**INTERVENTION BY MEXICO**

**XXVI SPECIAL SESSION OF THE AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**Mexico City, 15 November 2018**

*Esteemed Ambassador Ezequiel Sabor, Representative of the Argentine Republic in Mexico, President of the XXVI Special Session of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean General Conference.*

*Esteemed Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Esteemed Ambassadors and Representatives of the Member States and Observers,*

*Esteemed officials who accompanied us this morning:*

Mr. President:

I would like to express the approval of the Mexican Delegation on your election as President of this Twenty-Sixth Special Session, we are fully convinced that, under your leadership, the work of this session will be successful, for which I offer my Delegations entire collaboration.

Mexico reiterates its commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as compliance with and implementation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and the work of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, led by Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares. Mexico recognizes his work and that of his team in accordance with the spirit and high purpose of the Treaty.

Ladies and gentlemen:

The Latin American region has been characterised as a constructor of regional bridges that have contributed to improving the closeness of our people. On the subject of nuclear disarmament, the region of Latin America and the Caribbean has spearheaded the first nuclear-weapon-free zone established in a densely populated region and furthermore opened the way for the establishment of four other similar zones in the world. The creation of these zones gives hope to the international community regarding the possibility of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world and represents an expression of the willingness of the States Party to create their own common security structures.

In recent times, our region has once again demonstrated its leadership and proudly promoted the strengthening of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, particularly through the negotiation and adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted in July of last year, which currently has 69 signatures and 19 ratifications. In that respect, Mexico would like to use this session to recognise the countries of the region that, like it, are already part of this important historical instrument and calls on others who have not done so, to adhere to this soon.

Mexico recognizes the work of OPANAL in the area of education and training for Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, which has increased in recent years, and encourages it to continue promoting this work among civil society and academic institutions, through the dissemination of activities undertaken by the Agency.

Likewise, I would like to recognise the effort and dedication of the Secretary-General and the officials at OPANAL, for maintaining the budget of the Agency at zero nominal growth, for constant administrative improvement and the transparent management of resources.

The work that we have before us is of great importance in order to avoid witnessing, once again, the catastrophic consequences to humanity that the detonation of a nuclear weapon would have. We must continue to urge nuclear disarmament in all forums on this subject, in congruence with what has been establish by the Treaty of Tlatelolco, with its principles and objectives, without prejudice to particular interest and maintaining a clear and strong voice that expresses, without hesitation, the imperative of advancing steadily toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.