

Sr. Wang Qun

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Thank you Mr. President

Thank you Mr. Secretary General of OPANAL

It gives me great pleasure to be here in Mexico City, on behalf of Beijing, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Opening for Signature of Tlatelolco. It is exactly here in Mexico City, about 50 years ago that Tlatelolco was concluded, owing to the relentless efforts of countries in this region. This represents the first nuclear weapon free zone, established in the human history, by the countries in the region on the basis of the principles freely arrived at and we can see that an advanced and innovative notion once turned into reality, can never be stopped and it can only become increasingly popular and this is exactly the case in the context of nuclear weapon free zone.

Over the past five decades, nuclear weapon free zones have been established one after another, with more and more people free of the threats of nuclear weapons and nuclear war and subsequently, the notion of collective peace and security has become ever more and even more deeply rooted. So this actually is the great contribution of Latin American people for pushing forward the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non proliferation process and enhancing the world peace and security as a whole.

Mr. President, China has all along committed even pushing forward the global nuclear governance process, especially in international efforts for the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones. The Chinese government apart from the protocol to Tlatelolco, we have also signed and amended the protocols to Rarotonga, Pelindaba as well as the treaty of nuclear weapon free zone in Central Africa. We for our part have always strictly honoured the commitments we have entered into by strictly implementing the commitments. We have respected the Mongolians nuclear weapons status, we have worked out the pinning issues between China and ASEAN countries as it relates to the protocol to Bangkok treaty and Beijing is ready at any moment, to sign this protocol to Bangkok treaty. China, for its part also wish to see the early convening of an international conference on the nuclear weapon free zone to be established in the Middle East.

Mr. President on this occasion, of the 50th Anniversary of the signing we are really very pleased from the perspective of Beijing, to be with our colleagues here to

witness and commemorate this historical milestone and in the meantime we would also like to take this opportunity to express some hopes to OPANAL. Firstly, we really hope that the existing mechanism could be safeguarded and enhanced so as to sustain the vitality of the nuclear weapon free zone in this region, Latin America. Secondly, that we wish to see deepening and expansion of the cooperation between OPANAL and other treaty organisations of other nuclear weapon free zones in the joint endeavour to safeguard world peace and stability. Thirdly, it is our wish that OPANAL will share based on its successful experience of Tlatelolco with countries that wish to establish nuclear weapon free zones in other regions and facilitate efforts towards early conclusion of treaties of this kind.

Mr. President, from the very beginning when China was in possession of nuclear weapons, China has advocated the through prohibition and complete destruction of nuclear weapons and my president, President Xi Jinping, recently in Geneva as I may recall in January this year, has once again reiterated that nuclear weapons is Sword of Damocles that hangs over mankind should be completely prohibited and thoroughly destroyed over time, to make the world free of nuclear weapons. China is firmly committed to the nuclear strategy of self defence and has kept its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for national security and among the five nuclear weapon states, China is the only that has made unequivocal commitment of unconditional non-use and no first use of nuclear weapons. China has never, ever deployed nuclear weapons outside its territory and has never taken part and will never take part in the nuclear arms race in whatever form.

China understands the sentiments as well as the concerns of Latin American countries for a world free of nuclear weapons. We believe that in pushing forward the international nuclear disarmament process, what is important is that we take the principle of security for all, as our guiding principle while we should fully respect the legitimate and reasonable security concern of countries, resolve international disputes through dialogue and work hard to foster and enabling a stable international climate for the necessary conditions to be created for further reduction in nuclear arms.

In the meantime, we also believe nuclear disarmament should proceed on the basis of the principles of safeguarding global strategic stability and on diminished security for all, as well as in a step by step basis. Nuclear disarmament should also proceed through a gradual process of gradual reduction towards downward balance. In addition, we also believe that it is important for the international community to continue to stick to multilateralism, as well as the principle of consensus, so as to bring into foreplay the rise of the existing multilateralism disarmament mechanism, most notably the conference on disarmament in Geneva.

Mr. President, we believe that in terms of legal basis, that the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones originates NPT. NPT is the corner stone of international arms control and non proliferation regime, especially its pivotal role in safeguarding international peace and security. However, NPT is now confronted with many challenges, especially in the run up to the next review cycle.

Last week, that's the 8th of this month, China hosted a roundtable with many non nuclear weapon states entitled 'Working together to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons'. The purpose for which is to have inputs of many non nuclear weapon states as how to further advance our goals in the context of the NPT. China for its part wish to work together with all party concerned, to see a great review cycle of NPT, so as to ensure that the universality, authority and effectiveness of the NPT will be further strengthened.

In the world today, with rapid development of globalization, the international community has already become a community of shared common destiny. China for its part is willing to work together with Latin American countries, to have our efforts channeled to the final goal of complete prohibition and thorough destruction through inter alia the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones.

In conclusion, I really wish that this meeting be crowned with success.

Thank you Mr. President and Mr. Secretary General.