

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kairat Sarybay,
Ambassador, the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan
to the International Organizations in Vienna
at the 50th Session of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO
2 - 4 July, 2018**

Madame Chair, Executive Secretary Zerbo, Excellencies,

At the outset I would like to thank the Executive Secretary for his opening statement and reports on verification and non-verification related activities.

My delegation welcomes the work of Working Groups A and B, as well as of the Advisory Group and take note of their reports.

Madame Chair,

I would also like to welcome the Advisory Group's recommendations and in particular the recommendation on joining the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

We are of a view that it will help to increase the Organization's competitiveness as employer in providing social security to staff members and is in the interest of perhaps not all, but a vast majority of the PTS staff members.

It appears vital to apply transitional rules in order to exclude any negative legal consequences for the Organization.

Madam Chair,

It has been more than 20 years since the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Unfortunately, this Treaty has not entered into force yet due to the fact that eight CTBT Annex 2 states have not ratified it yet.

My delegation once again appeal to the Annex 2 states to ratify the treaty as soon as possible and without any preconditions and delay.

I would like to commend Belgium and Iraq, as the Co-Coordinator of the Article XIV Process, for presenting to the Commission their "Action Plan".

We also admit the success of the High Level CTBT meeting held on 22 May in Brussels.

I would like to assure my Belgian and Iraqi colleagues of our full support and I am looking forward to working closely with the Co-Coordinator under their leadership.

Madame Chair,

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

Initiatives of Dr. Zerbo to convene the Youth Group and the Group of Eminent Persons have helped draw the public's attention to nuclear test ban issues.

In this regard, we have strongly supported the idea of organising for the first time ever a joint conference of the Youth Group and GEM in Kazakhstan, which will be held on 29 August this year, on the International Day Against Nuclear Tests.

This conference is aimed at raising public awareness of the dangerous consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and the objectives of the CTBT.

I'm pleased to announce that the programme of the conference will include a trip to the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site.

It is my pleasure to invite all the State Signatories to join us at the Conference in Astana. All the interested delegations can find the

programme of the conference on the Organisation's website and kindly request it from the PTS. If necessary, we can provide personal invitations.

By the way, this year Astana celebrates its 20 Anniversary as a Capital city of Kazakhstan. I appreciate very much active participation of the Perm. Rep., senior diplomats and staff-members, that joined us in the Bicycle tour in Vienna.

I'm sure of the success of the conference which will involve youth representatives from all over the world to promote the idea of a global nuclear testing ban.

Madam Chair,

Together with the international community and the CTBTO, Kazakhstan continues to draw public attention to the Treaty's entry into force, as the crucial instrument of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is our moral prerogative and duty, especially given my country's tragic history related to nuclear explosions.

Kazakhstan was not only the first country in the world legally banned nuclear tests closing the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in 1991, but also refused from assessing the fourth biggest nuclear weapons arsenal in the world.

I strongly believe that these historical steps of my country could be an example for the international community. We hope that the latest developments in all around the Korean peninsula started with the Inter-Korean Summit and the first US-DPRK meeting in Singapore are to lead to the full and the fast denuclearization in this part of the world, that hopefully appears to be a breakthrough for the entry into force of the CTBT.

Kazakhstan will continue to support the objectives of the CTBT and activities of the PTS and the Executive Secretary in this direction.

I thank you.