

**Statement of the Minister of Energy  
of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
K.A Bozumbayev  
at the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the IAEA General Conference**

Dear Madame President,

Let me congratulate you on behalf of Kazakhstan delegation on your election as the President of the 61st session of the General Conference. We are confident that under your leadership and with the support of all delegations goals facing this important forum's will be successfully fulfilled.

Madame President,  
Distinguished delegates,

Report of the IAEA Director General reflects the well-considered and effective policy of the Agency in security, nuclear nonproliferation, and our delegation fully supports the main provisions of this statement.

Kazakhstan as a Member State of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and country that abandoned the fourth nuclear arsenal in the world actively works towards disarmament and strengthening the non-proliferation regime. During its history, our country showed the effectiveness of chosen development model without possessing weapons of mass destruction and without threat of force, pursuing policy of peace and good-neighborhood.

We believe that practical steps towards decrease of nuclear threat should be taken. First of all, process of nuclear arsenals reduction should be multilateral, involving all states de-facto having these weapons and all threshold states.

We urge to start negotiations on drafting Comprehensive Treaty on Reducing Nuclear Weapons. It is also important to develop legally binding system that will assure non-use of nuclear weapon against nuclear-free states.

We express our concern over escalation of military nuclear program of the Democratic People Republic of Korea. We encourage

the DPRK to fulfill their obligations in fully manner pursuant to UN Security Council resolutions and return to the negotiation process for settlement of this situation. In this regard, we assure our support to IAEA efforts in control of the DPRK nuclear program.

Kazakhstan consequently implements provisions of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We call upon those countries that have not yet acceded to this Convention to do so as soon as possible.

We welcome the entry into force of amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials that will certainly contribute to strengthening of global physical security of nuclear material.

Strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, constraining the development of new types of nuclear weapon and its modernization, reducing nuclear risks are priority directions of Kazakhstan work as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the periods of 2017-2018 years.

Our country fully implements provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540, takes measures for further strengthening of the system to combating the illegal trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials. Kazakhstan as a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zanger Committee takes all possible measures for thorough control of nuclear export including those related to facilities and equipment used for uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing.

Kazakhstan underlines the importance of provisions in outcome documents of the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington and makes every effort for their practical implementation. In this regard, we welcome the activity of the Contact Group.

Last year, the research reactor VVR-K started its operation on new low enriched nuclear fuel in the Institute of Nuclear Physics in Almaty. Works on investigation of possibilities for transfer of other research reactors of Kazakhstan to low enriched fuel are going on.

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 of transfer to non-HEU technologies that was supported by the Summit participants. We believe that without effective economic incentives renouncement of use of HEU in industry will have no practical basis.

Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan, put forward the initiative ATOM - Abolish Testing Our Mission. IN the frame of this project any person on the Earth who is against nuclear weapons can sign the 'on-line' petition with call to forever abandon nuclear tests.

The Universal Declaration on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World initiated by Kazakhstan at the first Nuclear Security Summit in Washington and approved by the UN General Conference on December 07, 2015 has all chances to become one of the elements of new architecture of global nuclear security.

On August 29, 2017, the opening ceremony of the IAEA Bank of Low Enriched Uranium took place in Ust-Kamenogorsk and now, Kazakhstan is ready to place the IAEA nuclear materials. We supported the IAEA initiative to establish Bank and believe that this project will make significant contribution in development of peaceful nuclear power and strengthening global nuclear security.

At the opening of the Bank of Low Enriched Uranium, the President of Kazakhstan has proposed to consolidate all global initiatives of Kazakhstan on anti-nuclear movement and expressed readiness of Kazakhstan to initiate the process of updating the Global Summit on Nuclear Security and hold its meeting in Astana.

Kazakhstan welcomes the Agency activities on application of safeguards. After obtaining extended conclusions, Kazakhstan together with IAEA worked towards to implementation of integrated safeguards. This work has some difficulties related to legacy of more than 40-year history of nuclear tests that were conducted on the territory of our Republic. But in cooperation with the Agency and some states we are successfully solving problems on application of comprehensive safeguards in Kazakhstan.

We believe that the IAEA safeguards system in 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, considering sensitivity of safeguards implementation we call upon the Secretariat to follow strictly the provisions of documents accepted by IAEA Member States in the current sphere.

Kazakhstan supports realization of the Comprehensive Plan for Joint Activities on Iranian Nuclear Program. We believe that plan realization will strengthen the regional security and upgrade level of global nuclear security in the whole. Complete transparency of Iranian Nuclear Program, implementation of comprehensive safeguards of the Agency and strict fulfillment of reached agreements will ensure the strengthening of nuclear non-proliferation regime and at the same time will enable to realize legal rights of NPT Member State for the world nuclear activity.

Kazakhstan made serious efforts to create Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. And we hope that the experience of such zone creation will be also useful for other regions of the world. We are speaking in support of nuclear weapon-free zone creation in the Middle East and making a call to make our planet a common area of peace and security.

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 112 ones that are necessary for its entry into force.

Kazakhstan calls 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.

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 the all 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.

**Madame 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.