

# KAZAKHSTAN

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## **Statement**

**by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Ashikbayev at the  
2015 NPT Review Conference  
(General debates)**

**Distinguished Madame President,  
Distinguished delegates of the Conference,**

First of all, I would like to convey my deepest condolences to the Government and people of Nepal for the most tragic earthquake that has taken such a high toll of human loss and suffering and express sentiments for a speedy recovery and rehabilitation.

At the outset, let me extend our congratulations to you, Madame President, on your election to the Presidency of the 2015 Review Conference of the State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We stand ready to support you in overcoming all barriers to progress in this review process.

**Madame President,**

Kazakhstan believes that the NPT must remain to be one of the pillars of global security, that still needs to be reinforced and protected.

We realize that there is a long way to go to fulfill its ambitions especially in its first pillar and therefore it is vitally important that we make tangible progress in the reduction of nuclear weapons with ultimate goal of their total elimination.

Four states - Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and South Africa – lead by example and have already voluntarily renounced their nuclear arsenals. It is exactly 20 years ago that the last nuclear warhead was removed from the territory of Kazakhstan, which at that time possessed the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world. This demonstrates that with a strong political will and determination nuclear weapon states can fulfill their obligations under the NPT.

We are concerned by a large number of remaining nuclear weapons, as well as by the continued central role in security concepts of nuclear weapon states. Kazakhstan therefore proposes that the international community adopts a Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear Weapons Free World, as the first step towards the Convention on Nuclear Weapons.

We are convinced that non-nuclear weapon states have the legitimate right to receive legal security assurances from nuclear weapon states not to use and not to threaten to use nuclear weapons against them.

In the face of the deteriorating international situation and break down in trust, it is critical that we reaffirm the basic principles of international law such as peaceful settlement of disputes, refrain from the use of or threat to use force, territorial integrity, and inviolability of frontiers.

We call for the universalization of the NPT so it is truly effective and strengthened. We believe that formulation of clear mechanisms to discourage withdrawal from the Treaty are essential and we have to consider this issue very carefully on the basis of different proposals and find compromise solution.

The recommendations of the Action Plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference to close the gap between reality and our ambitions must be prominent in our discussions this week.

**Madame President,**

As a country that closed down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site back in 1991 and as Co-President of the Article XIV Conference on Facilitating the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) we call on all states which have yet to sign or ratify the Treaty to do so without any preconditions and delays.

We strongly believe that a voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing is not an effective alternative to a legally binding Treaty.

For the Treaty to be an effective mechanism for non-proliferation, we believe all States must show the political will and provide the necessary resources to complete the verification regime under CTBT and maximize the capabilities of the Provisional Technical Secretariat.

For the goals of CTBT serves UN GA Resolution on 29 August as a International Day against nuclear tests, initiated by Kazakhstan and we call upon all states to take measures to observe this Day.

We express our deep concern over the nuclear tests conducted by the DPRK and its nuclear programme. We urge the DPRK to fully comply with its obligations under the Security Council resolutions and return to the negotiating process in the six-party format.

We recognize the significance of the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) and actively engage in the work of the Group of Government Experts. This Treaty, together with the CTBT, would undoubtedly strengthen the non-proliferation regime and we should exert strong political will to make these Treaties reality.

Strict implementation of the requirements of UN Security Council's 1540 Resolution is of special importance. Kazakhstan together with UNODA and the 1540 Committee hosted two workshops on the Resolution's regional implementation.

My country suffered first hand from the devastation of nuclear tests. The humanitarian imperative and will of the Kazakhstan people were the main driving forces behind the historic decision by the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev to abolish nuclear weapons and dismantle related infrastructure on our territory. We encourage further deliberations on the issue of humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons to give a new powerful impetus to our common efforts to achieve a total ban on nuclear testing and to get rid of these deadly weapons

Nuclear-Weapon-Free zones play a major role in strengthening non-proliferation and global security. That was the main reason for the countries of Central Asia to establish a regional nuclear weapon free zone.

We welcome the signature by the five nuclear powers of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (*the Semipalatinsk Treaty*) in May last year and subsequent ratifications by France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Russian Federation. We urge the remaining signatories to complete their ratification processes as soon as possible.

We note with regret the failure to implement the decision of 2010 NPT Review Conference on convening a Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We urge all parties concerned to demonstrate strong political will and to organize the conference as soon as possible. We strongly believe that establishment of the zone would be good basis for dialogue and facilitate peace, cooperation and mutual trust at the Middle East.

The Republic of Kazakhstan supports the universal implementation of the IAEA Safeguards Agreements and its Additional Protocol, and calls upon all other states to sign them.

As all States Parties to the NPT have an inalienable right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Kazakhstan also plans to develop civil nuclear energy programme.

We highly evaluate our work with the IAEA and are enhancing our cooperation with the Agency through voluntary contributions to its Nuclear Security Fund and the Peaceful Uses Initiative.

It is important that states developing civil nuclear programs have indiscriminate access to a nuclear fuel sources in a predictable and sustainable manner.

To this end Kazakhstan is committed to hosting the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank and we intend to conclude respective Host Country Agreement this year.

The Bank will not limit in any way the inalienable right of each country to develop its own nuclear technology, including full nuclear cycle.

We welcome the progress made in agreeing a political framework agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) and the six international mediators to resolve the Iranian nuclear programme.

Kazakhstan made a practical contribution to the negotiation process by providing a platform for holding two rounds of talks in 2013 and we hope that the political will of the participating countries will be maintained and comprehensive agreement on the Iranian nuclear programme will be signed within the agreed timeframe.

**Madam Chair,**

As President Nursultan Nazarbayev has said: “Kazakhstan has set an example of high responsibility to present and future generations of mankind.

We have convincingly demonstrated, by our own behavior, that genuine security rests not on nuclear arsenals, but on peaceful foreign policy, internal stability and sustainable economic and political development of the country.”

In the immediate run-up to this Conference, the Kazakhstani NGO ATOM Project together with their Norwegian partners brought for this high assembly the message of peace from millions of ordinary people around the globe who aspire to live in nuclear weapon free world.

The Republic of Kazakhstan, by giving up its nuclear status and closing the Semipalatinsk testing site, has shown itself as a consistent supporter of the global process of non-proliferation and disarmament and the multilateral approach to resolving global security issues.

I can promise that these goals will be high on our agenda if we gain a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for 2017-2018.

Kazakhstan will continue to be a leader in nuclear responsibility.

Thank you for your attention.