

KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT

by Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan Mr. Barlybay SADYKOV
at the General Meeting of the 2017 UNDC Substantive Session
(New York, 3 April 2017)

**Madame Chair,
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs,
Excellencies and Colleagues,**

I thank you, Madame Chair, and congratulate you on your unanimous appointment as Chair of the 2017 UNDC session. Both you and the members of the Bureau can count on Kazakhstan's support to achieve the desired objectives that UNDC was established to achieve in 1978. I also wish to thank our Chair Ambassador Odo Tevi of Vanuatu for his stewardship last year that has brought us thus far, and with whom we have worked since the start of the first cycle.

In 2015 and 2016, Kazakhstan had the honour to Chair Working Group I on Achieving the Objectives of Nuclear Disarmament and Non Proliferation and we most sincerely thank all delegations for their unfailing cooperation to us. We are honoured to be elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, and alas as a small mission, we are unable to give the full attention to our work with the responsibilities of WG I.

We are indeed most grateful to Minister Wilmer of Venezuela for taking over in this year and we are confident he will ably take us to a good conclusion. But we will continue to support nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the Council and all fora of the UN.

There are a few observations I would like to make.

The Disarmament Commission is entering the last phase of its current cycle during a time of deepening paralysis and divisions within multilateral disarmament bodies, arising from the 2015 NPT Review Conference, our inability to bring the CTBT into force, and the lack of any further negotiations within the CD in Geneva. Against this backdrop, it is no wonder that many delegations have looked outside the traditional United Nations forums for progress, as seen in the effort to

craft a nuclear ban treaty. Yet, the UNDC, as the only most representative body of all 193 Members has considerable potential to demonstrate that the existing disarmament machinery can produce results.

At a time when the disarmament machinery is so often criticized as stagnated and unproductive, I must underscore that the dedication and passion of delegates should not go underappreciated. It is when this dedication and passion are translated into productivity that the machinery can truly achieve results and we found that in our informal informals during the intercessional period the delegations demonstrated real commitment to move forward.

In this regard, I wish to applaud the efforts of all delegations for working with such passion and constructive engagement during the informal plenary meetings as well as small group discussions. The best way is to aim for constructive but modest outcomes, which would be most pragmatic way to proceed. We look forward to results at the end of this cycle that will unite us all.