

ADDRESS
by the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan
on the Forum to study experience of establishing the Nuclear
Weapon Free Zone in Middle East
(November 21-22, Vienna)

Mr. Chairman,
Dear participants of the Forum,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to take floor in this Forum as a representative of the country which coordinates the implementation of Treaty on Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia and inform the distinguished participants of this important event on the experience of states of our region (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) on establishing this Zone.

It is obvious that establishing the nuclear weapon free zones is one of the universal tools to prevent the nuclear weapon proliferation that guarantees the tens of states on the vast areas of our globe commit themselves neither transmit nor receive transmission from whoever the nuclear or other nuclear explosives; neither produce nor obtain by another way the nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosives, and nor seek any assistance in their production.

The history of establishing the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia traces back early 90s. The emergence of the Central Asian initiative became possible thanks to thorough scrutiny of the international experience in the area of non-proliferation and defining the own role of states in our region in consolidating the global security.

The initiative was first officially enounced on the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 28, 1993. Then, up until 2006, i.e. for 13 years, the countries in the region led a scrupulous work to establish the atmosphere of political trust in the area of nuclear non-proliferation in the region and elaborate the Treaty on the Zone. This work has been done through regular consultations and conferences where all aspects related to creation of the Zone have been thoroughly addressed.

During 1997-2002 with the active assistance of the UN Disarmament Department and the International Atomic Energy Agency experts the Regional expert group held its meetings in Geneva, Ashgabat, Tashkent, and twice in Sapporo and Samarkand, respectively, in terms of preparing the text of the Treaty on Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia, taking into account the proposals and comments of the “Nuclear Five” countries, IAEA and the UN Legal Department.

During the last meeting in 2002 the sides reached an agreement to hold a signing ceremony for the Treaty in the city of Semipalatinsk, where in 1991 the nuclear weapon testing ground was shut down. In the second

half of 2002 the two consultative meetings with the experts of the “Nuclear Five” were held in the United Nations headquarters. On their outcomes the considerable amendments and proposals have been introduced to the draft of the Treaty.

The signing of the Treaty on Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia took place on September 8, 2006 in Semipalatinsk. The Agency was represented by a Deputy Director General at the signing of the CANWFZ Treaty. That event became the result of a many-years-long joint work of the states of the region, and I want to reiterate once again, given the active assistance and participation of the United Nations, the IAEA and the “Nuclear Five” countries. Yet it is necessary to especially underscore the role of the United Nations which for the first time took an immediate part in elaborating and harmonizing the draft of the Treaty.

I would especially like to underscore the role of the IAEA, which participated in the meetings of an UN-sponsored Expert Group on the subject of the CANWFZ treaty text and provided input as requested on a variety of topics. In addition, the Agency attended some of the informal meetings of the Central Asian States and experts, at the UN in New York, to discuss various aspects of the Zone. During these meetings, the Agency provided views on a number of a topics pertaining to the treaty. These included, for example, safeguards, physical protection, the transit of items subject to the Treaty, the relationship of the treaty to pre-existing treaties and agreements; definition of radioactive waste, adherence of other States to the Treaty, nature of the treaty’s consulting mechanism for verification of the Treaty’s obligations, and dispute resolution.

The CANWFZ Treaty requires all parties to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols with the IAEA within 18 months of its entry into force. The CANWFZ is the only treaty that requires its parties to conclude Additional Protocols.

The treaty calls for physical protection measures for nuclear material and nuclear facilities, at least as effective as those in the Convention for the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the recommendations and guidelines developed by the IAEA.

Since signing of the Treaty, for over the span of three years the participating states engaged in domestic procedures in terms of ratification the document, and finally, on March 21, 2009 the Treaty came into force. This became a long-awaited event and an important stage which marked the establishment of the nuclear free zone in Central Asia. On 24 March 2009, the IAEA Director General welcomed the entry into force of the CANWFZ treaty and noted with appreciation that it requires the Treaty States to have both a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol in force.

The Additional Protocol has entered into force for Uzbekistan in 1998, for Tajikistan – in 2004, for Turkmenistan – in 2006, for Kazakhstan – in 2007, and for Kyrgyzstan – in 2011.

In the next stage we are expecting that the nuclear states would commit themselves to the “negative guarantees” of security for the participating states of the Treaty on Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia.

Dear participants of the Forum,

The implementation of the idea to establish the nuclear free zone in the region served as a powerful factor aimed at sustaining peace, regional stability and fruitful cooperation of our countries, the joint contribution to onwards development of the world community, and certainly, the most important element of consolidating the regional security and nuclear disarmament.

In establishing the Zone we could vividly observe the joint constructive efforts of all five Central Asian states in their strife to ensure security, stability and peace in the region, create the necessary conditions for the development and prosperity of their nations. In September 1997 Tashkent hosted the International conference “Central Asia is the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone”. As I have already told, the signing ceremony for the Treaty took place in the city of Semipalatinsk, which is in Kazakhstan. The Kyrgyz Republic is a depository of the Treaty. The First consultative meeting on the Treaty took place in Turkmenistan on October 15, 2009. On March 15, 2011 Tashkent hosted the Second consultative meeting of the Treaty participating states. The next consultative meeting is expected to be held in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Under this context, please allow me to explain the modalities of the consultative meetings in the framework of the CANWFZ. In the Article 10 of the Treaty, Parties has agreed to conduct the annual consultative meetings in order to address the issues of implementation of the Treaty. During the first consultative meeting in Turkmenistan the Parties agreed to hold consultative meetings in accordance with the alphabetical order of the names of the countries concerned.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure on implementation of the Article 10 of the Treaty:

1. The host country chairs the consultative meetings;
2. The host country chairs the consultative meeting till the next annual meeting.

Our Zone has a number of unique features: this is the first nuclear free zone established in the Northern hemisphere in the region, which borders on the two nuclear states – Russia and China. Apart from that, the Treaty became the first multilateral agreement in the area of security which encompasses all five countries of Central Asia.

There is no doubt, announcement of our region as a nuclear free zone paves way to considerable growth of significance both of Central Asia as a whole and each state in this region in particular. The nuclear free zone in Central Asia shall render an influence well beyond the region, signaling positive impulses and addressing the possible threats.

Dear participants of the Forum,

With presence of the weapon of mass destruction there is a risk of its proliferation and application, as well as the threat of a nuclear terrorism. The thousands of pieces of nuclear weapon remain in the state of high combat readiness. The nuclear tests are still there. We can address all fears and threats only by way of universal annihilation of nuclear weapon.

The effective nuclear control can be reached only through the system of unconditionally implemented agreements and treaties, as well as realization of large political initiatives. Central Asia calls on to strengthen the legal barriers to proliferation and proposes with such an aim to adapt the entire system of multilateral agreements to new realities, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

It is necessary to admit that this Treaty became an asymmetric agreement. It envisages the sanctions only to non-nuclear states. But if the nuclear powers call on to ban for the elaboration of a nuclear weapon, then they must act as an example of reducing and rejecting the atomic arsenal. If our joint objective is world free of a nuclear weapon then both nuclear and non-nuclear countries must contribute to ensure it.

The processes of disarmament and non-proliferation must move along side by side. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty lays the foundation of a nuclear weapon free world. Banning nuclear tests will become an important contribution to the nuclear weapon counter-proliferation and disarmament.

The countries of Central Asia call on to all states, which have not already done it, to ratify this Treaty and prior to it will come into force to observe moratorium on banning the nuclear tests.

Central Asia affirms its commitment to support the efforts of the world community to maintain the nuclear security and prevent the threat of unrestrained proliferation of weapon of mass destruction. With such an aim our countries joined the NPT and Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

In accordance with the resolution of the UN General Assembly, the Treaty on Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia has been recognized to have been promoting consolidation of the regional and global peace and security.

Creation of solid guarantees of peace and security in our region and around it serve as main conditions for the stable development, cooperation and progress of states, their civilized integration into the world community.

In this regard, we stand for establishment of new nuclear free zones, and as much as rest of the UN member-states, comprehensively support the resolution “Establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the area of Middle East”, which is annually introduced to the United Nations General Assembly.

Thank you for your attention.