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

Thematic discussions on specific cluster 4: Conventional weapons  
(23 October 2019, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan fulfills all its international commitments in the field of arms control and remains steadfast to its policy of strengthening security at the regional and international levels.

Our strong political will was further demonstrated by the accession of relevant international instruments, such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and United Nations Programme of Action to Combat, Prevent and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects (UNPOA).

In July this year, Kazakhstan hosted the ATT Regional Seminar aimed at universalizing it and, especially, implementing the Treaty in the Central Asian and Mongolian region. We are grateful to Japan, Finland and other ATT state parties for strongly supporting this initiative, as well as to the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund, for mobilizing the financial support.

In this regard, the full and effective implementation and universality of the ATT and other international instruments will contribute to promote international peace and security by reducing human suffering caused by armed violence.

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan reaffirms its commitment to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and supports the humanitarian aspect of the Convention since we share common aspiration of the entire world community to protect civilians from any effects of such “inhumane” weapons.

The Government of Kazakhstan continues to enhance its preventive mechanisms and measures to strictly prevent in accordance with international requirements any spread of such weapons.

Possible development of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) remains a particular source of concern in our modern world.

We supported the creation of Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE LAWS).
LAWS have the potential to challenge the most basic principles of international law, in particular the IHL. It remains to be proven that an autonomous weapon system would be able to comply with three fundamental IHL principles.

We are all aware of the influence of Artificial Intelligence on the future of our countries and the entire world. We are thus equally vigilant of the dangerous consequences arising from the development of new technologies.

Further work is required to help our understanding evolve deeper on LAWS, and so Kazakhstan believes that it is important to continue our discussions into 2020, as well.

Thank you for your attention!