



KAZAKHSTAN

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**STATEMENT
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AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me to subscribe to congratulations on your election to the high office of the Chairman of the First Committee and express confidence that, under your able stewardship, substantive progress will be made in addressing important issues on the agenda of this Committee.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Under-Secretary-General Nobuyasu Abe for his introductory remarks made at the opening meeting here.

Mr. Chairman,

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains one of the most serious challenges to global security. Kazakhstan fully shares these concerns and calls for a strengthened and universal application of the existing regimes of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and believes that the current international agreements in this area should be adapted to new realities.

As one of the few states that have voluntarily gave up their nuclear weapons, Kazakhstan is concerned by the current status of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). That important treaty has been seriously eroded because of destructive actions on the part of a number of known states. We should recognize that the non-proliferation regime faces a formidable threat and that there is a real possibility of an uncontrolled spread of weapons of mass destruction and, most importantly, of terrorists getting hold of them.

The outcomes of the 2005 Review Conference should reconfirm that the NPT continues to be a key and effective instrument in halting both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and a point of departure for nuclear disarmament.

We welcome the efforts to establish nuclear-weapons-free zones in all the regions of the world, viewing them as an effective contribution to nuclear non-proliferation. Kazakhstan is actively involved in the negotiations on a treaty establishing a nuclear-weapons-free zone in Central Asia. The initiative by the Central Asian states to establish such a zone in the region should become an important contribution by these states to the efforts to achieve declared objectives.

As the site of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, my country has a firsthand knowledge of horrendous effects of nuclear testing. Still coping with grave effects of nuclear testing conducted in its territory, Kazakhstan reaffirms its principled position regarding a total ban of all nuclear testing. We call for an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and urge the governments of those states that have not yet ratified that instrument to display political will and genuine commitment to nuclear disarmament.

Moratorium on test explosions is a basis for nuclear non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. The CTBT's entry into force will transform this political action into a legally binding commitment and legitimize a host of measures by the international community in support of such a ban. Kazakhstan is making further practical contribution to the strengthening of the CTBT verification regime.

In September 2004, Kazakhstan signed a Facility Agreement with CTBTO that entered into force upon signature. Now under the terms of the CTBT, Kazakhstan hosts 1 primary seismic station, 3 auxiliary seismic stations and 1 infrasound station.

Besides, since 2002, Kazakhstan has been a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, a fact that is yet another reaffirmation of its firm commitment to carrying out its nuclear activity in full compliance with internationally accepted rules and standards.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the full implementation of the IAEA safeguards and to the strengthening of its capacity. The Agency's verification mechanism provides a guarantee against diversion of nuclear material from a declared peaceful use to military purposes and illicit nuclear activity. To strengthen these safeguards, all states should sign an Additional Protocol with IAEA.

Kazakhstan has already signed this Additional Protocol. As a result of active cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Agency, all our nuclear facilities are now under IAEA safeguards. An effective safeguards systems acts as a confidence-building measure and an early warning mechanism.

We believe that the negotiation process within the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva should be reactivated. In our view, the potential of that important forum is far from being tapped to the full extent.

The disarmament process should be carried out within the framework of legally binding arrangements. In this regard, Kazakhstan remains convinced that it is necessary to launch negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty and to establish by the Conference on Disarmament an Ad Hoc Committee on nuclear disarmament to negotiate a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

The achievements in the exploration of outer space should only serve the peaceful purposes of humankind. It is vitally important to prevent militarization of outer space, which could have irreversible consequences. Negotiations on the issue of prevention of an arms race in outer space should start as soon as possible.

In line with its consistent policy in the area of non-proliferation, Kazakhstan applied, in 2000, for membership in the Missile Control Technology Regime (MTCR) and submitted all the required documentation. We expect that the decision on our admission to the MTCR will be made shortly. Our country is taking concrete steps to reinforce and improve, on a continuous basis, its national export control system.

Kazakhstan expresses its strong interest in joining the Global Partnership against the Spread of Nuclear Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction and hopes for a fruitful cooperation with the Partnership states in the implementation of the Action Plan on Non-Proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan strongly supports the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on WMD non-proliferation. In view of current threats to global security, we are convinced that all states should take measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD or their components.

We find it very timely that the resolution calls on states to take measures to strengthen controls over manufacturing, storage and export of sensitive materials and technologies. We view this document as an essential instrument designed to reinforce the WMD non-proliferation regime in the new international security environment. Kazakhstan will submit shortly a national report on the implementation of that resolution.

As a state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Kazakhstan is strongly committed to its obligations under that instrument. We also welcome the efforts by the state parties to the Biological Weapons Convention to develop agreed mechanisms of its strengthening.

It is encouraging to note that over the last two or three years the United Nations has considerably stepped up its efforts to prevent illicit trade in conventional weapons. Kazakhstan welcomes all these steps, and attaches great importance to the consistent implementation of

the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, as discussed at a regional conference in Almaty in March of 2004.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express our appreciation to the United Nations Secretariat, and in particular to the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for the support of that conference, which has made tangible contribution to regional and international endeavors to combat the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons.

Kazakhstan shares international concern about the ongoing practice of using landmines that indiscriminately maim and kill thousands of people every year. Kazakhstan does not produce anti-personnel landmines, strictly observes the rules of its stockpiling, bans export and transit of landmines and presently is carrying out its national procedures to join the international treaties in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

By supporting the United Nations efforts to strengthen the role of regional arrangements in the area of security, Kazakhstan is making tangible contribution to the efforts to strengthen regional stability and security in Asia. Kazakhstan's initiative regarding the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building in Asia (CICA), already a fact of international life, is an effective tool designed to strengthen confidence and security in the region.

The first CICA summit, held in June of 2002, became a milestone in that process and paved the way for practical efforts to institutionalize the Conference. The draft catalogue of confidence-building measures and the draft rules of procedure have already been agreed and are expected to be adopted at a Ministerial Meeting of the CICA countries, scheduled to be held on October the 22nd in Almaty. The adoption of the catalogue will create a unique document encompassing a range of measures in the military, political, economic, and environmental areas designed to strengthen security and confidence in Asia.

Kazakhstan reaffirms its strong commitment to integration and multilateral cooperation at the regional level. Such institutions as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and the Eurasian Economic Community, play an ever increasing role in the efforts to strengthen security, develop economic cooperation and create conditions for the prosperity of our vast region. Our country also supports the strengthening of the capacity of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as a major and influential international organization. A year ago the CIS member states agreed on measures to tighten the rules of accounting, storage and control over Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems (MANPADS).

Kazakhstan welcomes and supports the efforts made by the member states at the previous session of the General Assembly to reform and rationalize the work of the First Committee. At the same time we consider it necessary to underline that these reforms should be carefully calibrated and balanced. We also believe that it is important to ensure that the debate on the issue does not produce an opposite effect and lead to the slow down and diminished efficiency of the work of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, I would like once again to assure you that we would fully support all the efforts by this Committee to adopt decisions, which will strengthen the non-proliferation regime and promote security at regional and global levels.

My delegation stands ready, as it invariably did at previous sessions, to work together with our colleagues to achieve our common goals.

Thank you for your attention.