

Statement
by the Resident Representative of Kazakhstan to the IAEA,
Ambassador H.E. Mr. Kairat Sarybay
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments
and Actions
(Vienna, 5-9 December, 2016)

Dear Mr. President,
Dear Director General,

I'd like to commend the President of the Conference, Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se, the IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano and the co-Chairs of the preparation process to the Conference, the distinguished Ambassadors of the Republic of Korea and of Nigeria for their dedicated efforts in organising this Conference.

Mr. President,

With the development of nuclear energy and technology applications, as well as with the growing interest in construction of nuclear power plants, the issues of safe and secure use of nuclear energy have acquired a great importance.

Nuclear security is the sole responsibility of states, but the level of security provided by a state in the implementation of nuclear activities, has an impact on the overall level of global nuclear security. Therefore, we believe that active international cooperation, collaboration and coordination of national activities is an important factor in strengthening the security of nuclear activities both on the regional level and, in general, on the global one.

The main role in this regard is played by the IAEA. It is important to effectively use the Agency's ability to strengthen the physical security in member states.

Mr. President,

Kazakhstan is widely recognized for its significant contribution to the process of nuclear disarmament and maintaining non-proliferation regime in the world. Kazakhstan renounced the fourth in the world nuclear arsenal and demonstrated effectiveness of its model of development without nuclear weapons.

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".

During the 70th session of UN General Assembly last year, as well as later at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington D.C in March 2016 the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev initiated an important proposal to get rid of nuclear weapons until 2045 - centenary of the UN.

Kazakhstan's expansive nuclear disarmament vision supports its nuclear security related policies. We believe that the only way to guarantee long-term nuclear security is through comprehensive nuclear disarmament and call for

ending nuclear weapons testing through the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, establishing nuclear-weapons-free zones and strengthening security assurances for countries that renounce nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan has always supported the process of international negotiations on the Iranian nuclear programme and made a practical contribution to it. In 2013 Kazakhstan 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 talks in Almaty have served as foundation for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) which was then agreed in 2015.

Kazakhstan is participating in the JCPOA implementation process. We call upon other involved parties to stick to their commitments to the Plan.

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.

Mr. President,

Kazakhstan supported the IAEA's initiative on creation of the Bank of low-enriched uranium in Kazakhstan. In August 2015 Kazakhstan and the Agency signed an agreement on the establishment of IAEA LEU Bank in Kazakhstan. After commissioning of a new building for the LEU Bank, which is expected in the second half of 2017, the bank will be launched.

The Host State Agreement went through the ratification procedure in the lower Chamber of Parliament and is being considered by the Senate, and we hope that this year the Law on Ratification of the Agreement will be adopted.

Kazakhstan's contributions to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund and the Peaceful Use Initiative have exceeded 1 million Euro. We call upon other member states to support the Agency's funds.

We consider the establishment and continuous improvement of the legislative and regulatory framework based on generally accepted international legal instruments, the IAEA recommendations, experience and good practice as an important factor in strengthening the physical security. It is worth noting the role of the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS) and its practical activity, especially important for the nuclear industry and power sectors.

It appears important to provide a sufficient number of specialists trained in the field of physical security. For these purposes with the support of the IAEA and the United States a National Nuclear Security Training Centre is being constructed in Almaty. We plan to complete the construction by the end of this year.

Kazakhstan supports the efforts of states to minimize the use of sensitive materials and technologies in the civil nuclear sector. We believe that this in general may have a positive impact on the overall level of nuclear security. However, we cannot ignore the problems related to the provision of the necessary production of radioisotope products - especially radioisotopes for medicine. To solve this problem, we proposed the introduction of economic

instruments to encourage the transition of the industry to technologies without the use of highly-enriched uranium.

Transition into low-enriched nuclear fuel of the research reactor VVR-K and critical stand has been successfully completed in Almaty. We are currently studying the possibility of transfer of fuel in two research reactors of the National Nuclear Centre in Kurchatov of the East Kazakhstan region into low-enriched uranium.

Mr. President,

Kazakhstan advocates the development and strengthening of an international legal framework to ensure the safe and secure management of nuclear materials. Our state is a member of almost all conventions in this sphere.

In 2011, Kazakhstan not only ratified the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material but also fully implemented the principles of the Convention into its national legislation. We call upon all the remaining states to take measures in order to ratify the Amendment to the Convention.

Kazakhstan has been fully committed to provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and hosted, in cooperation with UNODA, an international workshop dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

Mr. President,

We are fully sharing the importance of the Agency's work and committed to supporting the safe and secure use of nuclear energy.

In conclusion, let me express the appreciations of the Government of Kazakhstan for the commitment of IAEA to participate actively in the International Exhibition EXPO-2017 entitled "Future Energy" in Astana next year and highly evaluate the Agency's valuable support towards provision of the radiation detection equipment and other relative assistance during this event.

Thank you for your attention.