



Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin
America and the Caribbean

OPANAL GENERAL CONFERENCE
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Buenos Aires, Argentina

RESOLUTION CG/Res.563

URGENT NEED FOR GENERAL AND COMPLETE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The General Conference,

Recalling the text and spirit of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, reciting in its Preamble that Member States manifest, inter alia, “*that militarily denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage*”; and **aware** that “*nuclear weapons, whose terrible effects are suffered, indiscriminately and inexorably, by military forces and civilian population alike, constitute, through the persistence of the radioactivity they release, an attack on the integrity of the human species and ultimately may even render the whole earth uninhabitable*”,

Emphasising the full validity of the Declaration of the 33 OPANAL Member States adopted in September 2011, in which they reaffirm, inter alia, the urgent need to move forward towards the priority objective of nuclear disarmament, and to achieve general and complete elimination of nuclear weapons; in this respect, they agreed to join the efforts of the International Community to advance the negotiations towards a universal legally-binding instrument aimed at banning nuclear weapons. Highlighting that this consensus is today a guideline for OPANAL Strategic Agenda;

Reaffirming the importance of general and complete nuclear disarmament as the highest priority under the principles of verification, irreversibility and transparency; and reiterating that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use;

Bearing in mind that during the International Seminar “The Experience of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean and the perspective towards 2015 and beyond” held on 14-

15 February 2012 within the framework of the 45th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to promote concrete and effective measures to achieve total and general nuclear disarmament;

Underlining the importance and full validity of the *Special Communiqué on the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons* adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in December 2011, in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; in which they reaffirmed “*the importance of drafting concrete proposals in order to achieve general Nuclear Disarmament*”; as well as the Santiago Declaration adopted at the 1st CELAC Summit held in January 2013, in which Heads of State in the region “*reaffirmed the need to move forward toward the priority objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, to reach a world free of nuclear weapons*”;

Recalling the decision manifested by the Heads of State and Government in the United Nations Millennium Declaration contained in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/2, adopted on 8 September 2000, “*to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers*”;

Reiterating that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), in its 64-point Action Plan adopted by consensus, “*affirms that all States, particularly Nuclear Weapon States, need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons*”;

Also recalling that the 2010 NPT Review Conference expressed its deep concern for the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons;

Ratifying that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a violation of the United Nations Charter and a crime against humanity; also representing a violation of international law and international humanitarian law, as unanimously expressed by the International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion of 1996;

Expressing its deepest concern about any nuclear explosion, accidental or intentional, which would have a humanitarian impact of immense magnitude and a global gravity impact; and recalling, in this respect, the First Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo, Norway, on 4-5 March 2013;

Reaffirming the need that all NPT Parties comply with the undertaken obligations under Article VI of the NPT and, that Nuclear Weapon States, in particular, comply with the unequivocal commitment to eliminate all their arsenals, aiming at nuclear disarmament, and moving towards the total elimination of such weapons;

Stressing the importance of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, as well as its three Preparatory Committee Meetings, the first one being held in Vienna, Austria, from 30 April to 11 May 2012; the second one in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 April to 3 May 2013; and the third one to be held in New York City in 2014;

Reiterating the importance of the Third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia that will take place in 2015;

Recalling that the United Nations Secretary-General in his Five-Point-Plan on Nuclear Disarmament urges “*all NPT parties, in particular the nuclear-weapon-states, to fulfil their obligation under the treaty to undertake negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament, especially concerning Article VI; he also emphasises that the Security Council’s five permanent members “could unambiguously assure non-nuclear-weapon states that they will not be the subject of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons”;*

Recalling that, in accordance with Resolution A/RES/67/39 entitled “High-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament”, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene a meeting on the matter that will be held in New York City on 26 September 2013; and **expressing** its total support for the celebration of such meeting, the first one of its kind in the history of the Organization,

Resolves:

1. **To reaffirm** the strong conviction of Member States of the importance to start negotiations for a universal-legally binding instrument aimed at banning nuclear weapons and to reiterate the commitment of joining forces in favour of this priority objective.

2. **To urge** Member States, the Council and the Secretariat-General to continue to make nuclear disarmament a priority in the Strategic Agenda of the Agency, and to identify opportunities and mechanisms that lead to join multilateral efforts to establish, as soon as possible, a universal legal framework to ban nuclear weapons and to ensure their total elimination.
3. **To call on** Nuclear Weapon States to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons from their doctrines and security policies.
4. **To demand** the cessation of development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and their vector systems, including related facilities, by Nuclear Weapon States.
5. **To strongly support** the Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament adopted by CELAC on 20 August 2013 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
6. **To reaffirm** the importance of initiating negotiations for an international legally binding instrument banning nuclear weapons and commitment towards this primary goal.
7. **To recall** that the First Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament (SSOD-I) established the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament. **To urge** the CD to demonstrate the necessary political will in order to ensure the commencement without delay of substantive work through the adoption and implementation of a balanced and comprehensive program of work that advances the agenda of nuclear disarmament.
8. **To recognized** the work of the Open-Ended Working Group established by Resolution A/RES/67/56 of the United Nations General Assembly, with the mandate to put forward proposals to foster multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, as well as the proposals and contributions made in this Group by the OPANAL Member States and the Secretary-General.

9. **To continue** to promote cooperation with States in different Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, as well as with relevant International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations in order to implement specific measures leading to complete and general nuclear disarmament.

10. **To urge** the international community to reiterate its concern at the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the need to eliminate such weapons in all discussions of this kind of armament; and **to exhort** all States to participate actively in the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons that will be held in Mexico on 13-14 February 2014.

11. **To request** the Secretariat General to inform all OPANAL Member States, the Presidency of CELAC, the United Nations Secretary-General, the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, as well as relevant International Organizations and Civil Society Organizations, particularly those that work towards a nuclear-weapon-free world, about the content of this Resolution.

(Adopted at the 115th Session
held on 22 August 2013)