KAZAKHSTAN

Check against delivery

STATEMENT
by
H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
during the general debate of the First Committee
at the sixty-second session of
the United Nations General Assembly

New York
9 October 2007

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
3 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
305 East 47th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10017
Tel.: (212) 230-1900 • Fax (212) 230-1172 • E-mail: kazakhstan@un.int

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, 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 High Representative of the Secretary General Ambassador Sergio Duarte for his introductory remarks made at the opening mecting here.

Mr. Chairman,

Almost forty years have passed since the approval of the Non-Proliferation Treaty by the General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII). And almost nothing has happened since that time to allay fears of the humanity. The nuclear weapons are still the most dangerous kind of weapons of mass destruction. The raee for the possession of it, now joined by even terrorist organizations, has continued unabated all through these years.

[Even though the community of nations has recognized the need to reform the system of international security for a long time, there is no real progress.

Lack of the international consensus on the issue has led to a dramatic weakening of the collective security system. Speaking in general terms, we are dealing with a systemic crisis of international governability.

To make things even worse, the international community is running out of legitimate levers capable of stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction.]

To begin with, it should be acknowledged that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has turned into an asymmetric agreement. It provides for sanctions applicable only to non-nuclear states. However, if nuclear powers call for banning the development of nuclear weapons, they themselves should set an example of reduction and renunciation of nuclear arsenals.

This unfairness is an inducement for those states that still aspire to acquire weapons of mass destruction. It should be made clear that, in our view, this aspiration is irrational.

The people of Kazakhstan have lived through all the horrors of the effects of nuclear explosions. 456 such explosions were conducted at the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground.

It is for this reason that, after gaining its independence, the first milestone decision by Kazakhstan was to shut down the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site. It was followed by the renunciation of nuclear missile arsenal, the fourth largest in the world, and the dismantling of its infrastructure.

[I want to note here that at that time we had not only the trained personnel but also practically all means of delivery of nuclear warheads. Those steps have shaped the strategy of our state in the area of global security. By taking that step, we have consolidated our independence, having received security assurances of all nuclear-weapon states.]

Kazakhstan calls upon states with nuclear weapons to achieve further reduction of their nuclear arsenals and to conclude arms control treaties that would provide for not only dismantling of such, but also rendering impossible their reconstruction and further use. Nuclear-weapon states should reaffirm their commitment to the "negative security assurances".

[Yet, in addition to ethic, economic or other motives, we need to erect legal barriers to stop proliferation. For this reason, Kazakhstan proposes to adapt the NPT to the new realities. That need has become especially urgent because over the recent years international terrorism has significantly undermined world security.]

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan has consistently opposed and condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism is a common problem of the international community and should be dealt with through joint

efforts. The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism is one of excellent example of multilateral cooperation in this sphere. [In June 2007 Kazakhstan hosted Third meeting of the Global Initiative, where representatives from thirty-eight nations continued to develop a plan of work for the next two years (2007-2008).]

In this year Russian Federation and Kazakhstan signed an agreement creating a joint uranium-enrichment center, a possible first step toward an international nuclear fuel "bank" that could discourage countries from developing their own domestic uranium-enrichment programs. [The project is addressed to the basic dilemma: controlling the enrichment process without denying states the right to nuclear power.]

We support the decision to hasten finalizing negotiations about concluding the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty.

[Kazakhstan stands for establishing special committees within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and commencing negotiations on stopping the arms race and on nuclear disarmament.

States should reaffirm their obligation to follow the nuclear test ban and aspire that the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty enters into force.]

Kazakhstan believes that it is necessary to strengthen control competences of the IAEA by all countries joining the Additional Protocol of the Safeguards Agreement as soon as possible. On its part, Kazakhstan ratified the Additional Protocol in 2007.

States should commit to further strengthening of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, to which Kazakhstan joined in 2007.

[As a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention and fully complying with its provisions, Kazakhstan urges all interested states to speed up the planned process of destroying the stockpile of chemical weapons.]

[Kazakhstan commends the intention of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to "disable" facilities at its nuclear complex (Yongbyon) and provide a complete declaration of all nuclear programs by the end of this year. The agreement reached during latest round of six-party talks is a step forward toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.]

Kazakhstan is convinced that the international community, primarily the nuclear-weapon states, should by all means promote processes leading to establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world. Taking into account the fact that establishment of such zones contributes to the strengthening of international peace and security, Kazakhstan has joined the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, signed in September 2006 in Semipalatinsk.

[States-parties to the Treaty accepted IAEA safeguards on their nuclear material, including international recommendations on the security of nuclear facilities--particularly important given concerns over nuclear smuggling in the region. They also agreed to forbid the development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition, and possession of any nuclear explosive device. Addressing environmental issues is another major purpose of the zone, as various stages of the nuclear weapons production process took place in the region during the Soviet era.]

[Member States should take efficient measures in national export control encompassing missiles and other means of WMD delivery, and MANPAD systems so that they do not fall into the hands of non-state actors.]

[Understanding the difficulties arising during discussion of rockets in all aspects within the context of conventional weapons, Kazakhstan supports further study of this issue by a group of government experts and welcomes adoption of the international Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation within the context of establishing a global control system for rockets and rocket technologies.]

The Republic of Kazakhstan reconfirms its intention to become a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and submitted all the required documentation yet in 2000. Our

country is taking steps to reinforce and improve, on a continuous basis, its national export control system. Kazakhstan has scientific and technological capacity in the area of missile and space systems, is the site of "Baikonur", of one of the world's largest launching pads, and participates in international space programmes. It is all the more deplorable that our country's request for its admission to the MTCR has not yet been granted.

Cooperation in ensuring transparency and building confidence in space activities is the major condition to prevent the real threat of an arms race in space. Kazakhstan supports the resolution entitled "Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities". [The increased number of co-sponsors and unanimous support of this resolution could be the first step towards drafting a universal agreement on preventing the militarization of space and ensuring security of space objects.]

Mr. Chairman,

Conflict prevention and settlement of regional conflicts should be the central element in efforts of the international community, be it fighting against poverty or in preventing the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons.

[Hence, Kazakhstan agrees that it is necessary to draft binding international legal instruments to regulate identification marks and tracking of small arms and light weapons and brokerage activity connected thereto; as well as ensure efficient implementation control of UN arms embargos.]

On the whole, Kazakhstan positively views the initiative of the United Kingdom to develop universal standards for transfers of conventional weapons. [At the 61st session of the UN General Assembly Kazakhstan supported the resolution "Towards an Arms Trade Treaty" believing that the additional mechanism of multilateral consultations would help to bridge the gaps towards achieving a common position of Member States in this sphere. At the same time we believe that the threat to international stability and security, especially in the conflict zones of our planet, comes primarily from the illicit trade in conventional weapons.]

Kazakhstan fully supports UN General Assembly resolution "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", of which it is a co-sponsor. [Kazakhstan has firm confidence that achievements in the sphere of information and telecommunication technologies should be used only for peaceful purposes and should not serve as another cause for mistrust or, furthermore, a threat to international peace and security.]

We are firmly committed to the strengthening of regional integration and cooperation in the field of regional security. On 5 October 2007 we marked the 15th anniversary of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). The core idea of the initiative is to create an effective forum for dialogue on security issues in Asia. [Three basic aspects of the process activity are: military-political measurement of security, economic cooperation and interaction in humanitarian and human rights fields. Two summits of CICA held in Almaty in 2002 and in 2006. Today CICA include 18 member-states. Main CICA documents include: the Almaty Act (2002), the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (2004), CICA Rules of Procedure (2004) and the Statute of the CICA Secretariat (2006).]

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 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.