



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

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

Ambassador Flavio Roberto Bonzanini

International Day Against Nuclear Tests – August 29, 2021

Dear friends,

It is my pleasure and honor to deliver this video message today, on the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, which was declared by the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly through the unanimously adopted resolution 64/35. This resolution, an initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, is 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.”

The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean - Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established the first in the world nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area, prohibits testing, use, manufacture, production, possession or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin American and the Caribbean (OPANAL) have constantly reaffirmed their commitment to continue to work for a world free of nuclear testing, highlighting that a legal norm that prohibits nuclear tests is an indispensable step to achieve complete nuclear disarmament.

In the Declarations on the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which the Member States of OPANAL have been issuing since the first year of that commemoration, they have repeatedly called upon “all States to refrain from carrying out nuclear weapon test explosions, or any other non-explosive experiment, including subcritical experiments for the improvement of nuclear weapons”, as well as have urged “the States included in Annex II to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) that have not ratified the Treaty to take necessary measures to do so without further delay.”

With the recent Cuba’s ratification of the CTBT, there is only one country left for the region to become free from nuclear testing, not only by means of the Tlatelolco Treaty, but also by the CTBT.

On this important day, as we commemorate the International Day against Nuclear Tests, I wish to call upon other nuclear-weapon-free zones to work jointly in order to achieve a nuclear-test-free and a nuclear-weapon-free world.

I thank you.