

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
Information and Press Department

Press Release

**On the Signing of the Treaty Establishing a Central Asian
Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone**

Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan signed a treaty establishing a Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan on September 8, 2006.

The treaty was negotiated with the active participation of the United Nations and in accordance with the principles and guidelines on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones that were adopted by the UN Disarmament Commission in 1999.

The establishment of a Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is an important step strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime. We consider that the treaty will facilitate the strengthening of peace and security in the Central Asian region and will make a substantial contribution to the struggle against international terrorism and the prevention of nuclear materials and technology falling into the hands of non-state actors.

Russia has consistently supported the initiative of the Central Asian states to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and welcomes the signing of the treaty.

September 8, 2006

Translated by CNS from the original Russian.

Russian original available at:

http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/sps/44A814D18B63BD90C32571E300516C55