



**United Nations Office
for Disarmament Affairs**

**Reception dedicated to the International Day Against Nuclear Tests
by the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations**

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As delivered



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Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
305 East 47th Street

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to join you at this reception to mark the International Day against Nuclear Tests. Let me also extend my thanks to the Government of Kazakhstan, whose leadership and vision made this Day possible.

Kazakhstan's roles in chairing the second session of the NPT PrepCom and the third meeting of States Parties to the TPNW further demonstrated its already unwavering commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

It has been Kazakhstan's leadership on nuclear testing – emerging from the shadow of Semipalatinsk – for which we owe an immense debt of gratitude.

From the closure of the largest and most devastating Soviet test site to its tireless advocacy in the General Assembly, Kazakhstan has ensured that the impact of nuclear testing, and its victims, are not forgotten by future generations.

This day carries particular weight this year. It marks 80 years since the first nuclear test in 1945 – the beginning of a legacy of more than 2,000 nuclear explosions whose human, environmental and moral costs remain with us to this day. We gather here not only to remember this history, but to reaffirm that it must never be repeated.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty remains the foundation of our efforts in that regard. It is through this treaty that the world seeks to outlaw nuclear testing once and for all. It has established a strong global norm and an unparalleled verification system through the invaluable work of the CTBTO. But

until it enters into force, the threat of nuclear testing lingers – and we cannot and should not allow that.

As the Secretary-General said in his message today, nuclear tests “deepen the cracks in the foundation of global trust, stability and peace.” The world cannot afford another nuclear explosion, under any circumstances, in any place.

Let us therefore honour the victims and survivors of nuclear tests, and Kazakhstan’s leadership, not only in words, but through action – by working together to finally close the book on nuclear testing.

Thank you very much.