Mr. Chair,

Kazakhstan's position on strengthening non-proliferation regime remains firm, clear and unchanged. Significance of this issue is undeniable since nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are closely related and interdependent. It is our conviction that all three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should be respected and fully implemented.

Kazakhstan as one of the active States Parties to the NPT continues its energetic efforts aimed at creating favorable conditions for inclusive and multilateral dialogue on pressing challenges. Our country hosted various international fora devoted to non-proliferation and nuclear threat reduction problems.

As a global leader in uranium production, the Republic of Kazakhstan is a reliable and responsible member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which decided to place the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan put into effect the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and its Additional Protocol. We are calling all the countries who didn’t do so to sign the Additional Protocol.

Mr. Chair,

Under the Action Plan of the 2010 NPT RevCon States Parties agreed on 23 items dealing with non-proliferation issues and compared to other actions their fulfillment can be described as successful. However, failure of NPT RevCon in 2015, latest developments in the world and challenges we face once again demonstrate that this track demands closer look from us.

In this respect, universalization of the NPT remains as the highest priority in preventing proliferation of nuclear threat as well as ensuring global peace and security. It is well known fact that some states developing non-safeguarded nuclear facilities still remain outside the NPT. We do hope that current session will generate
new ideas and approaches towards accomplishment of this specific but extremely vital work.

An early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and starting negotiations on the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva are also to be addressed collectively in the nearest future.

The development of nuclear energy must exclude any risk of proliferation of weapons-grade nuclear materials and technologies. Here, we should keep in mind that the line between military and peaceful purposes is very thin. That is why it cannot be left out of our sight, but these measures must be indiscriminate, efficient and generally agreed. Within the IAEA the international community has developed such instruments and we hope that it will continue to serve to the interests of all countries.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is determined to work with the international community to preserve the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) related to Iran's nuclear programme, that was unanimously endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

The JCPOA became a culmination of more than 10 years of diplomatic efforts and a genuine manifestation of the multilateralism. Many states of the world made their contribution in this process. As you aware, in 2013 the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev initiated a series of meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, inviting the parties to restart negotiations between E3/EU+3 and Iran that made it possible to break the deadlock and lead the process to conclusion of the JCPOA two years later.

Preservation and continuation of implementation of the JCPOA corresponds to the main goal: providing the international community with necessary assurances on the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

On the contrary, the loss of this important agreement would be harmful for the global non-proliferation regime and the NPT, and moreover, undermine mutual trust and confidence among the global community. We must not allow this to happen.

My delegation strongly believes that the strict implementation of the JCPOA will further strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture, as well as contribute to the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons. We would like to reiterate our strong position once again and call the signatories of the JCPOA to pursue the consistent implementation of their commitments.

While welcoming the on-going implementation, we reiterate the need for Iran to continue abiding strictly by all its nuclear-related commitments and cooperating fully and in a timely manner with the IAEA through implementation of its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol.

The failure of the international community in running a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in 2012 is matter of deep concern for us. We support the decision of the UNGA, adopted in December, to arrange this conference under the auspices of the UN Secretary General. Hopefully the first meeting of the
conference will be held this year. We do believe that this process should be transparent and inclusive in order to urge the countries of the region to join to it without hindrance when available. Hence, the establishment of a Middle East zone should also be in the focus of the current Preparatory Committee.

Mr. Chair,

Kazakhstan is one of the initiators of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. With that I would like to point out that ensuring a full value and practicability of this nuclear-weapon-free zones is essential both from the point of strengthening regional and global security as well as advancement of non-proliferation efforts. The voluntary commitment of states to establish a respective zone should be encouraged and supported in every possible way.

The Central Asian States are strongly committed to institutionalize the Semipalatinsk Treaty. We look forward to ratification by the US the Protocol on negative security assurances for States participating in our zone.

We are pleased to announce that Kazakhstan has been unanimously elected as the next chair of the Nuclear Suppliers Group for 2019-2020. This international export control regime remains a key practical tool in strengthening nuclear non-proliferation regime and supporting the activities of the IAEA.

This election has become recognition of our country's merits in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and its high reputation in international cooperation in the nuclear field. In particular, a strict and effective national export control system based on the world’s best practices and instruments including the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), a chairmanship in The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missiles Proliferation in 2016-2017, a membership in Zangger Committee and our adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangements.

In any capacity, Kazakhstan always seeks to contribute to further strengthening the profile of global non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In conclusion let me express our hope that current review process will not be exclusion in promoting our adherence to rational approach and strengthening a mutual confidence to allow us to reach compromise on all issues related to implementation of the Treaty, as well as providing a new impetus for a global non-proliferation regime.

I thank you Mr. Chair.