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STATEMENT

by

Mr. Israil Tilegen,
Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations
at the UN General Assembly plenary session
on the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

5 November 2013
New York
Dear Mr. President,

Kazakhstan wishes to express warm appreciation to Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for presenting a most comprehensive analysis of the work of the Agency. It highlights the current and future roles of the IAEA in pointing the way for applications of nuclear energy and technical cooperation, with a stronger focus also on safety and security measures, rather than pure verification.

Kazakhstan notes with great satisfaction its collaboration with IAEA for its own nuclear energy, as well as, non-proliferation and disarmament policies at the regional and global level. The Agency not only protects us from nuclear weapons and nuclear terrorism, but also advances human betterment through peaceful purposes. To achieve this, it is important to bring international legal norms in line with the reality of existence of de facto nuclear weapons states. At the same time, the greatest risks are associated with states that are involved in the black market of nuclear technologies. Hence, compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by State Parties, and improvement of global mechanisms for managing processes in the development of nuclear power and the safety of nuclear facilities, are of extreme importance. My country therefore, proposes conducting regular stress tests of nuclear plants and protection systems, as well as, rapid rescue responses under the auspices of IAEA.

My country, to harness nuclear capabilities for peaceful purposes, collaborates with the Russian Federation for making available our uranium for enrichment at the National Centre in Angarsk, Siberia, for use as nuclear fuel in power reactors. We are also working on the Kurchatov, “Nuclear Technologies Park” with IAEA surveillance.

We support the measure of IAEA to develop a new framework for utilizing nuclear energy, based on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle on a non-political and non-discriminatory basis. Kazakhstan is presently finalizing the negotiations with IAEA to host a nuclear fuel bank on its territory.

As part of the Central Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, with its treaty signed in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan abides strictly by IAEA’s Safeguards Agreement. We also adhere to the Additional Protocol to reduce the risk of nuclear terrorism, and smuggling of nuclear weapons and radioactive materials in the region. We collaborate with IAEA to address environmental concerns of ecological radiation, specific to Central Asia, as we are do currently for North East Japan. My delegation endorses the road map of IAEA as proposed at its last Ministerial Meeting.

Kazakhstan supports the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as a solution for peace in the region and, therefore, commends the
work of the IAEA towards this objective. Kazakhstan is ready to host any future deliberations to move the process forward.

We are consistently implementing the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, as well as, UN Security Council Resolution 1540 to strengthen measures to combat illegal trafficking of nuclear and other materials. In 2011, we hosted the ODA and OSCE - sponsored 1540 Training Workshop for the Central Asian region, funded by the Governments of Norway and USA. We are currently viewing prospects for a similar training in early 2014. As a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee, Kazakhstan maintains the strictest control over its equipment and installations that enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel.

It is diligently implementing recommendations of Nuclear Security Summits held in Washington D.C. and Seoul in 2012, and looks forward to The Hague Summit in 2014. My country has ratified and acceded to four major conventions of nuclear security, including the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage.

In view of the growing importance of nuclear energy, Kazakhstan has an agreement with IAEA on technical cooperation for 2010-2015 to develop nuclear energy for nuclear education, medicine, agriculture, research reactor safety, nuclear technology, radioisotope and radiation applications for collective global human security.

An issue of great importance to us is that Kazakhstan, though being a key and responsible member of IAEA, is being denied the opportunity to participate in the work of elective bodies due to the existing rules of procedure. In fully supporting the early entry into force of the amendments to Article VI of the IAEA Statute, Kazakhstan is nevertheless confident that a solution will be found.

In closing, I would like to state that Kazakhstan contributes regularly to the IAEA budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund in order to fulfill its financial obligations.

We thank IAEA for its collaboration in observances of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, and in the Nuclear Disclosure Forum initiated by Kazakhstan together with the East West Institute.

To conclude, we look forward to another cycle of even more productive collaboration with IAEA to address global issues of nuclear technology and security.

Thank you, Mr. President.