

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1735

11 May 2004

Original: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

**LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KAZAKHSTAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE
TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE OF FIVE CENTRAL ASIAN STATES
ADOPTED DURING THE UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL MEETING ON
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN CENTRAL ASIA HELD FROM
16 TO 18 MARCH 2004 IN ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN**

I have the honour to enclose, hereby, the text of communiqué of five Central Asian States, adopted at the Regional Conference of the United Nations on the problems of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Central Asia held in Almaty, from 16-18 March 2004.

The Conference was organized by the Government of Kazakhstan jointly with the Department for Disarmament of the UN Secretariat, Regional Center on Security and Disarmament in Asia and Pacific and co-sponsored by the Government of Japan.

The main objective of the Conference was to assist the countries of Central Asia in detailed acquaintance with the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects, adopted at the UN International Conference on 9-21 July 2001 in New York.

The Conference was attended by the delegations of Central Asia States, experts from Afghanistan, Indonesia, Japan, Regional Center on Security and Disarmament in Asia and Pacific, UNDP, OSCE, UN Mission for assistance to Afghanistan, ODCCP, Australian Council on security cooperation in Asia-Pacific, International crisis group, International Alert organization, diplomatic corps in Kazakhstan.

I would be grateful if you would issue the text of communiqué of five Central Asian States, adopted at the Regional Conference of the United Nations on the problems of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Central Asia, as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to all member States and non-member participating States of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Nurlan DANENOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan

Annex

**COMMUNIQUE* OF FIVE CENTRAL ASIAN STATES ADOPTED
DURING THE UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL MEETING ON
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN CENTRAL ASIA**

**16-18 March 2004
Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan**

The United Nations Regional Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Central Asia was held in Almaty from 16 to 18 March 2004. The Meeting was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, sponsored by the Government of Japan and organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific.

Delegations from the countries of the Central Asian and Asia-Pacific region, heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Republic of Kazakhstan, and representatives of international and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting.

The Meeting heard presentations by representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, experts from Afghanistan, the Republic of Indonesia, and Japan, the United Nations Development Programme, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, the Australian Member Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, the International Crisis Group, and International Alert.

During the three days of sessions of the Meeting, a meaningful exchange of views took place on strengthening regional cooperation aimed at the prevention of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Having discussed possible ways of enhancing coordination among law enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies of the Central Asian States, the participants in the Meeting noted the need to intensify their cooperation. In particular, an understanding was reached concerning the adoption of joint actions including:

- (a) Investigations to identify and close smuggling channels and to eradicate all other forms of illegal export/import of these weapons from/to Central Asia;
- (b) Take preventive measures to preclude theft and loss of small arms and ammunition from depots, arsenals, restricted areas and other arms storage facilities;

* Originally issued as document of the General Assembly and the Security Council under the symbol A/58/763-S/2004/282 of 8 April 2004.

- (c) Develop international and regional cooperation between law enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies of the Central Asian States to monitor transitional flows of illicit small arms and light weapons;
- (d) Investigate and suppress crimes related to the illicit trade of arms, such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and organized crime;
- (e) Establish a mechanism for regular exchanges of relevant information, which may include illicit brokering of small arms in the region;
- (f) Foster cooperation with the United Nations with a view to implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

The participants of the Regional Meeting have confirmed the leading role of the United Nations in the implementation of a comprehensive solution to the problem of small arms and light weapons and supported the coordinating role of the United Nations in this area, first and foremost in dealing with the problem of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

The representatives of the Central Asian States and the participants of the Meeting came to the conclusion that the Regional Meeting on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 16 to 18 March 2004, made an important contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, 9-20 July 2001).

The participants of the Regional Meeting have expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the excellent arrangement of the Meeting as well as the hospitality rendered to the participants.

Almaty
18 March 2004
