



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Kassymzhomart Tokaev
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at
the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

New York

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Executive Secretary,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, allow me to offer you my congratulations on your election to the high office of the Chairman of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and express confidence that, under your skillful stewardship, it will be successful and fruitful.

Mr. Chairman,

Today's Conference is being held just days after the conclusion of an anniversary Summit of the United Nations and this involves additional responsibility for actions we are to take here at this forum in the interests of peace and security. We have to note with great regret that this has been a difficult and disappointing year. The Seventh NPT Review Conference has failed to live up to the hopes and expectations of those states that have categorically and once and for all rejected a nuclear option. Despite extensive negotiations, the outcome document of the Summit has omitted vitally important provisions on disarmament and non-proliferation.

The process of negotiations on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation has become highly politicized, reflecting a deep crisis of the global security system. Negotiations on these issues have been deadlocked, practically since the very beginning, due to the attempts by certain states to build their national security at the expense of the interests of other states. Such a position is highly irresponsible, in our view. No state has the right to subordinate global human security interests to its internal policy considerations.

Today, challenges and threats, including those involving uncontrolled spread of nuclear weapons and the risk of them finding their way into the hands of terrorists, have grown manifold. A real threat of a shift in the strategic balance is emerging, something that could trigger another round of the arms race. The elimination of these threats requires joint, well-coordinated and effective action at all levels

We have to fully tap the existing mechanisms provided for in universal agreements on international security and strategic stability. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is one of such important agreements. Nine years have already passed since its opening for signature and a slowdown in its ratification process is quite regrettable.

We are convinced that there is no need to review fundamental principles and goals set in that instrument. All that is need is political will for the remaining 11 states to ratify the CTBT and thus ensure its entry into force. We strongly believe that this would be a very important milestone in the efforts to prevent the arms race and to ensure

security for all human beings. Until CTBT enters into force, it is extremely important not to allow violations of the moratorium on nuclear explosions.

An early start of negotiations on a cut-off treaty should become the next step in the multilateral disarmament process.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, we marked the 10th anniversary of the removal from the territory of Kazakhstan of the last nuclear warhead. Our country has set a commendable example by voluntarily eliminating its nuclear arsenal, the fourth largest in the world, and shutting down the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, the site of nearly 500 nuclear explosions.

These explosions have affected some 1.5 million people and turned vast areas into zones that will be hazardous for living for a long time to come. Taking this opportunity, our country once again urges the international community to support a General Assembly resolution on the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan. We expect the international community to continue its existing assistance programmes and to develop new ones to meet the needs of the population in the contaminated areas. The people who have survived all the horrors of nuclear testing should not be left to face this problem on their own.

As for the government of Kazakhstan, it has allocated considerable resources for the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region. The government has provided to the affected population more than \$ 100 million in welfare payments and compensations alone for the period of 1994-2005. Yet these funds are clearly not enough for an effective rehabilitation of that region.

Mr. Chairman,

The national government has been taking practical steps to promote an early entry into force and subsequent effective functioning of the CTBT. Kazakhstan operates four seismic and one infrasound station as an integral part of the International Monitoring System. The government of Kazakhstan and the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO have signed a Facility Agreement on international monitoring in support of the CTBT. That agreement regulates the operation of seismic stations and will promote our country's continued expansion of its activities to develop a global verification regime under the Treaty.

Together with the Preparatory Commission Kazakhstan has carried out a series of calibration explosions and two large-scale field exercises. A special on-site inspection training exercise, carried out this year, has been received favorably by international observers. We stand ready to develop our cooperation with the CTBTO. The government of Kazakhstan has prepared and submitted proposals to establish in the country a regional seismic center and an international center for training experts from the CTBTO member states.

Kazakhstan has been taking other actions to enhance the global non-proliferation regime. Having signed an Additional Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, Kazakhstan recognizes the Agency's special role. All nuclear activities of Kazakhstan have been carried out according to the IAEA standards and under its control. Besides, Kazakhstan is a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and has joined the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. Our country is actively involved in the negotiations to develop a draft treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and enhances and improves export control mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman,

We firmly believe that the CTBTO could continue displaying and improve further its efficiency. From this high podium, we once again call on the countries to do everything within their power to ensure an early entry into force of the CTBT.

Our nations do hope that, for the sake of our common goal, we will be able to join our efforts and to deliver the world from nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your attention.