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Statement

by H.E. Mr. Sultan ZAKIROV
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to the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear
Weapons

New York, 8 April 2002
Mr. Chairman:

Allow me to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the first session of the Preparatory Committee. As the initial meeting of NPT States Parties following the historic 2000 Review Conference and in the aftermath of the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, this session will help to define the readiness of the international community to meet new proliferation challenges and to implement existing nonproliferation commitments.

In May 2000, the Kyrgyz Republic was one of the States Parties to the Treaty that applauded the outcome of the NPT Review Conference-the adoption without a vote of an historic Final Document. Today, at the Preparatory Committee, it is our task to act in accordance with the vision expressed in that document. My delegation will work with you, Mr. Chairman, in assuring that this session of the Preparatory Committee is successful in forwarding a set of substantive recommendations to the next session, as called for under the strengthened review process agreed in 1995 and further elaborated in the 2000 Review Conference Final Document. It is our sincere hope that such recommendations will ensure that the agenda of the Seventh Review Conference encompasses the full scope of the disarmament and nonproliferation agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Events since the past Review Conference underscore both the tremendous value of the NPT regime and areas where improvements must be undertaken. The Kyrgyz Republic shares the view expressed by many other States Parties that new initiatives are required to address the risks posed by nuclear terrorism. In this regard, my Government strongly endorses the International Atomic Energy action plan to upgrade worldwide protection against acts of terrorism involving nuclear and other radioactive materials. It is our hope that the Preparatory Committee will directly address issues of nuclear terrorism as they pertain to the physical protection of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities, strengthened export controls, and the illicit trafficking of nuclear materials.

Mr. Chairman,

In conditions where attention to global security have been increased the Kyrgyz Republic aspires to make its own contribution to the strengthening of the international regime of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The adherence to policy of nonproliferation is one of the basic principles of external policy of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The participation of Kyrgyzstan in the non-proliferation process would not be so effective without support of the friendly countries, United Nations, IAEA and other international organizations.

Let me inform you at this esteemed conference about the actions undertaken by our Government on wider participation of Kyrgyzstan in the sphere of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

On March 5, 2002 the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted its Resolution on the draft of the Kyrgyz Law "On ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of the Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction". At this time the draft of Law is on consideration
of the appropriate committees of the Kyrgyz Parliament. We hope that in near future the law will be adopted and Kyrgyzstan will execute its legal obligations on the implementation of this Convention.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly with other ministries of the Kyrgyz Republic elaborated draft "On export control" Law, which is in the process of national approval procedure and now is under consideration of the Kyrgyz Government. Let me use this opportunity to note importance of the expert support by the executive bodies of CIS, USA in the development of this project.

In the near future Kyrgyzstan will ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the IAEA Safeguards Agreement. We have prepared the necessary documents for application to join the IAEA and we are studying the opportunity of signing and ratifying the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of the Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction.

In this highly professional audience there is no necessity to explain in detail that the process of coordination, preparation of the Law’s drafts, Government’s Resolutions and documents for ratification demands execution of all necessary procedures, including necessity of translation of treaties and agreements into the state language - Kyrgyz.

We also believe that recent events give importance to the continuation of the process of creation of the nuclear-weapon-free zones as a nonproliferation and disarmament measure. The Kyrgyz Republic remains committed to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and attaches particular importance to the unanimous adoption at the 55th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 2000 of Resolution 55/33W, which calls upon all states to support the initiative aimed at the establishment of a Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone. The five Central Asian states are united in their belief that the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in our region, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between our states, will strengthen peace and security on a regional and global level. This belief has been reinforced by the ongoing anti-terrorist campaign in Afghanistan.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation regrets to note that the initial high expectations that followed the 2000 Review Conference have not, for the most part, been met. The program of practical steps for nuclear disarmament remains largely unimplemented and, in some instances, significant regression has occurred. The continuing failure of the Conference on Disarmament to adopt a program of work is symptomatic of this predicament, as are disturbing signs that some states are increasing their reliance upon nuclear weapons. It is our hope that this session of the Preparatory Committee will assess the implementation of the practical steps toward disarmament adopted at the 2000 Review Conference and discuss means to accelerate the reduction of strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons in a transparent and irreversible fashion.

Mr. Chairman,

As we pursue the objective of global disarmament, there is a need to observe stricter procedures for the safe handling, transport, storage, and disposal of nuclear material. Attention also must be given to mitigating the environmental consequences of past and present nuclear weapons programs. As noted in the report of Main Committee III of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, which was
adopted by consensus, there have been exceptional instances in which serious environmental consequences have resulted from uranium mining and associated nuclear fuel-cycle activities in the production of nuclear weapons.

This often overlooked environmental problem caused by nuclear weapons production and borne by the Kyrgyz Republic, among other states, is another reason why we attach such great importance to the work of this Preparatory Committee. We would like to reiterate the call made at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference for all Governments and international organizations that have expertise in the field of cleanup and disposal of radioactive contaminants to consider giving appropriate assistance as may be requested for remedial purposes in these affected areas.

The Kyrgyz Republic also would like to draw attention to the important but underutilized role education can play as a disarmament and nonproliferation tool. A ten-nation UN Experts Group, formed in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/33E, currently is drafting a study on the subject. My delegation urges the Preparatory Committee to examine how the work of the Experts Group may be of assistance in implementing the steps called for by the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference.

There is a natural temptation for institutions, especially international ones, to follow routine, and to view change with suspicion, if not fear. Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to reiterate its conviction that if the NPT regime is to meet the challenges of the coming century, we, the States Parties to the treaty, must resist this temptation. The historic decisions of the 2000 Review Conference have presented us with a unique opportunity to take concrete and substantive steps to assure that the purposes and provisions of the treaty are fulfilled. The events of the past year demonstrate that we must seize this opportunity or place in jeopardy the future of the NPT.

Thank you.