STATEMENT

by H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Kazakhstan to the United Nations
at the First Committee thematic discussion on
“Nuclear Weapons”

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Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan, having closed down the world’s second largest nuclear test site, and renounced the fourth largest nuclear arsenal, since its independence is a committed adherent and advocate of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Kazakhstan therefore calls upon all Member States to ensure universality of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and accept the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its Additional Protocol. Continued stagnation and ineffectiveness of the NPT regime have made possible the spread of nuclear weapons and the emergence of new de facto nuclear states. Every effort, therefore, needs to be made to curb non-proliferation at all levels.

The Outcome Document of the May 2010 NPT Review Conference though positive, is not an unquestioned success. However, much more convergence of multilateral political will is needed to implement rigorously all key action areas to achieve the irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan supports the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) without further delay so that its Preparatory Commission becomes a full-fledged verification organization. My country is actively cooperating with the CTBTO to promote the development and functioning of the International Monitoring System and on-site inspection techniques with the contribution of our own 24-hour five tracking stations.

The initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to convene the High Level Meeting to revitalize the work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), should lead to a greater concrete and unequivocal demonstration of political commitment to overcome differences so that the CD once again becomes a robust catalyst for furthering the disarmament process.
In my country’s view, an early start of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMTC) is one of the most pressing items on the global security agenda, as is the use of outer space for peaceful purpose. In the context of an increasing number of countries involved in and dependent on space programmes, a legally binding treaty for space arms control is of crucial importance. It is imperative to further advance the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) agenda by engaging other international bodies dealing with the issues of space exploration.

Taking into account the growing demand for nuclear energy, Kazakhstan supports multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle and is ready to host a nuclear fuel bank on its territory under IAEA auspices, thereby enabling countries to purchase nuclear fuel, which ultimately will strengthen the non-proliferation regime. This is because my country supports the legitimate and inalienable right of every State Party of NPT to develop and use peaceful nuclear energy in compliance with all requirements of the IAEA, and thus eliminate all possibilities of any monopoly or double standards.

Kazakhstan aligns itself with the statement of Turkmenistan on behalf of the States comprising the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. As part of this zone, Kazakhstan has undertaken additional obligations to prevent nuclear proliferation and terrorism by upholding the legal instruments of IAEA, and also enacting corresponding national legislation. However, it is crucial that nuclear powers extend full negative guarantees for the zone to be viable - a point made explicit by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in April this year.


The country is an articulate proponent of the Middle East Nuclear-Free-Zone and is ready to engage actively in all deliberations and actions to ultimately
achieve this goal. It will also continuously strive to ensure that the entire world becomes a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

And finally, the International Day against Nuclear Tests, observed for the first time this year, through the initiative of my country and other co-sponsors of General Assembly resolution 64/35, has given us the unique opportunity to harness, not only on the designated day of 29th August but throughout the year, all available tools of advocacy for mobilizing Governments and public opinion to get rid of nuclear tests and nuclear explosions. We have created a web-site and produced a film and other materials, and held forward-looking forums to work on concrete actions to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. I thank the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Member States, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and Department of Public Information, and civil society for their solidarity to work progressively towards this goal.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.