



45th Anniversary
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**AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

WILTON PARK CONFERENCE

**“GLOBAL CONSTITUENCIES IN THE NPT REGIME:
HOW TO BUILD CONSENSUS FOR 2015”**

Remarks by

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OPANAL Secretary-General**

Session 4

**“Capacity-building on the nuclear non-proliferation regime:
what are the disarmament/non-proliferation education needs of developing states
and how can they be addressed?”**

3 September 2012

Mr. Mark Smith, Programme Director at Wilton Park,

Colleagues and friends,

A while ago, I heard about this wonderful venue thanks to Roberto Dondisch, but my imagination fell short of the beauty of this place; beauty that we can enjoy together today. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Wilton Park, to Mr. Mark Smith in particular, Programme Director, Defence and Security, for having extended me the invitation to participate in this Conference. My thanks go equally to the Governments of the United Kingdom and Norway.

I would like to start by mentioning that 45 years ago the region of Latin America and the Caribbean voluntarily declared itself a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ), the world's first NWFZ in a densely populated area. It was in 2002 (35 years later) when the last State, number 33, became fully incorporated to the Zone. In addition, more than two decades ago Nuclear-Weapon-States (P5) ratified the two Additional Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and thereby committed themselves to providing negative security assurances to the NWFZ.

Both Additional Protocols and the Treaty itself were negotiated at the same time; this is one of the best practices in creating the Zone. These negotiations took place in the context of the height of the arms race, and the event that triggered them was the Missile Crises at the Bay of Pigs, Cuba, in 1962.

The Zone's consolidation process was long and complex, 35 years of good practices and lessons learnt that today continue to be relevant to OPANAL , and to other NWFZs creation processes.

Concerning the Member States of the Zone, I must say that to declare their territory free from nuclear weapons and to comply with their undertaking not to possess, develop, use, facilitate the manufacture of any nuclear weapon by other States or non-state third parties represent an invaluable contribution to the non-proliferation regime. It is even more precious as the Treaty of Tlatelolco was signed in 1967, preceding the NPT (1968). Moreover, the Treaty established the obligation for States parties to sign safeguards agreements with the IAEA.

Today's question is: What can States do to continue to contribute to the strengthening of this regime, and above all, to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education?

First of all and in general, all necessary measures must be taken to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation held by any state or non-state actors. As we know, this implies a diversity of topics and actions.

Concerning other NWFZs, States could support the creation process of new NWFZs or WMDFZs; as we did at the forum convened by the IAEA Director General, in November 2011, for the purpose of sharing experiences of possible relevance to the creation of a WMDFZ in the Middle East. To achieve this, is particularly important the systematization of the good practices and lessons learned in each one of the NWFZ. In my region we are doing this for the first time and we have found wealth in the Zone

consolidation process. This is the topic in which we could deepen pragmatically to effectively contribute to the creation of new NWFZ or even to strengthen the existing ones.

Nevertheless, measures taken in favour of the non proliferation regimen cannot be disassociated from nuclear disarmament actions.

Regarding consensus, in Latin America and the Caribbean we have the consensus that Non Proliferation is inseparable from the process of total nuclear disarmament. This applies to all topics, including educational programs. The Treaty of Tlatelolco states that the creation of the Zone is a means to achieve the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear-weapons. By issuing a Joint Declaration in 2011, the 33 Member States of the Treaty strengthened this vision and stressed the importance of joining forces with the international community to negotiate a legally-binding instrument aimed at banning nuclear weapons. Furthermore, it is necessary to continue to strengthen the NWFZ; negative security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons are completely relevant to this end.

On this positions not all the NWFZ have reached that consensus, neither all non nuclear weapons states. And, of course even less among the nuclear weapon states.

Addressing the issue of Education, a *prima facie* diagnosis shows that a greater investment is needed to design programmes for government officials who are related to the subject of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In the last 3 years, our experience reveals that there is a knowledge gap, and therefore a lack of commitment shown by new generations who are responsible for these subjects, with is exceptions. It is like a broken chain link that we now need to repair.

Without a doubt, we need to train more officials within the government sector in order to strengthen commitments under regional and international agreements related to these subjects. This is a priority to OPANAL; to this end, from 2009 to 2012 four courses on nuclear challenges were delivered to government officials, legislators and academic staff. The courses are both in Spanish and English considering that no everybody speaks or thinks in Spanish. This is just the beginning; we are now working on a basic course that includes all relevant topics, the modules of which would adapt to the audience as we contemplate to involve civil society. Holding the International Seminar on “The Experience of the NWFZ in Latin America and the Caribbean and the perspective toward 2015 and beyond” in February this year, in Mexico City, was part of this process. In their conclusions, Member States took responsibility for the importance of national-level training and stressed the importance of developing civil society education programmes.

At the same time, since 2010 OPANAL has promoted education through media among Member States. To this end, it produced the documentary *Let's say No to Nuclear Weapons*. Every two years, OPANAL presents a full report on Education to the United Nations, the last report covers the period from 2010 to 2012. This report demonstrates the importance of the subject of Education in the Agency's agenda. It is available on the internet, or we could send it to you if you are interested.

These efforts face imposed challenges. Firstly, the challenge to generate the necessary alliances in order to strengthen nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education programmes so as not to duplicate efforts. A good example could be the cooperation between NPSGlobal and OPANAL.

Secondly, resources are needed to maximize projects and programmes which are executed already or could be implemented. This point is connected to the previous one. It is necessary to note the compatibility between the counterparts, that is to say that there is no conflict of interest between them.

Thirdly, I would like to mention that there are States and regions having more built-in capabilities than others; therefore, better developed States and regions could serve as channels for the capability development of those States that are seriously lagging behind. Coordination and cooperation among NWFZ is very important in this point.

There is another challenge, but not the last one; we need to attract more the interest of some governments and civil society. This lack of interest is largely due to the concern represented by immediate needs, like unemployment, insecurity, and climate change effects in countries whose survival is threatened by sea-level rise. Among citizenship there is not enough awareness of the threat that nuclear weapons represent, of the importance of implementing national and global measures for nuclear safety and of the relevance of the non proliferation regimen.

In conclusion, our objective is to achieve educational programs that integrate NPT three pillars and also that incorporate humanitarian elements. Our question is, with whom can we work in this integral vision? We cannot expect for global consensus in order to move forward in our objectives, we need to move forward step by step, without pauses. We are certain that in that road we will find others to work with us.

Today, my message is not focused on saying something new, but on sharing with you what we are doing about nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education. To convey to you that we need to do more. We are ready for it, regarding not only the course contents, but also the methodology. Both are equally important as we intend to train trainers, especially in the academic sector.

I can assure you that we can do a lot with a little, but we could do more if we had the appropriate associates. We are ready to start a new phase.

Thank you.