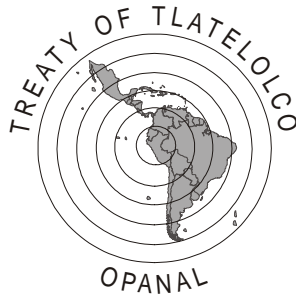


AGENCY FOR THE  
PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN



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XVIII Período Ordinario de Sesiones de la Conferencia General  
La Habana, Cuba, 5-6 de noviembre de 2003

**PALABRAS DE LA REPRESENTANTE DE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF LAWYERS  
AGAINST NUCLEAR ARMS (IALANA), SRA. DEVON CHAFEE**

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Distinguished Delegates and Guests:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this critical conference on behalf of the International Alliance of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms. OPANAL is engaged in most promising disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives at a time when many such efforts are being threatened, and IALANA recognizes OPANAL's consistent and commendable contribution in promoting disarmament and non-proliferation. In particular, we are encouraged by a number of challenging issues on the agenda of this General Conference.

First, IALANA welcomes the adopted resolution regarding peace, disarmament and non-proliferation education which recognized the importance of the recent UN study by encouraging its member states to report to the UN Secretary General on progress they have made in implementing the study's recommendations before the fifty-ninth UN General Assembly. Such reports will hopefully include descriptions of efforts taken by member states to incorporate disarmament education into their national curriculums.

Second, IALANA is encouraged by the continuing efforts of OPANAL to work towards a conference of nuclear-weapons-free zone member states. Such a conference will facilitate increased inter-zonal cooperation improving the effectiveness of the treaties and will promote a global norm delegitimizing reliance on nuclear weapons in furtherance of national security. We hope OPANAL will continue to pursue such a conference in the near future as we are aware that there is a tremendous amount of world-wide support for the effort including through the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament.

Third, IALANA welcomes OPANAL request that certain nuclear weapon states reconsider their

unilateral declarations conditioning the security assurances provided in Protocol I and II of the treaty. Many of those conditions are inconsistent with the purpose of the protocols and should be revoked. We hope that the nuclear weapons states will take action in response to the Secretary General's invitation to review and modify their unilateral declarations.

IALANA also urges OPANAL member states to consider the potential of OPANAL to counter the international transit and transfer of nuclear weapons by expanding the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone of Latin America and the Caribbean. Transit is a topic of growing concern to the international community and it is our belief that nuclear-weapon-free zones are in a unique position to address the issues of transit in a non-discriminatory manner. One of the advantages of increased communication between nuclear-weapon-free zones is the opportunity to learn from each zone's unique approach. For example, OPANAL may come to replicate the Bangkok Treaty by banning the deployment of nuclear weapons in the exclusive economic zones of OPANAL member states. IALANA believes that such a ban would strengthen the legal norm of the general illegality of nuclear weapons as was supported by the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice in 1966.

In conclusion, IALANA would like to thank OPANAL for involving non-governmental organizations in its activities. IALANA hopes to continue to support the work of OPANAL as a strong ally in the furtherance of nuclear disarmament.

Thank you.