

Annex II

Alma Ata Declaration

The Independent 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 (RSFSR), the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine,

Desirous of setting up lawfully constituted democratic States, the relations between which will be developed on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for State sovereignty and sovereign equality, the inalienable right to self-determination, the principles of equality and non-intervention in internal affairs, abstention from the use of force and the threat of force and from economic or any other methods of bringing pressure to bear, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and freedoms including the rights of national minorities, conscientious discharge of obligations and the other universally acknowledged principles and norms of international law,

Recognizing and respecting each other's territorial integrity and the inviolability of existing borders,

Considering that the strengthening of the existing deep historical roots of the relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation is in the vital interest of peoples and serves the cause of peace and security,

Aware of their responsibility for maintaining civil order and harmony among the nationalities,

Faithful to the purposes and principles of the Agreement on the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Declare that:

Cooperation between the parties in the Commonwealth shall be conducted in accordance with the principle of equality through coordinating bodies constituted on a basis of parity and operating under a procedure to be determined by agreements between the parties in the Commonwealth, which is neither a State nor a supra-State entity.

For purposes of ensuring international strategic stability and security, unified command of strategic military forces and joint control over nuclear weapons will be maintained; the parties will respect each other's efforts to achieve the status of a nuclear-free and/or neutral State.

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The Commonwealth of Independent States is open, with the consent of all its participants, to accession by other States members of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and also by other States sharing the purposes and principles of the Commonwealth.

The attachment to cooperation in the establishment and development of a common European space and Europe-wide and Eurasian markets is confirmed.

With the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ceases to exist.

The States participating in the Commonwealth guarantee in accordance with their constitutional procedures the discharge of the international obligations deriving from treaties and agreements concluded by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The States participating in the Commonwealth undertake to comply strictly with the principles of the present Declaration.

For the Republic of
Azerbaijan
A. Mutalibov

For the Republic of
Armenia
L. Ter-Petrosyan

For the Republic of
Belarus
S. Shushkevich

For the Republic of
Kazakhstan
N. Nazarbaev

For the Republic of
Kyrgyzstan
A. Akaev

For the Republic of
Moldova
M. Snegur

For the Russian
Federation (RSFSR)
B. Yeltsin

For the Republic of
Tajikistan
R. Nabiev

For Turkmenistan
S. Niyazov

For the Republic of
Uzbekistan
I. Karimov

For Ukraine
L. Kravchuk

Alma Ata, 21 December 1991

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