Statement by Mr. Nuran Niyazaliev  
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at the General Debate of the First Committee  
of the 67th Session of UN General Assembly  

(12 October 2012, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

First of all let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee at the Sixty-Seventh Session of the General Assembly. We believe that under your able and skilful leadership our deliberations will reach a successful conclusion. 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,

Today the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) faces extraordinary challenges. However, it is also a time when there are number of new opportunities to advance nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation goals. Welcoming a positive atmosphere that prevailed at the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference, my delegation hopes that the forthcoming PrepCom sessions will contribute to the strengthening of the review process as envisaged by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and help set the stage for an even more successful Review Conference in 2015.

The 2010 NPT Review Conference was especially noteworthy for its innovative adoption of an Action plan format in which we now have 64 specific benchmarks against which to assess implementation of the Final Document. My delegation looks 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 attaches a particular importance to the expeditious ratification and entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a treaty my country ratified in 2003, and we therefore urge all States that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT, particularly those States listed in annex 2, whose ratification is necessary, to do so without further delay, with the aim of bringing it into effect.

Kyrgyzstan regards international safeguards and physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities as the first line of defense against nuclear terrorism. As such, the
Kyrgyz Republic strongly endorses the International Atomic Energy Agency's efforts to strengthen the international safeguards system.

The Kyrgyz Republic also supports the measures taken to reinforce the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 in order to address the proliferation challenges posed by non-state actors, and it welcomes the practical actions identified in the Communiqués of the 2010 and 2012 Nuclear Security Summits. While urging countries to fully comply with UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), the Kyrgyz Republic with support of UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1540 and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is elaborating a National Plan of Action for Implementation of the Resolution 1540 (2004).

Fully recognizing the dangers that the possession of weapons of mass destruction by terrorist groups would pose, the Kyrgyz Republic signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. In this respect we commend the UN Secretary General for convening the High Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism, with a focus on strengthening the legal framework, on 28 September 2012 in New York.

Mr. Chairman,

One of the most promising approaches to disarmament and nonproliferation is the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones. The Kyrgyz Republic takes pride in the entry-into-force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia in 2009. The Central Asian region made its choice for nuclear weapon free zone. In this context my delegation looks forward the Middle East to follow the same pass and create a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the region, pursuant to the decision taken at the NPT 2010 Review Conference. Convening of the conference in this regard in Finland this year will certainly be a disarmament milestone and contribute to the establishment of peace in a region where tensions are heightened.

The Kyrgyz Republic has signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC) in 1993 and 2004 respectively as an important components of the global system against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We call for a wider adherence to and an effective implementation of these Conventions.

The Kyrgyz Republic 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 a number key issues like nuclear disarmament, fissile material cut-off treaty, prevention of an arms race in outer space, negative security assurances. Moreover, the Disarmament Commission has also failed to produce any final documents or recommendations since 1999. We urge the Member States to take greater efforts and
flexibility as well as political will to overcome the deadlock and put the disarmament machinery back on track.

We have taken many steps and measures to ban the illicit traffic of conventional weapons and Kyrgyzstan welcomes the recent adoption of the Outcome Document of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Although we are disappointed that the Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) concluded last July in New York without agreement on a treaty text, we hope for further dedicated work with the aim of adopting a strong and robust ATT.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me also to draw attention to another vital but often neglected issue - the role of education and training as tools to promote disarmament and nonproliferation.

Although not generally thought of as nuclear challenges, one might argue that among the greatest threats we face today in the area of disarmament and nonproliferation are complacency and ignorance on the part of otherwise well-educated citizens, as well as among their elected officials.

While this low knowledge base is deplorable, it also is understandable given the general absence of opportunities for study of the subject. Few high schools have curricula that expose students to issues of weapons proliferation and strategies for their control and the possibility for university and graduate training is also deficient. In short, at a time when there is a pressing need for new thinking about disarmament and nonproliferation matters, there are few venues available for training the next generation of specialists or even for introducing our future leaders to the subjects.

In this regard, the 34 recommendations of the UN Experts Group on Disarmament and Nonproliferation Education elaborated in 2002 are particularly relevant, and merit great attention by all UN member states. In implementation of these recommendations support by the United Nations and its Member States is, certainly, crucial.

The Kyrgyz Republic welcomes also the inclusion in the Non-Proliferation Treaty’s 2010 Review Conference Final Document of Action 22, which calls on all states to implement the recommendations of the UN study on disarmament and nonproliferation education. We appreciate the leadership shown by Japan, among other States Parties, in continuing to raise the issue of education and training in the NPT context, and we look forward to working with other interested member States in developing practical steps to promote full implementation of the measures called for by the UN study.

In conclusion, we reiterate that we look forward to cooperating with you, Sir, and with all delegations in order to obtain good results in our work and to achieve general and complete disarmament and security for all our peoples, as well as stability and peace throughout the world.

Thank you.