



General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 January 2021

Original: English

Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 103

General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 5 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As we usher in 2021, I send you my best wishes for a bright year ahead of you and that all your visions and plans will be fully accomplished.

We, as a global community during this seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, are continuing to strive to work for the founding objectives of the United Nations for peace, security, sustainable development and human rights. These goals can be achieved only if we rid the world of the many threats that face us, key among them being the presence of a large number of nuclear warheads.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that the members of the Consultative Council of the Astana Club have come forward to support the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to create a Global Alliance of Leaders for Nuclear Security and a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World. The aim of such a coalition is to accelerate our momentum to amplify our collective call for a nuclear-weapon-free world by inviting world leaders of excellence and influence to join this noble cause.

I therefore kindly request you to circulate this joint call to all the members of the United Nations General Assembly so as to invite Heads of State and Government and distinguished citizens of our Member States to join this global alliance with its vision of nuclear security and a nuclear-weapon-free world.

I will be, therefore, grateful if the present letter and the joint call are disseminated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 103.

(Signed) Magzhan Ilyassov
Ambassador



Annex to the letter dated 5 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

A call to world leaders on the creation of a global alliance of leaders for nuclear security and a nuclear-weapon-free world

We, as the members of the **Consultative Council of the Astana Club**, support the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan **Nursultan Nazarbayev** on creation of a Global Alliance of Leaders for Nuclear Security and a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World and urge joint efforts to amplify our call for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World by inviting world leaders of excellence and influence to join our cause.

We deplore the steady erosion of the basic norms and fundamental principles enshrined in arms control and disarmament treaties.

Today with an estimated **13,400** nuclear warheads spread around the world, “the possible use of a nuclear weapon is all together greater than it has been since the darkest days of the Cold War” according to United Nations Secretary General António Guterres and most experts. **We have reached a critical tipping point that compels action.**

The Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists was set to 100 seconds to midnight this year, closer than ever since the clock was introduced in 1947.

In light of the above, we call for clear affirmation from all states that:

“A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.”

We emphasize the importance of the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons** as a basis for moving towards a world free of nuclear weapons. It is imperative that all parties to the Treaty fulfill their respective nonproliferation and disarmament commitments.

We urge all States that have not signed or ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to do so in order to achieve a **complete and universal ban on nuclear testing.**

We call for initiating **direct talks on nuclear security**, nonproliferation and disarmament between **all permanent members of the UN Security Council** as soon as possible. These countries bear special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

This call comes from Kazakhstan which suffered from the nearly **500 nuclear test explosions** on its soil and the **terrible cost** in health and well-being inflicted upon its citizens and set a noble example of having voluntarily given up an arsenal in excess of over 1,400 nuclear warheads.

We call on all political and social leaders who care about nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation to join us in the **Global Alliance of Leaders for Nuclear Security and a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World.**

It is only through joint efforts that we can build a future world free from the threat of nuclear war.