

Prepared remarks by
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev
At the first plenary session of the Nuclear Security Summit
The Hague, The Netherlands, March 24, 2014

Your Excellencies!
Distinguished participants of the summit!

First, I would like to thank the Government of the Netherlands and, personally, Prime Minister Mark Rutte for the warm reception and excellent organization of the event.

The Global Nuclear Security Summits, convened at the initiative of U.S. President Barack Obama, have played an historic role in bolstering peace and security on our planet.

These summits have become a platform to address the most challenging issues on the international agenda.

Kazakhstan continues to consistently advocate for the strengthening of global nuclear security and we believe it is necessary to focus our efforts on the following areas.

First. General and complete nuclear disarmament is the only guarantee of nuclear security.

Second. Countering nuclear terrorism and rooting it out remains an urgent task.

At the same time, the antiterrorist campaign should not limit the right of states to pursue peaceful nuclear programs, exchange technologies, equipment, knowledge and expertise.

Kazakhstan plans to develop its own full nuclear fuel cycle for nuclear power stations and build new nuclear power plants.

Third. Kazakhstan stands for further strengthening of the role and authority of the IAEA.

Fourth. Kazakhstan supports the creation of new nuclear weapon free zones, including in the Middle East.

We also look forward to the earliest ratification by the five nuclear weapon states of a protocol on negative security assurances to states-parties to the Central Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty (the Semipalatinsk Treaty).

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Kazakhstan currently ranks 15th in NTI's Nuclear Materials Security Index.

This is explained by internal political and economic stability, effective legislation and anti-corruption policies.

Having shut down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal, Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the U.S. and Russia, dismantled the test site's infrastructure.

We continue work to ensure the security of the former nuclear test site.

All nuclear activities in our country are placed under IAEA's comprehensive safeguards.

We have supported the IAEA initiative to establish an international low-enriched uranium (LEU) bank and are finalizing negotiations on a relevant host country agreement.

Dear summit participants,

Our meeting takes place against the backdrop of a crisis in global security.

The underlying reason for this crisis is a lack of political will to put an end to the practice of double standards and the selective use of international law.

We believe it is extremely important for nuclear weapon states to fully abide by all the obligations they have undertaken.

Twenty years ago, Kazakhstan, like Belarus and Ukraine, made a major contribution to global nuclear security.

Our country voluntarily renounced considerable stockpiles of nuclear weapons and joined the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

That is why we should all be deeply worried by the irresponsible statements from some politicians in Ukraine calling for the restoration of a nuclear weapon status to that country with its five nuclear power plants, 15 nuclear reactors and the potential to develop missile technologies.

We also see that the G8 and G20 formats are not fully effective in dealing with global problems.

Greater consideration must be given to the interests of those outside of these groups.

That is why, two years ago, I put forward the G-Global initiative to search for ways out of the crisis.

G-Global has been met with a lively response, and today around 190 countries participate in it.

It offers a path towards a fair, transparent, multipolar, and constructive world order, which would eliminate the threat of nuclear self-annihilation by humankind.

I am convinced there is no alternative to it.

As we saw in the aftermath of 9/11, the world can and should unite in the face of the common threats to bring about long-term and systematic approaches to shared challenges.

We should all live up to the responsibility we have – to our citizens and the global community – to deliver political rather than military solutions in the name of international peace.

Our full commitment and effort is needed to find and implement such solutions.

Thank you for your attention.