



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

Secretariat

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**SUMMER SCHOOL ON NON-PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR
DISARMAMENT FOR DIPLOMATS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN**

Welcoming remarks by Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini
**Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin
America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)**

- Excellency Alicia Bárcena, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Mexico (TBC) /

*Dr. Eduardo Jaramillo Navarrete, Acting Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and
Human Rights, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE)*

- Amb. Alejandro Alday Gonzalez, Director General of the Matias Romero Institute (IMR)

*- Ms. Elena Sokova, Executive Director of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and
Nonproliferation (VCDNP)*

*- Mr. Jean du Preez, Senior Program Manager for Education and Training, James Martin
Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS)*

Dear colleagues,

Distinguished participants,

It is with immense pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to all of you attending the 9th Edition of the Summer School on Non-proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament for Diplomats in Latin America and the Caribbean. We are honored to have you here in Mexico City.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, the Matias Romero Institute, and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies for co-organizing this esteemed Summer School. This initiative stands as a testament to our collective commitment to disarmament education and strengthening diplomatic capabilities in our region.

The current geopolitical landscape reminds us of the increasing threats posed by the potential use of nuclear weapons, thereby endangering international peace and security, and the very existence of humanity. It is precisely in this context that education on disarmament and non-proliferation in our region assumes paramount importance. By equipping future diplomats with the knowledge and skills to address these challenges, we empower them to promote sustainable peace through disarmament efforts.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the remarkable representation of women in this year's Summer School. We are delighted to see a high percentage of women's participation, accounting for 68% of the participants. This is a significant milestone that underscores our collective efforts to promote the effective participation of women in disarmament, which is essential in shaping policies and fostering a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to disarmament.

Over the next six days, you will have the privilege of engaging with leading experts and practitioners in the fields of arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation. I am confident that the knowledge and insights gained during this Summer School will not only benefit your respective countries but also reinforce the longstanding commitment of our region to nuclear disarmament.

I wholeheartedly wish you all a truly enriching experience, filled with enlightening discussions and valuable networking opportunities. May this Summer School serve as a catalyst for your personal and professional growth in the realm of disarmament.

Once again, I extend my sincere appreciation to each one of you for joining us.

Thank you.