



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

**General Conference**

XXVIII Session  
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Agenda item 6

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*Courtesy translation*

**Statement by the Dominican Republic**

Your Excellency Búcaro Flores, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Guatemala,

Your Excellency Flávio Bonzanini, Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL),

Representatives of the Member States of the Agency,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Dominican Republic, allow me to extend a fraternal greeting to all the representatives of the Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) at the twenty-eighth (XXVIII) Session of the General Conference, this time held at the National Palace of Culture in Guatemala City.

The Dominican Republic is committed to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; supports the peaceful use of nuclear energy; values the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, as stipulated in Article 4 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, entitled "Zone of Application", which establishes the coordinates covering the territories of the member countries and keeps the region protected from such weapons of mass destruction.

Allow me to emphasize that our country regularly complies with the submission of reports under article 14 of the treaty, which establishes that no activity prohibited by that treaty is carried out in Dominican territory. In this regard, the Ministry of Defence, as the national authority, reports that the Dominican Republic, in compliance with the treaty, does not have nuclear facilities in its jurisdiction and no explosions or tests with nuclear devices have been carried out.

Mr. President,

The Dominican Republic is in the zone of application of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and supports this international instrument that guarantees international peace and security, and our country therefore supports other related instruments for the implementation and permanence of the same, such as the Treaty of Rarotonga in the Pacific; the Treaty of Bangkok that stipulates the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Southeast Asia; the Treaty of Pelindaba for Africa; Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status; as well as the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, a region where the countries with the greatest possession of the element uranium in the world, used, inter alia, for the development of nuclear weapons, are located. Our country openly expresses support for new initiatives and negotiations to ensure controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to continue implementing the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr. President,

The Dominican Republic, in addition to being a State Party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, has adopted other related international instruments, such as the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (NSA/IAEA); the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT); and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

We are also part of other instruments related to weapons of mass destruction, such as the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons (BWC), whose latest training for National Contact Points at the regional level was held in our capital last week; and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), whose regional workshop for focal points was held in our country in June. Thus, the Dominican Republic has historically supported disarmament and non-proliferation, and will continue to support everything necessary to guarantee international peace and security.

Mr. President,

The Dominican Government is grateful to OPANAL for carrying out the "Summer School on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for Latin American and Caribbean Diplomats" programs, which have enabled training in this area.

Finally, the Dominican Government wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the elimination of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in order to contribute to a safer world for humankind.

Thank you.