Proposals for statements by the delegation of Kazakhstan at the First Committee of the 72nd Session of the UN GA 2017

General debate on all issues of disarmament and international security
(time limit: 8)

Dear Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to first congratulate the Ambassador of Iraq, Mr. Mohammad Hussein Ali Bahr Aluloom, on assuming the office of Chairman of the First Committee. I wish you great success, and assure you that the delegation of Kazakhstan will offer you and your Bureau its full support and necessary assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

The current session of the First Committee opens during difficult circumstances. Tensions in international relations have not only grown, but have also taken on new forms. Issues that we once thought had been successfully addressed, have returned to the agenda.

Disarmament and security are critical to ensuring peace and stability on our planet. Some believe that the establishment of peace is a condition for nuclear disarmament. Others are making progress towards nuclear disarmament as the basis for achieving peace. Our vision is that disarmament and peace are pursued in parallel, on the basis of mutual trust.

This is the UN’s primary objective - the eradication of wars and conflicts. In his Manifesto, “The World. The 21st century”, President N.Nazarbayev clearly outlined options for the future – a future which depends entirely on us. Either we surrender to the virus of war, or we eradicate it completely and move towards a new level of collective thinking based on unity and trust.
Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are the main priorities of Kazakhstan’s foreign policy. We consistently stand for nuclear disarmament and strict adherence to the principle of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, alongside the inalienable right of States to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We express our deep concern about the fact that, while in general the non-nuclear-weapon States fulfill their commitments under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the nuclear-weapon States are not taking decisive actions to rid themselves of nuclear weapons.

Nevertheless, we welcome and thank nuclear states for their unilateral and bilateral efforts in reducing the number of nuclear arsenals. As a country that voluntarily renounced the world’s fourth-largest nuclear arsenal, the Republic of Kazakhstan believes that the nuclear-weapon States must further reduce their nuclear arsenals until they are fully eliminated. The indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995 should not be considered to be a basis for the indefinite extension of the existence of nuclear weapons. We are convinced that in our interdependent and connected world, nuclear weapons are no longer an asset but a danger. With this in mind, we are considering a new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Following its entry into force, the new Treaty will complement the NPT and serve as another pillar in establishing a world free of nuclear weapons.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is one of the most effective means to prevent proliferation. President of Kazakhstan proposes to unite the efforts of all states that constitute the nuclear weapons-free zones to provide the impetus to expand such zones throughout the world.
They play an important role in establishing regional and international peace and stability, advancing disarmament processes and strengthening the NPT regime.

It is critical that we make every effort to create nuclear weapon free zones around the world, including in the Middle East, North-East Asia, Europe and the Arctic.

In order to streamline efforts in creating zones, we believe it is necessary to start negotiations on the Treaty on Negative Security Assurances in the Conference on Disarmament. One way to build confidence and improve dialogue is by establishing safeguards not to use or threaten to apply to all non-nuclear weapon States from all nuclear-weapon States.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is in the basic security interests of all nations. North Korea’s continued nuclear tests should compel us to ensure the early entry into force of the CTBT.

Kazakhstan, as a previous co-President of the Article XIV Conference (2015-2017), worked tirelessly to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty. We, once again, call on Annex II states to ratify the Treaty without delay.

It is essential that the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) is developed as soon as possible within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament. This initiative appeared in a different international situation. The future Treaty could have the added value of the inclusion of existing fissile material stocks. But this is not a prerequisite for commencing negotiations or predicting results.
We welcome the launch of the second Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the FMCT this year. We are confident that these meetings will bring us closer to the beginning of negotiations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My country fully supports and strictly implements UNSC Resolution 2231, as it is crucial to ensure the proper implementation of the JCPoA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action). Kazakhstan attaches great importance to this historic agreement, which is reckoned at the momentous achievement of multilateral diplomacy in recent decades.

We are pleased that Kazakhstan had direct involvement in and an impact on this success.

Implementing the JCPoA has had a significant impact on normalizing the situation in the region and beyond. The Programme of Action will also have a positive effect on the revitalization of economic activities in the region.

JCPoA was achieved as a result of intense prolonged negotiations. It is necessary to acknowledge that this agreement has put Iran on a nuclear-free path, with the IAEA confirming that Iran is fulfilling all its obligations, with regard to the nuclear aspects.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Last year, the Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological and Toxin Weapons (BTWC) culminated in the adoption of a fundamentally weak outcome document. The upcoming meeting of the States Parties to the BTWC in December this year has a clear mandate. We are confident that everyone agrees on the need to strengthen the BTWC regime. We believe that outcomes from the December meeting will lay a solid foundation for the future.
Last year, we witnessed the complete destruction of all chemical weapons exported from Syria, in accordance with the norms of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CCW). This was another example of growing mutual trust.

At the same time, information about cases of terrorists using chemicals or chemical weapons in Syria is alarming. Russia’s proposal at the Conference on Disarmament to develop an international convention for suppressing acts of chemical terrorism is relevant and timely.

We welcome the elimination by Russia on September 27 this year the last stockpile of chemical weapons in accordance with the provisions of the CWC ahead of agreed schedule. This is indeed a historic achievement in the field of disarmament and arms control.

We welcome the decision at the Fifth CCW Review Conference to establish the Open-Ended GGE on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). We intend to take an active part in the November GGE meeting in Geneva.

We must also return to discussions around general and complete disarmament, recognizing that this is the ultimate goal in achieving a secure world.

In terms of new trends, we note that the rapid development of new technologies impacts on all aspects of security, including disarmament and non-proliferation. The relevance and complexity of this issue became apparent at the most recent nuclear discussion forum. Advancements in 3D printing, cyber security and cyber weapons, artificial intelligence and fully autonomous weapons, present new challenges that require immediate response.
Mr. President,

On January 1 2017, the Republic of Kazakhstan commenced its work as a non-permanent member on the UN Security Council.

We recognise the great responsibility of our seat on the UNSC.

We will strive to strengthen UNSC member states’ understanding of the importance of creating a renewed, 21st century model for interrelations between states. This will assist in ensuring global and regional challenges are solved through collective responsibility.

We must unite our efforts to achieve by 2045 - the UN’s 100th anniversary - a world without nuclear weapons as proposed by President Nazarbayev during his address at the 70th UNGA in September 2015. We urge all countries that are striving for to acquire nuclear weapons to join us with reinvigorated momentum to achieve this noble goal together.

Thank you for attention.