



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

General Conference

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Agenda Item 6

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Statement by Mexico

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*Dear Ambassador **Julio Garro Gálvez**, Representative of Peru in Mexico, President of the XXVI Special Sessions [sic] of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL),*

Dear Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Dear Ambassadors and representatives of the Member States of OPANAL and observers,

Dear officers who are with us this morning:

Mr. President:

On behalf of the Mexican Delegation, I welcome your election as President of this XXVI Session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. We are fully convinced that under your leadership the work of this session will be successful. Also, I would like to recognize the willingness of Jamaica and Uruguay to hold the positions of Vice-Presidents of this important Conference. Count on the support of my Delegation for the performance of your functions.

Mexico is strongly committed to nuclear disarmament. This cause is one of the most notable standard in the history of our foreign policy, which is why, in the different forums on the

subject, the delegations of Mexico have been characterized by promoting it actively and tirelessly.

In this context, Mexico reiterates its commitment with the application and enforcement of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and to the work of OPANAL, diligently led by Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares since 2014.

Mr. President:

The Latin American region has been characterized by being a builder of regional bridges that have greatly contributed to generate greater closeness among our peoples. Regarding nuclear disarmament, our region has been spearheading by becoming the first nuclear-weapon-free zone established in a densely populated region. The work of our region opened the pathway for the establishment of four other similar zones in the world.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones gives hope to the international community regarding the possibility of reaching the objective of achieving and maintaining a nuclear weapon-free world. They also represent an expression of the will of their States Parties to create their common security structures.

Our region is recognized for its invaluable contribution and constant commitment to nuclear disarmament. The regional momentum we gave to the negotiation and adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017 -which has 79 signatures and 33 ratifications so far-, is a recent evidence.

In this regard, Mexico wishes to avail itself of this Conference to recognize the countries of the region that, like Mexico, have already signed this important legal instrument, which, once it enters into force, will contribute to the strengthening of the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime. Therefore, considering that only 17 instruments of ratification or accession are missing for its entry into force, we take this opportunity to call to those States in the region that have not yet done so, to ratify it or accede to it as soon as possible.

Mr. President:

Mexico recognizes the work of OPANAL in education and training in disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Thanks to its work, this field of action has been strengthened in recent years. My country would like to encourage to continue promoting this work, through the promotion among civil society and academic institutions of the activities carried out by the Agency. The Internship Program has undoubtedly contributed to promote the subject among young people from different countries and has made more visible the efforts of our Agency.

Mexico will continue to promote the work of OPANAL under the leadership of its new Secretary-General that we are to choose today, so that the decisions adopted contribute to strengthening the regime established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

Mexico is committed to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. Meanwhile, the Treaty of Tlatelolco will continue to be one of the standards that underpin our moral and political commitment to the stigmatization, prohibition and elimination of these weapons of mass destruction.

Finally, my delegation avails itself of this opportunity to express the highest recognition of Mexico to the Secretary-General of OPANAL, for the work he undertook in the exercise of his functions. His guidance has transformed this Agency into a living, functional and active organization, with a strong presence not only in Mexico City and Mexico, but beyond our region, with incidence in multilateral forums such as New York, Vienna and Geneva. His leadership has allowed us to face very important challenges. The Government of Mexico wishes you the best in your future endeavors, dear Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares.

Thank you, very much.