

**Statement by the Republic of Kazakhstan  
at the General Debate of 3MSP TPNW  
(New York, 4 March 2025)**

**Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

Kazakhstan stands before you today not only as a nation that has endured the devastating consequences of nuclear testing but also as a global leader in nuclear disarmament. Our painful history serves as a stark warning and a moral imperative to ensure that such tragedies are never repeated.

Between 1949 and 1989, the Semipalatinsk Test Site – one of the world’s largest nuclear testing grounds – was the site of 456 nuclear tests, exposing more than 1.5 million people to radioactive fallout. The humanitarian consequences have been severe: skyrocketing cancer rates, birth defects, genetic disorders, and persistent environmental degradation. Even today, the affected regions struggle with long-term health crises, economic hardships, and the contamination of land and water sources.

This is not just Kazakhstan’s tragedy – it is a global warning. The catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons are not hypothetical. They are real, well-documented, and irreversible. To this end, we would like to invite all delegations to take part in a side-event organized by our delegation on 5 March devoted to the Semipalatinsk test site, its current state and the human toll of nuclear testing.

**Distinguished participants,**

The humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons have been extensively studied. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) warns that no country or international organization has the capacity to effectively respond to the aftermath of a nuclear detonation. A single nuclear explosion in a populated area would result in mass casualties, environmental devastation, and economic collapse on an unimaginable scale.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and leading climate experts have further warned that even a limited regional nuclear conflict—the detonation of just 100 nuclear warheads – could disrupt the global climate, triggering widespread famine and placing up to 2 billion people at risk of starvation.

Meanwhile, the modernization and expansion of nuclear arsenals by several states, as highlighted by the various experts and think-tanks, have exacerbated global security risks. The integration of artificial intelligence into nuclear command and control structures adds an unprecedented level of unpredictability, increasing the chances of miscalculation and unintended escalation.

Kazakhstan remains deeply concerned about the lack of tangible progress under the disarmament Pillar of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is disturbing that the five officially recognized nuclear-weapon States fail to meet their Article 6 obligations. It becomes even more important to achieve an agreed and forward-oriented action plan at the upcoming 2026 NPT Review Conference.

We are equally alarmed at the erosion of key arms control agreements, including the demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and the uncertain future of the New START Treaty. The dismantling of these agreements threatens to undo decades of progress in nuclear disarmament and arms control. We welcome recent positive signs hinting at the possibility of strategic dialogue resumption between the Russian Federation and the United States.

### **Excellences,**

Kazakhstan urges the international community to take decisive and immediate steps to prevent the use of nuclear weapons and eliminate their threat altogether. We call for:

1. We urge all states, particularly nuclear-armed nations and their allies, to fully implement and adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The international community must work to

stigmatize and delegitimize nuclear weapons as unacceptable and inhumane tool of ultimate destruction.

2. Kazakhstan calls on the United States and the Russian Federation to extend the New START Treaty and resume constructive arms control negotiations. The world cannot afford a return to unrestricted nuclear competition. We equally welcome the proposals on multilateral arms control frameworks with participation of all nuclear-armed States.
3. The continued reliance on nuclear deterrence increases global instability. We must shift toward cooperative security frameworks, diplomatic engagement, and non-military solutions to prevent escalation and conflict.
4. The international community must resiliently counter any attempts or rhetoric aimed at legitimizing the resumption of nuclear testing, even on a limited scale. The previous human tragedies have demonstrated the monstrous price of such endeavors.
5. As Co-Chair of Working Group victim assistance and environmental remediation under the TPNW, alongside Kiribati, Kazakhstan is leading efforts to implement Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty. We urge stronger international cooperation to provide medical aid, rehabilitate affected communities, and restore contaminated regions.
6. Kazakhstan advocates for the establishment of mechanisms to assist victims, rehabilitate affected areas, and ensure accountability for nuclear harm. Those who have suffered the consequences of nuclear testing must not be forgotten. Based on positive examples in other disarmament treaties, one of such possible and fitting solutions would be the establishment of an International Trust Fund.

**Dear colleagues,**

Disarmament is not an abstract aspiration – it is an urgent necessity for humanity’s survival. The use of nuclear weapons – whether by design, miscalculation, or cyber interference – would have catastrophic and irreversible consequences.

Kazakhstan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to a nuclear-free world. We stand ready to work with all nations in the noble pursuit of global security, peace, and the preservation of future generations.

Together, we must ensure that nuclear weapons never again threaten our people, our planet, or our future.

Thank you.