Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan at the First Committee of the
73rd Session of the UN General Assembly

Thematic discussions on specific clusters: Regional Disarmament and Security
(30 October 2018, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

The general disarmament process and the maintenance of global security are closely interrelated and interdependent processes and in order to advance them globally, we need first of all, the sincere efforts of Member States at the regional level to work towards these long-cherished visions.

It is of great concern that instability and growing tensions still persist in various regions of the world, thus impairing regional disarmament and security goals from being achieved.

Similar to other delegations, we believe that the situations in North-East Asia and the Middle East, as well as in some other parts of the world, retain a high potential for volatility and conflict. We should therefore definitely bring political trust and ongoing inclusive dialogue back into international affairs so as not to imperil the safety and future of humankind.

In this regard, we welcome the ongoing positive developments on the Korean Peninsula that prove the relevance and importance of this approach. Kazakhstan calls upon all Member States to support the existing communications between the parties concerned in order to achieve full and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean peninsula as early as possible.

At the same time, the Middle East requires our immediate attention. The creation of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East is a vital step towards ensuring lasting trust, and durable peace and stability in the region.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is one of the most effective means to enhance disarmament and preventing proliferation. Therefore, Kazakhstan, as the state-party to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, is committed to consolidating the efforts of all countries constituting nuclear weapons-free zones as a means to expand and create new zones throughout the world and foster cooperation between them.

With regard to the JCPOA, Kazakhstan stands for preserving and further unfailingly implement the Agreement, for which we do not see any other alternative. This historic multilateral document has fulfilled its primary mission by putting Iran on a nuclear-weapon-free path. Fully complying with
the JCPoA has had the significant impact on normalizing the situation in the region and beyond. Notwithstanding the certain complications related to the obligations by some parties to this Agreement, we hope we can achieve its full implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to express our appreciation to the UNODA Regional Disarmament Branch and the three UN Regional Centres for their valuable contribution towards regional and global disarmament, peace and security.

In particular, we would like to highlight our cooperation with the Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) on supporting its outreach activities. In September 2018 with the generous assistance of the European Union and UNRCPD, Astana hosted a joint regional workshop on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty which allowed the states of the Asian Pacific region to exchange ideas and contribute towards the process of developing a future treaty. The workshop, we see as a critical element for achieving the objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We also actively support and contribute to the Disarmament Fellowship Programme of the UNODA for training future young disarmament champions and advocates. This activity is a direct mechanism for attracting and engaging young professionals with their dynamism, creativity and vigour into the collective multilateral action on disarmament and security.

To conclude, Kazakhstan is committed to advancing regional disarmament issues, considering them as an essential and integral part of building a secure and stable world.

I thank you.