Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Kazakhstan stands firm on the need to strengthen the provisions of Article 4, which recognizes the inalienable right of all NPT States Parties to develop, research, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without any discrimination. We do believe that the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) Safeguards Agreement and its Additional Protocol, as well as the unequivocal trust among members of the international community, state that nuclear energy ambitions must serve as prerequisites for nuclear energy development.

Kazakhstan, like many other developing countries, is faithful to its obligations under the NPT. We did not only renounce the nuclear weapons, but signed and ratified the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone in Central Asia, also known as the Semipalatinsk Treaty. This Treaty has a special provision for each State Party on conclusion with the IAEA and bring into force, if it has not already done so, an agreement for the application of safeguards in accordance with the NPT, and an Additional Protocol.

In recent years, a number of countries have taken initial steps to start their nuclear power programs. According to some estimates, about 30 states around the globe expressed an interest in the peaceful use of a nuclear energy. Kazakhstan is one of them. As you are well aware, we have plans for constructing a nuclear power plant in Kazakhstan in the future.

In this context, let us note that Kazakhstan positively assesses the progress made in implementing Actions 47 through 64 of the Action Plan adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, related to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. At the same time, we are of the view that the dimension of the AP could be strengthened by introducing some provisions with regard to special responsibilities. We also need allowance for development of requirements and recommendations for states intended to build nuclear power plants and research reactors.
We believe that the international community, especially the IAEA, should assist nuclear newcomers in realizing their nuclear power programs in a clear, predictable, technically-sound, and safe manner.

Also, it is equally important that a state developing nuclear energy will be able to obtain the necessary nuclear fuel for its energy needs in a predictable and sustainable manner. In this regard, we take note of the progress achieved in implementing Action 58 on the development of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including the possibility of creating guaranteed nuclear fuel supply mechanisms.

Any mechanism in the field of guaranteed nuclear fuel supply must be non-politicized and non-discriminatory. These materials should be available for all states adhering to their safeguards agreements. Our delegation believes that the transfer of nuclear materials should be driven by non-political criteria, and be applied objectively and in compliance with the provisions of the NPT.

On the basis of these principles, Kazakhstan has supported the IAEA initiative to establish Low enriched uranium Bank (LEU Bank). Our country offered its territory for the Bank, and this year it is going to be fully launched with the necessary material supply. We are grateful to all donors – the United States, the European Union, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Norway and the Nuclear Threat Initiative – whose generous financial contributions made the project possible.

Mr. Chair,

Two years ago the VVR-K research reactor of the “Institute of Nuclear Physics” in Almaty was converted to a new low enriched nuclear fuel. Currently we are exploring the possibility of transferring other reactors to such a type of fuel.

The delegation of Kazakhstan highly appreciates the effectiveness of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme which is fully coincides with the development program of our state. Aiming at assisting Agency’s Member States not only in developing their nuclear power potential, but also in such areas of nuclear applications as agriculture, food and water security, nuclear medicine, and others it greatly contributes to the implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The IAEA’s Peaceful Uses Initiative, or PUI, is another important component of the Agency’s activity, and States that exerted their support to it thereby demonstrate their commitment not only to the NPT and the nuclear non-proliferation regime, but also to broader humanitarian objectives.

To conclude, I would like to underscore that in fulfilling the provisions of the NPT, Kazakhstan seeks to contribute to achieve the Treaty’s noble goals in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.