

Remarks for the 9 September 2010 Consultation on *Prioritizing the NPT Action Plan*

Francis Finlay, Chairman of the Board, EastWest Institute

Good afternoon Excellencies, distinguished guests, and friends of the EastWest Institute:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the EastWest Institute, which I have the honor of chairing, I would like to welcome you to this consultation on prioritizing the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) action plan, which we are co-hosting with the government of Kazakhstan. I am particularly honored to be here with Mr. Umarov, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, our distinguished panelists, and the United Nations community to observe the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

At the EastWest Institute, we have worked to achieve breakthroughs on some of the most contentious issues in nonproliferation and disarmament. As many of you may recall, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon announced his five point proposal at the October 24th 2008 breakthrough consultation hosted by the EastWest Institute and partners, also at the UN. In that speech, the Secretary-General articulated the need for a nuclear weapons convention, greater transparency, and security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states. The Secretary General rightly stated that a world free of nuclear weapons was a “global public good of the highest order.”

Continuing that endeavor, the EastWest Institute is delighted to co-host this consultation on prioritizing the NPT action plan. Today we are here to discuss, for the first time, the

ambitious Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review conference. The final document, which was unanimously adopted, outlines a 64-point action plan and includes concrete steps for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. This consultation will focus on best ways to implement that action plan and identify cooperative leadership opportunities in ongoing disarmament and nonproliferation efforts.

Before our panelist remarks I would like to introduce His Excellency Kairat Umarov, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Umarov at an EastWest Institute dinner honoring President Nazerbayev of Kazakhstan on the occasion of the Nuclear Security Summit. And I am honored to be here with him again today as well as with Madame Byrganbym Aitimova, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in New York.

Kazakhstan has been a visionary and courageous leader in international disarmament efforts. Kazakhstan's bold decision in 1991 led to the dismantling of nuclear test facilities, elimination of 104 intercontinental ballistic missiles and 1,410 nuclear warheads. Kazakhstan was also the driving force behind the Semipalatinsk Treaty creating the Central Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. The government of Kazakhstan has set a precedent for others to follow as the global community comes to grip with the dangerous realities of nuclear proliferation. And Mr. Umarov has been moving force in Kazakhstan's leadership achievements. He has had a distinguished career in Kazakhstan's diplomatic service, has been a leader in nonproliferation and disarmament efforts, and was an active participant in "Nevada-Semipalatinsk" International Anti-Nuclear Movement. He most

recently served as Ambassador to India. Deputy Minister, we look forward to your remarks.