Mr. Chair,

We have stated a number of times in various international settings that possession of nuclear weapons generates a threat of their proliferation as well as their accidental or deliberately use. The existence of weapons of mass destruction is immoral and contradicts international humanitarian law. Catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences from nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk – and from other nuclear test sites around the globe – proved that 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 the nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk, remains a staunch supporter of the global process of nuclear disarmament.

Over more than four consecutive decades the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has been a fundamental and integral part of the international security and nuclear disarmament process. Despite the Treaty's potential, we have to admit that progress has been limited and does not meet the expectations of the members of the world community.

Let me also note that Kazakhstan actively continues its endeavors aimed at moving nuclear disarmament forward by hosting annual international conferences in its capital - Astana. These events are marked with tangible results which can be seen from their final documents calling on leaders of states to commit themselves to their international obligations and agreements.

On 29 August 2016 Astana hosted the International Conference “Building a Nuclear Weapon Free World” organised by the Parliament of Kazakhstan in coordination with the “Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament” (PNND).

Kazakhstan calls upon nuclear powers to pledge 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.

Nuclear weapons possessing states remaining outside the NPT must join the Treaty without any preconditions as non-nuclear states. We are convinced that national interests and security of any state should not be at the cost of other peace-loving countries.
Mr. Chair,

It is our strong conviction that the 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, namely disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Yet the NPT was not successful in limiting the number of nuclear weapon states outside its frame, so we must rectify this course of events and negotiate a forward-looking multilateral, effective and transparent universal agreement in the field of nuclear disarmament. To that end the international community should concentrate efforts on elaborating political will and bridge our differences to unblock the work of the Conference on Disarmament which remains the only multilateral negotiating forum. The Conference has to deliver according its mandate.

From our national perspective, particular attention must be attached to 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 remaining Annex II sates;

b) to halt any production or modernization of nuclear weapons where declaring a database on all types and status of such weapons should be recognized as obligatory;

c) to declare a moratorium against the production of fissile materials used for military purpose with a final end to achieve a total elimination of all weapons grade fissile materials. Here again all states possessing and producing fissile materials should declare all available data on such materials;

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

e) to intensify multilateral efforts to prevent arms race in outer space;

f) to commence meaningful work on a Nuclear weapons ban treaty. In this context, I would like to note that adoption by Kazakhstan's initiative of the UN GA Resolution on the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World is considered as one of the means to facilitate our advancement to early Treaty adoption.

Thank you.