

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Almassadam Satkaliyev,
Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the 67th session of the General Conference
of the International Atomic Energy Agency**

(Vienna, 25 September 2023)

Madam President, Excellencies,

On behalf of the Government of Kazakhstan I am glad to welcome you at the 67th session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate **Mrs Vilawan Mangklatanakul (Вилаван Манклатанакул)** on your election as the President of the 67th session of the General Conference. I am confident that under your able guidance and the support of delegates we will successfully accomplish all the set goals.

Over the years of independence of Kazakhstan, we have followed an effective national model for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. By voluntarily renouncing nuclear weapons in 1991, the concept of non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy have become essential components of Kazakhstan's national identity.

Our country is a member to all fundamental international treaties in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of atomic energy.

Moreover, we fully comply with the obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Agreement for the Application of Safeguards. On top of that the IAEA safeguards system is a highly effective tool to support the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

I believe it is important to mention the main results achieved through our long-lasting joint work on nuclear non-proliferation.

In May 2023 we have successfully completed the power startup of the water-cooled **IVG.1M reactor** low-enriched fuel. Today we are proud to state that two out of three Kazakhstan's nuclear reactors – WWR – K (*Kazakhstan Water-Water Reactor*) and IVG.1M (*water-cooled IVG.1M reactor*) - have already been converted to low-enriched uranium fuel and continue to operate successfully. At the third Pulsed Graphite Nuclear Reactor (PGR), we are currently carrying out calculations and analytical work aimed at converting the reactor to low-enriched uranium fuel.

In addition, our experts have developed a unique technology for utilization of irradiated highly enriched uranium fuel. Notably, the IAEA emphasized fundamental reliability of the technology. We would like to note that the technology can

also be used for similar fuels in other countries participating in the highly enriched uranium minimization program.

I would like to highlight that the **closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site in 1991** has demonstrated the state's commitment to nuclear security and non-proliferation.

Last July we have adopted the law «On Semipalatinsk Nuclear Safety Zone». It regulates the legal basis of activities on the former test site, including the possible gradual return of conditionally clean land into economic circulation.

It is also important to note that the International Atomic Energy Agency integrates and summarizes many years of experience in the application of **nuclear technologies in medicine**.

Today, one of the country's priorities are the development of radiation oncology and nuclear medicine. In this regard, we are highly interested in participating in the Agency's «Rays of Hope» project.

Under the framework of the IAEA, Kazakhstan's Institute of Nuclear Physics is planning to arrange the supply of

technetium-99 generators to Kyrgyzstan, which are used in the Nuclear Medicine Centers in Kazakhstan.

Also, we are planning to carry out delivery of the radioactive ISOTOPE cobalt-57 to France.

In addition, Kazakhstan is an active participant of the global «ZODIAC» initiative, which helps to promote international efforts to prevent the outbreak of possible pandemics.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight the fact that Kazakhstan is following the course of a gradual energy transition and decarbonization of the economy. We have adopted **the National Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality**, which is aimed at transitioning the economy to low-carbon development **by 2060**. Under the Strategy we pay special attention to the development of nuclear and hydrogen energy, renewable energy, and conversion of coal-fueled facilities to gas.

In recent years, Kazakhstan has been carefully studying the possibility of developing safe and environmentally friendly nuclear power and is considering options for the construction of its first Nuclear Power Plant.

During the visit of Rafael Grossi, the IAEA Director General to Kazakhstan last April we have signed the Country Framework Program between Kazakhstan and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the next 5-years.

Additionally, Kazakhstan has successfully hosted the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) mission, demonstrating commitment to fulfill its objective - professional assessment of the readiness of its nuclear infrastructure.

I would like to express my gratitude to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for your invaluable expert support and technical assistance in the development of Kazakhstan's nuclear power program.

Next, Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the International Atomic Energy Agency Low Enriched Uranium Bank in Oskemen, which has been operational for the last 5 years. This June the Agency conducted the first recertification of the cylinders.

Taking this opportunity, I invite participants of the General Conference to the side-event on the Low Enriched Uranium Bank, which will take place today at 1 pm in CR-7, C Building.

Promoting the wider use of peaceful use of nuclear energy is an essential and important contribution to meeting global energy needs and providing carbon-free energy to meet climate change and Sustainable Development Goals.

Therefore, we suggest that the low-enriched uranium stored at the Bank should be made available to the interested member-states, including developing countries. It could be operationalized for the benefit of the nations in need and we are ready to discuss this issue at the expert level.

Distinguished delegates,

In conclusion let me touch upon the issue of the so-called «homeless» Member states in the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is profoundly important for Kazakhstan.

Heightened international responsibility of nations comes with wider engagement in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

However, despite our impeccable record in non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy, we are deprived of the right to participate in the Agency's decision-making process.

On behalf of the 17 «Arealess» states, we intend to tackle this longstanding injustice. Therefore, we have tabled a draft resolution on the «Restoration of Sovereign Equality in the IAEA». We encourage all member-states to support and to co-sponsor this resolution.

I would like to once again express our firm commitment to the International Atomic Energy Agency's work aimed at conducting an important work on further developing the peaceful use of atomic energy, strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and increasing the level of international nuclear security.

Kazakhstan places utmost importance on the international principles of cooperation in the energy sector, and once again confirms its commitment to strengthening global energy security.

Thank you for your attention!