



## **OPANAL**

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

**Secretariat**

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**Third session of the  
Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the  
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

**Statement by  
H. E. Mauro Vieira  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations  
and Coordinator of OPANAL in New York**

**on behalf of  
Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares  
Secretary-General of OPANAL**

**29 April 2019  
United Nations Headquarters – New York**

Mister Chairman,

In my capacity as Coordinator of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) at the United Nations in New York, and on behalf of Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, Secretary-General of the Agency, I am pleased to convey warm congratulations to you, Ambassador Syed Mohamad Hasrin, for your election to conduct the III Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Mister Chairman,

OPANAL is the intergovernmental organization established 50 years ago to ensure compliance with the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). Besides being the guardian of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in our Region, OPANAL is the body through which the Latin American and Caribbean States articulate joint positions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Member States of OPANAL, which are the 33 Latin American and Caribbean States, have a special interest in the success of this Preparatory Committee and the 2020 Review Conference. The 2020 NPT Review Conference will face the arduous task of considering the implementation of the Final Document adopted by the Review Conference in 2010 in addition of setting goals for the next five-year period.

Having that in mind, the Member States of OPANAL decided to contribute to this PrepCom, submitting a working paper – document NPT/CONF.2020/PC.III/WP.32. This document represents the joint effort and consensual stance of the Member States of OPANAL. The Working Paper points out essential elements that should be included in the Final Document of the 2020 Review Conference. Those elements do not purport to encompass the whole result of the Review Conference but the intention is clearly to establish a benchmark and to propose specific language.

By way of example, let me mention some of the concepts that OPANAL brings to your attention and consideration:

1. The use and threat of use of nuclear weapons are a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, a violation of International Law, including International Humanitarian Law, and constitute a crime against humanity.
2. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the CTBT, once in force, will join the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the NPT on the road towards the elimination of these weapons of mass destruction. The proscription of nuclear weapons is a step in the road towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
3. The obligation established in article VI of the NPT must be fulfilled by each Party to the Treaty.
4. Nuclear-weapon States must eliminate any role for nuclear weapons in their security doctrines and policies. Non-nuclear-weapon States that are covered by extended nuclear deterrence policies by means of military alliances should seek alternative security policies.
5. The qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and development of new types of these weapons must cease, as these constitute actions inconsistent with the obligation to adopt effective measures towards nuclear disarmament and contravene the spirit and objectives of the NPT. The Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones represent a legal and concrete achievement of the utmost importance in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament; therefore, the establishment of such regimes in new regions should be actively supported.
6. Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones established by means of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the respective regions and recognized by the United Nations General Assembly must be respected by all States without any reservations or limitations.
7. The States Parties to additional protocols to the treaties establishing Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones should seek, in contact with the States Parties to such zones, the solution to existing controversies created by declarations that harm the effectiveness of the Zones in order to give full and unequivocal security assurances to the States belonging to Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.
8. It remains a priority to convene the international conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, an integral and important part of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

9. The convening of periodic conferences of the States belonging to the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia is important for the strengthening of such Zones and can contribute to the creation of new Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, including in the Middle East.

Mister. Chairman,

In the view of OPANAL, a meaningful Final Document of the 2020 Review Conference has to reflect, among others, these concepts and language I just mentioned.

Thank you.