



**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 Peru**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary-General, representatives of the Member States and observers,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election, and I am sure that under your leadership we will conclude a successful General Conference. Allow me also to express my delegation's appreciation to the Government of Guatemala for hosting this edition of the General Conference, which is meeting away from its headquarters for the first time in 10 years; and to the Secretary-General and his team for the work done for its organization.

Mr. President,

Peru would first like to reaffirm to this General Conference its unwavering commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as indispensable elements for international peace and security.

The current international situation, marked by serious conflicts and geopolitical tensions, makes more evident than ever the importance of international disarmament and non-proliferation regimes and the need to achieve their full implementation and universalization.

Amid a growing rhetoric of threat of the use of nuclear weapons and taking into account the catastrophic consequences that their use would have for humanity, we must redouble our efforts to achieve general and complete nuclear disarmament through the prohibition of nuclear weapons and their subsequent transparent, verifiable and irreversible elimination.

Furthermore, until this objective is achieved, we reiterate that it is essential for nuclear States to provide non-nuclear-weapon States with full, unconditional, irrevocable, and legally binding security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

The Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) is an international institutional benchmark in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Peru is convinced of the importance and contribution of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones to achieving those objectives and, in that regard, undertakes to continue to play an active and proactive role in our Agency. The environment of stability and nuclear security fostered by this Agency allows States to focus on issues of development and well-being.

With regard to the work of OPANAL, since the last session of this General Conference, I would like to highlight the progress made in the area of the Interpretative Declarations to Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco through the initiation of a process of dialogue with the representatives of the States Parties to those Protocols. Although there is still a long way to go before a solution to this problem can be found, this is an important first step that we must highlight and pursue.

My country would also like to highlight OPANAL's initiative to conduct a new comprehensive study on nuclear-weapon-free zones within the framework of the United Nations. Although the process towards the adoption of the respective resolution in that forum will involve greater coordination, we believe that this is a relevant issue that we must continue to promote.

Finally, it is necessary to recognize the work of the General Secretariat, in particular its efforts to maintain the visibility of the Agency in various international forums; the development of various initiatives in education in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; the permanent contact with other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones to strengthen our cooperation and joint work; and the modernization of OPANAL's working methods.

We encourage the Secretariat to continue these important efforts. We are aware that it carries them out with limited resources, and we hope that in 2024 we will be able to reach consensus to provide it with better conditions, including progress in the process to identify its own headquarters.

Reiterating Peru's commitment to OPANAL, we call on the entire membership to continue working to maintain its validity and contributions to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

Thank you.