



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

9 August 2022

Inf.27/2022
Original: English

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

Main Committee II

**Statement by the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America
and the Caribbean (OPANAL)**

-New York, 9 August 2022-

Thank you, Madame Chair,

Please allow me to start by congratulating you upon your election as Main Committee II Chair and assure you the full support and cooperation of OPANAL.

Madame Chair,

After more than five decades since the establishment of the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in a densely populated area, by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean – the Treaty of Tlatelolco, there is no doubt of the contribution of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones.

The creation of four other zones in the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa, and Central Asia, as well as the self-declared nuclear-weapon-free status of Mongolia, is the corollary of a regional approach to strengthening global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament norms and consolidate international efforts towards peace and security.

The Conference should continue supporting all international efforts to fostering cooperation and enhanced consultation mechanisms among the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, in order to advance in the full implementation of the principles and objectives of their treaties and to contribute to the non-proliferation regime established by the NPT.

A tangible measure could be the convening of the Fourth Conference of Treaties Establishing Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones at the earliest possible date.

Madame Chair,

As stated by the Secretary General of OPANAL, at the beginning of this Review Conference, nuclear-weapon-free zones established by means of arrangements freely arrived at, among the States of the respective regions and recognized by the General Assembly, must be respected by all States without any reservations or limitations.

For such reason, the Conference should recommend that the States Parties to Additional Protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones seek -together with the States belonging to such zones- a mutual accepted and long-term solution to existing controversies created by interpretative declarations, in order to give full and unequivocal security assurances to the States belonging to nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Madame Chair,

The creation of nuclear-weapons-free zones is one of the milestones in International Law and one of the most influential components of the non-proliferation regime established by the NPT. Let's not forget that the States Parties to these Treaties worked together not only to prohibit nuclear weapons in their regions, but also to contribute to put an end to the global arms race and with nuclear disarmament as their ultimate goal.

The Agency will continue supporting the strengthening and the creation of further zones free of nuclear weapons, including in the Middle East. If called upon, OPANAL can contribute with its experience and lessons learned in the fulfilment of the provisions and objectives of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

To conclude, Madame Chair, let me reiterate the support of OPANAL on all the issues under this Main Committee II and on the outcomes of the Conference.

Thank you, Madame Chair.