

**Statement of the Center for International Security and Policy
at the second session of the nuclear weapon ban treaty conference
June 2017, New York**

Delivered by Alimzhan Akhmetov, CISP Director

**Madam President,
Distinguished delegates,**

First of all, let me express my gratitude to the authors of the draft Convention for your work. We have made another step towards the prohibition of these inhumane weapons.

We sincerely hope that the state will manage to agree and approve the text of the draft Convention during the second session of the Conference.

At the same time, let me draw your attention to the following.

The draft Convention on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons seeks to address two issues: the **prohibition** and **elimination** of nuclear weapons.

Aspiration to address these issues in one document, in our opinion, causes many questions, for example attracting the IAEA.

This may lengthen the negotiation process and distract from the main objective of developing and adopting the Convention – **filling the legal gap on the prohibition of nuclear weapons**.

We think it is important to stress that, in our opinion, the **draft Convention is aimed at formalizing the “point of no return” – the signing and entry into force of the first international treaty on legal prohibition of nuclear weapons**.

Taking this into account, we think that a legally binding instrument on the prohibition of nuclear weapons should consist at least of two parts (*treaties, conventions*). These are:

- complete and comprehensive **prohibition** of nuclear weapons (*Convention 1*);
- **elimination** of nuclear weapons, timeframe and mechanisms of verification, as well as establishment of a specialized Agency for these purposes (*Convention 2*).

In this regard we think it is appropriate to **reflect** the articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and Annex in the Convention 2.

We think it is appropriate to **include** in the draft Convention an **additional article** that *“nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Convention to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes”* (NPT language).

The title of **Article 18** is proposed to be outlined with the wording *“Duration and Withdrawal from the Convention*.

Moreover, paragraphs 2 and 3 are proposed to **be deleted and outlined in one paragraph** with the following wording: *“Withdrawal from this Convention shall not be permitted”*.

Taking into account that nuclear weapons threaten the very survival of humankind, the proposed standard wording on the right of a state to withdraw from the Convention to protect the supreme interests of the country seems rather absurd.

**Madam President,
Distinguished delegates,**

These and other equally important issues are outlined in details in the working paper of the Center No. A/CONF.229/2017/NGO/WP.31.

Thank you for your attention.
