

Statement

**of the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Committee of the Ministry of Energy
and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

Timur Zhantikin

on 49th Session of the IAEA General Conference

Mr. President,

Accept, Sir, my congratulations on behalf of my delegation on Your election as a President of the 49th 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 a new member of the Agency – State of Belize.

Also, Kazakhstan delegation extends congratulations with 60th Anniversary to Minatom of Russia.

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 mass-destruction weapons. Therefore, it is very important for us to keep effectiveness of the NPT and all measures directed to strengthening of nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime. First of all, it should be unconditional compliance with obligations taken by all the NPT member states.

Kazakhstan 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). Recently in New York during the General Assembly of the United Nations, Kazakhstan had signed International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Our country takes measures on strengthening of radiation control on its borders as well as further upgrading of system of combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials, and we completely supporting the Resolution 1540 of the UN Security Council.

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. Works on down-blending of highly enriched uranium are began in Ulba Metallurgical Plant in Ust-

Kamenogorsk, and next month there will be an official ceremony on launch of the production line.

Kazakhstan began implementation of provisions of the new edition of Code of Conduct for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. Projects are successfully implemented on strengthening of control of ionizing radiation sources and on safe and secure management of strong sources. Instruments are prepared for creation of National Register of Sources of Ionizing Radiation. At the present time, inventory taking for radioactive sources on the republic territory is boeng carried out. At implementation of these and other similar programmes we are thankful for support and effective assistance of the IAEA and countries taking part in the projects.

Recently with support of the Government of Kazakhstan a joint-stock company Park of Nuclear Technologies was registered in Kurchatov, which should be a basis for development of applications of peaceful use of atomic energy including development of nuclear power in our country. Also, with support of the Government several big projects are being implemented, such as construction of a heavy ion accelerator in Astana and construction of Kazakhstan material-research Tokomak in Kurchatov; both these projects reached a level of fabrication and montage of main equipments. In Almaty a large nuclear medicine centre is being designed, construction of which is also supported by the Government.

Distinguished Delegates,

We respect rights of every country in development of peaceful nuclear technologies, and in accordance with the Statute, the Agency should provide any assistance needed for it. 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 limitation of their rights for technological development and access to knowledge. Undoubtedly, it is very complicated 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. On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan I would like to pass my congratulations to Doctor Mohamed ElBaradei with his election for the next period.

In its export control policy Kazakhstan in full follows all commonly accepted norms. Being a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, our country takes effective measures on meeting its obligations on 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 not still taking part in international regimes of control of nuclear transfers, because it provides ground for possibilities of illicit trafficking of nuclear materials and illegal transfer of technologies. At the same

time, we call for careful consideration of implementation of new restrictions on transfers of nuclear technologies in order to avoid creation of unreasonable obstacles for development of peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Mr. President,

In conclusion I would like to confirm 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 done in the field important for all of us.