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STATEMENT

by

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**of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at Cluster 1 issues of the Third Preparatory Committee for the
2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

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New York

**Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Kazakhstan considers nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as the highest priority in our (national and international) agenda. The achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons is a common goal for all of humankind.

Despite encouraging developments in the nuclear disarmament process over the last years, the situation has not changed significantly. We are all still under the pressure of thousands of nuclear weapons which can destroy all humanity on our planet.

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.

There needs to be a halt to the modernization and upgrading of nuclear weapons, or acquisition of new ones, to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

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 steps in this field. Compliance to nuclear disarmament should be adhered not only by States Parties of the NPT, but also by States that are not Party to the Treaty.

Stagnation in nuclear disarmament continues, which in our opinion, is due to the crisis of confidence in the international community. In recent years, there has been a deep sense of frustration worldwide over the lack of progress in achieving the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. Deliberations about disarmament have lost a common focus. Considerations of immediate national interests have eclipsed the pursuit of the common interest. We are seeing a wave of preconditions for nuclear disarmament, rather than concrete results in achieving it. We have to admit that lack of confidence is one of the great challenges before us. The “crisis of confidence” in the field of disarmament has to be overcome. For that purpose, we should clearly see our final goal and confirm our commitment to this goal.

Kazakhstan proposed to adopt within the United Nations a Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-World. We consider it as 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 aspiration 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. The adoption of a UN Universal Declaration on the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world will promote the advancement of the Convention on Full and Total Ban of Nuclear Weapons.

Our initiative is supported by many countries and we will continue our consultations with delegations in order to have it as a consensus document of the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

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 world has learned much from the Conferences on Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo and Nayarit, Mexico, and my delegation welcomes the decision of the Austrian Government to hold the third conference on this issue, thereby creating the greater momentum for advocacy and resolute action.

Kazakhstan stands for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). A voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing observed by the nuclear powers, though an important factor of nuclear security, cannot serve as an alternative to a legally-binding document such as the CTBT.

We closely co-operate with the CTBTO to enhance the International Monitoring System, through developing and refining our five national cutting-edge 24-hour tracking stations as part of the global effort.

We call on all UN Member States to make efforts to implement UN GA Resolution (64/35) on the International Day against Nuclear Tests which is yet another initiative of Kazakhstan to keep on a high alert the issue of nuclear threat reduction. This year we will observe the fifth year of the resolution's adoption. It is symbolic that 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the popular Nevada-Semipalatinsk anti-nuclear movement. It not only brought the people of Kazakhstan together in their desire to eliminate the nuclear threat in our own country, but also in the entire world. Reflecting the will of the people, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev closed the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site by his own unilateral decree. To mark these historical actions of the citizens of Kazakhstan, the Government will organize the International Anti-Nuclear Conference on 29 of August 2014 in Semipalatinsk

As you may be well aware, the ATOM project launched by Kazakhstan in 2012, to further realize the above-mentioned UN Resolution, continues its campaign of collecting signatures for 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 joined yet the CTBT or NPT. We do believe that this kind of action will mobilize the international community to take tangible steps, and we call upon delegations to sign the on-line petition.

Thank you for your attention.