



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

General Conference

XXVII Session
30 September, 2021
Agenda Item 6

Original: English

XXVII Session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)

Mexico City, Mexico

30 September 2021

Statement by Dr Robert Floyd

Executive Secretary

**Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
Organization (CTBTO)**

Mr President

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking OPANAL for the invitation to address the 27th Session of its General Conference.

I commend your region for its leadership in and contribution to international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament efforts, particularly your unwavering support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). I am pleased to note that thirty-two of the thirty-three states of the Latin America and the Caribbean region have ratified the CTBT—making this region near-universal in its commitment to a world free from nuclear testing.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the CTBT's opening for signature. Although not yet in force, the CTBT is already a great success story. There is near universal adherence to the Treaty's prohibition on nuclear explosions. With 185 signatures and 170 ratifications, there

has been much progress towards the universalization of the CTBT. The object and purpose of the Treaty – a verifiable end to nuclear explosions – is a common goal shared by the entire international community.

Its state-of-the-art global verification regime is nearly complete, and its ability to meet the verification requirements of the Treaty has been proven time and time again. More than 90 per cent of the 337 monitoring facilities worldwide are in place, and our data processing and analysis capabilities continue to improve.

In addition to the core mission of nuclear test monitoring, the Treaty's verification regime also provides useful data for other civil and scientific purposes, including tsunami warning and climate change studies. All States Signatories are entitled to equal access to the data and to benefit from technical training and capacity building programmes.

Anniversaries are an opportune occasion for reflection, celebration, and renewal of commitments. The 25th anniversary of the CTBT and the upcoming 55th anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco provide us with the opportunity to take stock of our achievements and jointly explore ways and means to secure a safer world free from threats of nuclear weapons. In this context, we welcome proactive engagement with OPANAL within our respective mandates, including through regional outreach initiatives.

Together we can actively mobilize a wide support base including civil society, the scientific community, parliamentarians and the media, to educate future generations and decision-makers on the dangers of nuclear testing. We can also enlist the youth, including the CTBTO Youth Group (CYG)—comprised of over 1100 individuals from over 100 countries. I am particularly delighted to note that 67 members of our CYG come from your region, including one who is working at the OPANAL Secretariat.

I look forward to continuing our partnership with OPANAL to see the ratification of the CTBT by all States in Latin America and to continue to build the associated capacity in all states to support monitoring facilities and implement national data centres.

Thank you.