



KAZAKHSTAN

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**STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE - MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN H.E. MR. KANAT
SAUDABAYEV AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(New York, 25 September 2010)**

**Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, I would like to congratulate you all on the upcoming sixty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

For a person, 65 is an age when life experience turns into wisdom. As the great Goethe once said, "**it is our experience that teaches us to truly appreciate life**". Today, the United Nations, with its sixty five years of experience gained in the noble work for peace and progress, is the most reputable and relevant international organization.

Each United Nations Member State, regardless of its size or power, seeks to contribute to building a safer and better world.

Mr. President,

On 29 August 1949, the first atomic explosion was carried out on the ancient Kazakh land, near the city of Semipalatinsk, unleashing an insane nuclear arms race and inflicting enormous suffering on the people of Kazakhstan.

On 29 August 1991, the President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev by his Decree unilaterally shut down, once and for all, one of the world's largest nuclear test sites.

It is highly symbolic that, eighteen years later, the last session of the General Assembly acted upon his initiative to adopt a resolution establishing **29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests**. A unanimous adoption of the resolution has effectively reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to the process of reducing the nuclear threat.

The United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon started his visit to Kazakhstan last April with a tour of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. Standing right on the former Ground Zero, he urged the international community to double its efforts in the interests of a world free from nuclear weapons.

For the people of Kazakhstan, who know only too well all the horrors of nuclear tests, the issue of their total ban is of special relevance. Over forty years, some 490 nuclear explosions were carried out at the Semipalatinsk test site, affecting more than half a million people and damaging the territory as big as today's Germany.

At this stage, we call upon States which have not signed or ratified **the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)** to do so as soon as possible. The entry into force of the CTBT will become one of the key areas of effective implementation of **the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**, an important instrument forming a foundation for the security of all humanity.

We are satisfied that the States Parties to the NPT were able to adopt an outcome document last May at the conclusion of the latest NPT Review Conference. Yet, new and more decisive steps are needed today for nuclear disarmament.

An early drafting of a **Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)**, which should become, along with the CTBT, an important pillar of the NPT, is one of such steps.

We believe that it is extremely important to begin, as soon as possible, the drafting of **an international legally binding instrument providing security assurances by nuclear powers to non-nuclear-weapon States**. Only such assurances can effectively keep in check the aspirations of certain non-nuclear States to acquire nuclear weapons, which they regard as a guarantee of their own security.

The establishment of new zones free from nuclear weapons, including in the Middle East, would represent another step towards achieving the goal of a nuclear-free world. We are convinced that a focused and progressive movement in this direction would contribute to the establishment of trust among neighbours in the region and lay the foundations for a radical change in the situation of that long-suffering region.

Addressing you from this podium, I would like to reaffirm the urgency and relevance of the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev to draft a **Universal Declaration of a Nuclear-Free World**, which would reflect the commitment of all States to firmly and consistently move towards a nuclear-free world.

We support a legitimate and inalienable right of each State Party to the NPT to develop **nuclear energy for peaceful purposes**. However, such activities should be carried out in a transparent manner and on the basis of strict compliance with all requirements of the IAEA and under its control.

Kazakhstan, being the world's largest uranium producer, intends to contribute to the development of nuclear energy and is ready to host **an international nuclear fuel bank**, under the auspices of the IAEA, and to commit itself to its safe storage.

Mr. President,

As 2010 OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Kazakhstan, in the interests of all participating States, has laid emphasis on efforts to shape **not a security space but a security community**, free of dividing lines and zones with different levels of security.

The promotion of an atmosphere of trust in the interests of all, and efforts to foster consensus on key issues in all three dimensions of OSCE activities, **has made it possible to reach a historic consensus on an OSCE Summit, to be held on 1-2 December of this year in the capital of Kazakhstan. It will be the first such event in the past eleven years.**

I have no doubt that this upcoming Astana Summit will become a landmark in the progressive movement of the OSCE participating States towards shaping a truly common and indivisible security community in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian zones, based on shared values, principles and commitments.

In this regard, we view the discussion at this OSCE Summit of the issue of stabilization and social and economic rehabilitation of **Afghanistan** as an important contribution to regional and global security.

Time has proven that a purely military solution to the Afghan problem does not exist; accordingly, Kazakhstan is in favour of enhanced efforts by the international community to adapt Afghanistan to post-war development.

In this context, President Nursultan Nazarbayev has initiated an educational programme to train some 1,000 Afghan nationals in the educational institutions of Kazakhstan for career paths in medicine, agriculture and construction. For this purpose, we have allocated US \$ 50 million.

A deep political crisis in Kyrgyzstan, which can have extremely negative consequences not only for Central Asia, but also far beyond its borders, has demonstrated the **lack of an effective and comprehensive mechanism to prevent such conflicts**.

That is why the forthcoming OSCE Summit provides a unique opportunity to develop an appropriate mechanism, drawing on the great potential and experience of the OSCE, United Nations and other multilateral institutions.

In the context of countering new challenges and threats, primarily terrorism and drug trafficking, we pay close attention to the implementation of anti-terrorism conventions and resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and support an early adoption of **a comprehensive convention on international terrorism**.

Kazakhstan has actively supported the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). At the initiative of President Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan put forward at the Global Summit on Nuclear Safety in Washington last April, the proposal of a GICNT conference on countering financing of terrorism, which will soon be convened on 28-29 September in Astana.

This phenomenon is closely linked to drug trafficking and hence combating that scourge is one of our top priorities. Accordingly, Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the **Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Center (CARICC)** for combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, located in Almaty. We believe that the CARICC can and should become a platform for interaction of the regional anti-drug agencies.

Mr. President,

We also intend to take these issues forward within the framework of our activities in other international organizations, including the upcoming 2011-2012 Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the Ministerial Conference of the OIC.

One of the universally accepted themes is **the promotion of ideas of tolerance, non-discrimination, intercultural and inter-faith dialogue**.

At the initiative of President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Astana has become the venue for a unique forum - **the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional**

Religions, recognized today as an effective platform for dialogue to promote ideas of inter-faith peace and harmony.

As a sponsor of the relevant General Assembly resolution, we welcome the efforts of Member States, UNESCO and other international organizations to conduct activities in observance of **the International Year of Rapprochement of Cultures**.

We commend the work of **the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations** and stand ready to continue to actively cooperate with it to promote the goals and objectives of the Alliance at the international level.

Based on its experience, Kazakhstan is in favour of **the active use of the capacity of authoritative regional arrangements**, such as the OSCE and the OIC, in efforts to overcome nationalism, religious intolerance, racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, and intends to work for the adoption of concrete decisions within these organizations.

We are deeply convinced that today there is no prevalence of security of a single country, region or continent, and so believe that all existing structures of regional and international security must coordinate their efforts and cooperate actively together.

In this context, I would like to note with great satisfaction that **the first meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the OSCE**, which was held in June 2010 in Istanbul, has laid the foundation for a transcontinental security belt in the future. It appears that the level of institutional development of the CICA, and the growing interest in its activities on the part of Asian countries, allow us to consider that forum as a prototype of collective security system in Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, the world is slowly but surely emerging from a severe financial and economic crisis. At this juncture, it is critically important to ensure that the development of a post-crisis model of development is not limited to cosmetic measures; instead it should produce a qualitative restructuring of the entire system of international economic relations.

We believe that all the world's economic problems are rooted in the inefficiency of the existing world monetary system, which no one controls and is not democratic.

In this regard, President Nursultan Nazarbayev has proposed to **develop a new financial architecture with a global regulatory system of oversight of financial markets at its core**. Such a mechanism will thus allow avoiding speculative interflows of resources existing only as mere ideas and a situation in which developing countries are actually financing consumption in the developed countries. The establishment of a more stable macroeconomic model, in our view, calls for **the introduction, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a single supranational currency**.

Mr. President,

Urgent solution of environmental problems is one of our main responsibilities to future generations and is also a prerequisite of preserving life on Earth.

In this context, we have initiated plans for **holding ESCAP and UNECE ministerial conferences, in 2010-2011 in Astana**. The goal of these events is to **build a "Green Bridge"** between Europe and Asia and to harmonize programmes for sustainable development and environmental protection.

We appreciate the assistance provided by the international community, the United Nations and its specialized agencies and programmes to our country's efforts to **overcome the effects of environmental disasters in the Aral Sea and Semipalatinsk regions**. Given their global nature, they call for an effectively new approach for solving these problems by the donor community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kazakhstan is firmly committed to the democratization of its society and building a rule-of-law State. Last February, Kazakhstan successfully passed its first Universal Periodic Review, under the United Nations Human Rights Council, and intends to fully implement the recommendations made in the process.

Reaffirming its commitment to an open and constructive cooperation in the area of human rights, Kazakhstan has sent a standing invitation to all mandate holders of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

Kazakhstan has always been and remains open to cooperation with the international community in the protection and realization of individual rights and freedoms. With these values and ideals in mind, Kazakhstan has put forward its candidature to the Human Rights Council for 2012-2015, and we hope that our bid will be supported.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past sixty five years, the United Nations has made an enormous contribution to peace and security on our planet and to the solution of many social, economic, humanitarian and other problems. It is in our common interests that the United Nations continues to demonstrate leadership in promoting peace, and cooperation and sustainable progress on Earth. Kazakhstan not only has consistently supported and supports the activities of the United Nations, but always seeks to contribute to the attainment of the lofty goals set by our common venerable organization.

Thank you for your attention.