



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

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Statement by the Dominican Republic to the XXVII Ordinary Session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) held on September 30 2021 in Mexico City
(Delivered by Mrs. María Isabel Castillo Báez, Ambassador to the Government of Mexico and representative of the Dominican Republic to OPANAL)

Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Roberto Alvarez, allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the XXVII Ordinary Session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), as well as the two elected vice presidents.

We also appreciate the excellent work done by the Secretariat and the President of the Council of the Agency during their tenure and for the preparatory documents for this substantial meeting.

The occasion is opportune to reiterate to the Government of Mexico the gratitude of the Dominican Republic for serving as headquarters for so many years to OPANAL, which constitutes a solidary support for disarmament in our region and worldwide.

The Dominican Republic, as a State Party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which with its adoption in 1968 established the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in a densely populated region, reiterates its commitment to these efforts and its support for the international legal instruments that constitute the central axes of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation at a global level, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that our country ratified in 1971, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, ratified in 2007 and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, signed in 2018.

Our country is highly pleased with the entry into force, in January of this year, of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, thereby marking a new milestone for nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of these weapons and, thus, offering redoubled opportunities for promoting its adoption.

Mr. President, in this sense, the Dominican Republic reiterates the call to prioritize actions to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons so that future generations can live without the threats that these weapons represent, for which it calls on the countries of the region to support the celebration of the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to be held in 2022, which will provide the opportunity to agree on initiatives for the continuous strengthening of its three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Finally, allow me to express the support of the Dominican delegation for the disarmament and non-proliferation education program carried out by the Agency in our region and for which our country is open to continue participating in said process.

Thank you very much.