



STATEMENT

by

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

to the

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Esteemed Mr. President,
Esteemed Mr. Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I appreciate the invitation of the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Sergey Ordzhonikidze to address the Conference.

Taking this opportunity I would like to inform you of the basic position of Kazakhstan on the major issues in disarmament and security.

The system of international security has changed drastically in the past decade. New threats and challenges, proliferation of nuclear arms and the rise of international terrorism – have become a matter of grave concern of the international community. The possibility of the acquisition of nuclear weapons or their components by terrorists has grown tremendously and cannot be excluded as an imminent reality.

Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to take coordinated and effective efforts at both the international and the regional levels to ensure peace and security. We will not be able to achieve this goal without a strong political will, without a strong commitment to practical steps in disarmament and non-proliferation areas.

From our point of view, the Conference on Disarmament has to be one of the major international instruments playing a crucial role in pursuing disarmament on the global scale. The potential of the Conference has to be further explored for the benefit of the international community.

Mr. President,

Existing multilateral instruments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation are vitally important in responding to the challenges of security.

Kazakhstan calls for a strengthened and universal application of the regimes of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and believes that the current international agreements in this area should be adapted to new realities.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, despite disappointing recent developments, still remains the cornerstone in our efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation regime.

We hope that the forthcoming NPT Review Conference will outline concrete measures on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Having attached great importance to the full implementation of the IAEA safeguards, Kazakhstan signed the Additional Protocol in 2004 and closely cooperates with the IAEA in this area.

Bearing in mind the continuing importance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Kazakhstan strongly believes that the demand placed on Nuclear Weapon States to grant negative security assurances to Non-Nuclear Weapon States is well founded and reasonable, and supports the proposal to elaborate within the Conference an international agreement on the non-use or threat of use of nuclear weapons by Nuclear Weapon States against Non-Nuclear Weapon States.

We call for an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) which is critically important for nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and urge the governments of those states that have not yet

signed or ratified this instrument to display the political will and genuine commitment to the cause of nuclear disarmament.

As a state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Kazakhstan is strongly committed to its obligations under the Convention.

Kazakhstan wishes to accede to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and appropriate internal procedures are currently being realized. We welcome the efforts of the BWC state parties to develop concerted mechanisms in view of its strengthening. We believe that in the context of the rapid development of biotechnology and the increase of the threat of bioterrorism, the establishment of a verification mechanism within the Convention seems to be a challenging problem.

Kazakhstan also believes that the conclusion of a Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) is essential for nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. This treaty is expected to tighten international control of the production of fissile materials and support the mandate for negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile materials. We are convinced that the start of negotiations on an FMCT will be a significant step towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Kazakhstan has also applied for membership in the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Our country is taking steps to reinforce and improve the national export control system.

Being a state that voluntarily renounced its nuclear arsenal - the fourth largest in the world - Kazakhstan is actively involved in the negotiations to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

In February 2005, countries of Central Asia finalized the draft Treaty. This document has become an important milestone in the joint efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. It is important that all Central Asian countries decided to sign the Treaty in Semipalatinsk- the former nuclear testing site where the former Soviet nuclear program has been realized.

Mr. President,

We are strongly convinced that space should be used only for peaceful purposes. Therefore, we support the initiative of the Russian Federation and China to elaborate a legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and on the threat or use of force against space objects.

Kazakhstan welcomed the creation of the Global Partnership against the Spread of WMD and WMD-related materials by the G8 leaders at the Kananaskis Summit. From our point of view, the Global partnership in combating proliferation of all types of WMD and their means of delivery represents an essential contribution to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime.

We share the world community's concerns on illicit trade and global proliferation of small arms and light weapons and believe that all necessary measures to inhibit this trend by strengthening the control over export, manufacture and supply of small arms and light weapons must be taken as soon as possible. The ways of practical implementation of the Program of Action adopted in 2001 at the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects have become topical issues at the regional conference in Almaty in March 2004.

Mr. President,

Global security and disarmament are hardly possible without appropriate measures in strengthening of regional security. In this respect, I wish to attract your attention to the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) which is successfully being held either on the level of Heads of State or on the Ministerial level.

A unique document – the Catalogue on confidence building measures, which creates the basis for strengthening cooperation and prevention of conflicts on the Asian continent has been passed by the member-countries of this Conference. This process is gaining momentum, the Conference is being enlarged. Thailand became a new member of the Conference, while Singapore and South Korea expressed their intention to become observers in this process. Thus, today there are 17 Member States of the Conference and more than 10 countries acting as observers. The Conference also includes a number of international organizations.

Multilateral cooperation is very important in facing new challenges to peace and security. Kazakhstan recognizes the leading role of the UN in the coordination of international counter terrorist activities and believes that the role of the Counter Terrorist Committee should be increased.

The Fourth Special Meeting of the UN Security Council Counter Terrorist Committee with the international, regional and subregional organizations took place in my country in January this year. The Meeting highlighted the importance of the interaction of the CTC with regional organizations which gained valuable and broad experience in combating terrorism. In its final Statement, all the participating countries and organizations recognized the vital importance of the universalization of the norms in the struggle against terrorism.

It is also important to note that broad measures against terrorism are being taken within the Shanghai Organization for Cooperation, the Organization of the

Treaty on Collective Security, the Organization on Central-Asian Cooperation, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. All these organizations are currently engaged in presenting the lists of terrorist groups whose activities are going to be prohibited, and in elaborating the legal framework on combating terrorism.

Kazakhstan stands for establishment of a Council of the regional organizations under the Secretary-General of the United Nations. That Council could be very useful in coordinating the measures and plans of regional organizations with regard to addressing the problem of terrorism.

Mr. President,

We have to admit with regret and concern that the Conference on Disarmament failed to adopt its Program of Work and thus to fulfill its mandate.

However, Kazakhstan believes that preserving this forum is the responsibility of the whole international community. Therefore, we support the idea of maintaining a balance of priorities in the Conference on Disarmament. It is necessary to find a political compromise taking into account national interests of all States concerned.

This objective is quite tangible provided that all member countries will exercise their political will, flexibility and responsibility toward the international community.

Thank you for your attention