



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kazykhanov,

**Ambassador, the Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations,
at the United Nations Conference to Review Progress
Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent,
Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small
Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects**

**27 June 2006
New York**

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to express our sincere and warmest congratulations on your election to the Presidency of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action. My congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau. I am sure that your experience, determination and drive will contribute to successful and effective work of the first Review Conference on the Programme of Action (PoA).

Mr. President,

Destabilizing accumulation and proliferation of weapons continue to be one of the main threats to security, stability, and sustainable development in the world, and have serious impact on development and human rights. Illicit arms trafficking is being actively used by criminal and terrorist groups and radical religious movements. The spread of weapons is directly linked to the activities of drug cartels and criminal networks involved in the production and illicit trafficking of drugs.

It is critically important to develop and implement agreed international measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking and manufacturing of small arms and light weapons and to reduce their excessive and destabilizing accumulations throughout the world. We believe that the United Nations should play a leading role in this process.

The year 2005 marked a watershed in the global efforts to better understand and address the problems created by the proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons. The entry into force of the UN Firearms Protocol and the UN Instrument for Timely and Reliable Identification and Tracing of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons should contribute to the efforts to ensure international peace and security.

Mr. President,

Kazakhstan reaffirms its determination to fully implement all the provisions of the Instrument adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/463. At the same time, our delegation shares the concern of many countries that this Instrument will not be legally binding.

We believe that the international community does not pay due attention to the proliferation of ammunition and explosives. Member States should exert every effort to put in place controls over the illicit proliferation and use of ammunition and explosives, which could be eventually integrated into the Programme of Action.

The Government of Kazakhstan has submitted its detailed report on the implementation of the Programme of Action and right before the Conference has provided its update.

Kazakhstan supports the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms by providing information, on a regular basis, and considers the Register as the most important component of the export control system. It should be noted in this regard that for several years in a row now Kazakhstan has been submitting its account to the Register, showing zero export of small arms and light weapons. We are also in favour of another transparency measure taken by the United Nations - the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures - and cosponsor a draft resolution on this issue in the First Committee.

Kazakhstan supports the provisions of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and every year submits its relevant information on national small-arms marking systems used for manufacture and/or import to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE. We express

confidence that this document will make a considerable contribution to global efforts to implement the Programme of Action.

Kazakhstan considers it important to strengthen its national export control system. The Law on Export Control of the Republic of Kazakhstan establishes the framework for and the functioning of the export controls over armaments, military equipment and items. The Law was adopted in 1996 and is subject to review in accordance with the international nonproliferation regimes. We also believe that expanded cooperation between States to improve export control systems is a very effective way to counter international terrorism. Such cooperation can be especially meaningful at the regional level.

The circulation of small arms and light weapons in Kazakhstan is governed by the Rules of Circulation of Combat Small Arms and Ammunition for Them and Side Arms, adopted in 2002 by a Government decree. Efforts by state agencies to identify and eliminate sources of acquisition of arms and ammunition are especially important for the prevention and suppression of crimes involving their illicit trafficking. Because of these measures, registered crime involving illegal circulation of these arms is relatively insignificant and accounts for less than 1 percent of all crimes in Kazakhstan.

Mr. President,

The PoA calls upon Member States to enhance cooperation at the regional level. The Government of Kazakhstan together with the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs conducted the first regional conference on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Central Asia in March 2004 in Almaty. Its participants highlighted the need to enhance regional cooperation. They particularly emphasized the need for joint action to:

- conduct operational investigations to identify and block channels for trafficking and other forms of illicit import/export of small arms and light weapons in the countries of Central Asia;
- take steps to prevent the loss and theft of firearms and ammunition from depots, arsenals, classified locations and other weapons storage facilities;
- establish cooperation between law-enforcement agencies and other appropriate departments of the Central Asian States for monitoring of transnational channels and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons;
- devise a mechanism for regular exchanges of relevant information, including information on illegal facilitation of small-arms trade in the region.

Also at the conference in Almaty, the Government of Kazakhstan demonstrated the process of destruction of firearms removed from illicit circulation in the country.

Regional arrangements, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization, have started to play increasingly important role in addressing current challenges and threats in our region, including the illicit proliferation of SALW. Another important forum, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), has also stepped up its efforts in this area. Its member states developed and adopted in 2004 a CICA Catalogue of Confidence-Building Measures. The Second CICA Summit was held on 17 June 2006 in Almaty and adopted a declaration and established the CICA Secretariat.

Mr. President,

During this Conference, participants will address main aspects of the implementation of the Programme of Action. The delegation of Kazakhstan would like to highlight its priorities and believes that special attention should be paid to such issues as an enhanced international control

over small arms and light weapons and brokering; unlicensed production of small arms and light weapons; broader sub-regional and international cooperation and donor activities; addressing the problems of post-conflict settlement; and the relationship between illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and drugs and organized crime and terrorism. As a follow-up, it is essential to establish a basis for the drafting and implementation of legally binding instruments related to small arms and light weapons.

Let me again, Mr. President, express confidence that our meeting will be productive and will be able to produce tangible results, thus making an important contribution to the fight of the international community against the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

I wish all of us successful and fruitful work.

Thank you for your attention.