



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT
by H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova,
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations
at the general debate of the First Committee
of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly

5 October 2009
New York

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, as well as all members of the Bureau, on the election to the high post and wish you success during this UN General Assembly session.

It appears that the world has managed to overcome the ongoing stagnation in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation we had witnesses during the last years. Today, it is fair to say that the recent positive developments provide us with hope and encouragement for progress and accomplishment of far-reaching objectives for a better and safer world. Among those encouraging developments we can mark out the Russian and United States leaders' pledges to cut their countries' nuclear arsenals, the United States commitments to seek a world without nuclear weapons and to pursue the ratification of the CTBT, progress in the work of the Conference on Disarmament, comparatively successful outcomes of the repCom for the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

We particularly welcome the optimistic tone of the two events held on 24-25 September of this year – the 6th Conference on Facilitating the Entry Into Force of the CTBT and the first UN Security Council summit dedicated to the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

It is imperative that the international community must seize the new momentum, and we believe, the United Nations has the center role to play in this process.

Mr. Chairman,

The prospect of nuclear weapons proliferation, along with a risk of their acquisition and use by terrorist organizations remains one of the most serious threats to the mankind. As a country that has experienced the horrors of nuclear tests, shut down the world's second largest nuclear testing site, and voluntarily renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear and missile arsenal, Kazakhstan has an absolute moral right to call for more decisive actions in the area of disarmament and radical strengthening of the weapons of mass destruction non-proliferation regime.

It should be recognized that the NPT has been and continues to be the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the basis for nuclear disarmament. Non-proliferation and disarmament are mutually complementary processes. Kazakhstan stands for steady and gradual nuclear disarmament through the implementation of commitments by all NPT Member States - both nuclear and non-nuclear. 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.

Today, it is necessary to take even more decisive actions. Our President has proposed the development of a new universal Comprehensive Horizontal and Vertical Nuclear

Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty. The configuration of the new treaty and its contents will largely depend on the proposals of all interested states.

An early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which could serve as a catalyst for the process of nonproliferation and effective implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, is also among the steps in that direction. At this juncture, the international community should, through joined efforts, convince nine states, that have yet to either sign or ratify the Treaty, to do so.

For our part, we actively participate in the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, promoting the development and functioning of the International Monitoring System and on-site inspection techniques. Our country has been able to put in place a cutting-edge national monitoring system. Five stations functioning in Kazakhstan have been integrated into the International Monitoring System and used to provide a 24-hour monitoring of natural and man-made seismic events in the region.

Kazakhstan has hosted, at the former Semipalatinsk test site, four on-site inspection exercises. The Integrated Field Exercise 2008 was unprecedented in its scope and outcomes. That exercise has provided a unique opportunity to test, in an integrated manner, most of the key elements of the on-site inspection system, in a short time span.

We also call upon all states to not delay the drafting of a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT), which will become an important step towards nuclear disarmament and prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan recognizes the special role of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The country's entire nuclear activity is being carried out in accordance with its standards and under its control. We call upon all States Parties that have not yet done so, to meet all the conditions for transparency in accordance with agreements with the IAEA, including the Additional Protocol.

An effective measure to strengthen the non-proliferation regime could be the establishment of international nuclear fuel bank under IAEA auspices, and Kazakhstan is ready to consider a possibility of locating it on our territory.

We also support the U.S. initiative to hold a global nuclear security summit in Washington D.C. on 12-13 April 2010.

One of the considerable contributions made by Kazakhstan and the Central Asian states to the NPT implementation was this March's entry into force of the Treaty on the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in our region. The peculiarity of this zone is that it is located between two largest nuclear powers. The zone could play a large practical role in preventing uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear materials, as well as in fighting the nuclear terrorism. We count on the support for the Central Asian zone, firstly, from the nuclear powers, meaning a possibility of providing negative security guarantees.

Kazakhstan, as Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2010, intends to define the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation as one of the priorities of that Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

It is apparent that today we witness the forming of a unique geopolitical situation, some kind of "a unique window of opportunities," which allows for a real progress towards a noble goal of a world, free of nuclear weapons. For these reasons the delegation of Kazakhstan intends to propose during the 64th session of the General Assembly the idea of declaring the International Day for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons. The main objective of such initiative is to raise public awareness around the world about the threats and dangers of the existence of nuclear weapons and the need to facilitate global efforts towards this goal. The theme and scope of this initiative fully corresponds with the main mission and functions of the First Committee, where member states put forward and discuss various proposals in the area of international security and disarmament, and we count on your constructive inputs and support.

Mr. Chairman,

The proliferation of conventional weapons around the world constitutes a real threat to everyday life of many people in all continents. As the Secretary-General correctly put it, "too many arms still end up in the wrong hands." The illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) has a negative impact on security and development of many nations, particularly in crisis and post-conflict areas of the world. Illicit arms brokers and traders conclude their deals by exploiting legal loopholes and violating United Nations arms embargo.

The international community should consolidate its efforts in tackling the illicit transfer and trade in SALW, including through UN instruments. We express our hope that, based on the progressive impetus of the Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the upcoming BMS4 next year will produce successful outcomes. In establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, Kazakhstan stands for consensual decisions accepted by all member states.

In concluding my statement I would like to express my sincere hope that the current session of the UNGA First Committee will help to generate political will and achievable commitments by all member states to move forward the disarmament and international security agenda.

Thank you for your attention.