STATEMENT

by Mr. Israil Tilegen, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

at the First Committee thematic discussion on “Regional disarmament and security”

21 October 2010
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Mr. Chairman,

The importance of regional and sub-regional approaches to ensure the successful implementation of internationally-agreed arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation norms and legal instruments have been highlighted by many Member States throughout the past weeks. There is no question that the direct involvement of regional arrangements and organizations leads to increased awareness and coordination on policies and action plans formulated at the global multilateral level. It is also very clear that there is a need to ensure that the issues identified at the regional and sub-regional level feed into our international deliberations to make their implementation more viable on the ground.

In this regard, my delegation would like to congratulate the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) for championing, through its Regional Disarmament Branch (RDB), this very effective approach with increasingly obvious long term benefits. We would also like to thank the panel members for their commendable presentations and commitment to see that disarmament takes deep roots from the macro to the micro levels.

The three United Nations Regional Centres for peace and disarmament are hubs of excellence that help bridge the gap between international policy makers and practitioners at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. We would like to thank them for raising awareness about, and, more importantly, assisting Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, in the practical implementation of global disarmament and arms control norms and agreements at the regional, sub-regional and national level.

There is also reciprocity and balanced synergy between RDB and Member States, in which a country’s domestic disarmament activities provide impetus for sub-regional, regional and even multilateral action, as is the case with my country, which will continue to strengthen the process of mutual support that has already begun. Several key global disarmament treaties have been reinforced by corresponding national laws enacted in Kazakhstan and other countries of the region, especially in the Central Asian zone. My country has successfully tried to implement the disarmament process through its Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2010, and will continue with the
forthcoming Chairmanship of the Organization of Islamic Conference in 2011, and work with RDB in the concerned countries at the regional level. It takes note of the thrust provided by ODA in giving special emphasis to gender and human rights issues in its disarmament and non-proliferation activities.

The three centres, as we have seen, continue to design programmes to national and sub-regional specifics to facilitate intra- and inter-regional exchange of best practices, promote human capacity and institutional building. They also serve as a clearing house for matching needs with resources for disarmament and non-proliferation, combating terrorism and illegal trade in arms, improving law enforcement and cross border control through upgrading human capacity and technology, whereby overall global effectiveness is enhanced. The efficiency and exchange of cross-regional lessons learned is increased through the coordinating role of RDB with which Kazakhstan would like to intensify its collaboration even further.

Therefore, my delegation urges all Member States to continue to work with and request assistance from the regional centres, and to continue to provide financial and in-kind resources to enable their operation.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.