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Statement

by Mr. Barlybay Sadykov, Director of the Department of Multilateral Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

(30 April-11 May 2012, Vienna)

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, I congratulate you on your assumption of the responsible post of the Chair of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference and assure you of our full cooperation with you and with other delegations in achieving our common goals and objectives.

Mr. Chairman,

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is undoubtedly one of the fundamental documents of non-proliferation and disarmament. The key to ensuring the long-term stability of the international security system based on the NPT is to have an equally responsible attitude and the unconditional fulfillment of the international community's commitment to all three pillars of the NPT as well as to ensure universality of the Treaty.

We see the Action Plan of the 2010 NPT Review conference as an important document which should revitalize the Treaty in order to ensure global peace and security, counter the threat of nuclear weapons, and consolidate multilateral efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We therefore call upon all States to reaffirm their commitment and interest in continuing dialogue by way of taking concrete actions.

Kazakhstan is fully committed to the 2010 Review Conference Action Plan and is making a real contribution to the implementation of the NPT goals, primarily as they pertain to non-proliferation and the advancement of States' rights to develop peaceful nuclear programmes.

At Kazakhstan's initiative, the United Nations General Assembly in December 2009 adopted resolution which proclaimed 29th of August – the date of the official closing of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site – as the International Day against Nuclear Tests, which is fully correlates with the aims and objectives of the NPT. As a country which suffered from nuclear tests and really knows the consequences of such explosions we call on all remaining Annex II States to sign and ratify CTBT.

In support of universalization of the CTBT and to increase public awareness of the importance to take concrete actions against Nuclear Tests Kazakhstan organized last year the International Forum for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, which was dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the closing of the Semipalatinsk test site. The participants of this Forum adopted the Astana Declaration, wherein they called upon all countries in possession of nuclear arsenals to eliminate them as soon as possible.

Yet another initiative elaborated by Kazakhstan to further promote goals and objectives of the NPT is the proposal to adopt the Universal Declaration of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World made by the Head of our State President N. Nazarbayev at the 66th session of the UN General Assembly .

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan, as a country that had stood in the cradle of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, calls for the development of an international legally binding instrument designed for the provision of security assurances by Nuclear Weapon States to countries without nuclear weapons. We welcome progress made by the States parties and the Nuclear Weapon States towards the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

I would like to also emphasize the strong commitment of Central Asian States to complete the institutionalization of the Semipalatinsk Treaty. In this regard, we express our readiness to hold constructive dialogue with the "P5" for the early signing of a Protocol on negative security assurances for States participating in the Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

Promoting the convening of the 2012 Conference on establishment of NWFZ in the Middle East is among the priorities of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. In the Astana Declaration adopted by the OIC CFM in 2011, the Member States of the Organization welcomed the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. We hope that the political will of States to build understanding and trust between the countries of the region will help them overcome their existing differences, and that the upcoming meeting in Helsinki on establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East will be successful.

Adhering to the principle of equal access to the peaceful atom, Kazakhstan last year applied to host on its territory the IAEA Low-Enriched Uranium Bank. We believe that the creation of additional reserves of low-enriched uranium under IAEA auspices will create conditions conducive for all States to have guaranteed access to nuclear fuel, and will in no way

infringe upon the legitimate and inalienable right of all NPT States Parties to develop peaceful nuclear activities in full compliance with their IAEA obligations.

In addition, we support measures that have been undertaken by the IAEA and the international community to strengthen nuclear security and provide assistance to countries affected by nuclear incidents. At the Kiev Nuclear Security Summit, which took place from 20 to 22 April 2011, Kazakhstan had made a financial contribution of 2 million US dollars to avert further consequences from the Chernobyl disaster.

We believe that IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative is fully consistent with the objectives of the NPT, and that it will assist States in developing peaceful nuclear energy in accordance with their non-proliferation obligations and the Government of Kazakhstan has decided to allocate financial resources to the Fund. Over the past several years Kazakhstan has been contributing to various IAEA programmes, including the Technical Cooperation Fund, as well as the construction of the Seibersdorf laboratory.

Mr. Chairman,

We strongly believe that a nuclear-weapon-free world – is an ambitious goal that can be achieved if all nations and peoples join their efforts, regardless of whether or not they possess nuclear technology. I hope that all of the issues on the agenda of the first NPT PrepCom will garner broad and thorough discussion.

Thank you for your attention.

