



KAZAKHSTAN

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**Statement
of the Head of Delegation
of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

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**at the general debate of the First Committee
of the 63rd Session
of the UN General Assembly**

**10 October 2008
New York**

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It has been exactly one year since our last meeting, which referred to the stagnation in the nuclear disarmament process and the need to take specific measures to strengthen the international security system.

Unfortunately, the conflicts and threats have not diminished. The international community has failed to resolve the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation due to the absence of consensus.

June of this year marked the 40th anniversary of the signing of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and despite criticism of the NPT, it should be recognized that the Treaty has been and continues to be the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the basis for nuclear disarmament.

Our challenge today is to ensure the effectiveness of the NPT. As you may be aware, speaking at the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed to adapt this important component of the international security system to the new realities. In this context, we believe it necessary to develop effective leverage measures for nuclear-weapon States, acting beyond the framework of the NPT, and to prevent any withdrawal from the Treaty. We call on member states of the NPT to consolidate efforts for the success of the NPT Review Conference in 2010, a result of which should ensure the effectiveness and universality of the Treaty.

Kazakhstan does not simply call on the international community to disarm; it has made a historic contribution to the strengthening of international security. Renunciation of nuclear weapons, denial of possession of the fourth largest nuclear arsenal, and our country's adherence to fulfill international commitments are an important reaffirmation of our desire to strengthen global collaboration in the sphere of security and disarmament.

Our country has joined almost all international instruments to prevent nuclear, biological, radiological and chemical weapons of mass destruction. In May 2008, Kazakhstan ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Kazakhstan is an active member of the Organization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In order to strengthen and develop the inspection activities of the Treaty, Kazakhstan supported the initiative to hold the Integrated field exercise (IFE08) at the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground in September of this year. Indeed, such an event is another confirmation of our commitment to strengthen international security and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

The signing of the Treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia on 8 September 2006 was a clear indication of the commitment of the region countries to the principles of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and has become their significant contribution to global security. Clearly, the signing of the Treaty in the city of Semipalatinsk, the center of the former nuclear test site, was deeply symbolic in terms of nuclear non-proliferation.

An important factor in the success of the initiative of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia is that it has developed under the auspices of the United Nations and with the active assistance of their experts. At various times, a number of resolutions of the UN General Assembly in support of the idea of establishing nuclear-free zone in Central Asia were adopted. In October 2006, after the signing of the Treaty, the UN General Assembly adopted by majority vote a resolution in support of the Central Asian zone.

Currently, the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan is completing the process of ratification of the Treaty. We are confident that its entry into force will enhance the confidence and predictability in relations between countries and will further guarantee the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. We hope that under the adopted rules of establishing nuclear-free zones, nuclear powers in the near future will sign the Protocol to the Treaty, which provides negative security assurances to countries of the region - not to use nuclear weapons against them. Kazakhstan is open to appropriate consultations with the countries of the «Nuclear Five».

Member states of the Treaty intend to table traditional draft resolution on establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone during this session of the UNGA and we count on the broad support of the UN member states for this document.

Continuing the fight against the nuclear threat, Kazakhstan, at the same time, recognizes the right of any nation to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under strict international control, especially the IAEA. We believe that meeting all the conditions for transparency in accordance with agreements with the IAEA, including the Additional Protocol, each State has the right to develop peaceful nuclear technology and nuclear power plants. Kazakhstan, which has one of the largest reserves of natural uranium in the world, intends to pursue this path, providing strict control over technology by the IAEA. This is also proved by the ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement on the Application of Safeguards between Kazakhstan and the IAEA.

In a crisis of the non-proliferation regimes, the real danger is nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists. Kazakhstan is an active participant in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, within the framework of which the «Atom-Antiterror» exercises and the International Conference on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials have been organized in our country this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Another issue, which remains to be resolved, is the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW), which has a negative impact on security, human rights, socio-economic situation, particularly in crisis and post-conflict areas of the world. Today, no country in the world is immune to the disruptions in the mechanisms of control over conventional weapons arsenals. We are aware of many cases in which thousands and even millions of weapons have disappeared and fallen into unknown hands.

Kazakhstan fully supports the provisions and recommendations of the latest report by the UN Secretary-General on small arms, and believes that the United Nations should play a leading role in countering this threat. We believe that the adoption of the outcome document of the BMS3, held in July 2008, constitutes a real progress in the process of countering the illicit trafficking of such weapons and may become an example for reaching consensus in other disarmament mechanisms.

Our state's position supports the necessity for research and the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, for the benefit and interest of all countries. The increase in the number of sponsors of the relevant resolution and its unanimous support may be an important step in preventing a real risk of an arms race in outer space.

We appreciate the efforts made in drafting a treaty to prevent an arms race in outer space. This issue is particularly relevant in the context of the increasing number of countries involved and dependent on space programs.

On the territory of our country exists one of the world's largest spaceports named «Baikonur». Kazakhstan actively participates in international space cooperation and is dynamically developing its own space program. We are convinced that security in outer space must remain a central issue on the agenda of the international community. Outer space should be a peaceful area of cooperation of all mankind.

In concluding my statement I would like to express my sincere hope that our meeting will actually help to address the issues related to general and complete disarmament.

Thank you for your attention.