

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kairat Sarybay,
Ambassador, the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan
to the International Organizations in Vienna
at the 49th Session of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO
13 - 15 November, 2017**

Madame Chair, Executive Secretary Zerbo, Excellencies,

Allow me to express our appreciation to the Executive Secretary for his opening statement and reports on verification and non-verification related activities. We also welcome the work of Working Groups A and B, as well as of the Advisory Group and take note of their reports.

I would like to reiterate our appreciation to Ambassador Adnan Othman and Dr. Joachim Schulze for the informal consultations and briefings on specific matters and move forward on issues in the agenda of Working Group A and of Working Group B. We also thank the Advisory Group and its Chairman, Mr. Michael Weston, for their able and dedicated work.

Madame Chair,

There have been a number of important events and activities since the 48th Session of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO.

First of all, the CTBT Science and Technology 2017 Conference has been an important milestone in further building and strengthening the CTBTO's relationship with the scientific and research community.

We commend the CTBTO's work in the field of technical and scientific collaboration and capacity building.

Kazakhstan supported this initiative and our experts and scientists actively participated in this Conference and contributed to foster the development of the Treaty's verification regime.

From August 25 to 29, 2017 Astana hosted the Conference of the Pugwash Movement of Scientists to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Movement and International Day Against Nuclear Tests.

Hundreds of scholars, practitioners and officials from about 50 countries gathered to seek ways of achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Executive Secretary Zerbo, we are very grateful to you for participating and actively contributing to the work of the Conference.

The same day, President Nazarbayev and IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano opened the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank Facility in Kazakhstan, with a view to making a significant contribution to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and strengthening the global nonproliferation regime.

During the opening ceremony President Nazarbayev proposed to enhance the role of the nuclear weapon free zones as effective instruments to end the further nuclear proliferation and to combine efforts of states – parts of such zones at the meeting of all nuclear weapons-free zones in Astana.

The President of Kazakhstan also called upon joint efforts to ensure the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by 2020 – the year the world will mark the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Kazakhstan, as a country, which has directly experienced the entire deadly essence of nuclear weapons, stands for complete prohibition of nuclear testing all over the world and calls for the DPRK to immediately restore its place at the negotiating table in the six-party format and to refuse completely from nuclear testing.

Kazakhstan is firmly convinced that the key to global security is a nuclear-weapon-free world, what has been consistently urged to by our country and President Nursultan Nazarbayev who specified the building of a nuclear-weapon-free world as the main goal of humanity in the 21st century.

Madame Chair,

As a country fully committed to the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons, we recognize the importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a necessary step towards reaching that goal.

On 29 August the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and the Executive Secretary of CTBTO Dr. Zerbo issued a Joint Statement on the occasion of the International Day Against Nuclear Tests, where they reaffirmed our commitment to realizing a world free of nuclear testing and renew our resolve to achieve the entry into force of the CTBT.

Kazakhstan and Japan had worked consistently to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty over the period of two years.

I would like to reiterate that for the first time in the history of the CTBT a joint document in support of the Treaty was signed at the highest political level – by the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev and the Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe in October 2015 .

I would like to congratulate my distinguished colleagues Ambassador of Belgium Van de Voorde and Ambassador of Iraq Al-Khairalla on the assumption of the CTBT Article XIV process co-coordinatorship, commend you for the successful Conference in New York in September this year and adoption of the Final Declaration to promote the entry into force of the CTBT. Let me assure you of our full support and cooperation in implementing of your crucial assignment and of our commitment to be actively involved in promoting the comprehensive ban on nuclear tests.

Madame Chair,

Kazakhstan will also continue to support the PTS and Executive Secretary in their efforts to promote the speedy entry into force of the CTBT.

Dr. Zerbo's initiative – the CTBTO Youth Group appears to be an important and effective tool in this direction. Young generation has an

immense potential to find solutions to the challenges that international community faces.

We are considering a possibility of hosting the next Conference of the CTBTO Youth Group in Kazakhstan next year. In our view it will be a good opportunity to meet with the bright young people from all over the world and discuss their proposals on the CTBT issues.

As part of its continuous support to the verification regime of the CTBT, Kazakhstan with the support by Canada and the PTS is planning to place a radionuclide and noble-gas station in Kazakhstan as a Cooperating National Facilities (CNF) element, which will considerably increase the capacity building of the regime's monitoring system.

Madame Chair,

Taking into account severe financial austerity measures which the Government of Kazakhstan is currently implementing, we would like to highlight the importance of the fiscal discipline of the international organisations, including the CTBTO. We therefore appreciate the continued efforts of the PTS to explore various cost-saving and efficiency measures and encourage them to keep pursuing further efficiency gains and savings.

With regard to the Item 7 of the agenda we would like to support Dr.Schulze for reappointment as the Chairman of Working Group B. We highly appreciate Dr. Schulze for his leadership and transparency in conducting its deliberations as the Working Group B Chairman.

Madame Chair,

I would like to take this opportunity and congratulate International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) with the Nobel Peace Prize for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.

We are of a view that there is a value-added contribution by the ATOM Project to this process. As you all are aware, the ATOM means - Abolish Testing. Our Mission.

The ATOM Project and its Honorary Ambassador and artist Karipbek Kuyukov, who was born armless because of the effects of nuclear testing at Semipalatinsk, have done a lot to tell the world of those consequences, and I would urge everybody to learn that history to get motivated for further striving towards the noble goal of legally ending nuclear weapons testing on this planet.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that Kazakhstan will continue to support the objectives of the CTBT and express our support for the activities of the PTS and the Executive Secretary. We are ready to be involved in the engagements to reach our major goal - the entry into force of the Treaty.

I would also like to reiterate that a universal and effectively verifiable Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Thank you, Madame Chair.