

Statement by V.Shkolnik, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the 59th session of the IAEA General Conference

Dear Mr. President,

Let me congratulate you on behalf of the Kazakhstan delegation on your election as the President of the 59th session of the General Conference. We are confident that under your leadership and with the support of all delegations the goals of this important forum will be successfully fulfilled.

We welcome the delegations of the new states joining the IAEA.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

Report of the IAEA Director General reflects a balanced and effective policy of the Agency in the field of safety, security and nuclear weapons non-proliferation, and our delegation fully supports main provisions of the statement.

We appreciate the work of the Agency and the Director General's report on the accident at the nuclear power plant "Fukushima Daiichi", containing a balanced and objective assessment, allows you to extract appropriate lessons and make recommendations to strengthen nuclear security.

The Republic of Kazakhstan supports the activities of the IAEA safeguards and positive about our country's extended conclusion. Together with the Agency, Kazakhstan started the process of transition to integrated safeguards.

We highly appreciate the work of the IAEA to verify the nuclear programs of North Korea, Syria and Iran. We call on the DPRK to fulfill its obligations in full accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and return to the negotiation process on the settlement of the situation in six-party talks.

We welcome the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan of Joint Actions on Iran's nuclear program on July 14, 2015 in Vienna, between "six"

international mediators and Iran. We believe that effective implementation of the Plan will strengthen the non-proliferation and regional security.

Kazakhstan has contributed to the negotiations on Iran's nuclear program. By the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev was held two rounds of talks in Almaty that strengthened the atmosphere of confidence.

One of the most important events of this year, we consider to be the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Kazakhstan and the Agency to establish IAEA Low enriched uranium Bank. There were also two agreements signed on specific technical procedures of the project. The State Agreement will be ratified by the Parliament of our country next year. The second phase of the project – it is practical implementation, which need quick and effective resolution of technical issues, so the IAEA LEU Bank can start its work as scheduled. Kazakhstan's government will provide all the necessary assistance.

We believe that the establishment of the Bank of the Agency is just a tool to ensure a guaranteed supply of nuclear fuel and is in no way prejudice the right of Member States of the IAEA to develop their own technological capacity in the nuclear fuel cycle. We reiterate that any projects or initiatives in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy should not be politicized or be discriminatory. Peaceful nuclear technology and knowledge should be available for all states committed to the principles of nuclear non-proliferation.

Kazakhstan actively promotes the establishment of Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Central Asia. We support the creation of a similar zone in the Middle East. We constantly strive to ensure that our entire planet gradually evolved into a single area of peace and security.

The President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev has put forward the ATOM initiative (Abolish Testing Our Mission), which to date has been signed up by more than a hundred thousand supporters.

Our country has put forward its candidature to the UN Security Council for 2017-2018.

Kazakhstan attaches a great importance to the fight against terrorism, consistently implementing the provisions of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We urge those countries that have not acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible.

Our country is in full compliance with 1540 resolution of the UN Security Council, is taking steps to further improve the system of combating

illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials. As a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee, as well as a leading producer of uranium products, Kazakhstan takes all possible measures for careful control of nuclear exports.

Kazakhstan has joined the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and ratified the Amendments to the Convention. We recognize the importance of nuclear security and believe that the early entry into force of Amendments to the Convention will contribute to strengthening the global level of physical security. In this connection, we welcome the recent ratification of the document by Italy, Turkey and the United States and call for the ratification of the Amendments to the Convention, those States that have not done so.

We note the importance of the outcome document of the Nuclear Security Summit, which was held in The Hague last year, and are committed to its successful implementation. At the same time, we do focus on practical measures to reduce the use of sensitive materials and technologies in the civilian sector, which was originally one of the main objectives of the Summit.

Critical stand (zero power reactor) of the Institute of Nuclear Physics in Almaty was transferred to low enriched fuel, and the VVR-K reactor is planned to operate a new LEU fuel by December of this year. The work is underway to transfer the reactors of the Institute of Atomic Energy in Kurchatov to LEU fuel. Technologies of radioisotope production without the use of HEU are being developed and implemented.

Within the Summit frame Kazakhstan initiated the development and adoption of economic incentives to encourage the transition to technology without the use of HEU that was endorsed by the Summit participants. We believe that without effective economic incentives the industry will not have any practical basis for transfer to non-HEU technologies.

Mr. President,

The Agency is the leading global forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology. It is necessary to highlight the joint work with the IAEA to assess the radiation situation on the territory of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site with a view to transfer its lands into the economy, as well as joint projects in the field of nuclear medicine.

We fully support the IAEA activities undertaken to promote the transfer and development of technology and knowledge related to peaceful nuclear applications. This year Kazakhstan made a voluntary contribution

of 325,000 US dollars to the Nuclear Security Fund, the Peaceful Use Initiative and to verification of implementation of the Joint Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program.

At the same time, Kazakhstan has noted the slow pace of adoption of Amendments to Article 6 of the IAEA Statute. According to the latest report of the Director-General, last year only five countries ratified the Amendment. Thus, for today Amendment has been ratified by 60 countries from 110 necessary for its entry into force.

Kazakhstan calls for a balanced approach in addressing the issue of determining the affiliation of the Member States to the regional groups of the Agency. We welcome the efforts of the Member States, the Secretariat and the Director-General in this regard. We call for additional measures for the early entry into force of the Amendment. Our country intends to ratify the Amendment.

While fully sharing the importance of the Agency's work, let me express my strong support for the IAEA activities aimed at further expansion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy for the benefit of humanity, to strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation regime and improve international security.

Thank you for your attention.