



KAZAKHSTAN

Please check against delivery

STATEMENT
by
Mr. Israil Tilegen, Minister Counsellor
of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations
at the First Committee thematic discussion on
“Nuclear Weapons”

17 October 2013
New York

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

The past few years of nuclear disarmament have been marked by some well-known important developments such as the recent High-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, Conference on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in Oslo. However, on a global scale, nuclear disarmament still remains an aspiration rather than action. Stalemate in the UN disarmament machinery, modernization of nuclear programs, a lack of inclusiveness and transparency in some processes, failure to diminish the role of the nuclear weapons in security and military doctrines, positioning the nuclear potential as the matter of status by some states as well as attempts to present this weapons as the only guarantee of international order and peace seriously undermine a sense of security of many countries. Nevertheless we still remain optimistic that the international community will show solidarity in the face of addressing these challenges and the policy, of ensuring one state's security at the cost of others, will be left behind.

Despite its asymmetry, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains the “cornerstone” of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We therefore call for universalizing the NPT, with timely action between now and the 2015 NPT Review Conference, in order to demonstrate tangible results with subcommittees working in parallel on various action points of the Outcome Document. This should be done in harmony with the Secretary-General’s Five-Point Plan and the various initiatives launched by groups of countries. In accordance with this Kazakhstan calls for a Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World as the first step towards a Convention on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Compliance to nuclear abolition should be adhered to not only by State Parties of the NPT, but also by States that are not party to the Treaty. We acknowledge that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing, and are linked to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this regard, my Government is finalizing procedures for hosting a nuclear fuel bank under the supervision of International Atomic Energy Agency.

The main criterion of commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free world is the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by Annex II countries.

Presently, a voluntary moratorium against nuclear weapons tests enjoys near-universal political support but it cannot be seen as a substitute for a strong, transparent, confidence-building, and legally-binding obligation.

For its part, the Republic of Kazakhstan has been an unwavering supporter of banning the testing of nuclear weapons. It also strives to ensure that the Treaty’s deterrence and detection mechanisms – the International Monitoring System and the On-Site Inspection Regime – are also fully-operational even before the Treaty enters into force. They are important not just in terms of detecting nuclear test explosions, but also for civil and scientific applications. We therefore call on Signatory States to provide the political and financial support to complete this verification regime.

The Republic of Kazakhstan, which has been the venue for a total of four CTBTO field exercises in 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2008, stands ready to offer its expertise and experience to Jordan which will conduct the Integrated Field Exercise in 2014.

In my own region, the Treaty establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons in Central Asia (CANWFZ) has contributed to international and regional security. We appreciate the cooperation

of the Nuclear Weapons States for a fruitful dialogue and look forward to signing the protocol on negative assurances very soon.

We need to move forward in establishing a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We hope that the long-awaited conference on this subject can take place by the end of 2013. My government stands ready to host subsequent meetings in Kazakhstan in support of this process.

Finally, the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 64/35, designating 29 August (the day the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site was shut down in 1991) as the International Day against Nuclear Tests, is Kazakhstan's contribution to the abolition of nuclear tests as a means to a world free of nuclear weapons. The Day creates public awareness worldwide to harness enlightened public advocacy and diplomacy to make political leaders accountable to their commitments. The Government of Kazakhstan has also initiated the ATOM (Abolish Testing. Our Mission) Project as an e-campaign with the similar purpose of mobilizing people worldwide to press for a ban on nuclear weapons. I encourage you to visit its website (www.atomproject.org) to add your voice to the thousands who have spoken out.

My delegation is committed to join the international efforts to achieve the long cherished goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman