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Statement
by H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Kazakhstan to the United Nations
at the Thematic Debate on Human Security

22 May 2008
New York

Mr.President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for conveying this important debates on human security that could create a conducive environment for a new way of thinking about modern challenges – from hunger and poverty to forced migration and human trafficking as well as achievement of peace and stability in fragile states.

The Outcome document of the UN Summit of 2005 reiterated that economic and social development, improvement of well being of the population, poverty eradication, provision of employment are the key elements in dealing with new challenges and threats to the security of nations.

We do believe that security and development have complementary nature: sustainable development is impossible without peace and stability as well as development is a prerequisite for security of population.

Mr.President,

In its early stage of sovereignty, Kazakhstan identified 7 priorities of the country development that were embraced in the Strategic Document “Kazakhstan 2030”. Among the priorities, stability and human development are particularly underscored as of the utmost importance.

It is widely known that besides the threats of natural disasters and climate change, one of the most disastrous challenges to human security is proliferation of weapons of mass distraction and conventional arms. Recognizing these threats to humankind, first initiatives of our state such as voluntary renouncement of nuclear weapons inherited from the Soviet Union 15 years ago and confidence-building measures in Asia vividly demonstrated our commitment to global and regional security.

Revival of the ancient Silk Road that bridged East and West in the past invigorated development of roads and heavy use of transportation means. The recent GA resolution 62/244 on Global Road Safety for which Kazakhstan became a co-sponsor demonstrated a global concern about human security.

Another threats for the human security is emanating from deficit of drinking water. To increase access to safe water, the government of Kazakhstan adopted programme “Drinking Water” in amount of 900 mln. USD.

Kazakhstan aligns itself as a country, which is opened to dialogue and multilateral cooperation. This policy demonstrated that maintenance of stability within the country and along its borders boosts economic and human development.

Moreover, we do understand that regional cooperation won't be successful without internal stability in the countries we are surrounded with. In this regards, we are undertaking certain steps to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to our neighbors. For example, a Special Programme for Afghanistan in amount of 3mln USD is aimed at the economic and humanitarian assistance to strengthen national capacities for development and providing basic support to the most vulnerable people.

Apart of predictable threats that undermine stability and development, unexpected natural disasters require concerted efforts of the international community. For emergency preparedness and immediate respond to any regional disaster, Kazakhstan hosts a regional office of OCHA and supplies warehouse in Almaty that has good transport connection within the region. Hence, humanitarian commodities could be delivered to disaster area in 24 hours.

Mr.President,

The Government of Kazakhstan pays close attention to social development of its own population to secure stability and peace in the country. Even this year, when the state budget was significantly cut down due to the world financial crisis, the President of Kazakhstan in his annual address to population identified social investment and food crisis as priority matters for budget provision.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that commitment of international community to ensure peace for the sake of human security has a paramount importance for all member states in achieving development goals including MDGs.

I thank you all for your kind attention.