

Statement
by Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Atomic and Energy Supervision
and Control of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Mr. Timur Zhantikin
at the 60th Session of the IAEA General Conference

Dear Mr. President,

Let me congratulate you (on behalf of the delegation of Kazakhstan) on your election as the President of the 60th session of the General Conference. We are confident that under your leadership and with the support of all delegations goals facing this important forum will be successfully fulfilled.

We welcome the delegations of Saint Lucia, the Islamic Republic of the Gambia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines joining the IAEA as new member states.

Mr. President,

Report of the IAEA Director General reflects a balanced and effective policy of the Agency in the sphere of safety, security and prevention spread of nuclear weapons and our delegation fully supports its main provisions and takes note of it.

We highly appreciate personal engagement of the IAEA Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano in a number of significant projects on enhancing the nuclear non-proliferation regime and achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals globally, as well as his leadership and ability to manage effectively the intricate of the Agency.

(1) Kazakhstan being a member of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) actively works towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime. This year we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site closure, and on 29 August in Astana we held an International Conference "Building the World Free of Nuclear Weapons". Since the first day of its independence Kazakhstan has demonstrated effectiveness of its model of development without nuclear weapons and renounced the fourth in the world arsenal.

(2) We express our concerns on escalation of nuclear military programme of the Democratic People Republic of Korea. We call on the DPRK to fulfill its obligations in full accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and return to the negotiation process on the settlement of the situation in the six-

party talks. In this connection, we assure our support of the Agency's efforts in control of nuclear programme of the DPRK.

(3) Kazakhstan is widely recognized for its significant contribution to the process of nuclear disarmament and maintaining non-proliferation regime in the world. During the 70 th session of UN General Assembly last year President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev initiated an important proposal to get rid of nuclear weapons until 2045 - centenary of the UN. Strengthening of nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime and nuclear security will be among main directions of Kazakhstan's work as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period of 2017-2018. A call for decisive steps towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is also the central message of President Nazarbayev's Manifesto "World. 21st Century", which was introduced this March at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington D.C. and distributed as an official document of the United Nations.

(4) Kazakhstan underlines importance of the final documents of Nuclear Security Summit and assures that it will apply all efforts for their practical implementation. In this regard we welcome the beginning of work of the Contact Group. Technologies of radioisotope production without use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) are being worked out. Taking into account decrease of efficiency of such technologies compared to the existing ones, in the Nuclear Security Summit framework, Kazakhstan took the initiative on development and implementation of economic mechanisms for encouraging transfer to non-HEU technologies that were supported by the Summit participants. We believe that without effective economic incentives renouncement of use of HEU in industry will have no practical basis.

(5) Last year the agreements on placing in our country the Agency's low enriched uranium (LEU) bank were signed. Practical implementation of the project has begun. Construction of the IAEA LEU Bank storage was started, and we are planning to begin the Bank operation in the next year.

(6) We invite the Agency to participate in the opening ceremony of the IAEA LEU Bank in Astana in September 2017 which is expected to coincide with the Agency's event on the margins of the International exhibition EXPO-2017. The topic of the EXPO is "Future Energy" and it fully corresponds with the activities of the IAEA, including the use of nuclear energy and nuclear applications for the purposes of sustainable development.

(7) Kazakhstan welcomes the Agency's activities on the application of safeguards. We believe that the IAEA safeguards system is the most effective instrument on provision of the nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime. We call upon states that are not covered by comprehensive safeguards to apply the Agency's safeguards to their nuclear activities on the basis of voluntary offer as wide as possible. On the other hand, taking into account the sensitivity of safeguards application procedures, we call upon the Secretariat to strictly follow provisions of the documents adopted in this field by the IAEA member states.

(8) Kazakhstan believes that the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the nuclear programme of Iran will strengthen regional and global security. Full transparency of nuclear programme of Iran, application of the Agency's safeguards and strict fulfillment of the current agreements will provide strengthening of the nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime, and at the same time will allow realization of the NPT member states' legitimate rights to develop peaceful nuclear activities.

Kazakhstan has always supported the process of international negotiations on the Iranian nuclear programme and made a practical contribution to it. Upon the initiative of President Nazarbayev, in 2013 Almaty hosted two rounds of talks on Iran's nuclear programme, which contributed to the resumption of negotiations between "P5+1" and Iran. We are proud that the results of those two rounds of talks in Almaty have served as foundation for the JCPOA which was then agreed in 2015.

Kazakhstan also participated in the JCPOA implementation process. In December 2015 and in March 2016 in coordination with "P5+1", Iran, the IAEA and relevant structures of the UN Security Council, JSC "National Atomic Company "Kazatomprom" supplied Iran with 60 metric tons of natural uranium on commercial terms as compensation for the removal of low-enriched uranium (LEU) from that country specified in the JCPOA.

(9) Our country has fully committed to provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540, it also takes measures for further strengthening of the system of combating illegal trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials. Being a member of Nuclear Suppliers Group and Zangger Committee, Kazakhstan takes all possible measures for thorough control of nuclear export including those related to facilities and equipment used for uranium enrichment and processing of spent nuclear fuel.

(10) Kazakhstan consequently implements provisions of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We urge those countries that have not acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible.

(11) We welcome enforcement of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material that will certainly contribute to strengthening the global level of physical security of nuclear material.

(12) Kazakhstan has made serious efforts for creation of the Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone in Central Asia. And we hope that example and experience of this zone creation will be useful in other regions of the world. We support creation of the zone free from nuclear weapons in the Middle East and urge to make our planet a common area of peace and security.

(13) Kazakhstan supports efforts of the IAEA on development of peaceful uses of atomic energy, including nuclear power, science and research, nuclear medicine and other fields of peaceful use of nuclear technologies. We intend to further develop our technical cooperation with the IAEA. I would like to underline that Kazakhstan timely pay contributions into the IAEA regular budget and voluntary contributions into the Technical Cooperation Fund, and henceforth we shall perform our financial commitments in full scope and without any conditions.

(14) Kazakhstan is concerned on low rate of adoption of the Amendment to the Article 6 of the IAEA Statute. In accordance with the last report of the General Director, from the last year the Amendment was ratified by 60 countries only of 110 ones that are necessary for its entry into force.

We call for a balanced approach in addressing the issue of determining the affiliation of the Member States to regional groups of the Agency. We welcome the efforts of the Member States, the Secretariat and the Director-General in this regard. We call for additional measures for the early entry into force of the Amendment. Our country is carrying out necessary procedures to ratify this Amendment.

(15) I have to note that important and fundamental issue for my country is not resolved for a long time. Kazakhstan being an active and responsible member of the IAEA, unfortunately, is excluded from the participation in all the policy-making bodies of the Agency. This unfair situation for our country, as we know, has come out because of the existing rules and procedures. But we are still confident that the problem will be solved, and our country will be able to

participate fully in the work of the Agency. We encourage the Secretariat together with the member states to make efforts to resolve the current situation.

Mr. President,

While fully sharing the importance of the Agency's work, let me express my strong support for the IAEA activities aimed at further expansion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy for the benefit of humanity, to strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation regime and improve international security.