

2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Report submitted by Kazakhstan

1. The Republic of Kazakhstan has consistently opposed the production, testing, deployment, acquisition, stockpiling and direct or indirect transfer of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, biological and chemical) and has called for the complete elimination of such weapons. In 30 years of strict adherence to the global non-proliferation regime, Kazakhstan has achieved definite results that have been welcomed by the international community.
2. We are witnessing a new stage in a major arms race. We note with regret the increased use of force in world politics, the prominent role of nuclear weapons in the national security doctrines of nuclear-weapon States and the return to the bloc mentality of the Cold War era.
3. The basic elements of nuclear arms control are being dismantled. The termination of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles and the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems poses serious risks to global security and is contributing towards an increase in political tensions and the resumption of a major arms race. Kazakhstan welcomes the extension until 2025, after some delay, of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.
4. Kazakhstan favours a political and diplomatic solution to the situation on the Korean Peninsula, as that is the only reliable way to address such complex issues. We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the only State to have conducted nuclear testing in the twenty-first century, to return to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.
5. Problems related to the continued implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the non-adherence of the nuclear-weapon States to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted by the General Assembly on 7 July 2017 and



entered into force on 22 January 2021, have become a major challenge to ridding humanity of the nuclear threat.

6. Today there is a real threat that terrorist organizations might acquire nuclear weapons; the world must take the necessary measures to ensure the non-proliferation of such weapons. Kazakhstan, as one of the few countries to ratify all 19 United Nations legal counter-terrorism instruments by 2019, believes that responsible enforcement of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism helps prevent criminal acts involving radioactive materials.

7. By signing, together with Belarus and Ukraine, the Protocol to the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms on 23 May 1992 (30 years ago), Kazakhstan committed to acceding to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

8. On 14 February 1994, during an official visit to the United States of America, the first President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, submitted documents on the ratification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty by the Supreme Council of Kazakhstan to the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, as Head of the depository State of the Treaty. Kazakhstan thereby officially acceded to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

9. On 5 December 1994, Russia, the United States of America and the United Kingdom signed, in Budapest, a memorandum providing security assurances for Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine in connection with their accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States. The signing of that document signified recognition by the international community of the full and strict compliance of Kazakhstan with its obligations to withdraw nuclear weapons from its territory.

10. The accession of Kazakhstan to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State was preceded by consistent work to close the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site (closed on 29 August 1991), to renounce the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal, inherited after the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and to remove it completely from Kazakhstan.

11. The accession of Kazakhstan to the Non-Proliferation Treaty was an important step in the implementation of the country's foreign policy, which is based on strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and striving to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

12. The Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of the international security system and remains the most universal multilateral agreement on non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As a consistent supporter of nuclear disarmament and the strengthening of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, Kazakhstan supports strict compliance by all States parties with the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

13. As an active participant in international processes, including in the field of international security, Kazakhstan makes a real contribution to strengthening all three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty – disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

14. Kazakhstan supports the new disarmament agenda “Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament”, presented by the Secretary-General, António Guterres, and his proposed practical measures across the whole spectrum of disarmament issues, including weapons of mass destruction, aimed at identifying new perspectives and areas where serious dialogue and collective efforts by Member States are needed.

15. The Nazarbayev Prize for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World and Global Security was established in recognition of political and civic leaders and organizations in their uncompromising quest for a world free from fear of war and crisis. The establishment of this Prize conveys the commitment of Kazakhstan to ensuring global peace, first and foremost by ridding the world of nuclear weapons. On 29 August 2019, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Yukiya Amano (posthumously), and the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Lassina Zerbo, were awarded the Prize for their personal contributions to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime.

Disarmament

16. Kazakhstan voluntarily renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal, which, at the beginning of 1991 included 1,216 nuclear warheads for intercontinental ballistic missile and heavy bombers.

17. Between 1949 and 1989, 456 nuclear explosions were carried out at the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. One and a half million people suffered from the effects of the tests and a vast amount of territory was exposed to radioactive contamination.

18. The year 2021 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site by decree of the first President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, on 29 August 1991.

19. The Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia was signed in Semipalatinsk (Kazakhstan) in 2006 and entered into force in 2009. The year 2021 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of this landmark document. An important component of the Treaty is the Protocol on negative security assurances, signed on 6 May 2014 in New York by representatives of the nuclear-weapon States – China, France, the United Kingdom, Russia and the United States of America. To date, four of the five nuclear-weapon States (the exception being the United States of America) have ratified the Protocol.

20. Kazakhstan believes that the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones could expand the geography of the nuclear-free world so that our entire planet Earth in the future becomes one large nuclear-weapon-free zone. In this context, Kazakhstan put forward an initiative to strengthen cooperation among all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and, to that end, held a meeting of representatives of the States members of such zones in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, in August 2019.

21. Kazakhstan believes that a deliberate and gradual movement towards the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes towards the building of trust among neighbours in a region and lays the foundation for peace and cooperation, including in the Middle East, North-East Asia and Central Europe.

22. At its seventieth session on 7 December 2015, the General Assembly, at the initiative of Kazakhstan and for the first time by a majority vote of Member States, adopted General Assembly resolution [70/57](#) entitled “Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World”, which expressed the determination of States to move, step by step, towards a world free of nuclear weapons. The number of supporters of the resolution increased in 2018 (General Assembly resolution [73/57](#)) and work continues on its universalization. The resolution was reaffirmed at a meeting of the First Committee of the General Assembly on 27 October 2021.

23. Kazakhstan intends to continue implementing initiatives to achieve a world free of the nuclear threat by the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations in 2045.

24. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force in January 2021 and was ratified by Kazakhstan in 2019. The new instrument, by establishing a universal ban on nuclear weapons, contributes to the implementation of article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty with regard to nuclear disarmament obligations. Kazakhstan believes that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons not only does not contradict the norms of the Non-Proliferation Treaty but, on the contrary, complements them by strengthening the non-proliferation regime and paving the way for nuclear disarmament.

25. Kazakhstan took an active part in developing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and calls on other countries, especially parties to regional nuclear-weapon-free zones, to sign and ratify the Treaty. This instrument should not create a divide between the nuclear-weapon States and the non-nuclear majority of the international community but should contribute to the establishment of a legal ban on the possession of this type of weapon of mass destruction. Kazakhstan took an active part in preparations for the first meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, held from 21 to 23 June 2022 in Vienna. Kazakhstan was designated as President of the third meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, to be confirmed at the second meeting of the State Parties, which is scheduled to take place in New York City from 27 November to 1 December 2023, under the presidency of Mexico.

26. Kazakhstan believes that the Stockholm Initiative on Nuclear Disarmament and the Non-Proliferation Treaty provide a good opportunity to advance and strengthen joint efforts in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Many measures in the Stockholm Initiative coincide with what Kazakhstan has proposed and promoted in terms of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Non-proliferation

27. One of the main pillars of the foreign policy of Kazakhstan is the strengthening of the regime for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In 1992, Kazakhstan, at the initiative of the United States of America and with the support of the Russian Federation, began implementing the international joint threat reduction programme, also known as the Nunn-Lugar Programme, under which a series of projects were carried out to destroy and decontaminate the infrastructure and facilities of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons remaining on the territory of Kazakhstan following the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the gaining of independence in 1991. Such projects included dismantling strategic offensive arms, establishing an export control system, improving the management and control of nuclear materials and the reform of the defence industry.

28. As a country with a firm and consistent policy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and also as a world leader in uranium mining, Kazakhstan is fully committed to the implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The country is taking decisive steps to further improve its system for combating illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials. Kazakhstan supports the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) in order to help build the capacity of States to counter contemporary threats of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

29. Kazakhstan submitted its national report on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) (on the prevention of proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery) on 3 November 2004, and two supplementary reports on 1 December 2005 and 18 November 2019.

30. In cooperation with the Russian Federation and the United States of America, Kazakhstan has implemented a large-scale project for the transfer of spent nuclear fuel from the BN-350 reactor (a sodium-cooled fast neutron reactor) to long-term storage at the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. Packaging, transportation and placement in long-term storage at a specially designated site were sponsored, as a significant joint contribution to non-proliferation and nuclear security, by the United States Department of Energy.
31. Kazakhstan received equipment to detect radiation sources in vehicles crossing the State border as a result of cooperation with the Threat Reduction Agency of the United States Department of Defense, under the “second line of defence” programme to prevent the illicit proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
32. Kazakhstan was among the first countries to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996, which it ratified in 2001, and supports its early entry into force. In 2015–2017, Kazakhstan and Japan were co-Chairs of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (article XIV conference). As two countries affected by the use and testing of nuclear weapons, Kazakhstan and Japan have a special moral right to call for the early ratification of the Treaty. The two years as co-Chairs were marked by a number of significant events, culminating in the signing of the first ever joint statement in support of the Treaty at the highest level – by the first President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, and by the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe – in 2015 in Nur-Sultan and in 2016 in Geneva.
33. Work must also continue towards ensuring the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We call on the States listed in annex 2 to that Treaty, on which the entry into force of the Treaty depends, to take steps to accede to and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. While we welcome the moratorium on nuclear testing, it cannot be a substitute for a legally binding instrument.
34. For its part, Kazakhstan has been making a tangible contribution to the establishment of an effective verification regime under that Treaty by working closely with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to establish the International Monitoring System, which includes five stations in Kazakhstan that are used to continuously monitor natural and induced seismic activity in the region.
35. In addition, in support of the Treaty and under an agreement with the United States of America, two more seismic arrays have been constructed: Akbulak in western Kazakhstan and Karatau in southern Kazakhstan. A further 11 stations have been renovated and upgraded and are operating as potential cooperating national facilities. Following the signing in 2017 of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada on the contribution of a radionuclide station for monitoring noble gases to strengthen monitoring of the implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, a radionuclide monitoring station was installed in Kazakhstan as a cooperating national facility of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. This project is the joint contribution of Kazakhstan and Canada to strengthening the verification regime under the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the regime for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
36. The National Data Centre in Almaty, established with the support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and NORSAR, a Norwegian geophysical and seismological research institute, works closely with the International Monitoring System and the International Data Centre. The communications network includes 132 channels that enable automated real-time data collection from all monitoring stations in Kazakhstan. A regional training centre for Central Asian

experts in nuclear data processing was opened at the National Data Centre on 21 June 2010 and is still operating. This project has been implemented jointly with the Government of Norway and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

37. At the initiative of Kazakhstan and in accordance with a decision of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, four on-site inspection field experiments were conducted in Kazakhstan, including at the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, in 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2008. The field experiment conducted in Kazakhstan in 1999 was the first in the history of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and involved representatives of seven States. The field experiment carried out in 2008 in Kazakhstan was the largest ever, and its results were key to improving the guidelines for on-site inspections.

38. In December 2009, at its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution, at the initiative of Kazakhstan, to declare 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests. Through this resolution of the Assembly, the international community recognized the significance of 29 August as the day of the official closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. In the resolution, Member States, the United Nations system, civil society, academia, the mass media and individuals were invited to commemorate the International Day against Nuclear Tests in an appropriate manner, including through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities. Kazakhstan believes that this will contribute to the objectives of achieving peace and banning nuclear tests around the world.

39. Kazakhstan took a major step towards strengthening the international non-proliferation regime by joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group on 13 May 2002, in the light of increased efforts to counter terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to strengthen controls over the use and movement of dual-use materials. The unanimous election of Kazakhstan as Chair of the Group in 2019 and 2020 was testament to our country's commitment to the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the effectiveness of the national export control system. The participation of Kazakhstan in the Zangger Committee is a logical complement to its adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group. The accession of Kazakhstan to export control regimes such as the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Australia Group, where Kazakhstan has adherent status, is taking on greater significance and will contribute to strengthening the non-proliferation and export control regime.

40. The national export control system of the Republic of Kazakhstan meets contemporary international standards and takes into account best international practices, including in light of the accession of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Arms Trade Treaty in 2017. The range of products subject to export control, including all control lists of products subject to current international export control regimes, is updated on an ongoing basis.

41. Kazakhstan has attended four global Nuclear Security Summits. At the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C., in 2016, Kazakhstan issued bilateral joint statements with the United States of America on cooperation in the sphere of non-proliferation and nuclear security, and with Japan on achieving the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and submitted a joint statement on the low-enriched uranium bank being established by IAEA in Kazakhstan, which was joined by 18 countries participating in the Summit. Kazakhstan has continued to cooperate within the Nuclear Security Contact Group and welcomes its expansion.

42. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2017 and 2018, the Republic of Kazakhstan proposed making the withdrawal of States from the Non-Proliferation Treaty should be made more difficult, as well as developing a mechanism to enforce tough measures against the acquisition and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, using the authority of the Security Council for those purposes.

43. Kazakhstan was among the first countries to join the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and became a founding partner. In September 2010, in Astana, the Global Initiative held a conference on countering the financing of terrorism and the first meeting of the Implementation and Assessment Group.

44. Kazakhstan supports the commencement of negotiations and the swift development of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices within the Conference on Disarmament, which is the exclusive and irreplaceable multilateral forum for discussing key mechanisms for strengthening international security. The development of such a treaty would be an important step towards nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

45. Having joined the Group of Seven Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, Kazakhstan intends to participate actively in the Group's work and contribute significantly to regional and international security through the implementation of relevant projects.

46. The participation of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Proliferation Security Initiative demonstrates our country's commitment to strengthening international security and developing cooperation among States in combating the proliferation of lethal weapons.

47. Kazakhstan continues to underscore the importance of maintaining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which is making a considerable contribution to the maintenance of peace and security, both regionally and globally. The adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which is the only meaningful non-proliferation instrument of recent decades, was a major achievement of multilateral diplomacy. Kazakhstan supported the multilateral negotiations on this matter, including by providing a platform for two rounds of consultations between the six countries of E3+3 and Iran in Almaty in 2013.

48. The Republic of Kazakhstan participates in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification, which promotes cooperation between nuclear and non-nuclear countries.

49. In November 2020, the Republic of Kazakhstan joined the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative. Projects are implemented under this initiative to build the professional capacities of experts in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk mitigation infrastructure.

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

50. In 1994, the Republic of Kazakhstan became a member of IAEA and concluded an agreement for the application of safeguards in connection with the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

51. Convinced that the system of safeguards is the most effective tool for upholding the nuclear non-proliferation regime, Kazakhstan has placed all its nuclear facilities under IAEA comprehensive safeguards, thereby demonstrating a deep commitment to the goals of the Agency and of the Treaty. It also signed, on 6 February 2004 in

Vienna, a protocol additional to the safeguards agreement, which was ratified on 19 February 2007 and entered into force on 9 May 2007. Kazakhstan has consistently advocated the universalization of the protocol.

52. Kazakhstan is actively cooperating with IAEA through its technical cooperation programme and is taking part in a number of regional and interregional projects. Technical cooperation with IAEA has given Kazakhstan access to the latest technologies with applications in many areas of human activity.

53. As a responsible member of IAEA, Kazakhstan is contributing significantly to the work of the Agency through voluntary contributions to the Peaceful Uses Initiative and the Nuclear Security Fund, the construction of the analytical laboratory of the IAEA Department of Safeguards at the Austrian Research Center Seibersdorf (the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories project) and the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear programme. Kazakhstan has allocated more than \$2 million in total for these purposes.

54. Kazakhstan is a party to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the 2005 amendment thereto, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage.

55. Kazakhstan offered to host the IAEA low-enriched uranium bank, and the Agency accepted this offer. On 27 August 2015, in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, the Government of Kazakhstan and IAEA signed an agreement on the establishment of the low-enriched uranium bank in Kazakhstan. The bank facility at the Ulba Metallurgical Plant in Oskemen was inaugurated on 29 August 2017. The bank became fully operational in December 2019, when the Kazakh share of low-enriched uranium was delivered. By offering to host the bank on its territory, Kazakhstan has made an important contribution to the establishment of a new international mechanism for assuring the supply of low-enriched uranium to IAEA member States.

56. In September 2017, Kazakhstan and the United States of America completed the conversion of the VVR-K research reactor from high-enriched fuel to low-enriched fuel and removed spent high-enriched fuel from the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

57. In Kazakhstan, the conversion of the IVG.1M and IGR research reactors, which began in 2010 and is being carried out under contracts with the national laboratories of the United States Department of Energy, is ongoing. The IVG.1M low-enriched uranium fuel reactor was started up in May 2022. For the IGR reactor, feasibility studies are ongoing to determine options for the design of the reactor core to ensure that it performs as well as the existing reactor. Out-of-pile investigations of samples of high-enriched uranium and low-enriched uranium from the IGR reactor are also being conducted.

58. Over the years, our country has made voluntary contributions, totalling approximately \$3.5 million, to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund for the construction of the new safe confinement for the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.