



Statement
by Mr. Nuran Niyazaliev
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic
at the General Debate of the First Committee
of the 68th Session of UN General Assembly
(10 October 2013, New York)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear Colleagues,

First of all let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee. Our congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau. We assure you of our full cooperation and support in discharging your important duty.

Mr. Chairman,

The issues related to disarmament and international security still remain of acute urgency in our agenda. As a responsible member of the international community, Kyrgyzstan attaches the utmost importance to general and complete disarmament as a means to ensure international peace and security. The ongoing disarmament negotiations and non-proliferation regime are among the main priorities of our foreign policy, and we stand ready to make our own contribution to these processes.

The nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation continue to be the main subject of international efforts with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on its center. We hope that based on substantive discussions done in the first and second sessions of the NPT Preparatory Committee in Vienna and Geneva the forthcoming third session in 2014 will help set the stage for a successful Review Conference in 2015. We look forward to the reports by States Parties to the Treaty, and especially those of the Nuclear Weapons States with respect to concrete actions they have taken and plan to take to reduce all categories of nuclear weapons in a transparent and irreversible fashion. My delegation notes with regret that the Conference on the Establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems has not been convened. This conference could be a disarmament milestone and contribute to the establishment of peace in a region where tensions are heightened. Expressing our great concern over the use of chemical weapons in armed conflict in Syria, Kyrgyzstan welcomes the accession of Syria to the Chemical Weapons Convention with subsequent destruction its chemical weapons stockpiles under the international supervision.

Kyrgyzstan considers the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as one of the most fundamental and effective international instruments in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Based on it, the Kyrgyz Republic signed the CTBT in

1996 and ratified it in 2003. Giving a particular importance to the expeditious ratification and entry into force of the CTBT, we add our voice to those calling on all States to demonstrate their commitment to an end to nuclear testing, and urge those States listed in annex 2, whose ratification is necessary, to do so without further delay.

My delegation looks forward for the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, which continues to make little progress in its work, thus delaying negotiations on number key issues like nuclear disarmament, fissile material cut-off treaty, prevention of an arms race in outer space, negative security assurances. We encourage all states to demonstrate the necessary political will so the disarmament machinery fulfills its mandate.

International safeguards and physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities is the first line of defense against nuclear terrorism. The Kyrgyz Republic supports the efforts to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in order to address the proliferation challenges posed by non-state actors. In this regard the Government of Kyrgyzstan with support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Security Council Committee 1540 and the Office for Disarmament Affairs has adopted earlier this year the National Plan of Action on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Taking this opportunity I would like to thank those countries and organizations that offered their assistance in implementation of the National Action Plan and express our readiness for further cooperation on this matter.

Mr. Chairman,

It is well known that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is crucial to our goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. The Kyrgyz Republic takes pride in the entry-into-force in 2009 of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. We look forward to constructive dialogue with the Nuclear Weapon States on the protocol on negative security assurances and welcome the recent positive developments in this regard.

Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to mitigation of the environmental damage caused by uranium mining in the past and the following process of nuclear fuel production. This issue was raised at the NPT Review Conferences in 2000, 2005 and 2010. Rehabilitation and securing the safety of uranium tailings, which today total more than 8 million cubic meters on our territory, still remain one of the acute Kyrgyzstan's problems. The situation is aggravated by the fact that most of them are located in seismically active, mudflow and flood prone areas with high ground water levels, as well near river banks that form the basis of Central Asian water supply. The potential consequences of ineffective solutions would have a negative impact on millions of people in Central Asia. In this regard the delegation of Kyrgyzstan has tabled a draft resolution entitled "The Role of the International Community in the Prevention of the Radiation Threat in Central Asia", to be considered in the Second Committee. We call on UN membership to support this resolution.

In conclusion, let me assure you, Mr. Chair, that my delegation stands ready to participate actively in the work of the First Committee in order to obtain good results in achieving our common goals.

Thank you.