aliyev (24 September 1993 in Moscow)
Acting President of the Azerbaijani Republic

Eduard Shevardnadze (9 December 1993 in Tbilisi)
Chairman of the Parliament
Head of the Republic of Georgia

Mircea Ion Snegur (15 April 1994 in Moscow)
President of the Republic of Moldova

* From May 1993, the Kyrgyz Republic.

DECISION ON THE EXTENSION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA OF
THE TIME-LIMIT FOR RATIFICATION OF THE INSTRUMENTS
ESTABLISHING THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

The Heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States,
having considered the request of the President of the Republic of Moldova,

Have decided:

For the Republic of Moldova, to extend until 22 April 1994 the period during
which it may avail itself of the opportunity provided to it by the Charter of the
Commonwealth of Independent States to ratify the instruments establishing the
Commonwealth.

DONE at Ashkhabad on 24 December 1993 in one original in the Russian lan-
guage. The original is deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of
Belarus, which shall send a certified copy to States which have signed this Decision.

For the Azerbaijani Republic:

H. ALIYEV

For the Republic of Armenia:

L. TER-PETROSSIAN

For the Republic of Belarus:

V. KEBICH

For the Republic of Georgia:

E. SHEVARDNADZE

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:

N. NAZARBAEV

For the Kyrgyz Republic:

A. AKAYEV

For the Republic of Moldova:

M. SNEGUR

For the Russian Federation:

B. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Tajikistan:

E. RAKHMONOV

For Turkmenistan:

S. NIYAZOV

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:

I. KARIMOV

For Ukraine:

I. KRAVCHUK

Ashkhabad, 24 December 1993

RESERVATION MADE
UPON RATIFICATION*MOLDOVA*RÉSERVE FAITE LORS
DE LA RATIFICATION*MOLDOVA*

[RUSSIAN TEXT — TEXTE RUSSE]

В соответствии со статьей 43 Устава Содружества Независимых Государств Республика Молдова, как член Содружества, воздерживается от участия в вопросах коллективной безопасности и военно-политическом сотрудничестве (абзац 9 статьи 4 и статьи 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 30 и 31 Устава СНГ).

[TRANSLATION]

In accordance with article 43 of the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Republic of Moldova, as a member of the Commonwealth, declines to participate in matters of collective security and military and political cooperation (article 4, paragraph 9, and articles 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 30 and 31 of the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States).

[TRADUCTION]

En vertu de l'article 43 de la Charte de la Communauté des Etats indépendants, la République de Moldova, en tant que membre de cette Communauté, décide de ne pas participer à l'application de ses dispositions en matière de sécurité collective ou de coopération militaire et politique (article 4, paragraphe 9, et articles 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 30 et 31 de la Charte de la Communauté des Etats indépendants).