



**OPANAL**  
AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN

**Secretariat**

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**Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba**  
**Statement by the Secretary General of the Agency for the Prohibition of**  
**Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean – OPANAL,**

**H.E. Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini**

*Executive Secretary, Mr. Messaoud Baaliouamer,*

*Excellencies,*

*Dear colleagues and friends,*

I have the enormous privilege to address, for the very first time, to this Conference of States Parties to the Pelindaba Treaty that established the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. Earlier this year, I also had the honor to participate in the commemoration of its 25th Anniversary of its opening for signature. For this reason, I am more than happy to deliver a brief message to all 51 States Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba.

*Dear friends,*

The nuclear-weapons-free zones in Africa and Latin America constitute two successful stories of strong political will, historical pacifist advocacy, and determination of its states parties to constitute within territories, zones of peace nuclearly demilitarized, and to banish forever nuclear weapons and nuclear tests. However, much still has to be done in order to recover all the contaminated areas and to compensate the victims of nuclear tests in Africa. For this reason, you can certainly count on the 33 Member States of OPANAL to support this cause and to jointly call those nuclear armed states that tested nuclear weapons to clean and recover the vast contaminated areas and alleviate the suffering of the victims.

*Dear friends,*

AFCONE and OPANAL are two of the three fully functioning specialized agencies -alongside with our dearest friends from the South Pacific- created by a NWFZ intended to ensure compliance with the zone's objectives, and its activities are entirely devoted to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. For this reason, it is only natural that a constant, progressive and sustained cooperation and collaboration have increased during the last years. In this context, I would like to thank the Executive Secretary of AFCONE, Mr. Messaoud Baalioumer for taking the lead and negotiating with OPANAL a Memorandum of Understanding that will set the basis for our future and long term cooperation and collaboration. This agreement was endorsed and adopted by consensus by all 33 Member States of OPANAL during the XXVII General Conference held on 30 September, in which the Executive Secretary Baaliouamer had the opportunity to witness the adoption

of the relevant resolution. I can share with you that Executive Secretary Baaliouamer and myself are making the final arrangement to set a date and venue to proceed with the signature of the Memorandum in the forthcoming weeks, hopefully in-person.

*Dear friends,*

To finish my intervention, let me reiterate the support of OPANAL and its 33 Member States to continue strengthening the norm established by the nuclear-weapon-free zones. Also I call upon all Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba to join the other nuclear-weapon-free zones and make the necessary efforts to convene the IV Conference of Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zones and Mongolia. As I highlighted during the First Committee of the UN General Assembly a week ago *“This is, by far, the most important occasion to foster the cooperation and exchange between the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones. It would be a real tragedy if further postponed, let alone not convening the Conference.”*

I wish you fruitful discussions and all the best in your endeavours.

*I thank you for your attention.*