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Joint Statement
delivered by Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic,
the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
on the introduction of a draft resolution,
"Treaty on a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia",
during the Thematic Debate of the First Committee, "Nuclear Weapons"

69th session of the United Nations General Assembly
(20 October 2014, New York)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States Parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia - the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan in its capacity as coordinator of the Treaty.

The entry into force on 21 March 2009 of the Treaty is an important milestone that marked the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. Thus, the countries of Central Asia have made a significant contribution to strengthening regional and global security, and to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The creation of a zone has been the result of the collective efforts of all five Central Asian states in their effort to provide security, stability and peace in the region, and to create the necessary conditions for the development and prosperity of our people. In September 1997, an international conference was hosted in Tashkent entitled "Central Asia - A Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons". The signing ceremony of the Treaty on the Zone was held in Semipalatinsk, where in 1991, one of the world's largest test site was closed. The depositary of the Treaty is the Kyrgyz Republic. The first consultative meeting on the Treaty was held in Turkmenistan on 15 October 2009.

The State Parties of the CANWFZ have committed themselves voluntarily and unequivocally to ban the production, acquisition and deployment on their territories of nuclear weapons and their components or other nuclear explosive devices.

Thus, the zone free of nuclear weapons in Central Asia has made a real contribution to the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the global process of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the formation of the mechanism of regional security.

The Central Asian Zone has a number of unique features. This is the first zone located entirely in the Northern Hemisphere and in a landlocked region. This is the only zone in which in the past nuclear weapons had been deployed on its territory.

Of course, the declaration of the Central Asian region as a nuclear free zone, which is located in the heart of the vast Eurasian continent, significantly enhances the security and stability in the vast geopolitical space.

We hope that the security space around our area will continue to expand so that one day our entire planet can turn into one nuclear-free-zone.

Building strong guarantees of peace and security in our region and around it is the basis for sustainable development, cooperation and progress

We have a common history and shared values that are close to all of humankind, which are peace, security, mutual respect and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

We note with great satisfaction that the long process of consultation on the provision of negative security assurances to members of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia was successfully completed on 6 May 2014. On this day, the high ranking representatives of nuclear-weapon States signed the Protocol in the presence of the State parties to the Treaty. The Protocol is an integral part of the Treaty and provides to Central Asia security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Without exaggeration we can say that the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty has become one of the most significant events of the global non-proliferation regime in the last decade.

We hope that the Protocol to the Treaty will be ratified by all nuclear-weapon states as soon as possible. This will complete the formal process of institutionalization of the zone and will be our common significant contribution to strengthening the NPT regime.

Mr. Chairman,

The establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons - one of the universal instruments to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons - ensures that in the vast areas of our planet, numerous states have undertaken the obligation not to transfer or accept transfers of nuclear or other nuclear explosive devices, as well as exercise control on these processes, either directly or indirectly. These countries have also pledged not to manufacture or acquire, in any other way, nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and not receive any assistance either in their manufacture.

Mr. Chairman,

During this session, my delegation, on behalf of the delegations of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, has the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia".

The proposed draft resolution reflects the progress made since the signing of the Treaty in 2006, and reaffirms our strong commitment to make efforts for the effective implementation of measures in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

In conclusion, let me express, Mr. Chairman, the common hope of the Central Asian states that the proposed draft resolution will receive the consensus support of the UN Member States, taking into account that this year the nuclear powers have signed the Protocol related to the provision of negative security assurances to States Parties to the Treaty.

We thank the Member States who have expressed their desire to join our resolution as sponsors. We are pleased to inform you that 47 Member States have already come forward, including the five nuclear powers, and we invite more of you to join us.

Thank you.