STATEMENT
by
H.E. Ambassador Byrganym Aitimova,
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations
at the First Committee thematic discussion
on Nuclear Weapons

17 October 2012
New York
Mr. Chairman
Excellencies
Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite encouraging developments in the disarmament process over the last two years, the situation has not changed dramatically. The nuclear arms race is not reversed and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has not been more effective to prevent the “spread” of nuclear weapons and *new de facto* nuclear states have emerged. Stagnation in nuclear disarmament continues due the crisis of confidence in the international community.

The May 2012 Vienna NPT Preparatory Conference has indicated the very intensive efforts needed to demonstrate some degree of success before the 2015 Review Conference. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, addressing the General Assembly in 2011, underlined the need for universalizing and strengthening the NPT, and for increased international control by the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over compliance by all States with their non-proliferation obligations. There needs to be a halt to the modernization and upgrading of nuclear weapons, or acquisition of new ones, to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The importance of strengthening monitoring to prevent all possibilities of nuclear terrorism cannot be overemphasized as indicated by the High Level Meeting on Nuclear Terrorism convened by the Secretary-General, last month. An effective measure to advance the non-proliferation regime is the establishment of an international nuclear fuel bank under IAEA auspices and supervision, which my Government is ready to host on our territory after completion of supervision.

In addition, our Head of State believes that having a Universal Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free World would reaffirm the determination of all States to move, step by step, towards a Convention against Nuclear Weapons. Kazakhstan is therefore joining others to accelerate the momentum for such a convention, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his Five-Point Plan and the 2010 NPT Review Outcome Document.

The Global Forum on Nuclear Disarmament, which met in Astana on 27-29 August 2012, together with the Parliamentarians against Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, unanimously endorsed the President’s proposal. The draft resolution and Declaration have been circulated to Member States, and we hope to have a positive response to the ongoing consultations during the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Kazakhstan supports the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as a voluntary moratorium on testing by the “nuclear club”, is not enough. The country co-operates with the CTBTO to enhance the International Monitoring System, through developing and refining its own five
national cutting-edge 24-hour tracking stations as part of the global effort. With the support of the Government of Norway, an international training centre data experts from the Central Asian countries.

Kazakhstan expresses concern about the lack of progress in the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) for the past 16 years and regrets that it is no longer in the vanguard of the disbarment process. It is imperative to begin work on the adoption of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for military purposes, and on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and the use of force or threat of force against outer space objects.

Kazakhstan, together with other Central Asian states constituting the Nuclear Weapon-Free-Zone in the region, plays a crucial role in preventing the uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear materials, thus combating nuclear terrorism. Speaking at the General Assembly in 2011, our President called for the drafting of an international legally binding instrument on security assurances by nuclear powers to non-nuclear weapon States for, in his view, the NPT has been ineffective in this regard. We underscore the commitment of Central Asian states to complete the process of institutionalizing the Treaty and are ready for a constructive dialogue with the “nuclear five” for the signing of the protocol on negative assurances with interpretive statements. Obtaining such guarantees will be clear evidence of the interest of the P-5 in a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The Government of Kazakhstan fully endorses the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Recent developments seem to derail its prospects; however, every effort must be made to ensure success of the Helsinki Conference in December 2012, for which we are ready to work or its success.

During its Chairmanship of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2010, Kazakhstan worked towards the future of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security, in keeping with international norms. In 2011-12, Kazakhstan, as Chair of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, focused on the Middle East conference as one of its priorities.

This year, the third International Day against Nuclear Tests was observed on 6 September to help raise awareness globally. A World Leadership Summit was held in New York with the World Policy Association to discuss nuclear disarmament issues. We are pleased to inform you that the Nuclear Discussion Forum – a joint initiative of Kazakhstan and the East West Institute will continue with its deliberations.

To conclude, we hope that the work of the First Committee this year, reinforced by strong multilateral political commitment and action, will make strides towards global peace, security and stability.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.