Statement
by
Israil Tilegen
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
at the Thematic Debate of the First Committee, "Conventional weapons"

69th session of the United Nations General Assembly
(22 October 2014, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

This debate on conventional arms is a critical component of our disarmament and non-proliferation effort to ensure a peaceful and secure world.

Like all other Member States, my delegation notes with great appreciation the unwavering efforts of Governments and civil society that made possible the historic adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty, which will soon come into force in December this year. We now have to ensure that we prevent all forms of irresponsible arms transfers which fuel conflict, poverty and serious human rights abuses and violation of international law. The must become a legally binding international instrument, reflecting the current obligations of Member States to international law. We therefore must consider a strong monitoring mechanism in the so-called “gray areas” that remain outside the regime of conventional arms control, namely past and recent conflict zones, which deserve our special attention.

While Kazakhstan also recognizes the independent sovereignty of states and their right to self-defense, it calls for demarcating regulations for all kinds of conventional arms. The International Tracing Instrument (ITI) is thus a key tool in the global effort and must seek ways to develop norms for measuring its effectiveness to identify and trace illicit weapons in a timely and reliable manner, resulting in greater transparency and confidence-building among Member States.

We have efficient preventive measures to uncover crimes with the use of firearms and explosives, as a result of which thousands of arms have been taken out of illegal circulation. Today, we are leading the way in Central Asia to establish national legislation on export control. As OSCE Chair, Kazakhstan held regional meetings and worked relentlessly to prevent the proliferation of illegal circulation of such weapons, especially, because of the proximity to the territory of Afghanistan. We support the UN Registry of Arms as well as the provisions of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

However, to realize this objective, it is important that countries also maintain their own national effective firearms tracing mechanism, which many countries still lack. This is particularly the case in countries emerging from armed conflicts which are usually characterized by widespread circulation of illicit arms and ammunition. We need international cooperation for technical, financial, or other assistance to achieve the success we want to see.

To conclude, we hope our multilateral action in regulating conventional weapons will be reinforced by strong and sincere political commitment and cooperation to make strides towards global peace, security and stability.

Thank you.