



# KAZAKHSTAN

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## **Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Yerzhan Kh. Kazykhanov  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of  
the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations  
during the general debate of the First Committee  
at the sixty-first session  
of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York  
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**Madam Chair,**

At the outset, let me extend my congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau, on your election to guide the work 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.

**Madam Chair,**

Kazakhstan invariably calls for an enhanced nuclear-weapon non-proliferation regime. This position is rooted in the sufferings of our people, who are still reeling from negative effects of nuclear explosions at the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, shut down exactly 15 years ago by a decree of President Nursultan A. Nazarbayev. This position has been supported by a historic decision of my country to voluntarily renounce its nuclear arsenal, which used to be the fourth largest in the world.

We want that step to serve as a commendable example in the light of the ongoing large-scale crisis that has struck the global security system. Regrettably, lack of any results at the last NPT Review Conference and the United Nations Disarmament Commission remains a major challenge for the international community. We have to stop just discussing what issue is matter of primary importance – nuclear disarmament or nuclear nonproliferation. It is time to take coordinated efforts to overcome that crisis. Real progress in this area is possible if all Member States fulfill their obligations regarding nuclear disarmament and the vertical and horizontal non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The process in that direction has already made a good start. The Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, signed on the 8 of September 2006 in Semipalatinsk, is a demonstration of political will of five Central Asian States – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The signing of that milestone instrument could become a catalyst for the process of enhancement of the NPT. The Central Asian States are ready to continue consultations with the permanent members of the Security Council on the issue of that Treaty's entry into force.

Taking this opportunity I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all Member States, International Organizations, and NGOs, which warmly congratulated us on the decision of the establishment the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. As all of them noted, this event represents a new and positive step towards the objective of the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is all the more surprising that the signing of that Treaty, which is one of the most important development in the area of nonproliferation over the recent years, wasn't even mentioned in the opening remarks made in this Committee on behalf of the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs.

**Madam Chair,**

We urge the governments of those states that have not yet signed or ratified CTBT to display the political will and genuine commitment to the cause of nuclear disarmament. States should reaffirm their commitment to a moratorium on nuclear test explosions and work to ensure the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Kazakhstan shares the view that it is necessary to strictly comply with the provisions of the Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on weapons of mass destruction. We have to intensify our efforts to enhance national export control mechanisms, in particular with regard to dual-use materials and technologies as well as missiles and other means of delivery of weapons of mass destruction, and MANPADs.

Having joined the club of world space powers, Kazakhstan reaffirms its commitment to the prevention of the stationing of nuclear weapons in outer space and welcomes the adoption of the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missiles Proliferation.

It is a matter of great concern that the crisis in the sphere of disarmament has extended not only to strategic but also to conventional weapons. Regrettably, Member States have so far failed to devise common approaches to the Programme of Action in this area.

The international community should work tirelessly to combat illegal trafficking in conventional arms. Kazakhstan calls for the renewal by States of their commitments to strictly implement the Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace Illicit Weapons.

It is necessary to continue negotiations within the United Nations in order to draft legally binding international instruments to combat illicit trafficking in conventional weapons and ammunition and ensure effective control of and compliance with the United Nations arms embargos.

**Madam Chair,**

Global security and disarmament are hardly possible without appropriate measures to strengthen regional security. Last June the Asian countries that are members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held a second CICA Summit in Almaty. Leaders of the 18 Asian States discussed recent regional and global developments and adopted the Summit's Declaration. They also signed an Agreement on CICA Secretariat, which is important for future activities within the Conference.

The CICA process undoubtedly strengthens stability and confidence-building measures in Asia in the interests of prosperity and sustainable development of our countries.

The possibility of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists is a matter of grave concern. In this context, Kazakhstan supports further universalization and enhancement of anti-terrorist treaty mechanisms. We are looking forward to an early completion of a comprehensive convention against international terrorism.

Kazakhstan commends the launch of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and believes that international cooperation to fight terrorism should be developed in full conformity with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and norms of international law.

**Madam Chair,**

Finally, I would like once again to assure you that we would fully support all the efforts by this Committee to adopt decisions that will strengthen the non-proliferation regime and promote security at regional and global levels. My delegation stands ready to work together to achieve our common goals.

I thank you.