



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

## **General Conference**

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*Courtesy translation*

### **Statement by the People's Republic of China**

His Excellency Ambassador Mario Adolfo Búcaro Flores, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala,

His Excellency Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini, Secretary General of OPANAL,

Good afternoon.

It has been a pleasure for me to attend this meeting, this plenary session. First of all, I would like to congratulate the celebration of the twenty-eighth Session of the General Conference of OPANAL and we all know that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean has its historical contribution and continues to play a significant role in the world in promoting the nuclear disarmament process, and in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Latin America and the Caribbean is the first Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone in human history and has served as a good example for the establishment of other zones. At the same time, the Treaty constitutes an innovation by Latin American and Caribbean countries to explore the creation of a world without nuclear weapons, in which the Member States have made groundbreaking contributions.

China always respects and supports the establishment of the zone in Latin America and the Caribbean. 50 years ago, responding to the countries of the region, China signed and ratified Additional Protocol II of the Treaty, fulfilling the obligations not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone of Latin America and the Caribbean.

China will continue fulfilling its promise and contribute with practical actions for peace, security, and stability in the region. China always appreciates the countries in the region for their efforts in promoting nuclear disarmament, preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

China is willing to work unceasingly with the countries in the region to ban and completely eliminate nuclear weapons and establish a world without nuclear weapons.

China has a coherent position of strictly adhering to nuclear policy with the aim of self-defense. China has promised from day one, when it had nuclear weapons, that it will not be the first to use them, at any time under any circumstances and has unconditionally committed not to use or threaten to use them against countries and Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.

China advocates that before achieving the ban and total elimination of nuclear weapons, all weapons possessors must promise that they will not be the first to use them and will not use them against countries and Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.

China calls on the disarmament conference to accelerate and work to achieve legal documents through negotiations on negative security guarantees for non-nuclear weapon countries, and in practice, China always firmly supports international efforts to establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and has stated and ratified the protocols of the four Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone treaties of Latin America and the Caribbean, South Pacific, Africa, and Central Asia, meanwhile, China respects Mongolia's nuclear weapon free status.

China has publicly stated on several occasions that it is willing to be the first to sign the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone protocol. China supports the efforts of Middle Eastern countries to establish a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone and other weapons of mass destruction; it participates constructively in the conference on the establishment of Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone in the Middle East and other massive destructive weapons.

And as we all know, we are now in a world neither with complete peace nor with complete security. And what do we do? How do we respond to these historic challenges? In this context, in April 2022, Chinese President XI Jinping proposed the initiative for global security, based on the future destiny of all humanity, advocating 6 accessions, first, the accession to the concept of comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable common security; second, the accession to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries; third, accession to the principle purposes of the UN Charter, fourth, accession to the reasonable security concerns of all countries; fifth, accession to the resolution of differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation by peaceful means; and finally, the accession to integrated security maintenance in traditional and non-traditional areas. Our last action was on February 21 of this year.

China promulgated a concept paper for the global security initiative, and among the 20 important cooperations, a new support for Latin American and Caribbean countries stands out as the ninth, which is to support all countries in the region to actively fulfill their commitments and the programming that declares Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace, and to support all regional and sub-regional organizations, including CELAC, to play an important role in maintaining regional peace and security, and the proper handling of fervent regional issues.

In closing my remarks, I wish OPANAL's work much success and hope that we will work together to do the right thing, as we have done in history, to defend our planet and serve humanity.

Thank you very much.