



KAZAKHSTAN

Please check against delivery

STATEMENT

by

Mr. Barlybay SADYKOV,

Ambassador-at-Large

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

at the General debate of the First Committee

of the sixty-eighth session of the UN General Assembly

8 October 2013

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I congratulate you on assumption of the Chairmanship of the First Committee. Let me assure you of our full support and cooperation in implementing your mandate.

The nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are the highest priority for Kazakhstan. Many records of my country and our initiatives put forward within the framework of the United Nations vividly demonstrate firmness of this stand. These two issues are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. That is why there is a need to advance them concurrently through collective efforts and in the spirit of multilateralism.

The past few years of nuclear disarmament are marked by some tangible developments, such as New START Treaty between Russia and US, unilateral nuclear weapons reduction initiatives of the UK and France. However, in a global scale nuclear disarmament remains an aspiration rather than action as we are under the pressure of thousands of nuclear arsenals. Kazakhstan calls upon nuclear powers pledged that they would make sincere efforts for the elimination of nuclear weapons in accordance with Article VI of the NPT – to take practical measures in this field. Compliance to nuclear abolition should be adhered to not only by States Parties of the NPT, but also by States that are not party to the Treaty.

It is our strong conviction that total elimination of all nuclear arsenals is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons. We take the opportunity to note that Kazakhstan's initiative to draft a Universal Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free World within the UN is one of the means to foster political commitment of the world community to a shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. The Declaration can remind the world that while disagreements may persist on ways to achieve it, there is no dispute over the goal itself. It can serve as an inspiration for actions and promote accountability in fulfilling disarmament commitments. It can inspire new efforts to end the stalemates that have crippled the multilateral disarmament machinery.

Catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences from nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk – and from other nuclear test sites around the globe – demonstrate that the aftermaths of any use of nuclear weapons are uncontrollable in time and space. The recent Oslo Conference underscored the potential of humanitarian approaches in this dimension. We hope that similar deliberations in Mexico next year will bring concrete recommendations in this regard.

As the state long-suffered from nuclear tests Kazakhstan supports this kind of initiatives and hopes that all members of the international community will contribute to creation of a broader front and resolute actions against nuclear threat.

Kazakhstan is deeply concerned about the long-lasting deadlock in the UN disarmament machinery, including the UN GA First Committee, Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament. Starting multilateral negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament are crucial for us. A failure of the international community to seize the momentum in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, violations of a moratorium on nuclear tests again remind us of an urgent need for the UN disarmament triad to go back to their main track.

The Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating forum has to live up to expectations of a world. The CD Members should bridge their differences and find the way out of the existing stalemate. Given the importance of multilateral talks on the basis of a robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation Program of work, Kazakhstan stands ready to actively engage in the Informal working group mandated to produce a program of work - the group established in accordance to proposals made by the Secretary General of the CD, Mr.Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on June 18, 2013.

Mr. Chair,

The NPT has indispensable role to play in alleviating contemporary nuclear proliferation challenges. Although the Treaty was not able to avert further spreading out of nuclear weapons, we do want to believe that political will and sincere aspiration to ensure that provisions of the Treaty on preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons are not exhausted.

A voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing observed by the nuclear powers, though an important factor of nuclear security, it cannot substitute a legally-binding document such as the CTBT. And an early entry into force of this Treaty would be essential for effective implementation of the NPT.

Also, we call on all UN Member States to add to implementation of the UN GA Resolution on the International Day against Nuclear Tests which is Kazakhstan's yet another part to keeping a high alert on nuclear threat reduction.

The ATOM project (Abolish Tests. Our Mission) launched by Kazakhstan last year in Astana continues its campaign and makes gradual progress. Citizens from 100 states have already joint this campaign by signing a Nuclear weapons test ban petition to be forwarded to the heads of states possessing nuclear weapons, as well as the countries which have not yet joined or ratified the CTBT and NPT.

The establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones is a step ahead towards a safer world. This kind of initiatives should be encouraged by providing unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Although NWFZs now cover more than a half of the world, most of the NSA protocols still under negotiations or have not been ratified yet by some NWS, including the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia.

The Semipalatinsk Treaty is considered by Kazakhstan and other Central Asian states as a step meant to foster regional peace and security. Launching of the C5-P5 consultations on this subject during Second NPT PrepCom in Geneva this year is a good move forward. We are satisfied with the level and pace of engagement of Nuclear Five in the C5 - P5 dialogue. Kazakhstan, as the coordinator of C5, hopes that practicability and effectiveness of the Treaty will be ensured soon through constructive consultations among parties involved. Establishment of NWFZ in various parts of the world is important contribution to the nuclear non-proliferation, peace and security and these kinds of initiatives should be encouraged and supported by NWS.

Principal among our current challenges remains convening of the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction as it was stipulated by the 2010 Action Plan. The weight of this Conference is dictated by its pivotal role in ensuring both regional and global security and we call upon all interested parties to exert political will to convene it as soon as possible.

Given the contemporary "nuclear renaissance", Kazakhstan, as one of the world's biggest suppliers of uranium products, stands ready to add to our common cause. Astana's talks with the IAEA and its Member States on establishing the International bank for low-enriched uranium under the auspices of the IAEA and its safeguards is advancing successfully. We believe that this initiative will be yet another practical input to guaranteed access of all States to a nuclear fuel. At the same time establishment of the LEU Bank in no way undermines an inalienable right of every NPT member state for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology.

Kazakhstan expresses its deep concern from the recent use of chemical weapons in Syria. Accession of Syria to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction and elimination of its stockpiles as set forth in the decision of the Executive Council of OPCW and the Security Council Resolution will preclude the possibility of their repeated use and we call upon Government of Syria to comply fully with the chemical weapons elimination programme.

We consistently stand for the universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and ensuring international control. Establishment of effective verification mechanism would strengthen mutual confidence and security.

We welcome the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty at the UN General Assembly this April. Kazakhstan is confident that the Treaty will make significant contribution to our joint efforts in preventing illicit trade of such weapons. We finalize our internal procedures for signing this Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion let me underline that the political will is crucial for achieving tangible results in outstanding issues of disarmament. Kazakhstan is firmly committed to achieving a world free from nuclear weapons and assures you that our delegation will render every support and cooperation to make your mission a success.

I thank you.