

ACTION *Mr. Kim*COPY *DSG*
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Mr. Feltman
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Excellency, *Dear Secretary-General* *N1034*
New York, 27 August 2015

I am honoured to inform you that on 27 August 2015, the Government of Kazakhstan signed an agreement with Dr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to establish an International Low-Enriched Uranium (LEU) Fuel Bank in the country in 2017. This is one more milestone in Kazakhstan's ongoing and resolute efforts towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, proving once again to be a leader in nuclear responsibility, following the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in 1991, and renouncing its nuclear arsenal, the fourth largest in the world.

The Bank will be located at the Ulba Metallurgical Plant (UMP) in Eastern Kazakhstan, known for its large mining and metals industry. The UMP is a licensed nuclear site with commercial scale operations, equipped with infrastructure to safely and securely store and transport LEU in strong steel cylinders for many years without any deterioration. LEU is not nuclear waste, nor is any waste generated by simply storing it. Kazakhstan has 60 years of proven experience in civil nuclear fuel supply with the most modern technology.

This IAEA LEU Bank is meant to be a physical reserve of up to 90 metric tons of LEU, nominally enriched to 4.95%, suitable to make fuel for a typical light water reactor, which is the most widely used type of nuclear power reactor worldwide. Such a reactor can power a large city for three years. A key principle of this bank is an assured supply mechanism of last resort, without distorting in any way the commercial market. Its existence also does not affect the rights of IAEA Member States to develop their own nuclear fuel cycle facilities. Funding for the establishment and operation of the Bank is fully by voluntary contributions, and has no impact on IAEA's budget or other activities. Donors have provided a total of US \$150 million and the Bank can operate for at least 10 years. We will be pleased to provide any further information that you may desire.

As H.E. Mr. Erlan Idrissov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan said, "The signing of this agreement is a significant step that will facilitate peaceful nuclear cooperation, an objective which Kazakhstan has worked tirelessly towards. The Bank is an important vehicle that will help create a safer world".

We record with deep appreciation and gratitude your own Five-Point Plan and committed leadership in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation that encourages Member States to go on the Path to Zero. Your vision to make the entire world a large nuclear-weapon-free-zone is an inspiring one. We are particularly thankful to you and the United Nations for supporting Kazakhstan's efforts aimed at nuclear arms control, and other key issues on the global agenda.

I close reiterating my country's deep commitment to work with other Member States in achieving the founding objectives of peace, security, development and human rights.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*With best wishes*Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov
Permanent RepresentativeH.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York*Dis/06/002*305 East 47th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA

KAZAKHSTAN FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL 2017-2018

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