



**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 Mexico**

Mr. President of the XXVIII Session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Mr. Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Dear representatives of the Member States and Observers, and officials accompanying us this morning,

First of all, on behalf of the Government of Mexico, I thank the Government of Guatemala, a friend and ally of Mexico, for receiving us on this occasion. As the depositary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, we are pleased that the General Conference is leaving Mexico City, because it represents a symbol of the responsibility and commitment of all Parties to the Treaty to its implementation.

I would also like to welcome your election as President of this session of the General Conference. We are fully convinced that, under your leadership, the work of this session will be successful.

Mr. President,

We are meeting at a time of high risk to international peace and security. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists founded by Albert Einstein in 1946, which brings together 10 Nobel Laureates on its board, equates the midnight of the "Doomsday Clock" with the global catastrophe, which humanity will suffer from a nuclear war, among other threats. This year, the bulletin set the hands of the clock at 95 seconds to midnight, which is the closest position to a global crisis since this indicator began to be used. Among other reasons is the exacerbation of the nuclear threat.

That is why it is incumbent upon the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area, Latin America and the Caribbean, to continue to express our concern and condemnation of the

explicit and veiled threats about the use of nuclear weapons, and the fact that the possessors of these weapons continue to modernize and increase their arsenals, instead of reducing them and moving towards their elimination, in accordance with their international obligations and commitments, especially those under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

In this regard, the polarization in multilateral disarmament forums and the lack of diplomatic dialogue and negotiations are equally worrying. Mexico is a country convinced of multilateralism. We believe that it is only through multilateral approaches and solutions that common solutions to common problems can be found.

In the face of this convulsive scenario, Mexico welcomes the fact that Latin America and the Caribbean continues to be a region committed to disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. The region has been characterized by being a builder of regional bridges that have contributed to generating greater closeness between our peoples.

In the field of nuclear disarmament, our region has spearheaded the establishment of other nuclear-free zones in the world. The establishment of these zones gives hope to the international community as to the possibility of achieving the goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. They also represent an expression of the will of States Parties to establish their own common security structures and reflect the sentiment of the vast majority of States with regard to nuclear weapons. Let us not forget that today, 116 countries live under treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Our region continues to contribute to the cause of achieving and sustaining a world free of nuclear weapons. A clear proof of this has been the regional support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted in 2017 and is proud to currently have 93 signatures and 69 ratifications.

In this regard, Mexico would like to take advantage of this Conference to recognize the countries of the region that are already parties to this important historic instrument and calls on those that have not yet done so to accede to this instrument with a sense of urgency, in order to demonstrate that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the prohibition of nuclear weapons is the regional position. Mexico, in its capacity as Chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW, which will take place from November 27 to December 1, 2023, at the UN headquarters in New York, wishes to reiterate that all countries in the region are invited to participate in the meeting, including those that have not yet joined the Treaty, who will be welcomed as observers.

Mr. President,

Mexico would like to acknowledge the Secretary-General of OPANAL for his work this year. In particular, Mexico would like to underline the support we have always received from the members of the Secretariat, both for the day-to-day work of the Agency and for the convening of the States Parties to the various governing bodies of OPANAL, as well as for the participation of the Secretary-General in various multilateral meetings.

The Secretary-General of OPANAL, and the representatives of the Secretariat, should continue to be present and take part in multilateral meetings that address the issues of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, since these spaces show the nuclear-free zone and the Latin American and Caribbean region as the paragon and opinion leader that it is.

We also urge the Secretariat to continue participating with communiqués, opinion articles and comments on multilateral documents and negotiations, from the United Nations and other organizations, to mark the presence of OPANAL, a unique organization in the world.

Mexico particularly recognizes the work of OPANAL in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education, an issue that is a high priority for my country. This area of action has been strengthened in recent years through the dissemination of the Agency's activities with civil society and academic institutions. The Internship Programme, for example, has undoubtedly been an invaluable source of promotion among young people from different countries and has contributed to giving greater visibility to the work of our Agency.

The Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for Latin American and Caribbean Diplomats, which in 2024 will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, has been institutionalized as an international benchmark in disarmament education and capacity building in our region, and fills the Mexican Foreign Ministry with pride.

We congratulate the delegation of Brazil for its very important and interesting initiative presented for consideration by the Conference in this area, which we support and which we hope to continue working on to fine-tune details for its implementation.

It is also of paramount importance for Mexico that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as OPANAL, submit data and their contributions to the UN Secretary-General for the updating of the Report on the United Nations Disarmament Education Study, mandated by the allusive resolution that my country presents biennially within the framework of the First Committee

of the UN General Assembly. We regret that only one country in the region submitted contributions to the 2022 report.

We also recognize and welcome the modifications to the Agency's methods which, through the possibility of remote participation and the facilities of simultaneous interpretation, ensure greater inclusiveness and participation, and facilitate the exercise of the prerogatives of all States parties to the Treaty.

We also extend our appreciation to the OPANAL Council and to all the countries that have worked to refine the working methods of the Secretariat, so that we can continue to improve the way in which OPANAL works, among other issues that this Conference will consider.

Mr. President,

Subject to the comments that my delegation will make during its consideration of the items on the agenda of this Conference, I would like to reiterate Mexico's conviction that achieving and sustaining a world free of nuclear weapons is the driving force of our multilateral work and a priority objective.

Until that time comes, implementing the Treaty of Tlatelolco will continue to be one of the banners that underpin our moral and political commitment to the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Let us continue to work towards a safer and more peaceful world, based on international law and cooperation, not on weapons, much less on weapons that have already been described by the UN General Assembly as immoral, such as nuclear weapons.

Thank you.