

Open-ended meeting on PAROS**Geneva, August 16, 2005****Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan****Mr. Chairman,**

Let me express my gratitude to the delegation of the Russian Federation for organizing this open-ended meeting on the very important aspect of the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to and supports the process led by Russia and China on prevention of arms race in outer space. More and more countries of the world are becoming involved in outer space activities in order to use benefits in their economic development and scientific progress. Many aspects of our ordinary life are dependent on outer space and in future this dependence will only grow.

Kazakhstan is directly associated with space activities – it is the home of the Baykonur space launch site. As you may know, our country is in the process of developing its own space program, which includes launch of the first ever Kazakhstan's satellite in the near future. This work is done together with our Russian counterparts and we appreciate their active support and assistance.

In this context the Government of our country has been undertaking a range of measures to comply with international regulations. We have recently joined the Hague Code of Conduct against Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles thus confirming our adherence to the principles of non-proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems. Kazakhstan has already submitted application to become a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime. We believe that membership in this regime would greatly facilitate our plans to develop national space program.

All this obliges us to support every effort to prevent weaponization of outer space. We fully share the view that weaponization will not only endanger the

normal economic and technological activities, but will also lead to negative political implications.

Let me make the following comments according to the agenda of the meeting.

First. It is clear that existing international legal regime on outer space has a number of serious loopholes. Such issues as possible deployment and use of weapons other than WMD, use of force or threat of use of force should be properly addressed by the international community.

Second. Verification is not an easy issue, especially when it comes to protection of technologies and sensitive information. At the moment there are very few practical tools to ensure appropriate verification procedures in outer space. There is no legal framework for such procedures. In the foreseeable future this issue can only be explored at the level of experts and scientists.

Third. As I mentioned before, there are serious loopholes in the international regime guiding outer space activities. And the issue of definitions is a part of this larger problem. A useful food for thought was submitted by the Chinese and Russian delegations in their non-paper dated June 9, 2005. Their proposal could be brought as basis for further consideration.

In conclusion I would like to underline that issue of PAROS is becoming more and more important taking into account the level of scientific and technological progress. I would wish to thank the delegations of Russia and China for their efforts aimed at facilitating this work within and beyond the framework of the Conference on Disarmament.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.