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**Statement by Mr. Barlybay Sadykov,
Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Kazakhstan,
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts
(1-5 July 2013, Vienna)**

**Mr. Chairman,
Dear delegates,**

At the outset I would like to commend IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano for his initiative in organizing this Conference. The high level and broad participation of Member States' delegations to this event confirms that the international community attaches great importance to the issue of strengthening nuclear security.

We highly appreciate the efforts of the IAEA, and in particular the Office of Nuclear Security, to develop and strengthen nuclear security at the international and national levels, thanks to which a number of States have been able to improve the physical protection of their nuclear infrastructure.

The threat of nuclear terrorism is a real one, and we should take comprehensive and sustainable measures to prevent terrorist groups from acquiring nuclear weapons, their components, technologies, and radioactive materials.

We strongly believe that taking practical steps towards general and complete nuclear disarmament is one of the key prerequisites for achieving effective nuclear security.

As long as nuclear weapons exist in the world, there will be those who would want to obtain them. In this context Kazakhstan has proposed to adopt a UN Universal Declaration on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World. This would be an important step towards adopting the UN Nuclear Weapons Convention.

The Nuclear Security Summits held in Washington and Seoul have made important contributions to nuclear security. We are continuously working on implementing the goals and objectives of the Final Documents of these important forums, and my country will take an active part in next year's upcoming Summit in The Hague.

Taking into account the important work undertaken by the UN Security Council 1540 Committee, my delegation considers it necessary to provide full support for its activities, including in financial matters. Reinforcing the international nuclear non-proliferation regime should be a priority of our agenda.

We highly appreciate the efforts of the Implementation and Assessment Group acting within the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism to develop instruments and recommendations on nuclear security.

The Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction has made a significant contribution to strengthening nuclear security. As a

new member of this Partnership, Kazakhstan intends to actively participate in the implementation of various national and regional projects.

We also consider the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones to constitute another practical measure to strengthen global nuclear security.

In accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Semipalatinsk on the establishment of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, all Central Asian States have pledged to maintain effective standards of physical protection with respect to nuclear materials, facilities, and equipment to prevent their unauthorized use, handling, or theft.

The States Parties to the Treaty are now drafting a Regional Agreement on cooperation to prevent the illicit trafficking of nuclear materials and nuclear terrorism in Central Asia. We believe that it would be appropriate to develop similar agreements in other regions of the world.

Mr. Chairman,

At the national level, the Republic of Kazakhstan is taking appropriate steps to combat terrorism and has become party to fourteen universal instruments against terrorism.

We are also party to almost all multilateral IAEA conventions in the field of nuclear security and have ratified Amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. We call upon all countries that have not yet done so to ratify the Amendments to ensure their entry into force.

We consistently strengthen our cooperation with the IAEA. An effective national system of physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities has been created as a result of such cooperation.

To ensure qualified education and training of specialists we are creating a regional nuclear security training center.

In cooperation with the IAEA, Kazakhstan is working on establishing a Low-Enriched Uranium Fuel Bank under Agency auspices and creating an automated system of accounting, control, and physical protection of natural uranium.

On a trilateral basis together with the United States and the Russian Federation we are working on strengthening the security infrastructure of the former nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk.

We have completed an unprecedented project to transport 210 tons of spent nuclear fuel from a Nuclear Power Plant in Aktau to a long-term safe storage site 3 thousand km away. In 2011 our country completed a unique project on converting highly-enriched nuclear fuel into low-enriched uranium.

With its wealth of experience in transporting and diluting HEU to LEU, Kazakhstan is ready to share its experience and assist States in implementing similar projects.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that the Republic of Kazakhstan will continue to fully support international efforts to enhance nuclear security, and I hope that this Conference will serve our common cause of strengthening global security.

Thank you for your attention.