

Speech of Mr. Azay Guliyev, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Your Excellency President Nazarbayev!

Dear participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I warmly welcome all participants and I am pleased to convey warm greetings and best wishes of Her Excellency Ms. Christine Muttonen, the OSCE PA president to the participants and organizers of this incredible event. Her Excellency fully supports the causes and ideas of this conference, on behalf of the OSCE PA, for nuclear disarmament and supports the crucial role of this conference to achieve a world without nuclear weapon danger.

I would like to thank Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan and Erlan Idrissov, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan for inviting me such a significant event dedicated to the “Building a Nuclear – Weapon – Free World”.

I am certain that this event will encourage parliamentarians to interchange tools and facts, develop common plans and involve in nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament matters. This conference will help worldwide parliamentarians and other politicians from around the globe, together with a variety of religious leaders, government representatives, disarmament specialists, policy experts, Non-Governmental activists and representatives of international and regional organizations to discuss and share knowledge and views on nuclear disarmament and to develop common strategy to reach a nuclear-weapon-free world.

We should congratulate Kazakhstan to voluntary closing of the nuclear test site on August 28-29, 1991 and renouncement of the fourth largest weapon arsenal in the world. It was a profound contribution of Kazakhstan to the nuclear disarmament process. Consequently, Kazakhstan created a worldwide policy by removing the danger of nuclear terrorism and continues being partisan of such wonderful humanitarian cause by organizing such vital universal event.

Proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery continue posing a threat to international peace and security. Convening such a conference in Astana is timely and serves our common purpose of mobilizing international support, including at the parliamentary level, to discuss what additional measures can and should be taken to eliminate this threat.

Full implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) remains the cornerstone of the international efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and their means of delivery, and establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials. In some parts of the world, especially in the Middle East, the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials and their use is still high. Illicit trafficking of nuclear materials across the borders, including in the OSCE area, is a cause of concern. Recent news reports about incidents involving use of chemical weapons in Syria and attempts to smuggle nuclear materials earlier this year, reminds us all that additional measures need to be undertaken at international, regional and

national levels, including through securing all nuclear material, maintaining proper safety and security standards for civilian nuclear facilities.

States that do not possess nuclear installations or facilities should also implement urgent measures to introduce effective nuclear safety and security systems by establishing appropriate normative regulatory base in line with international standards.

Early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons stands out as an urgent priority. Those remaining States not parties to the Treaty must consider acceding to it without further delay, thereby accepting an international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards on all their nuclear activities.

Particular attention should be given to prevent non-State actors, including terrorist, extremist and separatist groups from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and related materials and their delivery systems.

Although, making our world completely free from weapons of mass destruction should remain our long-term goal, implementing incremental steps in this regard, starting with establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in such volatile regions as the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the U.N. General Assembly, will greatly contribute to the consolidation of the global non-proliferation regime and will be a step towards enhancing international and regional peace and security.

Disaster at Fukushima Daici nuclear power plant once again vividly showed that implications of nuclear accidents are not confined to national boundaries. Few would disagree that a thorough review of relevant security and safety requirements at national level to ensure nuclear safety of installations is necessary. Geographical peculiarities and trans-boundary environmental implications in light of possible nuclear accidents must be taken into account. Thus being said, States, especially those located in seismic zones and operating outdated aging nuclear reactors should think not only about their own energy security but about regional security as well.

Regional arrangements under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, including OSCE can play an important role in strengthening non-proliferation regime. The OSCE has acquired a good experience in such areas as arms control, border management and the prevention of terrorism, which can be effectively utilized to address proliferation challenges.

The OSCE participating States reaffirmed their commitment to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular through the Athens Ministerial Declaration on Non-Proliferation (2009) and 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration (2010), which, *inter alia*, underlined OSCE participating States' commitment to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and pledged the OSCE's continued support to regional efforts to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540.

In 2011, the OSCE Ministerial Council in Vilnius adopted decision 8/11 on the proper role of the OSCE in facilitation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, which tasked the relevant decision-making bodies within their mandates to continue to identify, and strengthen, when and as appropriate, specific forms of the OSCE's contribution to assist participating States, upon their requests, in the further implementation of resolution 1540.

The non-proliferation issue is in focus of the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation, which adopted a number of decisions in this regard, including decision No. 4/15 on “OSCE’s Role in Support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)” adopted on 22 July 2015. This decision, *inter alia*, encourages participating States to hold further exchanges of views with OSCE on the implementation of resolution 1540, with the goal of furthering United Nations efforts by promoting lessons learned, sharing experiences and facilitating the identification of assistance needs for national implementation.

I would like once, to express my appreciation to organizers, and including interpreters and secretariats for their hard work to organize the high quality conference. I wish all of the participants the fruitful and remarkable event.

Thank you for your attention!