

KAZAKHSTAN

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Statement
at the 2026 NPT Review Conference
Main Committee II (non-proliferation)
(New York, 5 May 2026)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

Kazakhstan reaffirms that **non-proliferation remains a central element of the NPT** and an essential pillar of international peace and security.

Today, this pillar is under **increasing pressure**. The regime faces challenges from **unresolved safeguards issues, illicit trafficking risks, cyber vulnerabilities, and the rapid spread of advanced dual-use technologies**. These trends risk undermining decades of collective progress.

The first priority must be to **strengthen the safeguards system** through universal adherence and consistent implementation. To this end, the **Additional Protocol** should be further universalized as the **contemporary verification standard**. In a context of increasingly sophisticated technologies, safeguards must continue to **evolve to remain credible and technically robust**.

At the same time, **balance must be preserved**. The strength of the Treaty lies in maintaining both **confidence and fairness**.

Implementation of Article 3 must go hand in hand with full respect for progress under **Articles 4 and 6**.

Mr. Chairman,

Regional proliferation challenges continue to **erode confidence** in the regime.

Any disruption in safeguards implementation or limitations of access **create critical gaps and mistrust**. Safeguards must therefore be **preserved at all times**, and cooperation with the **IAEA** must remain uninterrupted.

We reaffirm our **strong support for the IAEA's indispensable role** in safeguarding the non-proliferation regime. We encourage the Agency to continue providing Member States with accurate, impartial and timely information.

The persistent threat of **illicit trafficking** in nuclear and radioactive materials requires sustained attention. Strengthened **physical protection**, improved **transport security**, enhanced **border detection systems**, and deeper **bilateral and multilateral cooperation** are all essential to addressing this risk.

As nuclear systems become increasingly digitized, **cyber threats** now represent a growing dimension of non-proliferation risk. Cyber resilience must therefore be integrated into **national nuclear governance systems** and supported through **international cooperation and capacity-building**.

Mr. Chairman,

Regional cooperation remains an essential dimension of the non-proliferation regime. **Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones** constitute effective instruments for strengthening **confidence and regional**

stability. Their effectiveness depends, on the ratification of **relevant protocols**, stronger **inter-zonal cooperation** and establishment of new zones.

As a founding member of the **Semipalatinsk Treaty**, Kazakhstan strongly calls for the earliest **ratification** of the Protocol, especially when the Treaty marks its 20th anniversary this year.

We are also honored to have hosted jointly with UNODA **two meetings** of representatives from all existing zones in Astana in 2019 and 2024. This format to be practical and timely in the absence of the traditional conferences of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia.

The longstanding initiative to establish a **Middle East zone free from nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction** is more urgent than ever.

Kazakhstan fully supports the work of **Group of Qualified Experts (GQE)** on the renewal of the comprehensive study on nuclear-weapon-free zones. We are proud that our expert is part of the panel and we are looking forward to the outcomes of this group.

Mr. Chairman,

Clear and balanced outcomes are needed to strengthen the regime and respond to current realities. Kazakhstan stands ready to work with all partners to ensure that the non-proliferation pillar remains **credible, balanced, and responsive to emerging challenges**.

Thank you.