



# KAZAKHSTAN

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## STATEMENT

by

**H.E. MR. YERZHAN KH. KAZYKHANOV**

**AMBASSADOR,**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT**

**THE UNITED NATIONS FIRST BIENNIAL MEETING  
OF STATES TO CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT,  
COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN  
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

**8 JULY 2003, NEW YORK**

Madam Chairperson,  
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere and warmest congratulations on your election to the Presidency of this First Biennial Meeting of States to consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action. We welcome this move as a convincing evidence that Japan's contribution to the solution of the problem of small arms are widely recognized. My congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau.

Madam Chairperson,

The year 2001 marked a watershed in the global effort to understand and address the problems created by the proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons. Programme of Action, adopted by consensus during the 2001 UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, represents an unprecedented high-level effort to achieve an international consensus on the nature of the problem and the most urgent measures to deal with its different dimensions. The document contains very ambitious and far-reaching goals and they are the following: to define the nature of the problem, to provide a tool for policy-makers and activists, to mobilize national and multilateral resources and to promote the development of international and national norms. Despite the existing discretion in interpretation of the Programme of Action a relatively wide consensus has emerged that the problem of small arms and light weapons ought to be addressed on a multilateral base. 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. We believe that the UN should play a leading role in this process.

Madam Chairperson,

The Programme of Action commits States to implement a wide range of measures at the national level.

In this regard, I would like to dwell on my Government's activities aimed at preventing the illegal trafficking in small arms.

Kazakhstan implements measures to tighten established controls over export, manufacture and supply of small arms and light weapons in order to mitigate their illicit proliferation. The transfer of Kazakhstan's weapons

abroad, including small arms and light weapons, is carried out in accordance with strict national regulations.

The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan On the Export Control of Weapons, Military Technology and Dual-Use Goods adopted in 1996 is the cornerstone of the national system of the export control regulation. The Law establishes the procedure of the arms export control, including small arms, stipulates licensing and provides for responsibility for its violation. A license to entities producing fire-arms is issued only after its approval by interested Ministries and Departments of the Republic of Kazakhstan, including law enforcement agencies.

Annually, Kazakhstan implements efficient preventive measures aimed at uncovering crimes with use of fire-arms and explosives. Since 2001 and to date, more than 36 000 small arms have been taken out of the illegal circulation. All these arms and ammunitions are destroyed by mechanical deformation, cutting or smelting in special stoves.

Today, Kazakhstan is leading the way in the region of Central Asia in the efforts to establish a national legislation in the field of export control. According to international experts, this control fully meets existing requirements. We continue to take practical steps in order to improve this legislation.

Further contributing to the global efforts to tackle the problem of small arms, the Government of Kazakhstan held in May 2002 in Almaty the final regional OSCE Conference on prevention of illegal proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Asia. It was the first effort to identify problems related to the illicit trafficking in small arms in Central Asia through the information exchange. This Conference was preceded by a series of preparatory seminars and workshops in Central Asian countries.

In this context, as stated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mr. K.Tokaev during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, Kazakhstan is willing to host in 2004 an international Conference on this subject under the auspices of the United Nations.

With regard to the measures taken by the countries on the regional level, one should take into consideration existing differences not only on the magnitude of the problems to be solved but also on the scope of relevant legal instruments. The countries of Central Asia are interested in setting up the national programmes of export control, arranging mutual information exchange, adopting unified control lists and implementing joint law enforcement activities, including cooperation between customs and border guard units. It is particularly important in view of Afghanistan's proximity to the region. For more than twenty years, Afghanistan has been one of the

largest drug producers and a center 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 has been used for training of terrorists who have made hostile incursions into the neighboring countries of Central Asia. And even today the situation in this country is far from being stable.

We have to acknowledge that drug production and trafficking, involving drug dealers and criminal structures, are closely connected with the illegal dissemination of small arms. For this reason, Kazakhstan is gravely concerned by the close links between terrorism, organized crime, drug trade, and the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Madam Chairperson,

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 the export control system. This year Kazakhstan provided information to the Register and data on military expenditures for the fiscal year 2002. We 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. We express confidence that this document will make a considerable contribution to global efforts to implement the Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

Madam Chairperson,

I would be remiss if I do not point out the gender aspect of the small arms and light weapons problem. As a matter of fact, small arms account for the greatest number of conflict-related deaths of women and children. I believe that this fact alone could be a good reason to join our efforts to address the problem facing us. Today's meeting is yet another important step in that direction and I would like to assure you of my delegation's fullest cooperation.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.