



**OPANAL**  
AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN

**Secretariat**

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**Statement of the Secretary-General of OPANAL at the International Scientific and Practical Conference "Olzhas Suleimenov and Pure Planet," dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the 85th anniversary of the famous Kazakh poet, social and political figure Olzhas Omarovich Suleimenov.**

*Dear friends,*

It is my pleasure and honor to deliver this video message today, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the 85th anniversary of the famous Kazakh poet, social and political figure Olzhas Omarovich Suleimenov.

In Latin America, we are very much aware of the active role of the government of Kazakhstan in promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The 1989 anti-nuclear movement in Kazakhstan, "Nevada Semipalatinsk", which was led by Mr. Suleimenov was one of the first major anti-nuclear movements, it attracted thousands of people to its protests and campaigns which eventually led to the closure of the nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk.

We also welcome active participation of Kazakhstan in the international efforts towards nuclear disarmament, such as the resolution 64/35 on the International Day against Nuclear Tests – an initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan aimed at increasing awareness “about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world”, which was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

The humanitarian impact and implications of nuclear test explosions cannot be overestimated. Kazakhstan is one of the countries which has suffered and is still suffering



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the consequences from 40 years of nuclear testing. In Latin America and the Caribbean, we consider the rejection of the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site an important contribution of Kazakhstan to the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

On this important day, I wish to reiterate my congratulations on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as to wish a very happy birthday to Mr. Suleimenov. United in our joint commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and the goal of complete nuclear disarmament, it is our mission, as nuclear-weapon-free States, and anti-nuclear activists to work together to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

*I thank you.*