



AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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Exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other
High-Level Officials on the
**“Current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament
and the role of international organizations with mandates in this field”**

Statement *by*

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(OPANAL)

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Mr Chairman,

I wish to thank you and the First Committee for inviting the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) to take part in this panel. I would also like to present my compliments to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and express my pleasure to share this rostrum with distinguished colleagues from other international organizations.

According to the document “Indicative timetable for structured discussion of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach on disarmament and international security” A/C.1/72/CRP.2Rev.1, we are here to exchange views on the current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament.

The impact of technology is closely connected as far as disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control are connected to verification. As you know, the control system established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco is based on two main aspects or mechanisms. The first is the semi-annual affidavits, notifications by States Party that no activity prohibited by the Treaty has taken place in their respective territories. The second is the full scope safeguards agreements that each Part concluded with the IAEA. I would also mention the role of the Argentinian-Brazilian Agency for Accounting and Control of nuclear materials -ABAACC, which covers the two States with bigger nuclear programmes in the Region.

No need to say that the Treaty of Tlatelolco has been fully complied with in its 50 years of existence.

Secondly,

I should also mention General Assembly Resolution 71/67 “Nuclear Disarmament Verification” which updates previous resolutions on the matter and especially establishes a group of governmental experts, composed of up to 25 members to discuss the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament which will meet in 2018 and 2019. The non-governmental institution –Verification, Research and Information Centre –VERTIC, recently organized a series of regional workshops to discuss the need of scientific support –by means of a specialized group to help the work of the GGE.

Thirdly,

We have noticed in this discussion the preponderance of verification and detection of forbidden activities concerning nuclear weapons directed to the non-armed. They, the non-armed nuclear States, present the risk of becoming armed.

What about the verification of the armed States, all of them? This is a matter of great concern object of recently reconsiderations by NPT Review Conferences.

For example, are nuclear weapons possessors fully satisfying the expectations regarding transparency?

Fourthly,

Member States of OPANAL are much more preoccupied with the development of technology for the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and development of new types of these weapons. They demand the cessation by nuclear weapons States of the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery systems, as well as related infrastructure.

Concerning the overall theme of this exchange of views –“current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament”, OPANAL Member States had the opportunity to express themselves in an encompassing manner through two Declarations this year. The first in the 50th Anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in February. The second, just a few days ago, on 26 September, the day for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Both Declarations are circulated as UNGA documents. In those texts you can see that the views of Caribbean and Latin America States concerning the current state of affairs is rather negative.

Thank you.