



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

**Seminar: “Beyond NPT: a Latin American perspective on
Nuclear Summit 2012 and Resolution 1540”**

**Organized by the Global Consortium on Security Transformation
Santiago, Chile, 12 December 2011**

Message from Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda Rivera

OPANAL Secretary General

Dear organizing committee and participants,

First of all, I would like to thank you for inviting me to participate in this Seminar: “Beyond NPT: A Latin American perspective on Nuclear Summit 2012 and Resolution 1540”. Regrettably, I am unable to attend; but let me accompany you from the distance and express my best wishes for a successful seminar, concluding with relevant results that become future contributions of the South American Region towards the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit 2012 to be held in March.

The Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ), without a doubt, are a contribution to regional and global peace and security. In this respect, nuclear security plays an important role in the Non-proliferation regime, which has been strengthened by the five existing NWFZs; at the same time, it is also relevant to the Disarmament process, which is the final goal and the reason for these Zones to exist, as established in the preamble of the Treaty of Tlatelolco:

“Recalling that militarily denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves, but rather a means of achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage;”

Nuclear security, as seen from a different complementary perspective, also constitutes a NWFZ subject that requires mature reflection in order to achieve an appropriate and effective integration to the agenda of each zone. Task that we must accomplish in the near future.

To conclude, I would like to enclose two documents to this message, documents that allow me to share a vision of OPANAL with you all, after 43 years of its creation and 45 of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, a vision adjusted to the new regional and international dynamics of Non-proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament affairs. Firstly, I refer to the Declaration of the 33 Member States to the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed in September and presented to the delegations attending the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee, on 11 October 2011. Secondly, to my opening remarks at the IAEA Forum on “Experience of possible relevance to the creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East” held in Vienna on 21-22 November 2011.

I reiterate my best wishes for the success of this Seminar; enjoy the warmth of the Chilean people.

Mexico City
8 December 2011