



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

General Conference

XXVI Session
7 November 2019
Agenda Item 6

Original: Spanish
Unofficial translation

Statement by Uruguay

Mr. President, we greet the Member States and Observers represented here today, as well as the officials of OPANAL.

We want to thank the Pan American Institute of Geography and History represented by the Secretary-General, my compatriot César Rodríguez for having offered the IPGH facilities to host the General Conference this year.

I would specially like to thank for the report of the Secretary-General, as well as for the report of the activities of the Council in 2019, and I would like to state that we fully share its content.

As a sign of Uruguay's commitment to nuclear disarmament and a nuclear-weapon-free world, on his last visit to Mexico during 2017 Foreign Minister Rodolfo Nin Novoa held high-level meetings with Secretary-General Luis Filipe de Macedo Soares. As a result of that meeting [sic.], Uruguay hosted the first OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation held in Montevideo in December 2017.

It should be noted that Uruguay submitted its candidacy and was elected as Member of the Council of OPANAL period 2018-2021. This year, upon request of the Secretary-General, I had the privilege of representing OPANAL at the Seminar of Representatives of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in the city of Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

Likewise, it has been an honor to have assumed at this General Conference one of the two Vice-Presidencies together with you Mr. President and Jamaica.

We are pleased to say that we are up to date with our financial obligations to the Agency, as well as those derived from Articles 14 and 24 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

We reaffirm Uruguay's commitment to the multilateral efforts in favor of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, having ratified most of the multilateral agreements.

In this regard, we would like to highlight that on 25 July 2018, the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations deposited the instrument of ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the headquarters of the Organization.

As everyone knows, this Treaty was adopted on 7 July 2017 by the United Nations Conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument that would prohibit nuclear weapons with a view to their total elimination.

By ratifying this agreement, Uruguay reaffirms its status of pacifist and nuclear-weapon-free country and its firm commitment to strengthening the regime of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, its accession to the multilateral regulatory framework implements a foreign policy that privileges and promotes the need to continue advancing in negotiations at a multilateral level, in order to achieve general and complete disarmament, under a strict international regime.

Uruguay was the 13th country to deposit the instrument of ratification, we hope that the countries who have not done it yet, ratify this agreement.

Mr. President, to conclude, we want especially to highlight the commitment and the performance of the Secretary- General of OPANAL, the distinguished Brazilian Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares; under his leadership we have seen during these 6 years of excellent management how he has positioned OPANAL in the international field and in the different multinational forums.

Personally, I had the privilege of knowing Ambassador Macedo Soares since the year 2004, when I served in Brazil during the first administration of President Lula, of such endearing memory for Uruguay. In that moment, I knew to witness his professionalism, his will to reach consensual agreements and his tireless personal vocation for the Latin American integration.

We wish him successes in his future plans and Uruguay thanks him for his continued support for the cause of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in Latin-America and the Caribbean.

Thank you, very much.