**INTERVENTION BY COLOMBIA**

President of the General Conference,

Secretary-General,

Ambassadors,

Member State Delegations,

Permit me to firstly thank His Excellency Mr. Ezequiel Sabor, Ambassador for Argentina in Mexico, for hosting this Special Session of the General Conference.

Without a doubt, these meetings become a scenario of ideal dialogue where Latin America reaffirms its commitment to the world in the reduction of conflicts, the consolidation of sustainable peace and the creation of a more stable and secure environment for humanity.

In the new disarmament agenda brought forward by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in May 2018, it is reiterated that “the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains one of the priorities of the United Nations”. The Treaty of Tlatelolco represents a regional example on the possibility of attaining this objective.

Through the ratification of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and compliance with its obligations, Colombia reiterates its commitment to the principles of nuclear weapon disarmament and non-proliferation, as a means for the promotion and strengthening of peace, stability and security.

In reference to Colombia’s energy policy, it should be noted that the Colombian Government, given the availability of resources for the generation of electricity in the territory, prioritizes the development of energy from hydroelectric plants and in a smaller proportion the resulting fossil fuels and clean energy.

In this sense, in the energy basket for the short and medium term, the Columbian Government has not considered plans for nuclear power generation. The aforementioned is in agreement with that expressed by the Mining and Energy Planning Unit in the “National Energy Plan Colombia: Ideario 2050” published in 2015.

The only nuclear installation in Colombia is the investigation reactor IAN-R1. This is operated by the Colombian Geological Service and it is currently applied to irradiate geological samples in order to know their composition (elemental analysis by neutron activation).

With the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Latin America and the Caribbean was established as the first nuclear-weapon-free zone on the planet. This is fundamental to guarantee the security of Contracting States and also to promote disarmament and non-proliferation within the framework of a global agenda in this subject.

The Colombian Government’s position has always been oriented towards the achievement of the common objectives of peace and security. To that extent, the strengthening of all multilateral mechanisms that contribute to this purpose is invaluable. For this reason, we reaffirm our commitment to comply with the obligations to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

In multiple multinational scenarios, Colombia has sent a consistent message about its concern for the tendency towards the increase of nuclear tests, modernization of nuclear arsenals, and other manifestations of the possessor States that tend toward the possibility of using this type of weapon in different scenarios of escalating conflict.

Thank you