Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan at the First Committee of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly

Thematic discussions on specific clusters: Other weapons of mass destruction
(22 October 2019, New York)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished participants,

The Conventions for the Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons (BWC and CWC) are vital international legal instruments to guide multilateral effort for the total elimination of specific types of weapons of mass destruction. They provide guidelines for strict and effective international control, which in turn lead to the goal of general and complete disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,
We constantly support the universalization of the BTWC. Every new accession helps to strengthen the global norm against biological and toxin weapons and thus reduce the risk of their proliferation.

The development and implementation of effective and coordinated verification mechanisms guarantee that the provisions of the BTWC are followed so that regime functions efficiently and thoroughly.

Our country fulfills its obligations under UNSC Resolution 1540 and one of its central requirement, which is to create an effective system of export control over the transfer of goods and technologies. The standards we have developed comply with the strictest requirements. It is noteworthy that this system is constantly improved by us so to avoid any loopholes that allow violations or evasions.

Mr. Chairman,
Kazakhstan gives a very high priority to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and all its provisions to address concerns regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons. Any use of chemical weapons is in complete disregard of humanity and, therefore, cannot be justified.

We reaffirm the need to address this issue in light of the context of international law, and this should be done in an impartial and transparent manner.
The means to strengthen the Convention should go only through amendments made to the Convention so that they gain global and wide acceptance.

We call upon the chemical-weapon countries to fulfill their obligations under the terms stipulated by the Convention and to destroy their arsenals within the agreed time frame. We also call upon all States that may possess chemical weapons to eliminate them and to join the Convention promptly, without any precondition.

In order to contribute to the global non-proliferation efforts, Kazakhstan has established an effective export control regime that is based on international regimes, including those of the Australia Group. The international community can be rest assured of our country's full commitment, political will and resources - human expertise and all others, to ensure human well-being and security, as well as a peaceful world.

I thank you.