



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

**General Conference**

XXVIII Session  
3 November 2023  
Agenda item 6

Original: Spanish

*Courtesy translation*

**Statement by the Republic of Chile**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of Chile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the delegation I am heading, we thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture and, through it, the Government and the People of the Republic of Guatemala, for facilitating the holding of this XXVIII Ordinary Period of sessions of OPANAL and congratulate them for having organized this meeting so efficiently.

Mr. President,

Achieving global nuclear disarmament is one of the oldest objectives of the United Nations, it was not for nothing that it was the subject of the first resolution, adopted by the General Assembly in 1946, and has been part of its agenda since 1959, along with general and complete disarmament.

It is with dismay that we note that nearly 22,000 nuclear weapons still exist, and millions of dollars are being spent on programmes to modernize nuclear arsenals. We advocate to set aside the current nuclear arms race and to release these funds for the development and cooperation among States, in areas such as the environment, education, and the peaceful use of nuclear applications.

In this global context, the decision of our countries to outlaw nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean by establishing the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area has been a stimulus for the subsequent creation of other nuclear-weapon-free zones. Since then, our region has been at the forefront of all international initiatives in favor of the elimination of this type of weaponry, being an example to the world.

Mr. President,

We agree that the outlook today is bleak, and frustration has increased among non-nuclear-weapon Member States of the United Nations due to the slow pace of nuclear disarmament. Concerns

about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that could result from the use of just one nuclear weapon are growing, not to mention what a global nuclear war would entail. That scenario can and should vary.

The failure to reach consensus on an outcome document and plan of action at the 10<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was therefore worrying. The stages of discussion, reflection and analysis of this Conference were carried out with vigorous work, with productive negotiations that sought to lay the foundations for the 3 pillars of this Treaty, namely: the disarmament of nuclear weapons, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Similarly, failure to reach consensus in the First Preparatory Committee for the 11<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons poses a risk and a challenge to international security. From this forum, I reiterate Chile's willingness to move forward with measures to achieve general and complete disarmament, giving priority to a broad, transparent and democratic multilateral debate.

Today's meeting is also an occasion for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to nuclear disarmament and to demonstrate the real benefits of the elimination of nuclear weapons.

This is the appropriate forum to address one of the main goals of humankind, which is to achieve peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

I am very pleased to be able to share with you that Chile, as a member of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), participated in the First Meeting of States Parties held in June 2022 in Vienna and was also designated as a gender focal point in order to work during the current intersessional period to support the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty and to report on the progress made considering the Second Meeting of States Parties to that Treaty to be held in New York from 27 December to 1 December.

Like the other States that have signed it, we are certain that the TPNW contributes to the strengthening of international law, promotes the total prohibition of such weapons and responds to the concerns of the international community about the devastating humanitarian consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons.

We wish to highlight the significant number of States that have acceded to this Treaty, which was conceived from the beginning of its discussion and negotiation as an instrument that complements and strengthens the implementation and credibility of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Mr. President,

Chile reaffirms its commitment to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances, and, to that end, the only assurance is their prohibition and total, complete and irreversible elimination within a clearly defined time frame. For this reason, we would like to recall the leadership played by the countries of our region in promoting the first nuclear-weapon-free zone and call on us to maintain the conviction of actively promoting the elimination of nuclear weapons in all existing multilateral forums.

Our countries have the authority and experience to do so, and we must remain committed to seeking all alternatives that will allow us to make progress on nuclear disarmament.

Thank you.