

# KAZAKHSTAN

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## STATEMENT

by H.E. Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, PR of Kazakhstan,  
at the General Meeting of the 2016 UNDC Substantive Session  
(New York, 4 April 2016)

**Mr. Chairman,  
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs,  
Excellencies and Colleagues,**

I would like to congratulate you on your leadership and express my full support. I also thank the members of the Bureau and officers of the Secretariat for their most committed services. My delegation wishes to record its most grateful appreciation to the HR for Disarmament Affairs, H.E. Mr. Kim Won-soo and his very able team for their outstanding stewardship and for the great support given to Kazakhstan in its advocacy for disarmament.

There is no doubt that we must break the stalemate of UNDC since 1999 and revitalize the effectiveness of the disarmament machinery. We shall address the many new threats encountered today, and also improve the working methods of UNDC, to consolidate past successes and respond to changing political situations and challenges. We note with deep regret that entities of the disarmament machinery have not executed their mandates since the last two decades and hope that such a situation will soon change. Hence, permit me to present various bold and innovative measures to achieve our desired objectives for a safe and secure world.

*Firstly, on nuclear issues, my delegation would like to elaborate the following.*

Kazakhstan has been fully committed to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear security from the very first day of its independence. The threat of use of nuclear weapons by state and non-state actors remains the main challenge that humanity faces today. We should therefore use every opportunity to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. We recognize the key role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the main international structure responsible for the elaboration of goals and principles, and commend it for uniting international efforts in ensuring nuclear security. However, the Nuclear Security Summits contribute significantly (and support the IAEA) to accomplish this common goal. Our President has participated in all the four summits and we commend the Government of the United States and President Barak Obama for their initiative to launch the Summit process. We are confident that implementing the recommendations adopted at the Summits in Washington, Seoul, The Hague, and last week again in Washington will greatly increase nuclear security worldwide, and we will spare no efforts to realize them.

One of the key statements of our leadership at the Fourth Summit has been the position that, despite the considerable progress made as an outcome of the summits, the objectives set up in the framework of this initiative, generally speaking, are not fully implemented. It is, therefore, necessary to consider the continuation of these summits to further reduce nuclear security threats. Hence, Kazakhstan presented last week at the summit a fundamentally new document titled, "**Manifesto: The World. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century,**" which expresses the momentous stand on the issues of war and peace, particularly above all, the threat of a nuclear apocalypse in the event of failure of the international community to promote and advance a total ban on nuclear weapons.

Speaking at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2015, President Nursultan Nazarbayev encouraged the international community "to make the building of a nuclear-weapon-free world as the main goal of humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century". Kazakhstan therefore tabled resolution 70/57 on the Universal Declaration for the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, which was supported by the majority of UN Member States and adopted on 8 December last year. It outlines the basic principles and objectives of nuclear disarmament, and urges that bold steps be taken, including the adoption of a legally binding international instrument to prohibit and destroy all nuclear weapons. My country, thus, calls for the establishment of a Global Anti-Nuclear Movement aimed at nuclear disarmament.

Given the need to take additional steps to discuss issues of nuclear disarmament, Kazakhstan has supported the establishment of the *Open-ended Working Group (OEWG)* to advance the process of multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and has participated in its meetings. To us, this entity is not an alternative to the CD and the UNDC. However, the OEWG has the absolute majority of supporters, and its potential cannot be ignored. We call on the nuclear weapons possessing states to participate in this dialogue.

In addition, Kazakhstan will work for the conclusion of a *comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons*, which would prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons within a specific time frame, in an irreversible and verifiable manner. We are also sympathetic to the initiative to conclude a *treaty banning nuclear weapons*. However, a simple ban is not enough for nuclear disarmament as an integrated approach is needed. We therefore support the initiative of "building bridges" between the different views on nuclear disarmament.

Kazakhstan stands for an early start on the development of the *Treaty Banning the Production of Fissile Material (FMCT)* so as to make the disarmament process irreversible, and minimize the possibility of weapons-grade materials getting into the hands of terrorists. This should not be a condition for the start of negotiations in the CD, and so we supported the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts for the preparation of negotiations on the FMCT, in which our expert participated. The recommendations of this group serve as good tools for future substantive deliberations.

*Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs)* cover the entire southern hemisphere, and 116 Member States of such zones represent the majority of UN Member States. We support expanding such zones in the future, and particularly the creation of a *Middle East Zone Free of the Weapons of Mass Destruction*. We support the proposal to hold annual meetings of representatives of all the NWFZs in New York. My delegation is pleased to inform you that the Protocol to the Semipalatinsk Treaty, signed by representatives of the "Nuclear 5" countries in 2014, has already been ratified by the UK, China, Russia and France, and we look forward to the early completion of this work by the US.

My Government condemns the *nuclear tests and launching of ballistic missiles conducted by the DPRK this year*, and has therefore co-sponsored UNSC resolution 2270 of 2 March 2016. President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, at the recent Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, in their capacity as current Co-Chairs of the CTBT Article XIV Conference issued a joint statement condemning nuclear tests conducted by DPRK. They also called for the full implementation of UN SC resolutions in this regard and also urgent measures to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

The IAEA and Kazakhstan, signed on 27 August 2015, an *Agreement to set up the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank in Kazakhstan*. This Bank, operated by Kazakhstan, will be a physical reserve of LEU available for eligible IAEA Member States. Establishing the Bank will contribute to guaranteeing non-discriminatory access

to nuclear fuel, strengthening the non-proliferation regime and thereby reducing nuclear risks.

***Secondly, on non-nuclear issues, there are several key considerations.***

Earlier this year, we witnessed the completion of the destruction of all chemical weapons, exported from Syria in accordance with the provisions of the *Chemical Weapons Convention* (CWC). Yet, we are concerned about the possible use of chemical weapons or chemical products in Syria by terrorists. In this regard, we see the relevance of the Russian initiative for concluding an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical terrorism.

The Eighth RevCon of the *Convention on the Prohibition of Biological and Toxin Weapons* this year will be an opportunity to take important decisions to further strengthen the Convention. This coming June, Astana will host a regional seminar for the Eastern European region on the preparation for the RevCon.

In addition, it is imperative that the Fifth RevCon of the *Convention on Certain Conventional ("Inhumane") Weapons* (CCW), to be held this year, comes up with concrete solutions. Kazakhstan is a signatory to the CCW and its Protocols I, III and IV, and has decided to accede to Protocols II and V.

We participated in last year's expert meetings on *Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems*, held under the auspices of the CCW, and will also be engaged in expert meetings this April in Geneva. We believe that banning of such systems is only possible under comprehensive and strict control.

Kazakhstan has decided to accede to the *Arms Trade Treaty*, and is currently fulfilling relevant domestic procedures.

We fully support the 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of States to consider the implementation of the PoA on *Small Arms and Light Weapons* (SALW). We must truly bring a halt to the illegal trading in such weapons that kill 2000 innocent civilians a day. We call on Member States to submit regular reports the UN Register of Conventional Weapons, as well as to support the International Tracing Instrument, to strengthen these invaluable tools to monitor illicit trading in SALW.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Peace is necessary for development, and vice versa, in a globalized and interconnected world to achieve Agenda 2030. Thus, disarmament and non-proliferation must move parallel with other global processes, such as poverty reduction, inclusive development, rule of law, climate change and others. In this regard, one of the building blocks to build a secure world becomes the initiative of Kazakhstan for each country to transfer 1% of its defence budget to the UN SDGs Fund. Hence, we are deeply concerned to hear about the decision of a number of leading countries to spend massive funds to modernize their nuclear arsenals.

UN system wide and regional efforts of ODA, international organizations and civil society also contribute to the vision of ONE UN, combining development with efforts of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation at the country, sub-regional and regional levels, thus enhancing overall global security.

Kazakhstan is committed to fully assist in breaking the deadlock in the disarmament machinery to make it viable again for our collective peace and stability.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.