



**CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES AND SIGNATORIES
OF TREATIES THAT ESTABLISH NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES
TLATELOLKO, MEXICO, APRIL 26-28, 2005**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**JOINT STATEMENT
OF FIVE CENTRAL ASIAN STATES
- KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN and UZBEKISTAN**

**DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. ALISHER VOHIDOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

MEXICO CITY, APRIL 27, 2005

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all let me start with expressing a sincere gratitude to the Government of Mexico for organizing this important Conference. The event emphasizes once again the role of Mexico in international efforts to strengthen global non-proliferation regime.

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour on behalf of the five Central Asian States namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to welcome participants and observers of the Conference. The attendance by such a great number of countries demonstrates importance and viability of establishment and strengthening Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones as regional nuclear non-proliferation mechanisms.

Eight years ago the Central Asian States guided by their obligations on NPT, decided to create a new security system that would become the first regional security mechanism. It is with great pleasure for us to inform the Forum that in February this year in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan, the Central Asian States agreed on text of the Treaty on Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free zone. A significant step towards signing the Treaty has been taken.

This success would not be possible without comprehensive study carried out by Central Asian experts of experience gained by your countries in drafting and creating four Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.

We also note with appreciation the role of the United Nations, in particular the UN Secretary-General, Department for Disarmament Affairs and its Regional Center for Peace and Security in Asia and Pacific headed by Mr. Tsutomu Ishiguri, in creating a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. For the first time negotiations on establishment of a NWFZ were held within the framework of consultations with the UN and under the auspices of the Organization. In our view, the UN assistance to the regional efforts aimed at realization of arrangements on creation of a NWFZ, freely arrived at among the States of the region, is gaining more in importance in the context of reforms recently suggested by the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to improve the methods of work of the Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

The Statement of the representatives of the Central Asian States issued on the outcome of the Tashkent Meeting, notes the sincere intention to sign as soon as possible the Treaty on Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

Engaging in the process of establishing such a zone our countries have chosen the most adequate way of participating in the NPT which remains as a cornerstone of international security system and global disarmament and non-proliferation process.

Regardless of assertions on stagnation of the non-proliferation process by making this effort our countries seek to confirm that a Nuclear-Weapon-Free zone as an indispensable element of non-proliferation considerably helps to preserving and strengthening peace and security on both regional and global levels.

In this connection we would like to note several factors that define viability and specifics of Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone:

- Peace-loving choice of Kazakhstan that rejected its nuclear status with a view of, first of all, maintaining the existing nuclear security system. At present none of the NWFZs includes the territory of former Nuclear-Weapon State. It is particularly important, especially if we remember the fact that the volume of Nuclear Weapons then deployed on the territory of Kazakhstan was the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world;
- Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone involves only landlocked countries;
- For the first time such a Treaty includes provisions that oblige its States Parties to fully comply to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Additional Protocol on IAEA strengthened safeguards system;
- Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone will become the first of its kind entirely situated in the Northern Hemisphere the most part of which occupied by Nuclear-Weapons States.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones are the dynamic systems of regional security and reflect continuity of the non-proliferation process.

When in 1957 under the so-called the "Rapazki Plan" there was the first proposal on establishment of a NWFZ in Central Europe, and thereafter another NWFZ was proposed for Northern Europe, political realities of that time did not let think of these ideas to be realistic. However, countries' aspiration to ensure the peace and security in their regions allowed them to realize this idea. Today more than a half of international community are States Parties or Signatories of Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. The number is continuing to grow.

Establishing such zones, initial purpose of which was to diminish tension and confrontation between the two opposing blocs and also to assist the dialogue with Nuclear-Weapons Powers, is now becoming an important element of a multilateral mechanism to counter the nuclear terrorism, and in particular, to prevent access to nuclear technology by terrorists.

We are convinced that the present event being held just before the NPT Review Conference will offer us another chance to deliberate on the present situation and define ways to strengthen the role of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States in ensuring nuclear security.

We hope that Central Asian States will soon join the community of States Parties or Signatories of Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones as its full-pledged members.

Thank you.