

STATEMENT
by Mr. Sungat Yessimkhanov,
Vice Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security
(Vienna, 20 May 2024)

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

I am honored to address you now **in my national capacity**.

In addition to my opening remarks, I would like to reaffirm Kazakhstan's commitment to strengthening national nuclear security and promoting effective international cooperation.

Increased cooperation and information sharing among countries help **to prevent illicit trafficking of nuclear materials and technologies**.

We strongly support the critical role of the IAEA in the global nuclear security architecture. The Agency plays a vital role in promoting and coordinating nuclear security activities among States.

Kazakhstan is a party to the main treaties and legal instruments in nuclear security, including **CPPNM, ICSANT, Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources**, and we call upon all Member States to adhere to these instruments.

Dear Colleagues,

Today, the global community faces new challenges related to nuclear security, in particular the **rapid development of new technologies**.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, including the expansion of international cooperation, the strengthening of legal and regulatory frameworks, investing in

advanced technologies, efforts to enhance capacity-building, and implementing reliable nuclear security measures at all levels of activity. These measures are essential to reduce the vulnerability of nuclear facilities.

It is important to note that measures to ensure the physical protection of nuclear material are also relevant to the security of radioactive materials. **Efforts should be made to ensure the physical protection of these materials**, considering the significant development in recent years of peaceful use of atomic energy, in particular with regard to radioactive materials.

Kazakhstan has developed effective national legislation on the physical protection of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities, and has provided for administrative and criminal liability.

Using this platform, we also want to draw attention to **the important role of nuclear forensics** in law enforcement investigations. **Kazakhstan will organize a side-event devoted to the development of nuclear forensics in our country tomorrow at 16.15 in room “M2”** and we kindly invite you all to join this event.

Kazakhstan upholds the principle of gender equality in its domestic policy and has taken firm and systematic steps to strengthen women’s rights and opportunities. Gender equality is one of the key priorities of large-scale political and democratic reforms aimed at building a new Kazakhstan and ensuring equal conditions for all.

It should be noted that the President of Kazakhstan **H.E. Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev instructed the government to tighten responsibility for violence against women and children**. Just a month ago, the President signed a new law aimed at eradicating a gender-based violence and promoting gender equality.

We are proud that we were **one of the first Central Asian countries** to establish a national body to promote gender equality,

the National Commission on Women, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan also pays great attention **to the capacity building and training in nuclear security. The Nuclear Security Training Center is successfully operating** at the Institute of Nuclear Physics with the aim of training specialists in the field of radiation safety and nuclear security. Since 2017, the Center has been included in the International Network of Nuclear Security Training and Support Centers of the IAEA.

In this regard, we kindly invite you all to visit our **Nuclear Security Training Center.**

Dear friends,

To conclude, I would like to reiterate that **Kazakhstan attaches the highest importance to the international principles of cooperation in the energy sector, and reaffirms its commitment to strengthening global energy security.**

I thank you!