



OPANAL
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Statement by China

The Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone (NWFZ) of Latin America created under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), is the first one of its kind in human history that was established according to the principle of voluntary negotiations between the countries of the region. It is an important contribution of Latin American countries to the promotion of the international regime for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and to the promotion of peace and security in the world.

China always supports the nuclear-free-countries to establish NWFZ on the basis of negotiating and reaching agreements by their own will and taking into consideration the concrete conditions of their region. China is faithfully complied [sic.] with the policy of not using first nuclear weapons in any moment and under any circumstance, and has committed itself publicly to not use nor threat to use nuclear weapons unconditionally against the nuclear-free States and the NWFZ. China supports the efforts made by the Latin American countries, a sign of this is the signing of the Additional Protocol II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco by China on 21 August 1973 and its ratification on 23 April the following year. China will remain keeping its promises about the NWFZ of Latin America, meanwhile, it will give its support to the Latin American nations to expand their cooperation with other NWFZs and promote their successful experiences, in order to play a positive role to promote the creation of new NWFZs by other interested countries.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) constitutes the legal foundation for the creation of the NWFZs. As the cornerstone of disarmament and international nuclear non-proliferation, it is of high importance for the defense of international peace and security. In 2020, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty, when also

the 10th Review Conference will take place. Nowadays, international reality of strategic security is hard and complex and nuclear risks are constantly increasing. Therefore, next year Conference will face numerous challenges. All the stakeholders should comply with the cooperation spirit, take a practical attitude and work together so that the Conference be successful, with a view to safeguard universality, authority and effectiveness of the Treaty.

China will make efforts, together with the nations of Latin America, to prohibit y eliminate completely nuclear weapons, from there, create a world free of them.

China supports the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, and has committed itself not to use or threat with the use of nuclear weapons unconditionally against the nuclear-weapon-free countries or the NWFZs. The communiqué issued by China in 1973 when it signed the Additional Protocol II to the Treaty, does not affect the status of Latin America as a NWFZ. In 2003, China sent a missive to the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, exposing completely its policies in that respect. This letter is complemented by the 1973 communiqué, and it is in fact the answer to the concerns of Latin American countries.

(Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons), China understands the wishes and claims of the Latin American countries and other regions that do not possess nuclear weapons on the promotion of nuclear disarmament. Since the first day that it has possessed them, China has advocated for the prohibition and the complete elimination of this weapon [sic.]. Regarding the final aim, the Chinese position is not contrary to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. However, it is impossible to enforce the goal of nuclear disarmament overnight. We should abide by the principle of “defending global strategic stability” and that “security of all countries does not deteriorate”, to gradually carry out this process. They should be treated under the current international disarmament and non-proliferation mechanism. This will help to defend the international nuclear non-proliferation system based on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, instead of harming it. China hopes to work with all parties to promote the disarmament process in a reasonable and pragmatic way.