

**STATEMENT by H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Ashikbayev
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
on the occasion of the second observance of the
International Day against the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
New York, 30 September 2015**

**Dear Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I congratulate you all on the Second International Day against the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which is a laudable initiative of NAM to achieve the founding objectives of the United Nations.

My country has been on the vanguard of nuclear disarmament as Kazakhstan not only closed down the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site but also renounced the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world.

Our unbroken record of peace demonstrates that peace, stability and development can be achieved without possessing a single warhead, and precisely because of that. In fact, mutual trust, transparency, confidence-building and cooperation with all other Member States have been the armaments of my country.

Kazakhstan was the first also to lead the way in the United Nations by initiating General Assembly Resolution 64/35, which designated 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests, as a means to a world free of nuclear weapons. The objectives of our two Days - against Nuclear Tests and against Nuclear Weapons - are interconnected and mutually reinforcing dimensions to reach Global Zero.

Another unique initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, is the ATOM (Abolish Testing. Our Mission) Project - a global advocacy e-campaign, calling on world leaders to ban nuclear tests and weapons. Please do join this powerful force driven by people across to the world by adding your voice to the project website (www.atomproject.org).

We share our disappointment with others that the expected outcomes of the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons could not be achieved.

Likewise, together with all the other Member States that met in Oslo (Norway), Nayarit (Mexico) and Vienna (Austria), we believe that no collective global humanitarian assistance could cope with the vast and limitless tragedy of a nuclear explosion today.

Kazakhstan is the largest supplier and producer of uranium, and yet will not join the Nuclear Club. Nevertheless, we recognize the right of each country to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. At the same time, in order to prevent nuclear non-proliferation, an agreement has been signed with IAEA for Kazakhstan to host the IAEA Low-Enriched Uranium Bank.

We fully endorse the Secretary-General's Five-Point Plan and the several initiatives of groups of countries, as well as bilateral actions, to make nuclear abolition possible. Global nuclear disarmament should also include dismantling strategic nuclear forces, and their carriers and technologies developed by increasing numbers of countries in different parts of the world.

We firmly believe that the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by Annex II countries will be a major leap forward towards peace and security. Kazakhstan, along with Japan, is the Co-Chair of CTBT Article XIV Conference, and urges all stakeholders to work aggressively towards the Treaty's entry into force.

As an alternative to the much-needed convention against nuclear weapons, President Nursultan Nazarbayev called for the adoption of a Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World as the first step towards such a convention. We very much look forward to the unanimous support of Member States for the Declaration. In our view, it is unacceptable, by all norms of conscience, that while all other WMDs have been banned, nuclear weapons – the deadliest of all of them – are not.

Thus, Kazakhstan sees nuclear security as one of the four pillars of its campaign for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council in 2017-2018, together with water, food and energy security as the *sine qua non* of global peace and security.

Kazakhstan stands fully committed to redouble its efforts to work unflinchingly, as its commitment to multilateral action, towards the process of nuclear disarmament.

I thank you, Mr. President.