

Translated from Russian

General Assembly resolution 63/60 on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

The Republic of Kazakhstan is taking consistent and practical steps to prevent and suppress the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to strengthen international cooperation in this area.

Since the submission by Kazakhstan in November 2004 of its first report on the implementation of the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Republic has taken a number of additional practical steps for the comprehensive implementation of this resolution that demonstrate the firm commitment of Kazakhstan to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. In particular, Kazakhstan has been granted the status of a non-nuclear-weapon State; it has become a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Suppliers Group; and it has improved its national export control legislation and taken steps to further the implementation of its international obligations in this area.

Particular attention is also being paid to the implementation of the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols of the United Nations. Kazakhstan has acceded to the following such instruments:

1. The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (Rome, 10 March 1988; amended in 2003);
2. The Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (Rome, 10 March 1988; amended in 2003);
3. The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Vienna and New York, 3 March 1980; amended in 2004);
4. The Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, adopted in Montreal on 23 September 1971 (Montreal, 24 February 1988; amended in 1994);
5. The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (The Hague, 16 December 1970; amended in 1994);
6. The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal, 23 September 1971; amended in 1994);
7. The Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Tokyo, 14 September 1963; amended in 1994);
8. The Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (Montreal, 1 March 1991; amended in 1994);
9. The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (New York, 12 January 1998;* amended in 1996*);

* Translator's note: Date as supplied in the original Russian text.

* Translator's note: Date as supplied in the original Russian text.

10. The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (1973; amended on 23 January 1996);

11. The International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (18 December 1979; amended in 1996);

12. The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (New York, 10 January 2000; amended in 2002);

13. The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (New York, 12 January 1998; amended in 2002);

14. The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (New York, 14 September 2005; amended in 2005).

Similar agreements to which Kazakhstan is a party have also been adopted within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The implementation of the aforementioned conventions and agreements in national legislation is illustrated by the inclusion and application of relevant articles in the Act on counter-terrorism and the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In particular, any attempts to illicitly transfer and traffic in weapons, explosive, poisonous or psychotropic substances and radioactive material are detected, prevented and suppressed in accordance with the law.

Five articles of the Criminal Code (articles 243, 247, 248, 249 and 250) establish criminal liability for the commission of crimes involving illicit trafficking in or the export, smuggling and theft of nuclear, chemical and biological materials.

Legislation to combat terrorism and extremism is constantly being improved, which enables effective action to be taken to track terrorists and subsequently bring them to justice. A draft law amending and supplementing certain counter-terrorism legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan is currently being drawn up and a draft SCO counter-terrorism convention is also being developed.

At the national level, Kazakhstan is implementing the State programme to combat terrorism and extremism in the Republic of Kazakhstan for the period 2007-2009. Intensive work is also being carried out within the framework of the implementation of the 2008-2010 programme for cooperation among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to combat terrorism and other violent forms of extremism.

Kazakhstan has developed a working mechanism for prohibiting organizations involved in or associated with terrorist activities, including those seeking to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

The activities of 14 international terrorist organizations are currently prohibited by law in Kazakhstan.

The relevant State agencies of Kazakhstan are cooperating closely with Member States of the United Nations on counter-terrorism through the exchange of information and good practice as well as follow-up to international agreements concluded within the framework of the United Nations, SCO, CIS and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

The current legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan is therefore enabling the effective implementation of a range of preventive, legal and other measures designed to counter acts of nuclear, chemical and biological terrorism while providing for an adequate non-proliferation regime. The legislation in force also enables relevant activities to be carried out jointly with the competent agencies of foreign States and in conjunction with international organizations. One example of such cooperation is Kazakhstan's active participation in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, of which Kazakhstan has been a member since 2006.

In June 2007, during the third meeting of the Global Initiative held in Astana, Kazakhstan made a proposal for an international operational and tactical exercise to be conducted on its territory aimed at tackling the terrorist threat to nuclear power facilities.

The international exercise, entitled "Atom-Antiterror-2008", was held in Almaty on 6 June 2008 at the Nuclear Physics Institute of the National Nuclear Centre. This exercise was observed by delegations from the CIS Counter-Terrorism Centre, the SCO Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure and CIS law enforcement agencies, as well as representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. The outcome of the "Atom-Antiterror-2008" exercise, held for the first time within the framework of the Global Initiative, was highly commended at the fourth meeting of the Global Initiative in Madrid from 16 to 18 June 2008.

Furthermore, consistent with the need for further implementation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, facilities in Kazakhstan's atomic energy and biotechnology sectors (the National Nuclear Centre in Kurchatov, the Mangyshlak Atomic Energy Complex in Aktau, the Nuclear Physics Institute in the Almaty region and others) are working with foreign companies for the gradual implementation of a number of programmes designed to safeguard their physical protection. A separate unit is responsible for the protection and scheduled closure of facilities at the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site.
