

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

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Memorandum on the activities of the Kyrgyz Republic as depositary of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia

1. This information has been compiled in accordance with Annex VI, paragraph 3 (g), to the final report of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
2. The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolutions [52/38](#) S of 9 December 1997, [53/77](#) A of 4 December 1998, [55/33](#) W of 20 November 2000, [57/69](#) of 22 November 2002, [61/88](#) of 6 December 2006, [63/63](#) of 2 December 2008, [65/49](#) of 8 December 2010, [67/31](#) of 3 December 2012, [69/36](#) of 2 December 2014, [71/65](#) of 5 December 2016, [73/58](#) of 5 December 2018, [75/67](#) of 7 December 2020 and decisions 54/417 of 1 December 1999, 56/412 of 29 November 2001, 58/518 of 8 December 2003, 59/513 of 3 December 2004 and 60/516 of 8 December 2005 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.
3. The Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan signed the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia in Semipalatinsk (Republic of Kazakhstan) on 8 September 2006 in order to ensure peace and stability, combat international terrorism and prevent nuclear materials and technologies from falling into the hands of terrorists.
4. The Central Asian States – the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan – have made an invaluable contribution to the establishment and promotion of one of the world's nuclear-weapon-free zones. There is active work in this area in various international forums, including sessions of the General Assembly, the 2005, 2010 and 2015 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference, and the Conference on Disarmament and United Nations Disarmament Commission.
5. The Kyrgyz Republic was designated as the depositary of the Treaty by the States Parties (Article 18).
6. In accordance with article 18, the Kyrgyz Republic sent certified copies of the Treaty and its annexed Protocol to all the States of Central Asia and to the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.



7. During the period 2006–2009, all the States Parties ratified the Treaty. The Kyrgyz Republic, upon receipt of the last instrument of ratification, notified the Parties to the Treaty and its Protocol of the entry into force of the Treaty on 21 March 2009 (Article 15).
8. On 20 March 2009, on the eve of the Treaty's formal entry into force, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the event in a statement circulated to Member State delegations as an official document of the Organization.
9. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, together with the delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic, published an official map of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.
10. Significant events for the Kyrgyz Republic as a depositary of the Treaty were its participation in the first meeting of representatives of nuclear-weapon-free zones (Ulaanbaatar, 27 and 28 April 2009); the conferences of States parties and signatories to treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones (New York, 30 April 2010 and 24 April 2015); the meeting of nuclear-weapon-free-zone States parties held in connection with the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT States parties (New York, 4 and 5 May 2010); the 2010 and 2015 Review Conferences of the NPT States parties; the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT States parties; the twenty-fifth session of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (14 February 2017); the practical seminar on fostering and enhancing consultation mechanisms among the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones (Nur-Sultan, 28 and 29 August 2019) organized by the Republic of Kazakhstan during its period as Treaty chair and involving representatives of all the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and of the relevant international organizations (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, etc.); the international conference marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) (Pretoria, 12 April 2021), and the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly.
11. The Kyrgyz Republic welcomed the State party initiatives aimed at promoting education regarding disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular the website on nuclear-weapon-free zones – under the project on fostering and enhancing consultation mechanisms among the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as part of the implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General's disarmament agenda – launched by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Republic of Kazakhstan in February 2021. This website serves as a portal and a tool for communication between the nuclear-weapon-free zones plus Mongolia to provide up-to-date information on events related to the nuclear-weapon-free zones and their activities.
12. In accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure for the implementation of article 10 of the Treaty, the Kyrgyz Republic organized a series of meetings at the level of permanent representatives of the States parties to the Treaty to the United Nations in New York and experts in order to determine the date and venue of the first Consultative Meeting.
13. Based on the results of these meetings, the first Consultative Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty was held in Ashgabat on 15 October 2009. Working in close cooperation with the depositary, Turkmenistan acted as the Treaty chair during this meeting.
14. Subsequent meetings were held in Tashkent (15 March 2011), Astana (12 June 2012 and 27 June 2013), Almaty (25 July 2014), Bishkek (27 February 2015), and

Nur-Sultan (11 April 2019). The most recent consultative meeting was held virtually, on 24 November 2020, with the Kyrgyz Republic acting as chair.

15. In 2013 and 2014, the States parties to the Treaty held consultations with the nuclear-weapon States, as specified in NPT article IX (3), regarding the prospect of their signing the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. Consequently, a ceremony at which the nuclear-weapon States signed the Protocol took place in New York on 6 May 2014.

16. In accordance with Article 7 of the Protocol to the Treaty, the Treaty enters into force for each of its parties (in accordance with Article 4, the parties to the Protocol are the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the French Republic) on the date it has deposited its instrument of ratification with the depositary.

17. The French Republic ratified the Protocol to the Treaty on 17 October 2014 and deposited its instrument of ratification with the Kyrgyz Republic on 17 November 2014; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ratified the Protocol to the Treaty on 19 January 2015 and deposited its instrument of ratification with the Kyrgyz Republic on 30 January 2015; the Russian Federation ratified the Protocol to the Treaty on 20 April 2015 and deposited its instrument of ratification with the Kyrgyz Republic on 22 June 2015, and the People's Republic of China ratified the Protocol to the Treaty on 24 April 2015 and deposited its instrument of ratification with the Kyrgyz Republic on 17 August 2015.

18. As at 1 November 2021, the remaining nuclear-weapon States as specified in the NPT had not ratified the Protocol.

19. On 7 December 2020, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution [75/67](#) entitled "Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia". The resolution welcomed the signature of the Protocol to the Treaty by the nuclear-weapon States on 6 May 2014, and called on them to take steps towards its early ratification.

20. On 8 September 2021, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia adopted a joint statement on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty (see annex), issued as a document of the General Assembly and circulated to the States Members of the United Nations. The statement included a call for the speedy completion of the process of ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty by the nuclear-weapon States as specified in the NPT.

21. In 2020, the Kyrgyz Republic took over as Treaty chair.

22. During its period in the chair, the Kyrgyz Republic, together with other States parties to the Treaty, intends to continue consultations with the nuclear-weapon States in order to hasten their ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty, and to step up activities within the Treaty in the circumstances of the coronavirus infection (COVID-19) pandemic.

Annex to the Memorandum on the activities of the Kyrgyz Republic as depositary of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia

Joint Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty,

Reaffirming our commitment to a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons,

Convinced that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia represents an important step towards strengthening the process of disarmament, the nuclear non-proliferation regime, regional and international peace and security, and cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the environmental rehabilitation of areas affected by radioactive contamination,

Welcoming the thirtieth anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, and paying tribute to the numerous victims of nuclear explosions and their consequences,

Reaffirming the universally recognized and coordinating role of the United Nations in the process of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which includes the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Recognizing the importance of deepening the cooperation between nuclear-weapon-free zones and of the meeting of representatives of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones held in Nur-Sultan on 28 and 29 August 2019,

Hereby declare the following:

1. *We reaffirm* our commitment to the historic Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia signed by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan in Semipalatinsk on 8 September 2006.

2. *We reaffirm* the important and decisive role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and, ultimately, to achieve their total elimination, which also lies at the basis of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In that regard, we support the holding of the tenth Review Conference with the participation of delegates from all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and believe that the Conference should review the progress made in the implementation of the decisions adopted at previous conferences and set specific tasks for the period ahead.

3. *We declare* our steadfast support for the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in implementing the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, facilitating cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and applying safeguards and control over nuclear programmes in the States members of the Agency. We welcome the opening, in August 2017, of the IAEA low enriched uranium bank at the Ulba Metallurgical Plant (Republic of Kazakhstan), which has created a new

mechanism for the guaranteed supply of low enriched uranium to the States members of the Agency.

4. *We urge* the States listed in annex 2 to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, on which that Treaty's entry into force depends, to take measures to ensure the swift signing and ratification of the Treaty.

5. *We note* the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, intended to facilitate the implementation of article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is deeply symbolic that this event coincided with the fifteenth anniversary of the signing of the Semipalatinsk Treaty by the countries of the region and the thirtieth anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk test site.

6. *We underline* our commitment to maintaining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to ensure the peaceful nature of the nuclear programme of Iran in the interests of regional and international security and of strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

7. *We welcome* the signing by nuclear-weapon States, on 6 May 2014, of the Protocol to the Semipalatinsk Treaty concerning negative security assurances and its ratification by four nuclear-weapon States, and urge the United States of America to swiftly conclude the process to ratify that Protocol.

8. *We call upon* members of the international community to support the General Assembly resolution on the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, to be adopted by the Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, and thereby to affirm their determination to progress, step by step, towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

9. *We express* our interest in expanding partnerships with the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in signing memorandums of understanding between the States parties to the Semipalatinsk Treaty and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, and between the States parties to the Semipalatinsk Treaty and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and joining international efforts to promote peace and security.

10. *We support* efforts to establish new nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world, including in the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula.
