



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 Colombia

Mr. President of the General Conference, Ambassador Julio Garro.

Mr. Secretary-General, Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares.

Ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of the Member States and Observer States of the Agency.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning to everyone,

Colombia has a firm commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation of arms of mass destruction. Our Government has always advocated the strengthening of multilateral mechanisms that contribute to this purpose.

Under Article 81 of our Political Constitution, the manufacture, importation, possession and use of weapons of mass destruction is prohibited in Colombia, an effort that is complemented by the ratification of instruments such as the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

We recognize the significant contribution of this instrument to the international regime for disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as a means for the promotion and strengthening of a sustainable peace and the creation of a more stable and safer environment for humanity.

Therefore, we are proud to be a State Party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco which established the first nuclear-weapon-free densely populated zone in the world.

Latin America and the Caribbean have the ability to share their experience and good practices, serving as a political, legal and institutional reference in the creation of other zones.

The General Conference of OPANAL is an adequate space to renew the commitment of our country to the obligations acquired under the Treaty, and to reiterate the support for the implementation of the regional and multilateral architecture for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

Respect for legal instruments and international institutions, which promote general and complete disarmament, in a transparent and sustained manner, constitute the principles of Colombian foreign policy in this matter.

Regarding the energy policy, it should be noted that the Colombian Government, given the availability of resources for electricity generation in the territory, prioritizes the development of renewable and clean energy.

The only nuclear facility in Colombia is the IAN-R1 research reactor, which is operated by the Colombian Geological Survey and it is currently applied in research activities, such as irradiation of geological samples in order to know their composition.

In that sense, in the energy basket at the short and medium term, the Colombian Government has not considered any plans for nuclear power generation. The above-mentioned is in accordance with what was expressed by the Mining and Energy Planning Unit in the “National Energy Plan Colombia: Energy Ideas 2050”, published in 2015.

Finally, I want to congratulate Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares and express to him, on behalf of the Government of Colombia, our gratitude for these years of dedication and enthusiasm at the head of the General Secretariat of the Agency. Without a doubt, Ambassador, you deserve our greatest recognition for the valuable work that you have performed. I wish you many successes in your new activities

Thank you, very much.