

KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT

**by Mr. Zhangeldy Syrymbet, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of
the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
at the General Debate of the First Committee of the
UN General Assembly 77th session
(11 October 2022, New York)**

***Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished participants,***

I join others in warmly congratulating His Excellency Mohan Pieris for assuming the Chairmanship of the First Committee, as well as the members of the Bureau for their election.

I would like to assure my delegation's full support to the Chair and Bureau in their important undertaking to ensure the Committee's successful work.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, the First Committee session takes place at a critical juncture amid a number of serious converging crises: the conflict in Ukraine, deepening divisions among nuclear-armed States, alarming rhetoric related to nuclear weapons use, the persisting aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic, fragmentation of the global supply chains due to military action and unilateral coercive measures as well as the global climate emergency. These challenges have further exacerbated growing distrust and disagreements between nuclear and non-nuclear countries, and severely diminished the binding character of international disarmament and peace and security agreements.

However, the most dangerous trend is the diminishing confidence between the nuclear powers leading to a spiraling confrontation at the cost of global stability and a new round of a nuclear arms race.

Kazakhstan is firmly convinced that disarmament is a key domain where confidence-building measures are most needed. Hence, taking practical steps to eliminate nuclear weapons is more effective than pledges to never wage a nuclear war.

Certain nuclear-armed countries argue that security conditions are not yet conducive for nuclear disarmament. In response we say that security conditions will never be completely favourable for nuclear disarmament. Instead, concrete measures in disarmament will themselves create better security conditions, and should be continually pursued.

The world must not forget that reliance on nuclear arsenals in no way assures strategic security but only prompts asymmetric responses with potentially catastrophic consequences, from which there will be no recovery.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in January 2021, which demonstrates the readiness of the international community to take concrete action to combat nuclear threats.

At the same time, Kazakhstan regrets that the Tenth NPT Review Conference failed to adopt a consensus-based outcome. However, some elements in the draft final document provide a basis for future work under all pillars.

We join others in firmly reiterating the collective conviction that the TPNW and the NPT are mutually compatible and reinforcing, particularly, with regard to Article VI of the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the temporary voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing by the nuclear powers cannot be an alternative to a legally binding Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The speedy entry into force of this Treaty is a *sine qua non* for the non-proliferation regime. Hence, we once again, call on the remaining Annex II States to ratify the Treaty immediately to preserve CTBT's place in the international disarmament architecture.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones remain an important element in the global disarmament efforts. Together with its regional neighbours, Kazakhstan established a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia in 2006. We wholeheartedly support the further expansion of such zones in the Middle East, North-East Asia and Europe as a pre-requisite for global peace and stability.

Mr. Chairman,

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to represent a formidable biological threat and the international community must digest lessons learned and remain vigilant for possible misuse of biological agents as tools of warfare. Hence, collective resources must address future pandemics and the eventuality of deliberate or unpremeditated harmful use of advanced biotechnologies.

That is why Kazakhstan has proposed and is working with interested parties to establish an International Agency for Biological Safety. The Agency and its activities will be firmly anchored in the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention.

We encourage all the interested member states to join these discussions to foster dialogue among the BWC States Parties.

Mr. Chairman,

Today an increasing number of States are actively building up their missile arsenals. Ballistic missiles in particular are being used more frequently in armed conflict, including by non-state actors. Despite their role in strategic doctrines and political significance, global regimes and norms controlling missiles remain underdeveloped and require legally binding multilateral instruments.

A field of increasing concern is competition in outer space, which is rapidly becoming a theater of weaponization. Hence security, even in the realm of outer space, like others, is best guaranteed through cooperation and the rule of law, backed by effective and practical measures for verification and enforcement.

Another emerging area that requires attention is the fast-paced introduction of autonomous weapons systems with direct and indirect effects across the spectrum of disarmament and international security issues, including nuclear-weapon doctrines, outer space security, and cyber capabilities for hostile acts.

We are aware that no weapon system could ever be capable of performing such judgments in conformity with humanitarian principles, as the application of international humanitarian law is predicated on human judgment and accountability.

Finally, besides focusing on aforementioned issues, we must also address some key challenges, such as, the disconnect between commitments and implementation of agreements; the increasing obsolescence of the UN disarmament set up, as demonstrated by the stalemate in Security Council or the Conference on Disarmament; the lack of a holistic ‘human security’ perspective, and the need to put people and the planet first, that billions of dollars were spent on weapons rather than into sustainable growth and prosperity. Any dialogue on trust, must be backed up by verification and certainty for confidence-building measures to be accepted.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, we must be driven by the determined pursuit of every opportunity to carry forward the momentum for disarmament, build strong guarantees of peace and security, and work jointly for a safer and more secure tomorrow for all.

Thank you.