

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**  
**by H.E. Mr.Yerzhan ASHIKBAYEV,**  
**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan,**  
**at the brainstorming session “Responsible Governance, Disarmament**  
**and Non-proliferation for Progress and Sustainable Development”**  
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Distinguished Facilitator,  
Distinguished President,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, let me thank our co-hosts, namely the Permanent Missions of Belarus and Suriname, for organizing together with Kazakhstan, as well as with UNDP this event entitled “Responsible Governance, Disarmament and Non-proliferation for Progress and Sustainable Development”. On behalf of all the organizers, I thank President Thomson for his support of this event and Assistant Secretary-General Sultanoglu for serving as moderator. The variety of distinguished speakers and participants reflects the very interdisciplinary and multidimensional nature of the theme we are going to discuss during the brainstorming session.

The correlation of Sustainable Development, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation is indeed one of the most challenging and overarching issues that deserves special consideration. National endeavors by individual states must be complemented by efforts towards a secure and safe environment, achieved through non-proliferation and disarmament by other counterparts and stakeholders. Kazakhstan considers the Security-Development nexus as the bedrock for the implementation of the 17 internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals.

In the numerous list of steps undertaken by my country in the noble course of global disarmament, I would like to mention that President Nazarbayev, in March 2016, presented to the international community his Manifesto called, The World. The 21st century. In this document Kazakhstan underlines the fragility of the world that we live in, taking into account the enormous military threats posed by the most lethal weapons in modern history, including nuclear arms. It is in our hands to change the paradigm and declare war on wars and conflicts.

As the country with well-known record in disarmament and non-proliferation fields, we are very eager to do our utmost in contributing to diminish the threat of deadly wars for all times. As is widely recognized, there can be no sustainable development without peace.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev, in his address during the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, called on Member States to contribute 1 per cent of their annual military budgets for sustainable development. This initiative allows for the intertwining trends of non-proliferation and disarmament to be channeled into

promoting and maintaining peace and sustainable development, because of the deployment of financial resources for the noble purposes of ensuring stable societies for human betterment.

The underlying rationale of such an initiative is to re-direct military spending into development efforts, working both at the national and global levels. With an overwhelming total budget of about \$1.7 trillion for militarization in 2015, 1 per cent of this would make a significant contribution to complement and bridge the resource gap in the comprehensive development roadmap to 2030.

Unfortunately, during the last two decades, the emphasis on the reduction of military expenditures has been more as an expedient and an instrument for transparency and confidence building measure, rather than as a development-targeted tool. In the 21st century, we all need peace, leading us to a resilient and sustainable future. This is the key mission of our time. It should be our common belief nowadays that Sustainable Development is inversely linked to the process of Disarmament.

In order to understand the possible obstacles and solutions in realizing this initiative and, thus, to be able to contribute to the global process, last year at the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute undertook a study and issued the report called, "On the Proposal for States to Donate One Percent of their Annual Military Spending to Sustainable Development". This report seeks to evaluate the proposal in terms of its feasibility, the challenges that would need to be overcome to implement it. Today, we will have the chance to hear directly about its scope and possibilities from the very author of this research, Professor Sam Perlo-Freeman.

I deliver the message of Kazakhstan to contribute to the discussion on how to make more feasible and achievable the pledge to build a more secure, prosperous and safer world. We, as organizers of this brainstorming session, invite the participants to share their extensive experience and cutting-edge knowledge to generate approaches for the fulfillment of the SDGs.

Thank you.