



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

**General Conference**

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XXVI Session  
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Agenda Item 6

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**Statement by the Republic of Paraguay**

Mr. President of the General Conference, Dear Representatives of the States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Firstly, we appreciate the kindness of the IPGH by allowing this General Conference Session to be held at this Headquarters.

Mr. President, it is an honor to represent the Republic of Paraguay in the framework of the Special [sic.] Session of the XXVI General Conference of OPANAL, taking the opportunity to express the recognition of the Republic of Paraguay to OPANAL for the work done during this year, in the matter of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, reaffirming the Agency's contribution to the International Agenda, through its active participation in the different multilateral forums and its periodic statements issued on these subjects.

We take this opportunity to express our highest esteem to Ambassador Macedo Soares and express our sadness about his departure from his post of Secretary-General, given this we can only thank him for this time at the head of the Agency, as well as our conformity with his management, we reiterate the commitment of our country to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the strengthening of the Agency, reiterating the commitment of the Republic of Paraguay to support initiatives and actions that arise within the Agency.

They are worth being highlighted the efforts made by the Agency, especially in the field of education for non-proliferation, so we would again like to express our appreciation for the work done and the achievements obtained, and we urge further efforts to move towards the realization of a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President, in Article 8 of the National Constitution of the Republic of Paraguay, prohibits the manufacture, assembly, importation, commercialization and use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. In this context, joined to the spirit of OPANAL's declarations, Paraguay condemns the existence of nuclear weapons and their development, for going against the most basic objectives of peace, security, development and harmony among peoples.

Therefore, Paraguay welcomes the initiatives carried out within the framework of the spaces, both at the governmental level and of the academic initiatives and non-governmental institutions, advocates and supports all efforts aimed at reaching concrete and effective measures to achieve proliferation and nuclear disarmament, with the effort of all the member countries of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, through OPANAL, and of the other member countries of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.

In that regard, Paraguay urges, within this Agency, the other countries to subscribe and ratify the “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” within the framework of the United Nations Organization, recognizing it as a very important step given the imperative need to have a legally binding instrument for the ban of manufacturing and with a view to the elimination of nuclear weapons in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner.

Governments have the responsibility to face the different problems of environmental, economic, migratory, sustainability, terrorism and drug-trafficking nature, among others, which affect not only the territories of our countries internally, but also in an integral way they affect the entire planet. Our world is already facing too many challenges as to continue keeping the imminent threat of annihilation of all life on the planet by the use of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President, may I refer, in that regard, to the experience of our country in the implementation of Resolution 1540 of the United Nations Security Council. Paraguay has been completing its national legal architecture to combat proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its vector systems and prevent non-state actors from misusing them. In this regard, the following actions have been carried out in order to comply with the international commitments assumed within the framework of R 1540:

Creation of an Interinstitutional Commission: In order to coordinate the actions aimed at complying and effectively implementing resolution 1540, with government entities.  
Presentation of the National Report to update the matrix: Regarding its implementation  
Preparation and presentation of the National Action Plan. Joint-Review Exercise.

Mr. President, Paraguay is a country that loves peace, rejects any kind of violence and use of force in an excessive way, which is precisely that nuclear weapons represent. For that reason, Paraguay urges to continue joining efforts in order to achieve a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, to live in harmony and for safety for our planet, since there is still a long way to go and the obstacles are not few.

In that regard, Paraguay welcomes again all OPANAL initiatives, expressing their support for them, with the assurance that the results and conclusions reached at this Session of the XXVI General Conference will be a positive contribution to the goals and objectives of the Agency.