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International Conference – “Building a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World”

Astana, Kazakhstan | 29 August 2016

Speech of Azay Guliyev (MP, Azerbaijan), Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Your Excellency Mr. President Nazarbayev,

Dear Chairman Mr. Tokayev,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all, in my capacity as Vice-President of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and to thank Parliament and Government of Kazakhstan for the excellent organization and hospitality extended to us.

I would also like to convey warm greetings and best wishes of Her Excellency Ms. Christine Muttonen, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to the participants and organizers of this incredible event.

The OSCE PA fully supports the crucial role of this conference to achieve a world without nuclear weapon danger.

I am certain that this event will encourage parliamentarians to interchange tools and facts, develop common plans and involve in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament matters.

I am sure that this conference will help worldwide parliamentarians and other politicians from around the globe, together with a variety of religious leaders, government representatives, disarmament specialists, non-governmental activists and of course representatives of international and regional organizations, to discuss and share knowledge

and views on nuclear disarmament and to develop common strategy to reach a nuclear-weapon-free world.

We should definitely congratulate Kazakhstan to voluntary closing of the nuclear test site on August 29, 1991 and renouncement of the fourth largest weapon arsenal in the world. It was a profound contribution of Kazakhstan and particularly H.E. Mr. President Nursultan Nazarbayev to the nuclear disarmament process.

Consequently, Kazakhstan created a worldwide policy by removing the danger of nuclear terrorism and continues being partisan of such wonderful humanitarian cause by organizing such vital universal event.

And, I would like to support the idea that was raised earlier in this session that the President of Kazakhstan establish a prize in support of other leaders in the global movement for nuclear disarmament.

Proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery continue posing a threat to international peace and security. Convening such a conference in Astana is timely and serves our common purpose of mobilizing international support, including at the parliamentary level, to discuss what additional measures can and should be taken to eliminate this threat.

Full implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) remains the cornerstone of the international efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and their means of delivery, and establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials.

In some parts of the world, especially in the Middle East, the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials and their use is still high. Illicit trafficking of nuclear materials across the borders, including in the OSCE area, is a cause of concern.

Recent news reports about incidents involving use of chemical weapons in Syria and attempts to smuggle nuclear materials earlier this year, reminds us all that additional measures need to be undertaken at international, regional and national levels, including through securing all nuclear materials, maintaining proper safety and security standards for civilian nuclear facilities.

In this context, particular attention should be given to prevent non-state actors, including terrorist, extremist and separatist groups from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and related materials and their delivery systems.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons stands out as an urgent priority. Those remaining States not parties to the Treaty

must consider acceding to it without further delay, thereby accepting an international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards on all their nuclear activities.

The disaster at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant once again vividly showed that implications of nuclear accidents are not confined to national boundaries. Few would disagree that a thorough review of relevant security and safety requirements at the national level to ensure nuclear safety of installations is necessary. Geographical peculiarities and trans-boundary environmental implications in light of possible nuclear accidents must be taken into account. Thus being said, States, especially those located in seismic zones and operating outdated aging nuclear reactors, should think not only about their own energy security but about regional security as well.

The OSCE has acquired a good experience in such areas as arms control, border management and the prevention of terrorism, which can be effectively utilized to address these challenges.

The OSCE participating States reaffirmed their commitment to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular through the Athens Ministerial Declaration on Non-Proliferation (2009) and Astana Commemorative Declaration (2010), which, inter alia, underlined OSCE participating States' commitment to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and pledged the OSCE's continued support to regional efforts to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540.

Nuclear non-proliferation has long been an issue that OSCE parliamentarians have engaged with. During the Annual Session of OSCE PA in Tbilisi two months ago, we expressed our clear support for the start next year of United Nations-facilitated deliberations and negotiations on multilateral nuclear disarmament. We also called on governments to include parliamentarians in their delegations to negotiations on this topic. Such inclusion of parliamentarians in negotiations can broaden support and strengthen implementation of these vital agreements.

In conclusion, I would like once again to express my appreciation to organizers, and including interpreters and secretariats for their hard work to organize this high-level conference.

I wish all of the participants the fruitful and remarkable event.

Thank you for your attention!