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STATEMENT
BY
H.E. YERZHAN KH. KAZYKHANOVA
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
866 UN PLAZA, SUITE 586, NEW YORK, NY 10017
TEL: (212) 230-1900 • FAX: (212) 230-1172 • E-mail: kazakhstan@un.int
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me extend my congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau, on your election to guide the work of the First Committee, and express confidence that, under your able stewardship, substantive progress will be made in addressing important issues on the agenda of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

It is regretful to note that this has been a difficult and challenging year. The 2005 NPT Review Conference has failed to set up a balanced and comprehensive mechanism that would facilitate the strengthening of the international non-proliferation regime and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Even more disturbing is the omission of clear recommendations on non-proliferation and disarmament in the Outcome Document of the Summit.

The process of negotiations on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation has become highly politicized, due to the attempts by certain states to build their national security at the expense of the interests of other states. In our view, such a position is highly irresponsible.

Today, challenges and threats, including those involving uncontrolled spread of nuclear weapons and the risk of them finding their way into the hands of terrorists, have grown manifold. The elimination of these threats requires joint, well-coordinated and effective action at all levels. The First Committee remains a very important forum to deal with these issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Universalization of all agreements in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation is of crucial importance. In this regard, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains one of the pillars of global security that needs to be reinforced and protected.

We welcome the results of the Fourth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT and urge the governments of those states that have not yet signed or ratified that instrument to display the political will and genuine commitment to the cause of nuclear disarmament.

An early start of negotiations on a cut-off treaty should become the next step in the multilateral disarmament process.

This year, we marked the 10th anniversary of the removal from the territory of Kazakhstan of the last nuclear warhead. Thus my country has made a tangible contribution to the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Kazakhstan is actively involved in the negotiations to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

As the site of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, my country once again urges the international community to support a General Assembly resolution on the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan welcomes the efforts aimed at the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on WMD non-proliferation. We are convinced that all states should take measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD or their components.
The Global Partnership against the Spread of WMD and their means of delivery represents an essential contribution to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime.

Our country calls for the establishment and enhancement of controls over nuclear, chemical and biological materials and their production technologies. Kazakhstan recognizes the special role of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is time to establish similar effective bodies within the framework of the international conventions on chemical and biological weapons.

We are strongly convinced that outer space should be used only for peaceful purposes. Therefore, we support initiatives to elaborate a legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and on the transfer or use of force against space objects.

Kazakhstan is a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and has joined the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. Kazakhstan has also applied for membership in the Missile Technology Control Regime.

It is regretful to note that after three sessions the Open-Ended Working Group on Tracing Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons has failed to conclude negotiations on a legally binding instrument. Nonetheless, the international community should not relax its efforts to combat illegal trafficking in conventional arms.

Mr. Chairman,

Global security and disarmament are hardly possible without appropriate measures to strengthen regional security. Our country is actively working on issues related to the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building in Asia (CICA). The CICA process is gaining momentum and has already become an important factor of today’s international relations.

Kazakhstan is satisfied with the level of cooperation between Central Asian States and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific. The Government of Kazakhstan has recently made a voluntary contribution in the amount of $20,000 to support the activities of the Centre.

We support further universalization and enhancement of anti-missile treaty mechanisms. The signing by Kazakhstan of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism is a practical reaffirmation of that position. We are looking forward to an early completion of a comprehensive convention against international terrorism.

It is also important to note that the measures against terrorism are being taken within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Organization of the Treaty on Collective Security, and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, I would like once again to assure you that we would fully support all the efforts by this Committee to adopt decisions that will strengthen the non-proliferation regime and promote security at regional and global levels.

My delegation stands ready to work together to achieve our common goals.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.