**Statement by Brazil**

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen representing Member States,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brazil thanks the Argentine Republic for its willingness and generosity in hosting this XXVI Special Session of the OPANAL General Conference.

I thank the Secretary-General for the presentation of his report and the entire Secretariat for the efficient preparation of this Special Session. I am especially grateful for the active contribution of the Secretary-General, through the submission of concrete proposals for the management of the topics of interest on our agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In July 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, a new norm in international law regarding the prohibition of nuclear weapons, was adopted, with the important contribution of Member States and the Secretary-General of OPANAL.

From a legal point of view, the Treaty fulfilled the lagoon that existed in International Law and the nuclear disarmament regime and has converted into one of the most effective ways to achieve the objective of a world free of nuclear weapons, shared by all of us.

The structure of the TPWN was designed to respect and promote the obligations enshrined in the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In particular, the Treaty complements Article VI of the NPT that obligates all States Party to continue in good faith and conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament.

Brazil is confident that the agreement will boost the efforts in favor of nuclear disarmament, breaking the paralysis of the decades after the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1966.

We encourage all the Member States of OPANAL to, as far as possible, sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. Although the TPNW constitutes only a step towards the path of a world free of nuclear weapons, we cannot neglect the importance of each step in that journey.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution that calls for the IV Conference of Parties and Signatories of the Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia in 2020 is excellent news.

We congratulate OPANAL and its Member States for its active participation in this process. We hope that the IV Conference serves to stimulate the debate on the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones for world peace.

In relation to the topics that will be considered by this Conference, Brazil has managed as a Council Member, the joint negotiations of the four nuclear weapon armed countries, and we share the frustration with the negative responses received thus far. However, we continue to support the course of action suggested by the Secretary-General.

With respect to Article 14 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, we agree with the Secretary-General on the centrality of compliance with this obligation for the full validity of the Treaty and the commitments assumed by the region. Brazil has always sought to present its reports in a timely manner, in conformity to ABACC.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In 2019 we will celebrate 50 years since the establishment of OPANAL, the only regional agency in the world totally dedicated to the achievement of nuclear disarmament and nuclear-weapon non-proliferation.

The celebration of that date should reflect the remarkable political and legal role that the Agency has played for security and peace in our region.

Latin America and the Caribbean have had in OPANAL a credible representative of their call for disarmament and their commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

In fact, during the past 50 years, OPANAL has contributed in a decisive manner to nuclear disarmament, either through its role as an inspiration for existing and future nuclear-weapon-free zones, or through its active participation in negotiations on the topic.

We are confident that OPANAL, due its serious and dedicated work in the cause of disarmament, will continue to contribute to the eradication of nuclear weapons. Owing to its grave humanitarian consequences, nuclear disarmament is a legal and moral imperative of our time.

Thank you.