

Check against delivery

**Statement**  
**by Ambassador Magzhan Ilyassov**  
**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan**  
**to the United Nations,**  
**at the 10<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Parties to**  
**the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

**Main Committee I - Nuclear Disarmament**  
**and other Provisions of the Treaty**  
*(August 2022, New York)*

**Distinguished participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The international community is at the crossroads today challenged by unprecedented threats and risks caused by the pandemic, protracted and new conflicts, international terrorism and extremism, and the ravages of climate which have derailed progress, caused economic downturns, and upended structures and systems. To these, the added untold devastation triggered by the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, would be the worst because of the already proven catastrophe for people and the planet, or even their destruction. That is why the Tenth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is most timely and compels us to make a critical decision for human security and progress plunge into unforeseen disasters.

The turmoil and havoc of the last two and half years, seen in all countries across the economic spectrum, should therefore not be further aggravated by nuclear warfare or pollutions of any kind. Peace, disarmament, justice, sustainable development and environmental protection are the pre-requisites for human survival and wellbeing.

Kazakhstan will continue to work with others to seek a speedy and safe recovery to ensure enduring stability and security for all. It is a long-cherished objective it has upheld consistently since its independence, by advocating for an international effort to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. It was the first country to close its heavily used nuclear test site, situated for forty years in the region of Semipalatinsk. Our country was also the first that voluntarily abandoned its nuclear arsenal, the fourth largest in the world. Kazakhstan was the first country to set this example, after which people's mass movements escalated into global campaigns forcing governments to halt nuclear tests around the world. The wider involvement of youth can be more effectively mobilized for successful outcomes in the future. However, we must acknowledge that the people of Semipalatinsk and all former test sites still suffer from the nuclear weapons testing conducted in the past.

**Mr. President,**

The forced hiatus on the use of diplomatic platforms and meetings to address international security issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic had greatly and negatively affected traditional diplomacy. However, much was

still transacted through remote digital platforms on various critical items of the UN Global Agenda. Thus, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation were no exception.

We are well aware that as long as there is a place in the world for nuclear weapons, there is simply no absolute guarantee of their non-use. We are now reopening diplomacy and its potential must be used to the fullest during this session.

We need to recall that soon after the closure of the Semipalatinsk site, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has been a fundamental and integral part of the international security and nuclear disarmament process. Despite the Treaty's potential, we have to admit that progress has been slow and does not meet the expectations of the world community.

**Mr. President,**

As we know, due to the lack of progress in disarmament, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has become an even more significant new reality. In the current situation, we believe that further advancing the Treaty seems to be the only right path. Likewise, we should build on our past and accelerate momentum for the speedy entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We have to look for inspirational or critical moments as springboards for daring visions and pioneering initiatives, which is what Kazakhstan has always done.

I take this opportunity to note that the General Assembly again re-confirmed its support for the relevance of the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World in 2018 and 2021. This Declaration was initiated by Kazakhstan in 2015. I would like to thank all the delegations who supported this Declaration to build a world without nuclear weapons.

**Mr. President,**

Kazakhstan calls upon the nuclear powers, who had pledged that they would make sincere efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, now to take final decisive effective measures, towards this end.

From our national perspective, therefore, particular attention must be given to the following steps, with no limits for their further extension, namely to:

- a) maintain the existing moratoria against nuclear tests and actively seek the earliest ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, particularly, by the remaining Annex II states;
- b) halt any production or modernization of nuclear weapons, and as a moral and universally recognized obligation, to declare a database of all types and status of such weapons;

c) declare a moratorium against the production of fissile materials used for military purposes with the final aim to achieve total elimination of all weapons grade fissile materials. There should be once again an obligation on all states, possessing and producing fissile materials, to official declare the extent of their materials;

d) to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines and military postures of nuclear states.

We hope that we will manage to break the deadlock soon and see a new bright and hopeful horizon for humanity.

Thank you.