



KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT

by

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of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations**

at

**the United Nations Second 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**

12 July 2005

New York

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere and warmest congratulations on your election to the Presidency of the Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action.

I am confident that under your leadership our meeting will make a great contribution to the international effort to reduce the devastating impact of the illegal trade in small arms.

Mr. Chairman,

In the 21st century, the world community has to deal with international terrorism, illicit arms and drug trafficking, organized crime and continued armed conflicts, which are all interrelated problems that cry out for coordinated and joint efforts of the entire international community.

Small arms and light weapons continue to destroy communities and threaten our peace and security. According to UN estimates, there are 600 million small arms and light weapons in circulation worldwide, and of 49 major conflicts in the 1990's, 47 were waged with those weapons.

It is crucially important to develop and implement agreed international measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking and manufacturing of small arms and light weapons and to reduce their excessive and destabilizing accumulations throughout the world. We believe that the United Nations should play a leading role in this process.

It is encouraging to note that since the First Biennial Meeting, the United Nations has considerably stepped up its efforts to prevent illicit trade in conventional weapons. Kazakhstan welcomes this development, including entry into force, a few days ago, of a legally binding UN Firearms Protocol, which should contribute to the efforts to ensure international peace and security. Currently, Kazakhstan is implementing national procedures to ensure the accession to the Protocol.

A few weeks ago, another politically binding UN instrument for timely and reliable identification and tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons was negotiated. We believe that this instrument will broaden and strengthen the measures undertaken by States within the framework of the Programme of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Kazakhstan attaches great importance to consistent implementation of the Programme of Action and we have submitted our detailed report on this issue.

Kazakhstan supports the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms by providing information on a regular basis and considers the Register as the most important component of the export control system. We are also in favour of another transparency measure taken by the United Nations - the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures - and cosponsor a draft resolution on this issue in the First Committee. Kazakhstan also 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 above-mentioned Programme of Action.

Kazakhstan considers it important to strengthen its national export control system. We also believe that expanded cooperation between States to improve export control systems is a very effective way to counter international terrorism. Such cooperation can be especially meaningful at the regional level.

In March 2004, through cooperation with the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs and its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, Kazakhstan hosted a regional conference in Almaty. Participants from Central Asia were able to exchange information and share experiences on major problems and challenges and regional cooperation and multilateral efforts in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

At the initiative of the law enforcement agencies, the practice of biannual targeted operational and preventive campaigns, entitled "Karu", to prevent and detect crimes committed with the aid of firearms, explosives and explosive devices, and to remove those items from illegal circulation, was established in Kazakhstan in 1995. In 2004, agencies seized and removed from circulation 11,121 illicit weapons, including fully automatic weapons, rifles and carbines, home-made arms and pistols.

As a result of these measures, registered crimes involving illegal circulation of these arms are relatively insignificant and constitute some 1,5 or 2 percent of all crimes in Kazakhstan.

In addition, Kazakhstan is completing preparations for accession to the international non-proliferation regime under the Wassenaar Arrangement, which will significantly improve control over the circulation of all types of conventional weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me again express confidence that this meeting will be productive and will make an important contribution to the struggle of the international community against the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

I wish you successful and fruitful work. Thank you for your attention.