



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

**General Conference**

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XXVIII Session  
3 November 2023  
Agenda item 6

Original: English

**Statement by Guyana**

President of the General Conference,

Secretary-General of OPANAL and Staff,

Distinguished Delegates and Observers,

Greetings from Guyana.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to preside the current session, as well as the representatives of Argentina and Uruguay on their election as vice-presidents. You have my delegation's full support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend gratitude to the Government of Guatemala for hosting and supporting this year's General Conference of OPANAL.

Furthermore, I wish to recognize and applaud the excellent stewardship by Ambassador Flavio Bonzanini as Secretary-General of OPANAL, and his dedicated Secretarial team for their outstanding work throughout the years and in organizing this year's General Conference.

Mr. President,

Guyana remains unwavering in its dedication to upholding and implementing the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which designates the Latin America and the Caribbean Region as a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone. This declaration, the first of its kind, signifies our Region's leadership in the global pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons, an enduring legacy of which the region can be justly proud.

In a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, the principles underlying the Treaty become all the more important, as do the provisions of the UN Charter and International Law. It is imperative that we continue to work together to address the complex and multifaceted issues surrounding nuclear

disarmament. We must actively engage in initiatives that promote trust, goodwill, and unity among us.

In this connection, Guyana invites the Secretariat to continue exploring opportunities to advance dialogue with the parties to the Additional Protocol I and Additional Protocol II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco to withdraw their interpretative declarations that are against the agreed-upon provisions of the treaty.

Mr. President,

As members of the global community, we all have a duty and obligation to ensure that progress is maintained towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. As the first country to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Guyana remain fully committed to this goal. We will continue to work for the universalization of this vital instrument and urge all States that have not yet done so to ratify the TPNW and put an end to the regressing on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

Guyana recognizes the vital role that education in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation play in fostering a culture of peace and security and strengthening awareness and a sense of responsibility among citizens, policymakers, and the youths in particular, who are the leaders of tomorrow. We commend, in this regard, the continued efforts by the Secretariat in providing educational programs and initiatives that promote a comprehensive understanding of the dangers of nuclear weapons and the benefits of disarmament via the “Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation,” the “Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation” and the “Internship Programme at the Secretariat.”

In conclusion, Mr. President, let us work to advance implementation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, to ensure that Latin America and the Caribbean remain a Zone of Peace and Development.

I thank you.