

KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Barlybay Sadykov,
Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan,
at the General Debate of the First Committee

70th session of the United Nations General Assembly
(8 October 2015, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

We congratulate you on your election as Chair of the First Committee and assure you of our full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

This year the international community celebrates the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. It is also the 70th anniversary of the first and the only one in the history of the use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The First Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 1946 determined nuclear disarmament as a priority issue for the UN Member states. But the threat of the use of the most dangerous weapons still exists and it is primary obligation of all UN Member states, especially nuclear weapons possessing states to take concrete measures to get rid of the nuclear weapons.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are the main priorities of Kazakhstan's foreign policy. We consistently stand for nuclear disarmament and strict adherence to the principles of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, alongside the inalienable right of states to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We express our deep concern over the fact that, while in general the non-nuclear weapons states fulfill their commitments under the NPT Treaty, the nuclear weapons states do not take decisive actions to get rid of nuclear weapons.

Of particular regret is the failure of the NPT 2015 Review Conference to adopt its Final Document, as well as to convene the Conference to establish a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and means of its deliveries in the Middle East.

As a country which has voluntarily renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal, the Republic of Kazakhstan believes that the nuclear-weapon states must make further reductions of their nuclear arsenals until their full elimination. The indefinite

extension of the NPT in 1995 should not be considered as a basis for the indefinite extension of the existence of nuclear weapons.

We note the particular importance of realizing the provisions of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/32 declaring 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and we fully support the proposal to start negotiations to draft the Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention.

As an important step in this direction, Kazakhstan believes adoption of the UN Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a World Free of Nuclear Weapons, by which all Member States of the United Nations would reaffirm their political commitment to this goal. Our delegation will table the draft resolution on UN Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a World Free of Nuclear Weapons during the current session and requests for support. The central purpose of this Declaration is to draw together in one place a statement of the common ground shared by all States on the issue of global nuclear disarmament. This declaration addresses what has united our nations in the field of disarmament, not what has divided us.

Universal Declaration is offered with the goal of achieving a global consensus. By setting forth a synthesis of the basic principles that unite all nations on the goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, this Declaration has the potential to revitalize the global process of nuclear disarmament and to break the vicious circle of divisions in the disarmament community.

The chronic deadlock in disarmament has given rise to a loss of confidence in the whole disarmament process. Reaching a consensus on the basic goal would be a welcome step forward in restoring some of that lost confidence and building new trust, which will help in reassuring international community that nuclear disarmament is not only supported as a goal, but is actually happening and we hope that Declaration will be adopted by consensus.

We recognize the high importance of the process, which began with holding Conferences on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna. As a nation that has experienced disastrous consequences of nuclear explosions, Kazakhstan fully supports this initiative and hopes that this effort will lead to a new and powerful impetus to our common efforts to the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons and the eventual removal of the deadly weapons from our planet once and for all. We believe that the use of nuclear weapons cannot be justified on moral, ethical, legal points of view and its use must be banned.

We also believe that there is an urgent need to start negotiations on legally binding document granting security assurances by the nuclear powers to non-nuclear-weapon states. Only such assurances can effectively check the aspirations of certain non-nuclear-weapon States to acquire nuclear weapons, which they view as guarantee of their own security.

Having established a nuclear weapons free zone in Central Asia together with our neighbours, Kazakhstan firmly believes in the need to establish nuclear-weapon free

zones all over the world and hopes that in the future the entire planet will become a nuclear weapon free zone.

We would like to thank the Governments of France, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, China for ensuring the completion of internal procedures for ratification of the Protocol on negative security assurances to the states parties to the Semipalatinsk Treaty. We call on the Government of the United States for completing this work at the earliest.

The delegation of Kazakhstan joins others in voicing the necessity of holding as early as possible the Conference on establishing in the Middle East a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction despite the aggravating factor of the 2015 NPT Review Conference and the current political developments and tensions. Kazakhstan offers its assistance in carrying forward the negotiations.

The early entry into force of the CTBT is in the basic security interests of all nations. Kazakhstan, as the Co-President of the Conference on article XIV, together with Japan, will make the utmost effort to achieve the prompt entry into force of the CTBT. Due to our shared history, Kazakhstan and Japan have a moral right to demand progress on a comprehensive nuclear test ban. We are determined to work together during our co-chairmanship to push for the ratification of this treaty.

In the next two years we are going to work specifically with each of Annex II States in order to convince them to take decisive action for the earliest entry into force of the Treaty. We will also work towards a consistent universalisation of the Treaty.

During the period of our Co-Presidency we are planning a series of major events. In August of 2016 we plan to convene an international conference dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the CTBT and the 25th anniversary of the closing the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site as of 29th August, 1991.

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution put forward by Kazakhstan in December 2009 to declare August 29, the date of the official closing of Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, as the International Day Against Nuclear Tests.

We intend to work actively in this direction at all levels, including with the civil society. In this regard I would like to note the initiative of Kazakhstan to launch in August 2012 the international project ATOM – “Abolish testing. Our mission” – designed to strengthen global support to a complete and irrevocable ban of the nuclear weapons testing.

We believe it is time to exercise collective political goodwill to reactivate the Conference on Disarmament after its stalemate of the last 20 years to start work on drafting a treaty banning the production of fissile material for military purposes (FMCT), on prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS), and negative security assurances to states that do not possess any nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan believes it is time to take action on Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) as soon as possible. The signing of the FMCT will help minimize the possibility of development of illegitimate military nuclear programs, significantly

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improve the conditions for the control over the existing materials, as well as reduce the risk of nuclear terrorism.

We believe that it is vital to have further discussions on the issue of Prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS) by involving other international bodies that are engaged in this issue. To facilitate the start of these negotiations, we support a draft Treaty on preventing placement of weapons in outer space prepared by China and the Russian Federation.

Kazakhstan is a home to Baikonur, the world's largest space launching site, which is making a major contribution to the peaceful use of outer space. We are proud to state that third Kazakhstani cosmonaut made his space flight in the framework of international programme launched from Baikonur in September 2015.

We welcome the adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions on Iran's nuclear program on July 14, 2015 in Vienna, between "six" international mediators and Iran. We believe that effective implementation of the Plan will strengthen the non-proliferation and regional security.

Kazakhstan has contributed to the negotiations on Iran's nuclear program by hosting two rounds of talks in Almaty that strengthened the atmosphere of confidence.

With a growing number of new nuclear energy producing countries and increasing nuclear energy consumption, as well as deteriorating plants, ensuring nuclear security is critical to prevent the risks of proliferation of nuclear materials. We already implemented the recommendations of the Washington, Seoul and The Hague Nuclear Security Summits.

Mr.Chairman,

Kazakhstan supports the legal right of all NPT states parties to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with Article IV of the NPT. This includes the right to develop and produce nuclear technology for peaceful purposes as long as it complies with international standards and takes place under the supervision of the IAEA.

One of the most important events of this year, we consider the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Kazakhstan and the IAEA to establish IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank in Kazakhstan.

We believe that the establishment of the Bank is a reliable mechanism to ensure a guaranteed supply of nuclear fuel and is in no way prejudice the right of Member States of the IAEA to develop their own technological capacity in the nuclear fuel cycle. We reiterate that any projects or initiatives in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy should not be politicized or be discriminatory. Peaceful nuclear technology and knowledge should be available for all states committed to the principles of nuclear non-proliferation.

Kazakhstan fully implements the requirements of the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological and Toxin Weapons and has unique experience and immense

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potential in ensuring biological security. Noting the growing threats posed by the spread of extremely dangerous infections, we lay great emphasis and importance to international cooperation in this area. This is one of the reasons to create a Central Reference Laboratory in Kazakhstan, which will serve as a main centre for research and developing technology to counter the spread of highly dangerous human and animal diseases.

We are pleased to see the steady increase of support for the Arms Trade Treaty and are pleased to inform that Kazakhstan is ready to sign the Treaty shortly, as we see it as a major step forward in preventing irresponsible arms transfers which fuel conflict, poverty and serious human rights abuses. We hope that the international community can consider a strong monitoring mechanism in the so-called “gray areas” that remain outside the regime of conventional arms control, namely past and recent conflict zones, as well as, adopt strong monitoring procedures to implement penalties and sanctions against countries that violate their obligations.

To conclude, we hope that the work of the First Committee this year, reinforced by strong multilateral political commitment, cooperation and action will make strides towards global peace, security and stability.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.