



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

## **General Conference**

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Agenda Item 6

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### **The XXVII session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)**

#### **Statement by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)**

##### **Remarks by Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

*Delivered by Gabiden Laumulin*

*Associate Expert, UNODA*

Your Excellency, Ambassador Carlos Alfonso Tomada, President of the General Conference,  
Your Excellency, Ambassador Anibal Cabral Segalerba, President of the OPANAL Council,  
Your Excellency, Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini, Secretary-General of OPANAL,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate the States Parties of the Treaty of Tlatelolco for convening the XXVII session of the General Conference of OPANAL.

The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first nuclear-weapon free zone established in a densely populated area, continues to serve as an inspiration and an example for other regions in many political and practical ways.

The States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco have consistently demonstrated their resolve in advancing the objectives of nuclear disarmament. Many prominent disarmament-related initiatives and achievements in previous years have reached fruition in no small measure thanks to the active position of the States of Latin America and the Caribbean. This was outstandingly demonstrated in the negotiation and subsequent entry into force in January this year of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

We look forward to the same level of participation and contribution from the States Parties to the Tlatelolco Treaty at the upcoming session of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, as well as the Tenth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW. We remain hopeful that the Fourth Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia can be held in the near future and call on States Parties to support the efforts of the coordinator in this regard.

Such a successful record in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation would not be possible without a well-established mechanism for internal coordination embodied in the Treaty's main implementing organ – the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL).

We equally welcome the Agency's active role in promoting various cooperation activities with other existing nuclear-weapon-free zones. In this context, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs reiterates its full commitment to facilitate and support such cooperation, as reflected in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament: Securing our Common Future.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones are success stories in our collective pursuit of nuclear disarmament, adding significant value to global efforts to achieve a more peaceful and stable world. However, these hard-won institutions should not be taken for granted, particularly so in the current international environment. It remains vital to strengthen and support the existing zones as well as to maintain the collective momentum for the establishment of new zones free of nuclear weapons and also free of other weapons of mass destruction in other regions.

Allow me to conclude by echoing Secretary-General Guterres, who described nuclear-weapon-free zones as “landmark instruments” that represent an excellent example of the synergy between regional and global efforts towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

I reiterate UNODA’s full support to all Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in the collective pursuit of a safe and prosperous world for future generations, free of nuclear weapons.

I wish you productive deliberations, and I thank you for your attention.