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General Debate

STATEMENT

by

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr. Chairman,

First of all, let me subscribe to congratulations on your election to the high office of the Chairman of the First Committee and express confidence that, under your skillful leadership substantive progress will be made in dealing with the important issues submitted to the agenda of the Committee. I would also like to extend my felicitations to other members of the Bureau.

Availing of this opportunity let me express our appreciation to Ambassador Andre Erdos of Hungary for the excellent way in which he guided the work of the Committee during the 56-th session of the General Assembly and also to Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala for his tireless work on various disarmament and international security issues, and for his comprehensive statement before this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

The terrorist acts in the United States a year ago demonstrated the fragility of the world we live in and the importance for all States to join their efforts to ensure security and stability. These barbaric acts should lead us to double and renew our adherence to the body of disarmament and arms control agreements. We believe that the international nature of contemporary threats and challenges requires multilateral efforts for their prevention.

In this regard I would like to refer to the statement of the Under-Secretary General Mr. J.Dhanapala, where positive and negative sides in the field of disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation so far were enumerated. I am pleased to underline that Kazakhstan is involved in the majority of these positive events. Among them is the expert group’s agreement reached in Samarkand on the text of a Treaty to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and their commitment to sign the Treaty this year. Kazakhstan which experienced the negative power of nuclear weapons is convinced that this is an important event not only for the Central Asian countries but also for the United Nations, which has been involved in this process since 1997.

We believe that establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world is compatible with the integrity and sustainability of the international non-proliferation regime. That is why Kazakhstan supports the consolidation of the status of Mongolia as a nuclear-weapon-free State, welcomes the recent announcement by the government of Cuba on the ratification of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and Brazil’s initiative to join the NWFZ in the Southern Hemisphere to create a Southern Hemisphere free of nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan appreciates the work of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, which is the effective instrument in helping to create an atmosphere of cooperation and disarmament in the region. The Centre has been rendering its essential assistance to the 5 Central Asian States in their work on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.
My country ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty this year. The total number of signatories reached 166, 94 of which have ratified the Treaty, it is a good sign of the support for this Treaty by the international community. Now Kazakhstan continues to make practical contributions to efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the monitoring in compliance with the CTBT. As one of the few States in the world that voluntarily relinquished their nuclear heritage we believe that a prerequisite for an atmosphere of trust in modern international relations is an early entering of the CTBT into force.

The maintenance and strengthening of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) regime is essential process of creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Having welcomed Cuba's decision to adhere to the NPT we call three other States, still outside the Treaty, to join without a delay.

Mr. Chairman,

I will not go further into details of my country's input in the disarmament and non-proliferation area since all of you are well aware of that. A clear evidence of this contribution is the full membership of Kazakhstan in the Conference on Disarmament and other well-recognized international organizations. This year we also joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group which gives us another opportunity to participate in prevention of establishment of new types of nuclear weapons and strengthening the non-proliferation regime.

Mr. Chairman,

Latest events show us not only the importance of promoting nuclear non-proliferation regime but also the necessity to prevent a destabilizing build-up of conventional weapons in some regions. Transparency in the field of control and reduction of conventional arms provides a good basis for preventing an excessive concentration of weapons in any State. Kazakhstan supports the UN Register of Conventional Arms providing information on a regular basis since 1992 and considering the Register as the most important component of such a control. We also welcome the broadest participation of States Members of the UN in the functioning of this important international instrument. Kazakhstan is also in favour of the other transparency measure offered by the UN – the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures – being amongst the cosponsors of the relevant resolution of the First Committee. In this regard, while the Programme of Action adopted at the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects has not fully met the expectations of all countries we reiterate our readiness to undertake all bilateral, regional and international cooperation actions to ensure its implementation.
As a contribution to this matter, in May this year the final regional OSCE Conference on prevention of illegal proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Asia was held in Almaty. It was first effort to identify problems with illicit trafficking of small arms in Central Asia through the information exchange. The Conference was attended by the experts and representatives from Russian Federation, USA, Finland, Norway, Canada and other international organizations and NGOs.

Availing of this opportunity I would also like to reiterate the willingness of my country, as it was voiced by the Secretary of State - Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. K.Tokaev in his statement during the 57-th session General debate, to host in Kazakhstan, in 2003, an international Conference on this subject under the auspices of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

In half a year since Kazakhstan joined the UN at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the President of Kazakhstan H.E. N.Nazarbaev put forward the initiative on the convening of a Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), aimed at the creation of a security system in Asia.

This goal has been advanced by the summit meeting of the CICA, convened in June this year in Almaty. For the first time ever the heads of the major Asian States have come together to express their political will and interest in a joint search for ways to strengthen peace and stability in the vast Asian region.

The adoption of the final documents – the Almaty Act on the Institutionalization of the CICA and the Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue Among Civilizations – has extraordinary important significance, as it is a valuable attempt to contribute to regional and global security. In this regard we call on all interested States to continue their work to implement confidence-building measures in Asia.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, I would like to support your wish expressed in the opening statement to see in our deliberations "a new commitment to rekindle the spirit of multilateralism that is so vitally needed to address global threats. This may be our greatest challenge of all – one we must not fail to overcome".

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.