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Statement
by Mr. Nuran Niyazaliev,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic
at the General Debates of the First Committee
of the 70th Session of UN General Assembly
(16 October 2015, New York)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear Colleagues,

Let me begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee at the Seventieth anniversary session of the General Assembly. My congratulations also go to the other members of Bureau. You can count on my delegation's full support and cooperation in discharging your responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman,

70 years have past since the first nuclear weapon test, carried out in New Mexico in July 1945. 70 years have passed since the first use of nuclear weapons against two Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These events had grave impact on human lives, the environment, international peace and security, and threatened survival of the humanity itself. Consequently, 45 years ago the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) entered into force and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was agreed almost 20 years ago. Have we succeeded in our efforts to eliminate the threat? Yes, humanity has managed to prevent the recurrence of the use of nuclear weapons. But, regrettably, we are still not reached our goal of a world free of weapons of mass destruction. Our position is based on the believe, that as long as nuclear weapons exist, there remains the risk of their use, either intentionally or accidentally, or of their further proliferation, which endangers the safety and security of the globe.

Kyrgyzstan has always regarded the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation

regime, as well as the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We deeply regret that the 2015 Review Conference of the NPT was unable to adopt its outcome document despite the efforts made by many delegations. However, this should not stop us from pursuing the implementation of all provisions of the Treaty in good faith and equal manner.

My delegation notes with regret that the Conference on the Establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems has not been convened. It is disappointing that during the last NPT Review Conference, it has not been possible to reach an agreement on the matter. This conference could be a disarmament milestone and contribute to the establishment of peace in a region where tensions are heightened.

19 years since its adoption, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has been signed by 183 states and ratified by 164. But the Treaty has not yet entered into force. I would therefore like to join other colleagues in urging all States which have not yet ratified the Treaty, particularly those States listed in Annex 2, to do so as soon as possible. We consider the CTBT, which my country ratified in 2003, as one of the key instruments in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, strategic stability and security.

Kyrgyzstan looks forward for the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, which continues to make little progress in its work, thus delaying negotiations on a number key issues like nuclear disarmament, fissile material cut-off treaty, prevention of an arms race in outer space, negative security assurances. Moreover, it is regrettable that the Disarmament Commission has also failed to produce any final documents or recommendations for a long time. We encourage all states to demonstrate the necessary political will so the disarmament machinery fulfills its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

It is also important to recognize a number of new opportunities to advance disarmament goals and I would like to highlight some of them.

Kyrgyzstan welcomes the announcement of the 26th of September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and the convening, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard. At the same time Kyrgyzstan will continue to support efforts aimed at drawing attention to the

importance of educational programs in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

We have recently witnessed the successful completion of long-standing negotiations between Iran and P5+1, which resulted in the finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on 14 July 2015. We believe that its full implementation will positively contribute to regional and international peace and security.

My delegation regards international safeguards and physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities as the first line of defense against nuclear terrorism. As such, Kyrgyzstan strongly endorses the International Atomic Energy Agency's efforts to strengthen the international safeguards system and supports efforts to strengthen the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 in order to address the proliferation challenges posed by non-state actors. We welcome the decision to hold a comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution 1540 in 2016.

We also take positive note of the growing emphasis on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Kyrgyzstan has joined the Humanitarian Pledge and ready to support a draft resolution proposed in this regard. While considering this issue a special attention should be given to the environmental damage caused by uranium mining in the past and the following process of nuclear fuel production.

Kyrgyzstan welcomes the accession of Syria to the Chemical Weapons Convention with subsequent destruction its chemical weapons stockpiles under the international supervision. We commend the tremendous work by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons program in spite of ongoing hostilities.

We have taken many steps and measures to ban the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons in implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action in that connection. In this regard, the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty is a milestone achievement, since the illegal trade in and the illegitimate use of conventional weapons continue to fuel violence and fan existing conflicts.

We firmly support the importance and urgency of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and promotion of its use for peaceful purposes only. Kyrgyzstan made a voluntary political commitment in 2005 not to be the first to deploy weapons of any kind in outer space. Welcoming a draft resolution on “No first placement of

weapons in outer space”, we believe that we should use all platforms under the auspices of the United Nations to successfully promote this initiative. From our standpoint, the elaboration of any agreement on use and exploration of outer space should be held in the format of inclusive and consensus-based multilateral negotiations within the framework of the United Nations and its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

The establishment of nuclear weapon-free-zones contributes to disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. Furthermore, these zones serve as an effective way for achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In this regard, we welcome and applaud the important contribution of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, the Arctic Treaty, as well as Mongolia’s nuclear-weapon-free status, to regional cooperation and security and to global efforts to completely eliminate nuclear weapons and prevent their proliferation.

Kyrgyzstan takes pride in the entry-into-force in 2009 of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. Article 18 of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia has designated Kyrgyzstan as its depository. On 25 December 2014, the Kyrgyz Republic assumed the chairmanship of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and hosted consultative meeting in Bishkek earlier this year.

Kyrgyzstan welcomes the signing of the Protocol on negative security assurances to the Treaty on a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Central Asia by Nuclear Weapon States on May 6, 2014. France, the United Kingdom, Russia and China have already ratified the Protocol. We call on the United States to ratify this instrument without any delay. As the depository of the Protocol, the Kyrgyz Republic stands ready to faithfully carry out its functions.

In conclusion, we reiterate that we look forward to cooperating with you, Sir, and with all delegations in order to obtain good results in our work and to achieve general and complete disarmament and security for all our peoples, as well as stability and peace throughout the world.

Thank you.