

Video Statement to Conference on Building a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

Astana, Kazakhstan
29 August 2016

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I send my warm greetings to all participants in this important conference on *Building a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World*.

Kazakhstan has made a very important contribution to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

Under the leadership of President Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan renounced the nuclear weapons which it inherited from the Soviet Union.

Twenty-five years ago, Kazakhstan closed the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site, where over 450 underground and atmospheric nuclear tests had been conducted.

It joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State and played a significant role in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia in 2009.

Kazakhstan also made a valuable contribution to the conclusion of an important agreement last year between Iran and the so-called P5+1 countries, known as the *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action*.

The IAEA is now verifying and monitoring Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA.

I believe the progress made on the Iran nuclear issue represents a real success for diplomacy.

It demonstrates that even complex and challenging issues can be tackled effectively if all parties are committed to dialogue – not dialogue for its own sake, but dialogue aimed at achieving results.

As President Nazarbayev said in his *Manifesto: The World. The 21st Century*. in March this year, “The main tool for resolving all disputes between states should be peaceful dialogue and constructive negotiations.”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last August, the IAEA and Kazakhstan signed a number of agreements under which an IAEA Bank of low enriched uranium will be established in Kazakhstan.

This will serve as a last-resort mechanism to provide confidence to countries that they will be able to obtain LEU for the manufacture of fuel for nuclear power plants in the event of an unforeseen, non-commercial disruption to their supplies.

I thank the Government of Kazakhstan for hosting this important facility and for working closely with the IAEA to make it a reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, the IAEA starts celebrating its 60th anniversary.

Ensuring that nuclear science and technology are used exclusively for peaceful purposes is the basic pillar upon which the Agency was established.

A central Agency function is to verify that States are fully complying with their non-proliferation obligations and to confirm that nuclear material is being used for peaceful purposes. This is our main contribution to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world.

We now have 168 Member States and that number continues to grow. A high proportion of our new Member States are developing countries. They are very interested in the contribution which nuclear science and technology can make to development.

Technological advances are a must if we are to tackle the many challenges that face humankind today.

The IAEA helps countries to address challenges including generating enough energy, tackling climate change, producing enough food to provide for a growing world population, and making the benefits of modern health care available to everyone.

In a nutshell, our mandate is *Atoms for Peace and Development*.

In Kazakhstan, our technical cooperation programme has focused on supporting the conversion of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site for peaceful uses and strengthening the availability of radiotherapy and nuclear medicine.

We also cooperate on modernising the country's research reactor and developing the infrastructure for the possible introduction of nuclear power.

Kazakhstan is supporting the modernisation of the IAEA nuclear applications laboratories near Vienna, for which I am very grateful.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, let me congratulate President Nazarbayev on his strong and consistent leadership on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. He has made a major contribution to peace and security in Central Asia and beyond.

I thank the President for organising this important Conference.
And I wish all of you every success with your discussions in the
coming days.

Thank you.

Director General of IAEA

Yukiya Amano