

Statement by H.E. Mr. Kairat ABDRAKHMANOV
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the International organizations in Vienna
Head Delegate of the Republic of Kazakhstan
At the 52nd General Conference of the International Atomic
Energy Agency

Dear Mr. President!

Please accept my congratulations on behalf of our delegation on Your election as Chairman of the 52nd session of the General conference. We are confident that the support of all delegations is helping You to successfully accomplish the forum goals. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new members of the IAEA - Oman, Papua New Guinea and Lesotho.

Mr. President!

Distinguished delegates!

The latest events have once more proved the complexity of creating the atmosphere of mutual confidence in the world where non-proliferation regime is being one of its cornerstones. And the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the core instrument underlying the regime. Successful implementation of the NPT has preconditioned further development of international control of other weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Therefore, it is of high importance for us to preserve efficient operation of the NPT and all measures to strengthen nuclear non-proliferation. First, it implies steadfast adherence to the NPT obligations assumed by all participants thereof.

As you may be aware on 19 February 2007 Kazakhstan ratified the Protocol Additional to the Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on 9 May 2007.

Kazakhstan is an active participant of almost all initiatives against the nuclear threat – the G8 Initiative “Global Partnership against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction” (2002), Proliferation Security Initiative (2003), US Initiative on Nuclear Threat Reduction (2004).

Kazakhstan welcomed “The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism” put forward by Russia and USA on 15 July 2006. In confirmation of steadfast commitment of our state to foster international security and support of collective efforts of the world community to counter terrorism Kazakhstan signed the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. On 11-12 June 2007 Astana hosted the 3rd meeting of Global Initiative participants.

Our country takes measures to strengthen radiation border control as well as further upgrade the system of combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials, and we wholeheartedly support the Resolution 1540 of the UN Security Council. Kazakhstan has joined the initiative of Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) and signed a GNEP Statement of Principles during the second Ministerial Meeting on 16 September 2007 in Vienna.

Our country completely shares main principles of the Global partnership and its vision for nuclear energy cooperation to enable safe and secure expansion of civilian nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. And we

consider that partnership in GNEP gives for Kazakhstan a new impulse for development of national atomic industry and energy.

Kazakhstan fully abides by all commonly accepted norms in its export control policies. Being member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, our country takes effective measures to meet its obligations to strengthen nuclear non-proliferation regime. System of combating illicit nuclear trafficking has been set up and is being improved on a day-to-day basis. Concurrently, we call to thoroughly scrutinize introduction of new restrictions on nuclear technologies transfer with the view to avoiding unjustified barriers to peaceful atom development.

Kazakhstan by giving up the world's 4th largest nuclear arsenal made a historic contribution to enhancing non-proliferation and disarmament and thus demonstrated strict loyalty of our state to performing the assumed international obligations.

Realizing potential threat of highly enriched materials, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources adopted a 5-year program of transfer of VVR-K research reactor to low enriched fuel, also safe de-commissioning of the fast breeder reactor BN-350 in Aktau is going on.

Kazakhstan is actively implementing the new edition of the Code of Conduct for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. Projects on strengthening control of ionizing radiation sources and on safe and secure management of strong sources are successfully implemented. Instruments to introduce the National Register of Sources of Ionizing Radiation have been prepared, and inventory of radioactive sources in the territory of the Republic is being carried out. In implementing these and other similar programs we are thankful for the support and effective assistance of the IAEA and countries taking part in the projects.

As you know, with the support of Kazakh Government the joint-stock company “Nuclear Technologies Park” was registered and started its operations in Kurchatov, which is supposed to lay basis for the development of applications of peaceful atomic energy including development of nuclear power in our country. Last year a heavy ion accelerator was put into service in Astana and construction of Kazakhstan material-research Tokamak in Kurchatov is under way – the project is moving towards fabrication and installation of basic equipment. A big nuclear medicine centre in Almaty is being designed, construction of which is also supported by the Government.

Taking into account expanding nuclear activities in Kazakhstan the Government is planning to create a special authority to coordinate national programmes for peaceful use of atomic energy.

Distinguished Delegates,

Kazakhstan also actively takes part in creation of Zone Free from Nuclear Weapons in Central Asia. The initiative of the Central Asian states on creation of this Zone was formulated in Almaty Declaration of February 28, 1997, and it became an important contribution of Kazakhstan and other states of the region to strengthening the regime of nuclear non-proliferation. On 8th September 2006 in Semipalatinsk Ministers of Foreign Affairs and their representatives of the five Central Asian states - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan had signed the Central Asian Nuclear-Free-Zone-Treaty.

Last year Kazakhstan signed with Russian Federation an Intergovernmental Agreement on organization of the International Uranium

Enrichment Center in Angarsk city. We are convinced that such international centers, working under the strict control of the IAEA, in which the most sensitive stages of a nuclear fuel cycle will be realized, also will create basis for effective maintenance of development of nuclear-power engineering at implementation of all principles of non-proliferation regime of nuclear weapon. Such approach will provide support to principles of restriction of proliferation of the sensitive nuclear technologies stated by IAEA Director General Dr. Mohamed El-Baradei.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

In his statement at the G8 Summit, in July 2006, President of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev underlined that in order to ensure the global security we must move toward full nuclear disarmament, being aware that this type of weapons, like any weapons of mass destruction, possesses a direct threat to mankind.

It is time for all of us to think about using alternative energy sources and about global energy security. We support development of peaceful atom under the strict international control and, first of all, under the International Atomic Energy Agency. Kazakhstan considers, that at satisfaction of all conditions of transparency, according to agreements with IAEA, including the Additional protocol, any state has the right for development of peaceful nuclear technologies and construction of nuclear power reactors. And this activity must be absolutely transparent, the international community must have the opportunity to monitor it.

We have to find ways to solve conflict situations taking place recently – the ways, which may help to rebuild confidence levels of the world

community towards nuclear activity of countries without restricting their right to technological development and access to knowledge. Undoubtedly, it is very complex problem. But experience of IAEA and its Director General, his firm and principal position give us a strong hope that the problem will be solved.

We should improve the control over the entire set of problems with nuclear weapons and technology, as well as any activity in the area of peaceful atom in order to provide that there is no use of fissile materials for any military purposes. It seems very logical to think, for example, about creating an entity under the IAEA auspices, which would ensure the reliable supply of fuel for nuclear power plants and managing safe storage and waste processing including International Centers on especially sensitive stages of nuclear fuel cycle.

It will provide reliable prevention of any leaks of materials needed for production of nuclear explosive devices. It is obvious that issues of political, commercial and financial nature will have to be solved to achieve this. Though this proposal sounds today so far unrealistic, but we need to start move forward in this direction.

Mr. President,

In conclusion we confirm our full support to the IAEA activities directed to further development of peaceful uses of atomic energy for the welfare of mankind, to strengthening nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime and to improving the level of international security.

I am hopeful that with your leadership the Agency will achieve its noble goals, and our General Conference will done one more step in the field important for all of us.