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# U.S. - Kazakhstan Cooperation on Nuclear Security and Nonproliferation

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The United States of America and the Republic of Kazakhstan have cooperated on a broad range of nuclear security and nonproliferation topics for nearly two decades. The partnership was established under the umbrella of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Agreement signed in December 1993. Today, the Departments of Energy, Defense, and State work closely with the Government of Kazakhstan to support President Obama's initiatives to secure vulnerable nuclear material and strengthen the global nuclear nonproliferation regime.

At the end of the Cold War, Kazakhstan inherited a vast nuclear weapons infrastructure, which included 1,410 nuclear warheads. Working in close cooperation with the United States, as well as Russia, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and many other international partners, Kazakhstan eliminated or removed from its territory all 1,410 nuclear warheads, dismantled the infrastructure of the Semipalatinsk test site, and destroyed or removed hundreds of missiles, bombers, and tactical nuclear warheads.

Kazakhstan remains a vital and strategic partner in some of the most important nuclear security and nonproliferation efforts worldwide. The United States and Kazakhstan are cooperating to make the world safer from the threat of nuclear terrorism by converting and removing nuclear materials that may be attractive to terrorists, securing nuclear material at production and storage facilities, combating the trafficking of illicit nuclear materials, and protecting radiological materials that could be used in radiological dispersal devices to cause widespread disruption. In addition, both countries are strongly committed to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and are working together to continue reducing the proliferation threats associated nuclear materials, technologies, and expertise.

## Securing Nuclear and Radiological Material

- **Converting and Removing Nuclear Material:** Minimizing the amount of highly enriched uranium (HEU) available internationally reduces the danger of attractive nuclear material falling into the wrong hands. The United States and Kazakhstan cooperate to convert HEU into low-enriched uranium, which cannot be used to make a nuclear weapon.