Statement
by Mr. Zhangeldy Syrymbet, Counsellor
Department for multilateral cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the Thematic Debate of the First Committee, “Other weapons of mass destruction”

69th session of the United Nations General Assembly
(27 October 2014, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to this important cluster, I would like to say that Kazakhstan, as a responsible member of the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological and Toxic Weapons and the Chemical Weapons Convention, is of the view that Member States need to honour their commitments for the full and effective implementation of these legally binding documents. Recognizing the growing global threats posed by the spread of these particularly dangerous weapons, we attach great importance to international cooperation as the only way to combat them.

With regard to biological weapons, Kazakhstan plans to build a Central Reference Laboratory on its territory, which in the future will serve as a major centre to develop methodologies and tools to respond and prevent the spread of highly dangerous human and animal diseases. We are exploring new areas of international collaboration with Member States and scientific institutes to set up biological weapons proliferation prevention projects in the country through research programmes, and securing dangerous pathogens and strains by strengthening biosafety and biosecurity at facilities. Measures are also being taken for consolidating deadly carriers in secure central repositories, and eliminating equipment and infrastructure used previously for making biological weapons before we attained independence. Our aim is to strengthen an infectious disease surveillance system to improve Kazakhstan’s ability to detect, diagnose and respond to natural and bioterrorist infectious disease outbreaks. In addition, efforts are under way to develop and test new molecular diagnostics and therapies to cure diseases endemic to Central Asia.

Kazakhstan has also signed the Convention for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on 14 January 1993, and ratified it on 24 June 1999. Even though we possess no chemical weapons, much work has been done in the field of non-proliferation of chemical weapons and chemical safety. We are collaborating with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in implementing targeted activities and projects, such as enacting appropriate legislation and building national capacity for the protection against chemical weapons, and their safety and registration. We record our grateful appreciation for the ongoing and invaluable technical assistance received from OPCW.

We note with satisfaction the completion of the joint OPCW and UN Mission in Syria and call on all countries to comply with the obligations under the Convention, including the destruction of all existing chemical weapons stockpiles by the agreed time.

Kazakhstan has recently adopted its long term socio-economic development plan, Strategy 2050, which is also definitely a way of peace through disarmament and non-proliferation, of not only nuclear weapons but also other weapons of mass destruction. The Strategy supports all advanced international initiatives and contributes to global security.
In conclusion, Kazakhstan has demonstrated an extraordinary degree of openness and transparency, and along with others, has been a leader to set a positive example for other countries.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.