Mr. Chair,

It is worth highlighting increasing disagreements between the key global players, whose actions shape our success in ensuring international peace and security.

We note with immense concern the negative trends of escalating war mentality, the predominance of nuclear weapons in the national security doctrines of nuclear states, and a return to the earlier ideological military blocks. All these are likely to result in a new and enduring large-scale arms race.

The most alarming is the serious weakening and destruction of the existing arms control system, putting at risk such important and historic treaties as the INF Treaty and START III.

Kazakhstan, as one of the countries which voluntarily relinquished its nuclear arsenal and shut down the nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk, remains a staunch supporter of the global process of nuclear disarmament.

Over almost half of a century, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has been a fundamental and integral part of the international security and nuclear disarmament process. Despite the Treaty's potential, we have to admit that progress has been slow and does not meet the expectations of the world community.

On 29 August 2018, the International Day against Nuclear Tests, Kazakhstan hosted in then Astana, now re-named Nursultan, the International Conference of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization’s Youth Group (CYG) and Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) «Remembering the past, looking to the future». This event contributed to strengthening the role of the CTBT and what is more remarkable, is that for the first time ever it united two generations to share the experience between them. Such dialogue helps to promote continuity of generations in the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation
architecture. After fruitful discussions, the participants had a field trip to the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site.

I would like to specially mention that during this event, the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan and the CTBTO Executive Secretary made a Joint Statement on the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests. It is significant that both parties called for a world free of nuclear testing and entry into force of the CTBT.

Highlighting the importance of fora for scientists and experts from around the world to exchange and share advances in monitoring and verification technologies of relevance to the CTBT, Kazakhstan traditionally hosted the 10th International Conference “Monitoring of nuclear tests and their consequences” in Almaty, in August 2018.

It is also my great pleasure to share with you that just recently, the Honorary Ambassador of the ATOM Project, the artist Mr. Karipbek Kuyukov, who was born armless because of the effects of nuclear testing at Semipalatinsk, has been awarded the 2018 Nuclear-Free Future Award for his distinctive anti-nuclear services. We believe that this Award is one more recognition of Kazakhstan’s efforts against nuclear threat.

It is our firm conviction that the total elimination of all nuclear arsenals is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons. In this regard, in December 2016, Kazakhstan strongly supported the UNGA Resolution on the start of negotiations on a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. As a result, in July 2017, 122 UN Member States approved the signing of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). On 2 March 2018 Kazakhstan signed this Treaty; and currently we are in the process of ratifying it.

I take this opportunity to note that the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, initiated by Kazakhstan, was adopted by the General Assembly in 2015. The Assembly again re-confirmed its relevance in December 2018 by increasing its signatories among the UN Member States from 133 to 138. I would like to thank all the delegations who supported this Declaration to build a world without nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan calls upon the nuclear powers, who had pledged that they would make sincere efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons in accordance with Article VI of the NPT - now to take final and decisive steps and effective measures towards this end.

Mr. Chair,

From our national perspective a particular attention must be attached to the following steps, with no limits for their further extension:

a) to maintain the existing moratoria against nuclear tests and actively seek an earliest ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, particularly, by the remaining Annex II sates;
b) to halt any production or modernization of nuclear weapons, whereby declaring a database on all types and status of such weapons, should be recognized as obligatory;

c) to declare a moratorium against the production of fissile materials used for military purpose with a final aim to achieve total elimination of all weapons grade fissile materials. Here again, all states possessing and producing fissile materials, should declare all available data on such materials;

d) to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines of nuclear states;

e) to intensify multilateral efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space.

Hope that we will manage to break the deadlock soon.

Thank you.