



**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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High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

As delivered



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Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to join you at this reception marking the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

I would like to thank the Government of Kazakhstan and its Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Kairat Umarov, for hosting what has now become an important annual event.

Kazakhstan played a leading role in establishing this International Day and in ensuring that the consequences of nuclear testing are never forgotten. That leadership reaches far beyond this commemoration.

In recent years, Kazakhstan has chaired both a Preparatory Committee for the NPT and a Meeting of States Parties for the TPNW. Just earlier this year, Ambassador Umarov ably steered Main Committee II at the Eleventh NPT Review Conference, offering yet another example of Kazakhstan's constructive diplomacy and commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons.

2026 marks thirty-five years since the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. Out of this painful legacy, Kazakhstan has built a sustained record of leadership on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, showing how the lessons of the past can guide the choices we make in the present and help shape the future.

This anniversary coincides with another milestone – thirty years since the CTBT opened for signature.

In his message, the Secretary-General's said "humanity can and must choose restraint over ruin."

At a moment of growing geopolitical tension and eroding trust, and when concerns about a possible return to nuclear explosive testing have re-emerged, that choice becomes especially crucial.

The norm against nuclear testing – among the most hard-won gains of the nuclear era – represents choosing restraint.

Any renewed explosive testing could send us down the path to ruin.

It would deepen mistrust, encourage others to also test and further erode the guardrails against the use of nuclear weapons. The international community must remain united in rejecting that course.

Over the past thirty years, the CTBT has helped establish a powerful global norm against nuclear testing and build a remarkable verification regime.

Yet only its entry into force and full implementation can establish a permanent, legally binding and verifiable prohibition on nuclear testing.

As an international community, we have a responsibility to those who continue to bear the consequences of nuclear testing. Honouring victims and survivors requires more than remembrance. It calls for sustained international efforts to provide victim assistance, advance environmental remediation and ensure that such suffering is never repeated.

I thank Kazakhstan for the pivotal role it has played in keeping these humanitarian and environmental consequences at the forefront of the international agenda, drawing on its own experience to advance greater recognition of the needs of affected communities and environments.

Bringing the CTBT into force is essential to preventing such harm in the future.

You can all count on the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs as a close and committed partner in this joint endeavour.

Together, let us carry forward the choice made at Semipalatinsk thirty-five years ago – to keep nuclear testing in the past, strengthen the global norm against testing and bring the CTBT into force.

Thank you very much and I look forward to continuing collaboration.