

KAZAKHSTAN

STATEMENT

BY

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Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the
United Nations,

**at the United Nations Conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light
weapons in all its aspects**

New York, July 10, 2001

Mr. President,

First of all on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan I would like to express our sincere congratulations to H.E. Ambassador Camilio Reyes of Columbia on his election to the Presidency of this Conference. I am also glad to see Ambassador Donowaki here today presiding over the high-level ministerial segment of the Conference. We welcome this as a convincing evidence of the fact that the international prestige of Japan is widely recognized. My congratulations also go to Ambassador Michael Weston and other members of the Bureau.

Availing of this opportunity let me express our gratitude to Ambassador Carlos dos Santos for the excellent work and valuable contribution during his chairmanship of the Preparatory Committees, especially with regard to the draft Programme of Action which is quite a good basis for the elaboration of the final decisions of the Conference.

Mr. President,

The problem of prevention of the destabilizing accumulation of small arms as well as their illegal proliferation during recent years have become one of the key and disturbing questions related to security and stability in several regions of the world, including the vast region of Central Asia. Looking through the prism of the current situation in Afghanistan we are of the view that the idea and the subject of the Conference are very significant and well-timed.

During the period of more than twenty years Afghanistan has become one of the largest centers of concentration of the unaccounted small arms due to the inflow of weapons to this region. It is well known that the territory of this country is being used for training of Islamic militants who make hostile incursions to the neighboring countries of Central Asia.

We have to acknowledge, that drug producing and trafficking, which involve drug dealers and criminal structures are closely connected with the illegal dissemination of small arms. We are thus gravely concerned about the close links between terrorism, organized crime, drug trade, and the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons.

I would like to emphasize, that Kazakhstan completely shares the deep concern expressed by the UN Secretary-General over the possibility of a considerable increase of potential threats if the transnational dimensions of the conflict are strengthened. As a result, it will be more difficult then to prevent its dissemination beyond Afghanistan.

We believe that it is time to all of us to address this problem with the aim of its alleviating. There is a need to comprehensively estimate destabilizing consequences of excessive accumulation, illicit proliferation, supply and use of small arms.

We have to admit that while the international community during decades elaborated a number of coordinated comprehensive norms and standards regarding the weapons of mass destruction, similar norms, which could be applied to resolve problems in terms of small arms, are still in the process of development. That is why it is crucially important to develop and implement agreed international measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in and manufacturing of small arms and light weapons and to reduce their excessive and destabilizing accumulations throughout the world and the UN should play a leading role in this process.

Mr.President,

I would like to dwell on my government' s activity aimed at preventing the illegal trafficking in small arms.

Kazakhstan has established the export control system and is improving the legislative base to meet the requirements of international non-proliferation regime.

Being a producer and exporter of small arms and light weapons Kazakhstan undertakes the measures on national level to harden the export control, manufacture and supplies of small arms and light weapons to mitigate its illicit proliferation. The transfer of Kazakhstan's weapons abroad, including small arms and light weapons, is carried out in accordance to strict regulations.

Adopted in 1996 the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the Export Control of Arms, Military Technology and Dual-Capable Production" is the corner stone of the national system of the export regulation. The Law determines the bases and the procedure of the arms export control, including small arms, stipulates licensing and a complex of guarantees of the use of delivered commodities only in conformity to declared purposes. There has been also elaborated a mechanism of control over the observance of rules as well as the responsibility for their violation. A license, certifying correspondence to demands put forward to entities producing fire-arms, is issued only after its approval by interested Ministries and Departments of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Nowadays Kazakhstan is recognized as a leader in the region in terms of providing the national legislative base in the field of export control which, by the international experts' estimation, fully meets international standards.

We have to take into account that levels of the export control systems, legislative bases in this field differ in countries of the region, which, unfortunately, hampers efficient interaction among them. In this regard we assume that every state in the region has to be interested in setting up the national programs of export control, mutual information exchange, adoption of unified control lists, implementation of joint law enforcement activities, including cooperation between customs and frontiers services. Particular location of our country, acting as a shield on a way to illicit arms trafficking should be underlined.

Kazakhstan supports the UN Register of Conventional Arms providing information on a regular basis since 1992 and considering the Register as the most important

component of such a control. We also welcome the broadest participation of the UN Member-States in the functioning of this important international instrument.

Kazakhstan supports the provisions of the "OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons", which is also aimed at solving the problem of destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation of small arms by elaboration of norms, principles and measures in the field of manufacturing, marking, accounting, export control, transparency in transfer and control of stockpiles and reduction of small arms and light weapons surplus. We express the assurance, that the abovementioned document will make considerable contribution to the UN activity over this problem.

Mr. President,

There is a need to clarify the Conference Agenda. It is Kazakhstan's view that the Conference mandate should include only the issues of illicit small arms trade. Admitting the possibility of transference of the part of arms from the legal into illegal market, we consider it's necessary to work towards strengthening of national export legislations. We are proceeding from the fact that nowadays the establishment of additional international mechanisms on the control over legal production and trade in light weapons will be inefficient. One of the real steps towards this should be universality of the UN Register, strengthening of regional measures, including the OSCE measures, as well as the UN and other international institutions' assistance in the field of small arms arsenal reduction through its elimination redemption and food barter.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to express our sincere hope that this Conference will assist to the creation of global agreement under the UN auspices and become a considerable milestone in resolving problems of control and prevention of illicit small arms trade. In this context I would like to assure you of my delegation's cooperation to assist you in achieving that goal.

Thank you, Mr. President.