
Conference on Disarmament

5 March 2010

English

Final record of the one thousand one hundred and seventy-sixth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 5 March 2010, at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Mikhail Khvostov..... (Belarus)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I declare open the 1176th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

First of all, I should like to draw the attention of the Conference to the fact that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) entered into force exactly 40 years ago today. The Conference has a very direct relationship to this Treaty: the NPT was drafted within these very walls by the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the predecessor to the Conference on Disarmament.

I now have the great pleasure of introducing our distinguished guest, His Excellency Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, a country that is an ally of Belarus: we are linked by a common past, common economic and political interests and, significantly, a common vision of a world free from nuclear weapons. Your presence today at the Conference, Sir, emphasizes the importance that your country attaches to issues of international security and disarmament. You have the floor, Your Excellency.

Mr. Saudabayev (Kazakhstan): Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, on the fortieth anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, adopted within these walls, it is indeed symbolic that I, the representative of independent Kazakhstan, should be given an opportunity to set out my vision for further progress in the area of non-proliferation and for reducing the nuclear threat to our planet. Kazakhstan, which voluntarily renounced the world's fourth largest arsenal of nuclear missiles and shut down a major nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk, has been and continues to be a staunch advocate of and active participant in the global non-proliferation process and efforts to reduce the nuclear threat. Our model of disarmament has become an example for others in the world to emulate, thanks to the political will and concerted efforts of President Nursultan Nazarbaev and his relentless determination to move ahead towards a nuclear weapon-free world.

Our country attaches great significance to the work of the Conference on Disarmament and views the Conference as one of the most important mechanisms for strengthening international security. A world without wars and conflicts has always been humanity's dream, and all of us will recall how important the documents drafted by the Conference are in this regard. There is no doubt that this forum has great potential and is ready to make an important contribution to the disarmament process. In this connection, I should like to express the hope that the member States will show political will and manage to overcome differences so that we can proceed with the substantive work of the Conference.

Last year was a landmark for the disarmament community. We were witnesses to changes in the policy of the United States of America in the areas of non-proliferation and disarmament. President Barack Obama's initiative calling for a global summit on nuclear security and his decision to give new impetus to early ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) have been welcomed by the international community and raised new hopes. Progress in negotiations between the Russian Federation and the United States on the conclusion of a new agreement to succeed the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms is crucial.

Today it is very important to overcome stagnation in the global disarmament process and update the basic framework for disarmament which is the NPT. High hopes have been raised by the forthcoming NPT Review Conference to be held in May of this year. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has proposed a five-point plan for nuclear disarmament. The proposals put forward by the United Kingdom, France, Norway and several other countries are also very interesting.

The world is clearly waiting for a "significant breakthrough" this year and we hope that this expectation will be met. The key events in this connection are the forthcoming

Nuclear Security Summit to be held in Washington in April and the NPT Review Conference.

Kazakhstan supports the goals of the Washington summit and is actively involved in preparations for the event. President Nazarbaev plans to address the summit to set out his vision of further steps for enhancing nuclear security. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Kazakhstan's efforts offer a model of the leadership that is needed to reduce the nuclear threat at the global level.

The NPT remains the cornerstone of international security. The preparatory sessions for the NPT Review Conference have shown that the climate surrounding the forthcoming Review Conference has improved significantly and that there is reason to hope that the failure of 2005 will not be repeated. However, a positive climate and good intentions are no guarantee of success. Real commitment on the part of the States parties to the Treaty to implement its provisions responsibly and effectively is vital. I would recall that in 2007, at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, our Head of State urged the nuclear Powers to take action, within the framework of the United Nations, to ensure the effectiveness of the NPT and to bring its provisions into line with today's realities, with a view to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Unfortunately, however, we have not yet achieved the goals of disarmament or prevented the proliferation of nuclear weapons or the emergence of new de facto nuclear-weapon States. There is now an urgent need to develop efficient mechanisms to put pressure on nuclear-weapon States operating outside the NPT framework and to prevent States' withdrawal from the Treaty. We must ensure that all parties to the NPT unconditionally honour the commitments embodied in its three fundamental elements: non-proliferation, the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and disarmament. We hope that it will prove possible at the forthcoming Review Conference to break the deadlock in the efforts to ensure the genuine effectiveness of the NPT. For our part, we are working on a set of proposals that, in our view, reflect the hopes of the international community as well as proposals already made in distinguished forums. We look forward to an engaging dialogue during the Conference and to a successful and fruitful outcome.

It is our deep conviction that the entry into force of the CTBT is one of the most vital and important milestones along the path to nuclear disarmament. We welcome the decision of the President of the United States of America to seek ratification of the Treaty and hope that this will send an important signal to those countries that have not yet done so. The decision by some nuclear-weapon States to voluntarily refrain from carrying out nuclear explosions, while a positive step, is no replacement for a legally binding document.

Kazakhstan, which supports the CTBT, actively cooperates with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) on all aspects of its work and is making a significant contribution to the strengthening of the Treaty verification regime, including the establishment of the International Monitoring System (IMS).

A General Assembly resolution fully consistent with the objectives of the CTBT was adopted in December 2009 at Kazakhstan's initiative; it declares 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests, this being the date of the official shutdown by a decree of the President of Kazakhstan of the largest nuclear test site in the world at Semipalatinsk. In this connection, I should like to urge Conference members to support the implementation of this resolution by taking practical action.

The entry into force in March 2009 of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia is an important contribution by the countries of the region to achieving international and regional security. Incidentally, this Treaty was signed at "ground zero" at the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. It enjoys the support of Secretary-General of the United

Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, who plans to visit the Semipalatinsk test site in Kazakhstan in April of this year. I should like to emphasize the strong commitment of the countries of the region to completing the process of institutionalization of the Treaty and their readiness to engage in constructive dialogue with the five nuclear Powers with a view to signing a protocol on negative assurances for members of the zone. During the first review meeting of States parties to the Treaty in October 2009, Kazakhstan proposed the development of a regional action plan to enhance nuclear security, prevent the proliferation of nuclear materials and counter nuclear terrorism. This initiative is to be further developed and brought to the attention of States in the region and elsewhere, taking into account the outcome of the forthcoming Nuclear Security Summit.

Kazakhstan is a party to 13 international counter-terrorism conventions drafted within the framework of the United Nations system. Our country is one of the most active participants in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) launched in 2006 by the Presidents of the United States of America and the Russian Federation. Kazakhstan has hosted several events under the Global Initiative; a GICNT conference is soon to be held in Astana on current issues in combating nuclear terrorism in the light of international efforts to enhance global nuclear security. This will represent our latest contribution to nuclear security and counter-terrorism. Given that terrorism finds fertile grounds in unstable and poor countries, I should like to recall today the initiative that the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, launched 15 years ago from a United Nations podium. At that time, he proposed the establishment of a United Nations Peacekeeping Fund through the voluntary contribution by States of 1 per cent of their military budgets. That idea has also been supported by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, who has proposed redirecting 1 per cent of the world's military spending to development goals.

Ample prospects exist for developing the third pillar of the NPT – the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Kazakhstan supports the right of all members of the international community to develop their own nuclear energy in strict compliance with NPT norms and subject to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) verification. Experts forecast that nuclear energy may in the very near future become the primary substitute for more traditional sources of energy. Such forecasts are significant in the context of the global trend towards a steady reduction in carbon emissions and the transition to a “green” economy. Given this “nuclear renaissance” and the growing interest in nuclear energy on the part of several countries, Kazakhstan — which now leads the world in uranium mining and is one of the world's most important nuclear suppliers — is ready to make a significant contribution. Work is also under way to ensure the safety of nuclear materials and to strengthen the export control system. A State commission on non-proliferation has been established under the President in Kazakhstan and is headed by me.

Kazakhstan is party to many international non-proliferation and export-control regimes: the Hague Code of Conduct against the Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles (HCOC), the Krakow Initiative (Proliferation Security Initiative), the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Zangger Committee. Preparations are currently under way for us to join the Australian Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Although currently not an official member of MTCR, Kazakhstan complies with the common export policy guidelines (MTCR Guidelines) applied to controlled items in the Equipment, Software and Technology Annex of MTCR, fully applying the rules of the regime at the national level.

Adhering to the principle of equal access to peaceful nuclear energy, Kazakhstan supported the proposal by the Nuclear Threat Initiative to establish an International Nuclear Fuel Bank under IAEA auspices and has officially confirmed its readiness to host the Fuel

Bank on its own territory and to ensure the proper storage of nuclear fuel. We are grateful to those countries that have supported our proposal in principle.

There are many serious issues on this year's Conference agenda. At last year's session, delegations attempted to break the stalemate that had impeded the Conference's work for many years. However, there was an obvious lack of political will to overcome differences. We hope that, in the light of the serious political changes mentioned above, the deadlock in the work of the Conference will be broken and concrete results will be achieved.

We consider the use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes to be one of the most pressing items on the agenda. The issue of arms control in outer space, raised more than 20 years ago, got its second wind in the form of a draft treaty on prevention of the placement of nuclear weapons in outer space, submitted by the Russian Federation and China, and has been actively discussed in recent years. This question is particularly relevant in view of the increasing number of countries involved in and dependent on space programmes. We need to move the PAROS agenda forward by engaging other international bodies that deal with space exploration issues. As the home country of the Baikonur Cosmodrome, which is involved in international space cooperation and actively developing its space programme on a multilateral basis, Kazakhstan is convinced that security in outer space should remain a central concern of the Conference and appeals for strict observance of the principle of peaceful activities in outer space.

We also support an early start to negotiations on a treaty to ban the production of fissile materials. Conclusion of the treaty will make a key contribution to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. Ending the production of fissile materials will reduce to a minimum the potential for development of illegitimate military nuclear programmes, improve control over existing materials and limit the risk of nuclear terrorism.

In our view, it is time to proceed to the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on the provision of security assurances by the nuclear Powers to non-nuclear-weapon States. Only such assurances can effectively hold in check the aspirations of certain non-nuclear-weapon States to acquire nuclear weapons, which they view as guaranteeing their own security.

The chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for 2010 has fallen to Kazakhstan. The decision taken to this end on 30 November 2007 by the States members of OSCE in our view indicates objective recognition of and high appreciation for Kazakhstan's impressive achievements in the area of socio-economic and socio-political development during its first few years of independence. We also view it as reflecting the desire and aspiration of the organization for renewal and a definitive rejection of the "invisible divide" that still unfortunately persists between certain countries to the east and west of Vienna. We shall use our chairmanship of OSCE — with its extensive military and political experience and vast potential for translating such experience into concrete action — to give special impetus to work on disarmament, arms control, enhancement of the non-proliferation regime and efforts to combat new threats to peace and security. It is in precisely this sphere that effective joint efforts can lead to the achievement of established goals.

Implementation of the OSCE Athens Ministerial Declaration on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which has already received positive feedback from CTBTO and IAEA, could become an important contribution of OSCE to the strengthening of international security.

As we attach particular importance to the strengthening of the conventional arms control regime and confidence-building and security measures, we hope for progress in efforts to ensure the entry into force of the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on

Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty). Work to update the 1999 Vienna Document should commence immediately.

The military and political dimensions of OSCE activities could become a key theme of the agenda for the 2010 OSCE summit proposed by our country.

We very much hope to address issues of regional and global security at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). Kazakhstan's initiative to convene CICA, first introduced in 1992 at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, has become a real and significant factor in international relations. In recent years, we have come a long way from the idea of establishing peace and confidence on the Asian continent to practical mechanisms of collective diplomacy, including implementation of the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures by 20 countries who represent more than 3 billion people and one third of the world's gross national product. In June of this year, Turkey will host the third CICA summit, which, we are convinced, will contribute to the strengthening of this new international security mechanism.

Given that Kazakhstan holds the chairmanship of OCSE this year, it is conceivable that the two organizations could in the long term ensure security and cooperation across the vast Euroasian continent. We are firmly convinced that cooperation mechanisms have the potential to make a significant contribution to the resolution of the issues surrounding the North Korean and Iranian nuclear programmes.

This year will witness a great number of events in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, yet another indication of the determination of all States and their leaders to solve problems together. In the interests of security and world peace, we sincerely hope that the results will be positive.

I wish us all success with this important and noble endeavour.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): I should like to thank the Minister for his statement, which is an important contribution to the work of our Conference. I shall interrupt our work for a few minutes in order to escort the Minister from the conference room.

The meeting was suspended at 10.40 a.m. and resumed at 10.45 a.m.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): Let us continue our work. Would any delegation like to take the floor?

I see none, but before adjourning today's meeting, I should like to make a short announcement.

The next formal plenary meeting of the Conference will take place in this room on 9 March at 10 a.m. Pursuant to the decision taken by the Conference at its 1172nd plenary meeting, on 2 March, Ms. Beatrice Fihn of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will address us at that time. I should like to stress that the Conference has authorized this international non-governmental organization, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, to take the floor on the understanding that the purpose of the address is to mark International Women's Day, and that it will not set a precedent for the future work of the Conference.

I see that the representative of the United States of America wishes to take the floor. Please go ahead, Sir.

Mr. Larson (United States of America): Mr. President, we look forward to the message that the representative of the Women's International League for Peace and

Freedom will provide to us on Tuesday. And thank you for this clarification. I would just ask to confirm that this will be a statement for the record.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): Since we took this decision at a formal plenary meeting, a response will also be provided at a formal plenary meeting and the statement will be recorded.

Do any other delegations wish to take the floor? I see none; accordingly, today's meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.