Mr. Chair,

Kazakhstan's position on strengthening the non-proliferation regime remains firm, clear and unchanged. The significance of this issue is undeniable since nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are closely related and interdependent. It is our conviction that all three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should be respected and fully implemented.

Kazakhstan, as one of the active States Parties to the NPT, continues its active efforts aimed at creating favorable conditions for inclusive and multilateral dialogue on pressing challenges. Our country hosted various international fora devoted to non-proliferation and nuclear threat reduction.

Mr. Chair,

Under the Action Plan of the 2010, NPT RevCon States Parties agreed on 23 items dealing with non-proliferation issues and, compared to other actions, their fulfillment can be described as successful. However, the failure of NPT RevCon in 2015, as well as the latest global developments and challenges we face, once again demonstrate that we need to look more closely at this issue.

In this respect, universalization of the NPT remains the highest priority in preventing proliferation of nuclear threat as well as ensuring global peace and security. It is a well-known fact that some states developing non-safeguarded nuclear facilities still remain outside the NPT. We do hope that the current session will generate new ideas and approaches towards the accomplishment of this specific, but extremely vital, work.

An early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and starting negotiations on the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva are also to be addressed collectively in the nearest future.

The development of nuclear energy must exclude any risk of proliferation of weapons-grade nuclear materials and technologies. Here, we should keep in mind that the line between military and peaceful purposes is very thin. That is why it cannot be left out of our sight. These measures must be indiscriminate, efficient and generally agreed upon. Within the IAEA, the international community has developed such instruments and we hope that it will continue to serve the interests of all countries.
The failure of the international community, first and foremost of the countries in the Middle East, to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is a matter of deep concern for us. We do believe that this forum will take place in 2020 with the participation of all states of the region. We urge parties involved to contribute to the realization of a decision reached during the 1995 NPT RevCon. Hence, the establishment of a Middle East zone should be the focus of the current Preparatory Committee.

Mr. Chair,

Kazakhstan is one of the initiators of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. With that in mind, I would like to point out that ensuring full value and practicability of this nuclear-weapon-free zones is essential both from the point of strengthening regional and global security, as well as advancement of non-proliferation efforts. The voluntary commitment of states to establish a respective zone should be encouraged and supported in every possible way.

The Central Asian States are strongly committed to institutionalizing the Semipalatinsk Treaty. We look forward to the ratification by the US of the Protocol on negative security assurances for States participating in our zone.

In conclusion let me express our hope that the current review process will take into account our adherence to rational approach and the strengthening of mutual confidence to allow us to reach compromise on all issues related to the implementation of the Treaty, as well as providing a new impetus for a global non-proliferation regime.

I thank you Mr. Chair.