STATEMENT
by H.E. Yerzhan Kh. Kazykhanov
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
during the thematic debate of the First Committee
at the sixty-first session
of the United Nations General Assembly
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Madam Chair,

While aligning ourselves fully with the statement, which was just delivered by the distinguished representative of Uzbekistan on behalf of the five Central Asian States on the draft resolution entitled “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia”, I would also like to highlight certain points on this important issue.

The Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia has been signed in Semipalatinsk, which was the site of nearly 500 nuclear explosions. These explosions have affected some 1.5 million people and turned vast areas into zones that will be dangerous for living for a long time to come.

As it was recently mentioned in the First Committee by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs Mr. Nobuaki Tanaka, the signature of the Treaty creating a Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone marks a critical step in the evolution of these zones – it marks the first such zone to be created entirely north of the Equator and covers a large area where many nuclear weapons were once deployed.

By the signing in Semipalatinsk of nuclear-weapon-free zone Treaty, the Central Asian States made a joint contribution to the strengthening of peace and security on the basis of Article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT, and the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, as well as the principles and objectives set out in the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Thereby the entire region formally renews its determined commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.
Each Party to the Semipalatinsk Treaty undertakes:

- Not to conduct research on, develop, manufacture, stockpile or otherwise acquire, possess or have control over any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device by any means anywhere;

- Not to seek or receive any assistance in research on, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition, possession or obtaining control over any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device;

- Not to take any action to assist or encourage the conduct of research on, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition or possession of any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device;

It is also an effective contribution to combating most acute threats to peace and security, first of all international terrorism and preventing nuclear materials and technologies falling into the hands of non-state actors, primarily, terrorists. The Parties to the Semipalatinsk Treaty for the first time ever undertakes not to provide: (i) source or special fissionable material or (ii) equipment or material especially designed or prepared for the processing, use or production of special fissionable material, to any non-nuclear-weapon State, unless that State has concluded with the IAEA a comprehensive safeguards agreement and its Additional Protocol.

Madam Chair,

The Semipalatinsk Treaty will not only facilitate the strengthening of security of Central Asia, but will also be an important step promoting regional confidence building and cooperation since this Treaty becomes the first multilateral agreement in security area which brings together all five Central Asian countries. We are looking forward to jointly elaborate mechanisms of information exchange, verification procedures and properly fulfill Treaty provisions.

Kazakhstan hopes that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus in accordance with the common positive approach of all Member States towards the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the world.

I thank you.