



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

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**Proposal of a side-event on Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia during the
72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly – First Committee
- October 2017 -**

1. The Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) considers that it would be appropriate to organize a side-event on the nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia during the First Committee at the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in October 2017.
2. The main objective is the continuity of the dialogue among the States Party and Signatories to treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia.
3. The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations – in its capacity as Coordinator of OPANAL in New York – or the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) would convene the side-event that could consist of brief interventions by OPANAL and by one representative of each of the four other nuclear-weapon-free zones as well as Mongolia. The time remaining could be used for other interventions.
4. The side-event would be open to all the United Nations member States, International Organizations and civil society.
5. The proposed side-event could include an open dialogue on some of the following aspects:
 - i. The convening and organization of a fourth Conference of States Party and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, given sequence to the series of Conferences initiated in Mexico in 2005 and continued in New York in 2010 and 2015.

- ii. The interest of having a periodic and informal contact among States Party and Signatories to treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia, concerning follow-up and preparation of Conferences.
 - iii. Implementation of the treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones, including their protocols, their signature, ratification and interpretative declarations or reservations made to them.
 - iv. The establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States within the region concerned, including in the Middle East and in Northeast Asia.
 - v. The role of States Party and Signatories to treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia in multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.
6. The possible result of the side-event, namely informal consultations, could take place during the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Such consultations could continue during the second Preparatory Committee of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Geneva, 2018) aiming at making possible the celebration of the fourth Conference of States Party and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia.

Background information

1. In 2005, 2010 and 2015, Conferences of the States Party and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia were held. Mexico was the convenor of the 2005 Conference, whereas the United Nations General Assembly convened the second and third Conferences by resolutions 64/52 and 69/66, respectively.
2. In both resolutions, 64/52 and 69/66, the United Nations General Assembly decided that *“the objective of the Conference will be to consider ways and means to enhance consultations and cooperation among States parties and signatories, the treaty agencies and other interested States, with the purpose of promoting coordination and convergence in the implementation of the provisions of the treaties and in strengthening the regime of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation”*.
3. The first two Conferences agreed upon final documents with conclusions and recommendations, including the following: *“we will explore, through diplomatic channels the appropriate modalities for maintaining contact and disseminating relevant information among the nuclear-weapon-free zones during the inter-sessional period.”* (Paragraph 36 of the Outcome document of the second Conference, Doc. NWFZM/CONF.2010/1).
4. The third Conference, held in New York on 24 April 2015, did not issue a final document. Nevertheless, many States expressed their willingness to continue the communication efforts among the nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia. In this connection, it would be natural and surely positive to continue the process initiated in 2005 and organize a fourth Conference.
5. The United Nations General Assembly should convene the fourth Conference of States Party and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia; the venue and date to be decided upon.

6. The fourth Conference (in principle a one-day event) would require logistic arrangements. In this regard, it would be important to ensure that the Conference count on the usual services from the United Nations, including simultaneous interpretation.
7. The fourth Conference could have the following main objectives:
 - i. To continue the process initiated in 2005 by States Party and Signatories to treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia.
 - ii. To improve communication among the States Party and Signatories to treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and Mongolia. This with the purpose of “promoting coordination and convergence in the implementation of the provisions of the treaties and in strengthening the regime of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation”, as was stated by the United Nations General Assembly in both, resolutions 64/52 and 69/66.
 - iii. To assert the legitimacy of the treaties and decisions establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and the nuclear-free status of Mongolia.
 - iv. To study the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States within the region concerned.