



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 Thematic debate of the UN General Assembly First Committee
on Outer Space (Disarmament Aspects)**

**25 October 2013
New York**

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of outer space from the security and disarmament perspective is gaining increasing importance. Permit me the opportunity to present my delegation's stand during this thematic debate on Outer Space.

The numbers of space actors and stakeholders, with their diverse ways, have made our space environment hazardous, thus calling for immediate and urgent attention from all of us. The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China have jointly drafted the Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (the PPWT), which Kazakhstan endorses fully. However, political hurdles and the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament block our endeavours to see the realization of such a treaty.

While we all agree on the necessity of stipulating space security measures, we see the different emphases in the non-binding transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs). Kazakhstan calls for a combination of both approaches: firstly, a strong unequivocal Treaty, and secondly the TCBMs to reinforce it. Kazakhstan, as a member of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE), along with other Member States, endorses its report and will work towards implementing the recommendations, particularly in seeking more relevant and timely confidence-building strategies. Consideration would have thus to be given to technologies that we have thus far, and the specific mechanisms to be set up. Kazakhstan, as a member of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPOUS), helps to develop joint programmes, continue research, generate information on outer space issues, and study of legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space.

What is necessary is the establishment of norms for responsible behavior in space and, at the same time, address some of the national security concerns of space-faring nations. At any cost, the possibility of weaponizing our fragile environment should be avoided at all costs. Moreover, to do so will benefit only a few. Such exclusiveness would create distrust and suspicion, as happened with nuclear weapons and their secret non-proliferation. Such a phenomenon can occur as more countries would stealthily seek to acquire these deadly weapons. History must not repeat itself.

Past experience has also proved that such theatre of military action can be concealed, which can become a major breach of international security. Presently, more than 130 countries possess sophisticated space programmes, or are developing them, using information from space assets for their own defense. Action must be taken to ensure that such dangerous weapons systems do not undermine the existing structure of agreements on arms limitation, particularly, in the nuclear-missile sphere.

Kazakhstan does not aim to develop space weapons, or deploying them in outer space, now or in the future. On the other hand, my country, which hosts the first and largest cosmodrome on its territory, the Baikonur, is actively developing a national civilian space programme, including the creation of a space rocket complex, Baiterek. This infrastructure will enable the country to become part of the world market of space services and access to latest technologies, in accordance with the standards of international collective security.

Kazakhstan acceded to the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation in 2005, and is presently working actively to join the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), strictly following the Regime's regulations of export policy. At the same time, we do believe that the principles of fairness and equality should prevail without exception. Past experience has proven how very difficult it is to abolish accumulated nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, as well as, to eliminate space weapons and space debris in the future. So every proactive step should be taken right from now. Furthermore, the WMD detract our global limited financial resources from sustainable development, which should be a key priority of ours.

In conclusion, Kazakhstan will join the multilateral action to work towards space, which is also a global public good, remaining free of from weapons.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.