

Information Circular

INFCIRC/782

Date: 15 January 2010

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication dated 11 January 2010 received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Agency enclosing a position regarding the establishment of IAEA nuclear fuel banks

The Secretariat has received a communication dated 11 January 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan, transmitting a position paper of Kazakhstan regarding the establishment of IAEA nuclear fuel banks.

As requested in that communication, the attached position paper is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.

Position paper of Kazakhstan

In May 2009, Kazakhstan circulated a position paper (INFCIRC/753) to IAEA Member States, in which Kazakhstan stated that it was willing to consider the possibility of hosting an international nuclear fuel bank under IAEA auspices on its territory.

On December 28th, 2009, in his letter addressed to IAEA Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano, H.E. Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, the Secretary of State – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, officially reaffirmed the intention of the Government of Kazakhstan to host an international nuclear fuel bank under IAEA auspices within the scope of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) project, and to bear all of the corresponding financial and technical obligations associated with fuel storage.

In addition to storing the nuclear materials of the fuel bank, Kazakhstan is committed to cooperating with the IAEA and its Member States in developing a new framework which would facilitate the unimpeded transfer of low-enriched uranium to eligible consumer States at the request of the IAEA, and on the basis of criteria approved in advance by the IAEA Board of Governors. In this regard, Kazakhstan expresses its readiness to prepare, in conjunction with the IAEA, a corresponding Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the IAEA, and to discuss the practical issues of carrying out such a project.

Kazakhstan believes that the NTI project is one of the most mature and realistic proposals that have been made in support of assurances of nuclear fuel supply. Furthermore, Kazakhstan is convinced that this proposal is fully compatible with other proposals on assurances of supply and strengthens such initiatives, including the initiative of the Russian Federation, which was approved by the Board of Governors in November 2009, to establish a reserve of low-enriched uranium for the use of IAEA Member States at the International Uranium Enrichment Center in Angarsk, of which Kazakhstan is a co-founder.

Having taken the decision to host the international nuclear fuel bank on its territory, Kazakhstan will make its contribution to the process of fulfilling the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the objectives of the IAEA Statute with regard to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the development of humankind.

Kazakhstan is confident that the creation of international reserves of low-enriched uranium under IAEA auspices will benefit all nations in obtaining guaranteed access to nuclear fuel without infringing upon their sovereign right to peacefully develop national nuclear energy programmes in accordance with the NPT and the IAEA Statute.