

Joint Statement by

H.E. Mr. Beibut Atamkulov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

and

Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

Astana, 29 August 2019

1. On the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, unanimously proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly at the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, we reaffirm our commitment to realizing a world free of nuclear testing and renew our resolve to achieve the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).
2. 29 August is a symbolic date for Kazakhstan and the international community. It marks the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in 1991. This historic decision sent a strong political message and contributed to the international efforts that led to the adoption of the CTBT in 1996. We appreciate the important support Kazakhstan has provided and continues to provide to the CTBTO.
3. This decision by the First President of Kazakhstan will be symbolically reflected this year through the Award Ceremony of the “Nazarbayev Prize for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World and Global Security”.
4. This year Kazakhstan has chosen the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and late Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to be awarded with the “Nazarbayev Prize for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World and Global Security”. This Prize has a special meaning. It is to acknowledge the important contribution of the recipients of the award to global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.
5. We take this opportunity to honour the memory of Mr Yukiya Amano, the late Director General of the IAEA who passed away in July 2019. We pay tribute to him for his efforts towards a world free from nuclear weapons.
6. Kazakhstan and the CTBTO encourage States and the civil society to join forces to put an end to nuclear testing through advancing the much needed entry into force of the CTBT.
7. We urge those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so without delay. We especially call on the remaining eight CTBT Annex 2 States, whose ratifications are required for the Treaty's entry into force, to demonstrate leadership by taking this important step.
8. We invite all States to attend the International Day against Nuclear Tests commemoration at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, which will take place on 9 September 2019.
9. It is high time to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force. Let us take the last steps of this long journey and finish one of the longest sought international instruments in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament. We owe it to ourselves, and to future generations.