



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 Belize

Dear,

Secretary-General of OPANAL, Ambassador Luis Filipe de Macedo Soares; Mr. President; Your Excellencies, Ambassadors; Colleagues of the Diplomatic Corps; officials of the Government of Mexico and observer countries; GOOD MORNING.

For Belize it is a great honor and pleasure to be part of this General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) today, being this the only international intergovernmental organization dedicated exclusively to disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Today there are many challenges in the world and the existence of OPANAL has been a great example and a great promoter to maintain a stability of peace in the region. We are aware that, today, due to the achievements of our region, other countries have been motivated and have joined to form their own nuclear-weapon-free zones.

We constantly read in the newspapers and hear on television news about the great growth of nuclear weapons by some countries and that is very alarming. For this reason, the existence of organizations such as OPANAL, that strive to ensure that the region is committed to maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free zone, is of great importance.

For the Government of Belize, to be part of this Agency is a reason of pride and it is committed to continue supporting global nuclear disarmament because it believes that a world without nuclear weapons is fundamental to humanity just as peace, security, development and protection of the environment. For this reason, under compliance with the

Treaty of Tlatelolco, Belize has the honor to declare that no prohibited activity has taken place in the territory.

Personally, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for all his commitment and efforts to maintain the operation of OPANAL, to ensure a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean and guarantee that member states comply with their obligations under the Treaty. However, it is a pity that due to unforeseen circumstances Ambassador Macedo Soares has decided to leave his post and, on behalf of the Government of Belize, I wish him health and successes in his future.

I also take advantage to thank the opportunity that we have been given to be a member of the Committee on Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary Matters (CCAAP). If elected, we commit ourselves to contribute in whatever is within our reach in favor of nuclear disarmament for the consolidation of a world of peace.

Thank you, very much.