



## OPANAL

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

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### **Declaration of the Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean OPANAL**

#### **International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September 2023)**

The Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), on the occasion of the 26 September 2023, the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, established by resolution 68/32 (2013)<sup>1</sup> of the United Nations General Assembly;

**Reiterate** their concern over the existence of more than twelve thousand nuclear weapons<sup>2</sup> that pose an unacceptable threat to the future of the humankind, a danger that becomes more serious day by day.

**Recall** that this concern is reflected in numerous resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, such as Res. 1 (I) of 24 January 1946<sup>3</sup>; in the Final Document of the First Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament (SSOD-I), of 1978<sup>4</sup>; as well as in the preamble of the Treaty of Tlatelolco of 1967; and in the preamble of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) of 1968; and in the preamble of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) of 2017.

**Firmly demand** that nuclear weapons not be used again, under any circumstances by any actor, which can only be assured by the prohibition and the subsequent transparent, verifiable and irreversible elimination of all nuclear weapons.

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<sup>1</sup> A/RES/68/32

<sup>2</sup> Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2023

<sup>3</sup> A/RES/1(1)

<sup>4</sup> A/S-10/4

**Express** their alarm and dismay by the threats to use nuclear weapons, by the increased operational alertness of nuclear arsenals and the increasingly strident nuclear rhetoric. **Stress** that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. **Condemn** unequivocally any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances.

**Reiterate** the call upon all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States, to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in their security and defence doctrines and policies and to comply fully with their legal obligations and unequivocal commitments to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons without further delay.

**Call upon** non-nuclear weapon States that are covered by extended nuclear deterrence policies by means of military alliances to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons from their security and defence policies.

**Express** their concern for the erosion of the treaty-based disarmament architecture and firmly support all bilateral, regional or multilateral instruments that contribute to achieve nuclear disarmament and **call upon** all States to comply with their legal obligations and the commitments undertaken regarding nuclear disarmament, and to promote and strengthen international peace and security.

**Urge** that nuclear-weapon States cease the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons arsenals, the development of new types of these weapons, and of new scenarios and procedures for the development and employment of new types of such weapons, what is inconsistent with the obligation to adopt effective measures towards nuclear disarmament.

**Call upon** nuclear-weapon States not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons on other States, and in particular, to provide full and unequivocal guarantees of a binding nature in relation to the States that make up nuclear-weapon-free zones, in accordance with international treaties which establish them and their additional protocols.

**Urge** the nuclear-weapon States that made interpretative declarations concerning Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Treaty as well as to international law, to examine the proposals made by OPANAL with the aim of resolving this problem, giving full and unequivocal security assurances to the States that comprise the Nuclear-

Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to respect the militarily denuclearized character of the zone of application of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

**Reaffirm** the legally binding obligations reached more than 50 years ago with the entry into force of the NPT, cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and reiterate that the commitments undertaken at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference<sup>5</sup> and the 2000<sup>6</sup> and 2010<sup>7</sup> Review Conferences remain valid.

**Underline** the responsibility of all States Parties for the full implementation of the NPT, and **urge** the nuclear-weapon States to take immediate action for the full and effective implementation of article VI in compliance with their legal obligations.

**Urge** all States not parties to the NPT to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapon States, without further delay and without conditions<sup>8</sup>.

**Call 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. **Consider** that such actions are contrary to the spirit and purposes of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and undermine its desired impact as a nuclear disarmament measure.

**Urge** the States included in Annex II to the CTBT that have not ratified it to take necessary measures to do so without further delay<sup>9</sup>.

**Recall** their participation in the adoption and recent entry into force of the TPNW, which currently has 93 Signatories and 69 States Party, and that prohibits the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

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<sup>5</sup> NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)

<sup>6</sup> NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)

<sup>7</sup> NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)\*

<sup>8</sup> The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Republic of India, the State of Israel, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of South Sudan.

<sup>9</sup> The People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United States of America, the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the State of Israel, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

**Invite** all States that are not yet party to the TPNW to consider ratify or adhere to it.

**Recognize** the determination of the States Parties to the TPNW to work in favour of and contribute to the success of its Second Meeting, which will be held from November 27 to December 1, 2023, in New York, chaired by Mexico.

**Note** that the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the NPT, the TPNW, as well as the CTBT, once in force, establish norms of International Law that are legally-binding on the States which signed and ratified them. **Emphasize** that these legal instruments are not mere declarations of intention, since they are a suitable legal basis for the process aimed at complete eliminating all nuclear weapons in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner forever.

**Reiterate** their conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones represents a step of great relevance to advance towards nuclear disarmament and is closely related to the maintenance of international peace and security; likewise, that the prohibition of nuclear weapons in different regions, adopted by sovereign decision of States comprised therein, has a beneficial influence over other regions and globally.

**Regret** the failure, after more than two decades, to comply with the resolution on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East<sup>10</sup>, an integral part of the commitments of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT, and of the Final Documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the NPT.

**Reaffirm** their support to the objective of creating a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East in accordance with the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions.

**Reiterate** their commitment to continue to promote the dialogue and cooperation among Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, including Mongolia, and **regret** the failure to convene the Fourth Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia,

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<sup>10</sup> NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I), Annex.

in accordance with the resolution 73/71, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, on 13 December 2018<sup>11</sup>,

**Reiterate** the need to promote a new comprehensive study of the issue of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects, in order to update the study conducted on this subject by the United Nations General Assembly almost five decades ago.

**Highlight** the importance of the “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”<sup>12</sup>, adopted by the Resolution 57/60 of the United Nations General Assembly, in its LVII session (2002)<sup>13</sup> and **commit themselves** to continue working on the implementation of programmes of education on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, convinced that they are effective means to contribute to the consolidation of international peace and security.

**Recognize** the valuable contribution of women in the promotion and maintenance of peace and security, and reiterate their commitment to continue promoting their full and effective representation and participation in the processes of policy formulation, planning and execution related to disarmament and non-proliferation.

**Welcome** the firm conviction and permanent commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to continue promoting nuclear disarmament, complete and verifiable, as a priority objective; and the urgent need to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons as evidenced by the high number of States from the region, that are parties to international legally-binding instruments and commitments on disarmament and non-proliferation, included the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and the Declarations on Nuclear Disarmament and a World Free of Nuclear Weapons of the CELAC Summits<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> A/RES/73/71

<sup>12</sup> A/57/124

<sup>13</sup> A/RES/57/60

<sup>14</sup> Special Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament, CELAC, 2023