



OPANAL

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

Secretariat

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Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Statement by

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Secretary-General of OPANAL

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Please allow me to start by congratulating you, Mr. President and the Bureau, upon your election as President of the Tenth Review Conference of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It is always a pleasure to work under the guidance of a very distinguished diplomat from our Latin American and the Caribbean region. I pledge the full support of OPANAL to you and your team for the work ahead.

As requested by the Preparatory Committee, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean presented a memorandum regarding the activities of OPANAL in which was also included information regarding compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco by its Member States, a description of the Agency's relations with other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, other intergovernmental organizations and NGO's and the activities carried out by the Agency regarding Gender and Education for disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. President,

After two long years of a global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are finally able to meet in-person to review the implementation of the NPT and chart the way forward. However, unlike previous Conferences, a Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia did not precede this Review Conference. The convening of periodic conferences of the States belonging to the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia is of the utmost importance for the strengthening of such Zones and can contribute to the creation of new Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, including in the Middle East. Hence, I call upon all States belonging to Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones to agree on the dates for the convening of the IV Conference and collectively choose its coordinator. This atypical situation should not set a precedent, by no means, and we expect that the next Review Conference will be held immediately after the V Conference of Nuclear-Weapon Free Zones, as it has been the case since 2005.

Mr. President,

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, established by means of arrangements freely arrived 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. 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. The dire reality in which we are currently live in makes this an imperative for nuclear-armed states, as the nuclear risk is progressively higher than previous years.

Since the last Review Conference, the risk has increased, and today the possibility of a new military and nuclear competition that will endanger international peace and security is real. With Great concern, we come to this Review Conference, facing challenges that we have not encountered since the sixties of the last century. The dismantling of historical agreements, the erosion of international norms, and a general perspective of impotence forces us to do everything possible to reaffirm our collective security by preserving the integrity of the existing non-proliferation norms and by continue consolidating a multilateral rule based order.

Mr. President,

The Treaty of Tlatelolco, the NPT through its three pillars and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty establish norms of International Law and are a suitable legal basis for the process aimed at completely eliminating all nuclear weapons in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner. The TPNW, in particular, complements the prohibition norm established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco and represents an effective measure to implement article VI of the NPT. It is not casual that the Member States of OPANAL played a crucial role in the negotiation, adoption, and entry into force of the Treaty. In line with their historic commitment to nuclear disarmament, more than 70% of the OPANAL Member States have signed and ratified the Treaty, and more recently the TPNW achieved its universalization in the Central American region. On the other hand, the recent ratification of the CTBT by Dominica was translated into the universal adherence to this Treaty across Latin America and the Caribbean, which represents an important step towards the

universalization of the Treaty. For this reason, we urge the States included in Annex II to the CTBT that have not yet done so to ratify it without further delay.

Mr. President,

OPANAL is convinced that disarmament and non-proliferation education is an effective means to contribute to the consolidation of international peace and security. The Agency has been successfully implementing courses on disarmament and non-proliferation and other joint initiatives.

Likewise, equal, full and effective participation of all people is essential for the promotion and maintaining of peace and security. For this reason, and the ongoing need to continue recognizing and fostering the role of women in disarmament and nonproliferation OPANAL formalized this obligation through a resolution adopted by consensus by the 33 Member States. We hope this Review Conference integrates gender considerations during its work and considers the imperative need to ensure gender equality and the full empowerment of women in the process and all decision-making levels around nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Mr. President,

The States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, true to their nuclear disarmament tradition submitted a working paper with punctual recommendations for consideration convinced that all efforts must be exhausted to achieve the success of this tenth Review Conference. Therefore Latin American and Caribbean States urge the Conference to include these elements in a Final Document.

I wish you, Mr. President, and all of the States parties a successful Review Conference.

Thank you, Mr. President.