

WELCOMING SPEECH
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ISSUES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
NON-PROLIFERATION IN TAJIKISTAN

Over a period of 20 century, starting from First World War, the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) arouse serious concern of world community. Geneva protocol of 1925 prohibits the use of chemical and biological weapons. Once nuclear weapon was created, the WMD distributions become the subject of high concern.

Besides, during the end of “cold war”, regional conflicts, collapse of Soviet Union, as well as access to sensitive technologies considerably increase the danger of WMD distribution. More than 10 countries have active programs, relating to WMD and, possibly, more than ten countries have potential to start implementing such kinds of programs.

Nowadays, transnational organized criminal groups and international terrorist networks are appeared in the world scene, which show interest in obtaining an access to sensitive materials, technologies, weapons and their distribution. After 11 September events, the risk of such WMD components use by such forces for Governments blackmail become real scene, which, despite of low possibility of this threat implementation, could have very serious and disastrous consequences.

International community responded to these problems and challenges, basically through the following actions, which is detailed regime development of multilateral international treaties, directed to WMD distribution prevention. Non-

proliferation treaty of nuclear weapons, Convention on prohibition of chemical weapons and Convention on prohibition of biological and toxin weapons are some of them.

As it is known, Tajikistan signed all these treaties. For different reasons these treaties were subject of serious tests. Nuclear weapons tests in India and Pakistan in 1998y, actual Israel status as state having nuclear weapon and North Korean program on nuclear weapon creation are also represent serious challenges to nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty regime. That's why it is high time to accept new UN Security Council resolution, which puts under a ban countries withdrawal from nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty.

In this regard conducting of regional and international meetings on WMD non-proliferation has an important meaning.

I welcome all our guests on Tajik land. I would like to welcome all of you on behalf of Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency (State Regulatory Authority) of the Republic of Tajikistan for this conference on WMD non-proliferation.

I hope that your stay in Dushanbe will be pleasant and useful. I would like to welcome ISTC representatives who are presenting here. They supported and made a lot of efforts and preparation stages were on proper level as well as provide big financial support. Also I would like to thank participants from Central Asian countries, who found time and attended this workshop.

Tajikistan gives big consideration to fulfillment of all treaties on WMD non-proliferation and sequentially fulfills its obligations in accordance with these international legal instruments.

We understand that obligations fulfillment of these treaties requires conducting a number of measures. It includes:

- ü Strengthening of physical protection
- ü Strengthening of borders and customs services
- ü Equipment modernization and personnel training on issues of nuclear materials export and import.

A specific consideration Tajikistan gives to improving of legislative basis. Parliament adopted a number of laws, which facilitates to WMD non-proliferation.

Republic of Tajikistan signed Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1997 and ratified Agreement on Safeguards and Additional Protocol with IAEA in 2004. All these documents facilitates to WMD non-proliferation.

Please allow me to consider the International Conference on Issues of WMD Non-Proliferation in Central Asia open.