

**THE MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS OF S.V.LAVROV,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AGENCY  
FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

I am pleased to greet participants of the 25 Session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. I congratulate you on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the first ever international legal instrument, that reinforced a nuclear weapon-free status of the whole region and defined more specifically the parameters of the process for establishing Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones all over the world.

Over the past half century of its successful operation the Treaty has fulfilled its promise and became an important reference point for all states. It has also proved its viability and effectiveness. The Treaty's contribution to further strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and to ensuring global security and stability can be hardly overestimated. Russia will continue to strictly comply with its obligations under the additional Protocol II to the Treaty.

We expect that the Treaty of Tlatelolco will further serve as an example for the establishment of new Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones, including a zone free for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

I wish you a fruitful work.

Sergey Lavrov

Moscow,  
February 1, 2017