



**President of the General Assembly
His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**

Opening Remarks

**Informal Meeting of the General Assembly
To mark the Observance of the International Day Against
Nuclear Tests,**

Thursday, 6 September 2012

New York

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The results of over half a century of extensive international efforts aimed at banning nuclear test-explosions are significant. Indeed, much has been achieved.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) has represented a culmination of those efforts, particularly with the completion of a significant portion of the Treaty's global verification infrastructure.

The CTBT is upholding the international norm against nuclear testing. It has also established a verification regime which continues to empower signatory States with advanced technical capabilities in the analysis of data obtained from verification stations across the globe. With such capabilities, signatories to the CTBT are able to detect, in a timely and effective manner, any nuclear test explosions, wherever they occur on the globe. The deterrence effect that this represents has

kept a tight lid on nuclear testing for over a decade, with few known exceptional cases.

The peaceful applications of verification technologies also represent a valuable facet of the importance of the system. Over one billion dollars of international funding has been invested in the establishment and operation of the CTBT's verification system. This investment is proving most valuable for an extremely important cause that is connected almost directly to the very survival of the human race.

While much has been achieved to bring us closer to a universally effective legally binding comprehensive nuclear-test ban, much remains to be done.

The remaining effort is not necessarily scientific or financial but rather political. Stronger political commitment and true leadership are needed today more than ever.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In proposing the initial draft of the General Assembly consensus Resolution 64/35, Kazakhstan provided a note-worthy example that allowed the General Assembly to establish 29 August of each year as an International Day Against Nuclear Tests. Kazakhstan had also unilaterally closed down the Semi-pala-tinsk nuclear test site more than a decade earlier.

I therefore wish to commend Kazakhstan for its initiative and for continuing to lead efforts for the international celebration of this day, including the organization of the high-level panel to convene within the framework of this meeting today.

I also wish to extend a warm welcome to Her Excellency, Ambassador Susan Burk, Special Representative of the President of the United States for Nuclear Non-Proliferation, who has come from Washington, to support the observation of this day and also share her profound experiences with us on a range of extremely important topics.

I am sure that the vast experiences of the panel members will enrich today's discussions and help advance our thoughts on the way forward. I thank all the speakers, panelists and contributors and wish to extend a special welcome to Mr. Timur Zhantikin, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Finally, I wish to encourage you all to engage in constructive exchanges, not only to promote the entry into force of CTBT but also

to promote progress on all parallel fronts. Needless to say, this will require the efforts of not just Governments. It will also depend on the active engagement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders who support our global cause in nuclear disarmament.

It is my hope that this effort will continue and will gradually succeed in bringing us closer to achieve what I believe is our collective objective, and that is: a world where all nations can live in peace and stability without the looming threat and danger of nuclear destruction.

Thank you.

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