

National Report
of the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
for the International IAEA Conference on Nuclear Security

Dear Co-chairs,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome all participants of the third International IAEA Conference on Nuclear Security.

Dear Co-chairs (*Ms. Rosario TURNER, Minister of Health of Panama and Mr. Bogdan Lucian AURESCU, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania*).

The Republic of Kazakhstan is widely known for its significant contribution to the nuclear disarmament process and the maintenance of the nuclear non-proliferation regime in the world.

In 1995 the Republic of Kazakhstan abandoned the world's fourth nuclear arsenal and demonstrated its model for developing a country without nuclear weapons.

At the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in December of 2015, the UN General Assembly, by a majority of the votes of the countries, for the first time adopted the «Universal Declaration on Achieving a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World», which recorded the determination of all states to move towards a nuclear-weapon-free world step by step. Currently, the number of supporters of this resolution has increased and work continues on its expansion.

The Republic of Kazakhstan intends to continue implementing the initiatives of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev aimed at reaching a world free of nuclear threats by the UN centenary in 2045.

Our country strongly supports the important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the global nuclear security architecture and its leading role in promoting and coordinating activities to ensure nuclear security between states.

The Republic of Kazakhstan fully complies with the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1540, takes measures to further improve the system for combating illegal handling of nuclear and other radioactive materials.

Our country has acceded to and ratified all conventions in the field of nuclear security, including the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material with amendment of 2005.

The holding of the four Nuclear Security Summits in 2012-2016 gave a good impetus at the highest level for further work aimed at strengthening physical security and the non-proliferation regime. We are now continuing this work within the framework of the Nuclear Safety Contact Group.

Last year, Kazakhstan for the first time took over the chairmanship of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which, along with the Zangger Committee, plays an important role in strengthening nuclear safety through improving export control systems for nuclear materials and technologies, facilitating the practical implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540.

Initiatives such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and the The Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (the Global Partnership), of which Kazakhstan is a party, also play an important role in strengthening nuclear safety.

Dear Co-chairs,

A significant contribution of the Republic of Kazakhstan in support of the non-proliferation regime was the creation of the Bank of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) in the Republic of Kazakhstan, which at the end of last year has successfully accepted for storage the planned amount of IAEA's low enriched uranium.

With the aim to train specialists in the nuclear security field, a Nuclear Security Training Center has been established on the basis of the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the support of the US Department of Energy, and it is successfully operating today.

In the center Kazakhstan's specialists are trained in the field of physical protection, accounting, control and combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials. This is the only specialized training center for specialists in this sphere in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is consistently continuing implementation of research reactor conversion projects with the goal of converting highly enriched uranium fuel to low enriched fuel, thereby helping to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation in the world.

An example of the first step in the successful conversion of research reactors in the Republic of Kazakhstan is the stable operation of a research reactor using low-enriched fuel, the conversion work on which was successfully completed in 2016.

Dear colleagues,

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that the Republic of Kazakhstan will continue to fully support international efforts to strengthen nuclear security, and I hope that this conference will serve our common cause of strengthening global security.

Thank you for attention.