

Statement
of the Chairman of the National Committee for Atomic Energy of the
Republic of Kazakhstan
Mr. Timur Zhantikin
on 48th Session of the IAEA General Conference

Mr. President,

On behalf of my delegation accept a congratulations on Your election as a President of the 48th Session of the General Conference. We are sure that with support of all delegations you will successfully lead this important forum to achieve all its aims.

Let me congratulate the new members of the Agency - Togolese Republic, Republic of Chad and Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

Events of the year passed from our previous meeting confirmed once again complicity of the confidence-building process in the world, one of cornerstones of which is the nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, NPT, is one of the most significant instruments that provided basis for this regime. Successful implementation of the NPT provisions had stimulated further development of non-proliferation regimes for other types of the weapons of mass-destruction. Therefore, it is very important to us to keep an effectiveness of the NPT and all measures directed to strengthening of nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime. First of all, it should be rigorous compliance with obligations taken by all the NPT member states.

Kazakhstan had voluntary dismissed the significant arsenal of nuclear weapons and, from the first days of its independence, strictly follows the chosen course of nuclear disarmament and strengthening of nuclear weapons non-

proliferation regime. This approach had been discussed by the President of our country H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev with the IAEA Director General Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei during their recent meeting in Vienna.

In February this year we had signed the Additional Protocol to our Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. We are also actively taking part practically in all nuclear threat reduction initiatives - G-8 initiative on Global Partnership against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2002), Proliferation Security Initiative (2003), US Initiative on Nuclear Threat Reduction (2004). Understanding potential hazards of highly enriched materials, the Ministry of Energy had adopted the five-year programme on transfer of VVR-K research reactor to a low-enriched nuclear fuel. Works are being continued on safe decommissioning of BN-350 fast breeder reactor. Projects are successfully implemented on strengthening of control of ionizing radiation sources and on safe and secure management of strong sources. We are grateful for support and effective assistance of the IAEA and countries taking part in the projects for the accomplishment of these and other similar programmes.

Distinguished Delegates,

We respect the rights of every country to elaborate a peaceful nuclear technologies, and in accordance with the Statute, the Agency should provide all necessary assistance. And saying that, we have to find ways to resolve conflicting situations taking place recently - the ways, which could lead to reconstruction of confidence levels of the world community in nuclear activity of countries without restriction of their rights for technological development and access to knowledge. Undoubtedly, it is very complicate problem. But experience of the Agency and its Director General, his firm and principal position give us a strong hope that the problem will be resolved.

In its export control policy Kazakhstan in full follows all generally accepted norms. Being a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, our country

takes effective measures for fulfillment its obligations in the field of strengthening of nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime. System for combating illegal transfers of nuclear materials and technologies was implemented and continuously being improved. And we are very concerned by the fact that some countries having elements of nuclear fuel cycle are still not taking part in international regimes of control of nuclear transfers. This situation provides basis for the opportunities of illicit trafficking-in-nuclear materials and illegal transfer of technologies. At the same time, we call upon a careful consideration of imposition of new restrictions on transfers of nuclear technologies in order to avoid creation of unreasonable barriers for development of peaceful uses of the atomic energy.

Mr. President,

In conclusion I would like to confirm the support of Kazakhstan to the IAEA activities directed to further development of peaceful uses of atomic energy for the welfare of mankind, to strengthening of nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime and to improving the level of international security. I am sure that with your leadership the General Conference will achieve the goals, and one more step will be taken in the field important for all of us.