



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

**General Conference**

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XXVII Session  
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Agenda Item 6

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*Courtesy translation*

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF  
BRAZIL**

Mr. President of the General Conference,

Mr. President of the Council,

Representatives of the Member States,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Observers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brazil thanks the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico for its generosity in hosting and supporting this XXVII Session of the General Conference of OPANAL for this meeting in exceptional global circumstances.

I would like to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Carlos Alfonso Tomada on his election to the presidency of this Conference. His well-known diplomatic skills and extensive knowledge of the subject is a guarantee of success of this meeting. I also congratulate Ambassadors Búcaro of Guatemala and Jaramillo of Mexico, elected to the Presidency and Vice-Presidency.

Mr. President, you can count on the full support of my delegation in the conduct of our work.

I thank the Secretary-General for presenting his report and the entire Secretariat for the impeccable preparation of this Session.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco is one of the most important achievements of Latin American pacifism. By declaring Latin America and the Caribbean a nuclear-weapon-free zone, our countries demonstrated their determination to replace the perverse logic of security competition with the virtuous logic of security cooperation.

In accomplishing this significant achievement for our region, it is worth recognizing here the leadership of the diplomacy of our host country in the figure of Alfonso García Robles, who with good reason received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1982.

Rooted in our historical and geographical circumstances and at the same time in the collective creativity of the region, the Treaty of Tlatelolco provided our peoples with a unique and singularly important Agency: OPANAL, the only regional organization in the world dedicated entirely to achieving nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

For more than half a century, OPANAL contributes to maintaining Latin America as a zone of peace, inspired the other nuclear-weapon-free zones – and even the creation of new zones – and actively participates in negotiations on the subject.

The Agency has promoted the harmonious participation of its Member States in international efforts for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and is a respected voice in defending the right to live in a world without nuclear weapons.

Today, OPANAL's commitment to peace is best reflected in the Secretary-General, Ambassador Flávio Bonzanini.

Secretary-General Bonzanini's tenure has been a great success for OPANAL. Secretary-General Bonzanini has contributed through a series of initiatives, not only to the strengthening of the system built under the aegis of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, but also to the strengthening of OPANAL as an autonomous body with specific weight in the disarmament system.

Without neglecting budgetary austerity in difficult times, the Secretary-General has managed to carry out a programme that deepens OPANAL's performance as a force heard, respected, and concrete for disarmament and non-proliferation.

On behalf of Brazil, I would like to convey my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary-General, Ambassador Flávio Bonzanini, whose work has been very positive for this Agency. I would like to congratulate him on his serene, constructive and firm leadership in favour of OPANAL, in maintaining and caring for the good name of the Agency and ensuring success on its various fronts of action.

The Agency is safe in his hands. Ambassador Flávio Bonzanini, a career diplomat with extensive experience in the good management of international issues and whom I have been pleased to have known for many years, has the support of my Delegation for another term as the head of the General Secretariat.

I am confident that those strong qualifications and demonstration of leadership and balance will inspire strong support for the Secretary-General by Member States for his election and for the favourable decision of this General Conference.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of Delegation,

The documents presented at this Session of the General Conference demonstrate the active role that OPANAL has been playing in recent years.

We therefore welcome and strongly support the new strategy of the Technical Group for Rapprochement and Dialogue with Nuclear-Armed Countries, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between OPANAL and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), and the recent Declaration of the Member States of the Agency on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brazil has a long tradition of acting firmly and constructively for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

We believe that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has had moderate success in limiting horizontal proliferation, but has so far failed to fulfil the promise of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The NPT follow-up process, based on five-year Review Conferences, is marked by tensions and disputes between Non-Nuclear-Armed States (NNWS) and Nuclear-Armed States (NWS), in particular because of the aforementioned imbalance between the rights and obligations provided for by the Treaty for each of those categories.

The preparatory process for the Tenth Review Conference has been marked by difficulties by some of the Nuclear-Armed States in reaffirming previous commitments on nuclear disarmament within the regime (in particular the so-called "Plan of Action" adopted by the eighth NPT Review Conference in 2010).

Brazil will act at the Tenth NPT Review Conference, scheduled for next January, with a view to preserving and deepening the commitments already made in the field of the NPT in relation to the issue, both national and in coordination with the other countries of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC).

Mr. President,

I underline the fundamental agreement on which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is based: the commitment of Non-Nuclear-Armed States not to seek to acquire such weapons is countered by the commitment of nuclear-armed States to negotiate nuclear disarmament in good faith.

Beyond non-proliferation, it is imperative to move towards the paradigm of the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Brazil, a long-time advocate of nuclear disarmament, unconditionally supports the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, an instrument fully compatible with the NPT and aimed at strengthening each of the three pillars of the NPT.

We welcome the accelerated pace of signatures and ratifications of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and reiterate its special role in building a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen Heads of Delegation,

Let us continue to work together through OPANAL so that other regions and countries emulate the good example of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Many thanks.