



**Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
in Latin America and the Caribbean**



Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in
Latin America and the Caribbean

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**IX Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

III Session of the Preparatory Committee

**Report by OPANAL Secretary-General
Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares
New York, 28 April to 2 May 2014**

From 28 April to 2 May 2014, OPANAL Secretary-General, Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, travelled to New York City in order to attend the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held at the United Nations Headquarters. During the general debate of this Third Session of the PrepCom, the Secretary-General made a statement on behalf of the Agency (Document S/Inf. 1115).

Within the framework of this session, he also participated in several multilateral meetings with Representatives of OPANAL Member States. On Tuesday 29 April he had a meeting with Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), coordinated by the Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the United Nations. On Wednesday 30 April he had the opportunity to participate in the monthly meeting of the Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), chaired by the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations.

The participation of the Secretary-General was an opportunity to reaffirm OPANAL's presence in a forum as important as the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference, and to strengthen ties with representatives of OPANAL Member States in New York, particularly with a number of them that do not maintain a diplomatic representation in Mexico City.

I. Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons – United Nations Headquarters, New York, 28 April to 1 May 2014.

OPANAL Secretary-General attended this third session from 28 April to 1 May. On Wednesday 30 April, during the general debate and after the participation of States parties, Ambassador Macedo Soares took the floor to present his statement (Doc. S/Inf.1115). Since he began his tenure, this has been the first official mission abroad as Secretary-General.

Given that OPANAL is contemporary to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and considering that it has always pursued progress of its pillars and the objectives they share, it is fundamental for the Agency to continue participating in the NPT review cycle. It was noted that in their statements at the general debate, many OPANAL Member States referred to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and OPANAL, which proves their interest in having OPANAL represented at this forum. In this regard, the Agency serves to reinforce the participation of Latin America and the Caribbean, presenting a united region with a shared vision.

Ambassador Macedo Soares' statement was well received in the general debate and non-governmental organizations emphatically expressed their support after he delivered his remarks.

Two relevant aspects could be stressed. First, it is important to recall that the NPT established a double undertaking since its emergence. On the one hand, States that did not possess nuclear weapons at the signature of the Treaty committed not to acquire them; on the other hand, the five nuclear-weapon States (NWS) recognized by the NPT committed to disarm in order to reach a nuclear-weapon free world.

Evidently, while horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons was essentially controlled – among States parties, only the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who announced its withdrawal of the Treaty, possesses nuclear weapons – non-compliance with Article VI remains an issue. This complicated situation has always created tension in the Review Conferences, including absence of conclusions as occurred in the VII Conference in 2005. The VIII Conference, held in 2010, managed to achieve an important result: the 64-point action plan. One of these actions called upon NWS to report to the PrepCom at 2014 the progress made on the steps leading to compliance with Article VI. While it is positive that they presented these reports, they still maintain their nuclear arsenals. Moreover, the intensification of actions and increase in budgets directed to the modernization and perfection of arsenals as well as the deployment of part of them on a state of alert, are distressing facts.

As a second point, it is worth noting that in 1995 the NPT was extended indefinitely with the agreement to establish a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East. So far, the

inability of establishing this zone has been a great disappointment for the international community. The VIII Review Conference agreed to hold a conference in 2012 to address this issue; however, political support has been insufficient. This was a source of general dissatisfaction during 2013 and it constituted a tension point during the second session of the PrepCom. Nonetheless, for the third session the ambiance was more relaxed and it was announced that a meeting would be held in Geneva among the convenors of the conference – Russia, United Kingdom, and United States – and the interested States. It is possible that the conference on the establishment of the zone in the Middle East be held in Finland in December; however, there is no certainty that it will take place.

In his statement, OPANAL Secretary-General mentioned: “No one can ignore the obstacles that the States in the region face to achieve this goal universally desired. Let’s not use the obstacles as an excuse not to make progress in that direction. When, some 50 years ago, Latin American and Caribbean countries started the negotiation of what came to be the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the political conditions and the strategic situation in the region, including the incidence in it of the cold war competing superpowers, could not be more adverse to such an endeavor. In a large part of the region the prevailing political regimes and the low level of confidence among many States were not conducive to a strategic understanding among them. In spite of all these odds, the Treaty was concluded and a territory larger than 20 million square kilometers with a population of 600 million is preserved from nuclear weapons.”

II. Meeting with Member States of the Caribbean Community (29 April) and participation of OPANAL Secretary-General in the monthly meeting of the Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (30 April).

On Tuesday 29 April, Ambassador Macedo Soares met with the Representatives of the Missions of CARICOM States in the Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the United Nations. The Secretary-General had the opportunity to comment on issues relevant to establish closer ties with Caribbean States that do not maintain a diplomatic representation in Mexico.

OPANAL Secretary-General addressed the issue of strengthening OPANAL from within through effective implementation of the provisions of the Treaty, meaning especially matters related to the Control System, as well as States’ compliance with financial obligations. From without, strengthening OPANAL relates to issues such as interpretative declarations made by the Signatory States to the Additional Protocols.

Ambassador Macedo Soares also referred to the III Conference of the NWFZs and Mongolia. He recalled that during the last Conference, the Caribbean countries did not present a unified position with the rest of OPANAL Member States, which led to difficulties at the time of negotiating the final document. In this regard, he emphasized the importance that all countries of the Zone define their position in advance to present a strong and unified stance, as the region has always promoted.

During this meeting with Caribbean States, Ambassador Macedo Soares was able to confirm that they constantly receive information sent by the Secretariat of OPANAL, since they referred to the statement he delivered to the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Organization of American States (Doc. S/Inf.1114, 20 March).

This meeting was arranged by First Secretary Kimberly Louis, who has been the coordinator for CARICOM states in New York for matters related to OPANAL since July 2013.

On the morning of Wednesday 30 April, the Secretary-General addressed Representatives of the Missions of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) during their monthly meeting chaired by the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nation, Ambassador María Emma Mejía Vélez. His participation focused on the same topics presented to CARICOM Member States the day before.

III. Other meetings.

During this trip, OPANAL Secretary-General also held talks with:

- Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations. They spoke about the statement delivered by Ambassador Ulibarri as President Pro-Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).
- Ambassador Menissa Rambally, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations.
- Ambassador Desra Percaya, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations. They spoke about the preparatory meeting for the Conference of NWFZs and Mongolia, which Indonesia is coordinating.
- Sir. Tim Caughley, Resident Senior Fellow of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), who expressed interest in cooperating with OPANAL in the field of nuclear disarmament education.

- Prof. William C. Potter, Director of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, who commented he will travel to Mexico City to participate in an activity in early July.