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STATEMENT
by Ambassador Mr. Mukhtar TILEUBERDI, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament

Nuclear Disarmament

Geneva, 5 March 2013

Madam President,

Since it is the first time I take the floor under your presidency, I extend sincere congratulations to you on assumption of this high post. Let me assure you of full support and cooperation of the delegation of Kazakhstan during your tenure.

Also, allow me to use this opportunity to thank the previous CD President Ambassador Andras Dekany for his active endeavors. Despite our failure to adopt a Program of Work earlier this year, delegation of Kazakhstan stands ready to continue close interaction with all Member States to bridge our differences and find the way out of the long-lasting stalemate. We do believe that the Conference simply has to be at the forefront of the nuclear disarmament process.

Madam President,

In these days of globalization against the background of unprecedented and complex developments in the world, it is impossible to overestimate the importance of taking more decisive actions for complete nuclear disarmament. Thus, we strongly support your proposal to hold a Plenary Meeting devoted to this core issue.

Today’s measures on nuclear disarmament such as a New START Treaty between the US and Russia, the UK’s unilateral nuclear weapons reduction initiative represent a modest list of significant advancements. However, above-mentioned measures seem to be not fully efficient since we still remain under the pressure of thousands of nuclear warheads. The post-Cold War world has shown that nuclear weapons free world cannot be achieved only through these kind of undertakings in the absence of the objective to abolish nuclear arsenals themselves.

International community's failure to size the momentum in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, violations of a moratorium on
nuclear tests again vividly demonstrated urgent need for the CD to get back on its track.

Our calendar for 2013 includes a number of essential occasions: Conference on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in Oslo (March 4-5), Second meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the 2015 NPT Review Conference in Geneva (April), the UN High-level meeting on nuclear disarmament in New-York (September), launching of the Open-ended working group on taking forward multilateral nuclear negotiations. I do hope, despite some concerns, these events will be instrumental in enhancing our constructive dialogue and ensuring our safer future. It is our understanding that their success in much extend depends on the good-will and participation of all key players.

Madam President,

We have stated for many times from various international panels that possession of nuclear weapons generates a threat of their proliferation or use by accident or deliberately, existence of WMD is immoral and contradicts international humanitarian law. Here, I can only add: a catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences from nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk – and from other nuclear test sites around the globe – demonstrate that the aftermaths of any use of nuclear weapons are uncontrollable in time and space.

Hence, Kazakhstan, as one of the countries which voluntarily relinquished its nuclear arsenal and shut down nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk, remains a staunch supporter of the global process of nuclear threat reduction. A legal framework aimed at cementing our unequivocal undertaking for a total elimination of nuclear weapons is a primary task for my delegation.

From our national perspective, to overcome present stagnation in the global disarmament process, with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons being its cornerstone is extremely vital.

A time has come for an unconditional implementation by the NPT States Parties of their obligations, as embodied in the unity of the three basic elements — disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Many countries and representatives of public society consistently criticize the NPT for various reasons. Nevertheless, we remain committed to full implementation and strengthening of the Treaty. In this respect, Kazakhstan calls upon nuclear powers pledged that they would make sincere efforts for the elimination of nuclear weapons in accordance with Article VI of the NPT - to take practical steps and effective measures in this field. Here, I also recall of the importance of the Action 5 of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference that stipulates acceleration of concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament and reporting their undertakings by the 2014 PrepCom. Yet the NPT was not successful to limit the number of nuclear weapon states outside its frame, we must rectify this course of events and elaborate a forward-looking
multilateral, effective and transparent universal agreement in the field of nuclear disarmament. Meanwhile, a particular attention would be attached at the following steps, with no limits for their further extension:

a) to maintain existing moratoria against nuclear tests and actively seek an earliest ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, particularly by the Annex II states;

b) to halt any production or modernization of nuclear weapons;

c) to declare moratorium against production of fissile materials used for military purpose, and our final goal should remain a total elimination of all weapons grade fissile materials;

d) to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines of nuclear states;

e) to establish guidelines that prohibit investment of public funds in enterprises engaged directly or indirectly in manufacturing nuclear weapons or their delivery means;

f) to encourage establishment of regional nuclear weapon free zones, as appropriate, including the Central Asian one and the zone in the Middle East;

g) to intensify multilateral efforts to prevent arms race in outer space.

h) to commence meaningful work on a Nuclear weapons convention or package of agreements as it was suggested by the United Nations Secretary-General in his Five-Point Plan for Nuclear Disarmament. In this context, I would like to note that Kazakhstan's initiative to draft a Universal Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free World within the UN is considered as one of the means to facilitate our advancement and early adoption of a Convention.

**Madam President,**

Concluding my remarks I avail the opportunity to stress that International conference "From Nuclear test ban to a world free from Nuclear weapons" held last August in Astana is our yet another part to keeping a high alert on the problem of nuclear disarmament. As we have mentioned before, participants of this Conference organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and PNND adopted Astana Declaration calling on heads of states, governments and parliaments to take resolute actions for a total elimination of nuclear weapons and advancement of non-proliferation efforts.

The ATOM project launched during this forum actively continues its campaign and makes gradual progress in collecting signatures for a Nuclear weapons test ban petition. May I recall that eventually, this document will be forwarded to the heads of states possessing nuclear weapons, as well as the countries which have not joined yet the CTBT or NPT. I believe, the ATOM also enjoys a full support of the august audience presiding in this historic Hall.

I thank you Madam President.