Statement
by
Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin,
Deputy Permanent representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
at the UN General Assembly plenary meeting on Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency
69th session of the United Nations General Assembly
(3 November 2014, New York)

Dear Mr. President,

Kazakhstan records its deep appreciation to Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for his very comprehensive report. We commend the work of the Agency in its effort to respond to changing times and challenges and the specific needs of Member States.

Kazakhstan, as a member of IAEA, is proud to work closely with the Agency to strengthen policies related to nuclear energy, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as nuclear safety and security. We believe that it is important to bring international legal norms in line with the reality of existence of de facto nuclear weapons States, necessitating compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by State Parties. In addition, regular stress tests of nuclear plants and protection systems, together with rapid rescue responses need to be rigorously conducted by IAEA in accordance with the recommendations of the Washington, Seoul and the Hague Security Summits.

Kazakhstan is the world’s largest producer and supplier of uranium and has capability to expand fuel fabrication capability for peaceful uses of nuclear energy within the framework of IAEA safeguards.

The Government of Kazakhstan continues to make progress for the establishment of the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) bank, the proposed site of which is the Ulba Metallurgical Plant in Ust-Kamenogorsk. During 2013, work focused on the financial, legal and technical arrangements, and on assessing the proposed site of the LEU bank. In addition to hosting the LEU bank, Kazakhstan has also made a contribution of $150,000 to the Agency for the project. In addition, the National Atomic Energy Company, Kazatomprom, is working in close collaboration with IAEA.

Now that the five nuclear possessor states have signed the Protocol to the Treaty on a Central Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, the region can continue to work towards reducing nuclear terrorism, and the smuggling of nuclear weapons and radioactive materials, as well as ecological radiation in the region.

We are consistently implementing the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and host workshops and meetings to support UN Security Council Resolution 1540 to strengthen measures to combat illegal trafficking of nuclear and other materials. 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.

Kazakhstan has also ratified and acceded to four major conventions of nuclear security, and is reviewing a draft law to accede to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage. We are decommissioning the BN-350 Nuclear Reactor and, with the support of the US Department of Energy,
implementing a project to convert the second research reactor to produce radio isotopes from Low Enriched Uranium (LEU). My country welcomes the proposal to strengthen the infrastructure of IAEA’s Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) as the global focal point for nuclear and radiological safety or security-related incidents.

Though being a key and responsible member of IAEA, Kazakhstan is denied the opportunity to participate in the work of elective bodies due to the existing rules of procedure. It is fully supporting the early entry into force of the amendments to Article VI of the IAEA Statute, and hopes a solution will be found.

Kazakhstan is pleased to have a strong technical cooperation with IAEA (2010-2015) in the areas of nuclear education, medicine and agriculture, research reactor safety, radioisotope and radiation applications for collective global human security. The country contributes regularly to the IAEA budget, as well as, the Technical Cooperation Fund, and stands ready to fulfill its financial obligations.

Since nuclear security and safety are so critical, Kazakhstan has chosen this as a priority issue for its bid for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the years 2017-2018.

To conclude, we fully support IAEA’s mandate and look forward to another cycle of even more productive collaboration on current and future issues in nuclear technology.

Thank you, Mr. President.