

Statement
by His Excellency Mr. Yerzhan Kh. Kazykhanov,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the International Organizations in Vienna,
at the meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors
(7 June 2010)

Agenda Item 4 (a): Technical Cooperation Report for 2009

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano for the submission of his Technical Cooperation Report for 2009.

We support the principal provisions of the aforementioned report and the Agency's approach in this important area of activity, as outlined by Deputy Director General Ana Maria Cetto's presentation. *The document under consideration by the Board of Governors reflects the full range of activities undertaken by the Agency in the area of technical cooperation, including information about national and regional projects and their outcomes as well as measures to mobilize resources within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF).*

Kazakhstan positively assesses the Agency's activities in the area of technical cooperation, which is the main mechanism for achieving the statutory goal of the Agency – the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes throughout the entire world.

According to the new report, in 2009 technical cooperation program resources stood at \$112.2 million, increasing from the 2008 total of \$91.5 million. These figures illustrate the Member States' firm support of the Agency's technical cooperation activities.

The report also notes that within the framework of the TC cycle for 2009-2011 the number of projects related to nuclear energy has increased three-fold. Member States expect the Agency to continue providing valuable assistance in the development of their respective national nuclear energy infrastructures.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is convinced that the assistance provided by the Agency to the Member States in such areas as health, environmental protection, water resources management, food security and agricultural productivity will be of special significance in the context of meeting the Millennium Development Goals. We support the Agency's efforts to further strengthen collaboration between international organizations within

the UN system in order to accomplish major development objectives. It is our belief that the Agency should continue increasing its efforts to strengthen the technical capacity of the Member States and assist them in their social and economic development.

At the same time, an adequate and assured amount of resources should be available to the Agency so that it could effectively carry out activities in the area of technical cooperation. Kazakhstan promptly and fully pays its voluntary contributions to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Fund. Moreover, in 2009, Kazakhstan made another voluntary contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund.

Over the years of our country's participation in the Technical Cooperation Program, Kazakh institutions have been presented with a wide spectrum of nuclear know-how and technologies, and a significant number of Kazakh specialists have received training and upgraded their skills at the world's leading nuclear centers.

The report also mentions the Agency's project currently under way in Kazakhstan, entitled KAZ/6/007 "Establishment of a Nuclear Medicine and Biophysics Centre". Under this project, with the active support of the IAEA, a Republican Diagnostic Center was established in Astana in 2009. Next in line is the launch of a Center of Nuclear Medicine and Biophysics in Almaty. The secretariat of the Agency has already trained Kazakh specialists in isotope production and the use of cyclotrons to prepare them for work at that Center.

In 2009 the Agency launched a project, entitled KAZ/6/009 "Establishing a Nuclear Medicine Department at the East Kazakhstan Oncology Center № 2". The creation of a Nuclear Medicine Department in a region that has been hit especially hard as a result of decades-long nuclear weapons testing at the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site would provide for an early-detection of different types of cancers, cardiovascular diseases, and other ailments which are most frequent among those who live in that part of Kazakhstan.

This year, one of our top priorities is to work together with the IAEA in a joint evaluation of the radiological and environmental situation at the former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site. As a result of these efforts, international experts and IAEA representatives are to confirm Kazakhstan's findings regarding the radiological and environmental situation of the territory and indicate whether it is possible to develop an uncontaminated part of the test site. Taking into account that the vast territory occupied by the test site, totaling more than 18,500 sq.km., is not currently being actively used for economic activities, that issue is of great importance both for Kazakhstan and the IAEA.

In this regard, I would like to express my appreciation to the IAEA for sending its first expert mission to Semipalatinsk last week. We expect that, by the end of this year, thanks to our joint efforts, we will be in a position to release the northern stretch of the test site, totaling some 3,000 sq.km. for civilian uses.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that technical cooperation with the Agency is an integral part of the development of peaceful nuclear technologies in Kazakhstan and that my country is ready to continue to do all it can to contribute to the further enhancement of the Agency's capacity in that area.

Thank you for your attention.