STATEMENT
by Mr. Murat Nurtileuov, Minister-Counselor of the Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office at Geneva
and other international organisations
at the Plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament

June 21, 2013

Mr. President,

As term of your office is coming to its end, allow me to express my deep appreciation
for a transparent, inclusive and flexible way in which you presided over this body for the past
several weeks. I assure you of our full support and cooperation in implementing your
mandate.

Mr. President,

Despite Kazakhstan's serious concerns about the long-lasting deadlock in the
Conference on Disarmament, today I would try to avoid any critical clichés. It is obvious for
us that absence of a positive move and political will sooner or later might result in various
scenarios. We are confident that it is our common responsibility to look for every opportunity
in critical situations like this.

With this in mind we gave a careful consideration to the document CD 1952 presented
by the Iranian Presidency. In this respect let me commend your active efforts as the President
of the CD aimed at finding a compromise solution. Many elements and approaches contained
in the Draft Program of work have been in circulation within the CD over the last several
months or more. It rather delicately assembles and connects many ideas put forward by
various delegations. In this sense the draft Program is received by our delegation as a result of
a collective effort of your predecessors and other colleagues.

The delegation of Kazakhstan also notes that the proposed draft incorporates the
simplified approach and we are ready to go along with it. Needless to say that the CD 1952 is
not necessarily ideal from our national perspective. We would prefer to have much stronger
language, envisaging negotiations on Nuclear disarmament, FMCT, prevention of arms race
in outer space and negative security assurances. As far as FMCT is concerned, we do not lose
our hope to find a common ground on the basis of the Shannon mandate. At the same time we
clearly understand that existing differences in priorities do not allow us to identify which
items are ripe for negotiations. However, if we can start substantial work on all four core
issues while papering over these differences for a while, this would still be a step forward. We
are all well aware that in the past the CD and its predecessors often started the work on
various issues without having “negotiating mandates”. That happened with the negotiations
leading to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to the CTBT.

Also, I wish to share some views on the text of the draft Program of work itself.
Namely, the document has been simplified to such a degree that a whole concept of
negotiations has become hardly visible (except for a hint to possible negotiations in the
second paragraph). Some delegations already highlighted this problem last Tuesday. For the
reasons I mentioned earlier, it would not be productive to try to re-insert the reference to negotiations in any of the mandates on the four core issues. But we would be grateful if a stronger reference to negotiations, at least to the responsibilities of the CD as the single multilateral negotiating forum, could be possible somewhere in the first two paragraphs of the CD 1952. This is our modest and constructive suggestion that may help us to overcome the present deadlock and concentrate on substance. But we are not making the acceptance of this proposal a condition for the adoption of the Program of work.

Mr. President,

At this critical junction when we attach a high priority to the commencement of a substantive work at the CD and to finding a fix for this year, we believe that improvements in working methods and rules of procedure of the CD are important. Among other things it would help us to avoid lengthy deadlocks in the future which already have become a trademark of this distinguished body. We share the view that the key to our progress is the political will. Nevertheless we also believe that political will is not something that can appear like *deus ex machina*. It has to be developed, nurtured, assisted. It also takes a lot of continuous interaction among delegations on substance.

In this context we welcome the proposals presented on June 18, 2013 by the Secretary General of the CD, namely, the establishment of an informal working group to produce, a new type of Work Program – robust in substance and progressive in implementation, setting up a subsidiary body on improvement of working methods and designating a special coordinator on expansion of the membership and on the role of the civil society. This is something, in our view, that can help generate a broader discussion on the role and work of the CD and eventually overcome certain negative preconceptions and introduce a greater collective spirit into our common work.

Before concluding my remarks, Mr. President, I would like to briefly share our preliminary reaction to arms control and disarmament proposals, contained in the speech by the US President Barak Obama the day before yesterday in Berlin.

We certainly welcome US continuous support for a Fissile material cut-off treaty, and this is an issue of a direct relevance to the CD. For Kazakhstan, which unremittingly stresses significance of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and champions its early entry into force, it was heartening to see the firm commitment of Obama administration to the ratification of this treaty. Without any doubt, the most far-reaching element of the speech was a conclusion that the US deterrence could still be guaranteed with much lower number of the deployed strategic nuclear weapons. We hail all efforts to reduce the reliance on nuclear weapons and to move beyond the cold-war nuclear postures. And we do believe that other States possessing nuclear weapons also will join this positive trend to contribute to the achievement of our common goal - a world free from nuclear threat.

I thank you Mr. President.