



General Conference

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Statement by the Russian Federation

Mr. President of the Conference,

Mr. Secretary General,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Russian Federation, I greet the participants of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a key element of the international security system. The Treaty is still effective and has proven its sustainability and usefulness for all its parties, both nuclear and non-nuclear. The successful functioning of the non-proliferation regime based on the NPT relies on a calibrated balance between its three pillars: cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

We believe that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones under Article VII of the NPT is a crucial element of the non-proliferation regime. Russia has fully acceded to all protocols to the existing treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones – the Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Pelindaba and Semipalatinsk Treaties - thus providing over a hundred States parties with assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, so far only the protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco have been ratified by all nuclear-weapon States.

We highly appreciate more than half-century operation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco - the first of its kind - and its significant contribution to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in other regions. Russia reaffirms its resolve to continue to strictly comply with the obligations under Additional Protocol II to the Treaty. Once again, we would like to emphasize that the declarations

made on signing of the mentioned document in no way affect the interests of states that observe the letter and spirit of Tlatelolco and are in line with the generally recognized norms of international law.

The successful functioning of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and Additional Protocol II shows that no situation that would on our part require the activation of reservations has actually arisen. Russia does not intend to use them in the future if the States Parties to the Treaty strictly observe the nuclear-free status of their region and there are no abuses of the provisions of the Treaty and its protocols by other nuclear powers.

A matter of concern in this context is a negative trend towards the formation of new military-political alliances such as AUKUS. Despite the reassurances about non-transfer of nuclear weapons, there is a risk that the infrastructure of nuclear-weapon states could appear on the territory of not just a non-nuclear-weapon State, but a country that is formally a party to a NWFZ.

All this highlights once again that reservations and interpretative statements to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zones treaties made by nuclear-weapon States, including Russia, have not lost their relevance, but, on the contrary, are of increasing importance.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

We share the concern expressed by a number of delegations about the situation with the NPT at the start of the 11th review cycle. The previous two review conferences in 2015 and 2022 ended without the adoption of an outcome document. In the first case, due to the unwillingness of three States to agree with the majority-approved passages on the WMD Free Zone in the Middle East. In 2022, the review process was sacrificed to the desire of a number of States to pursue a goal very far from the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In general, we note that the trend towards the use of the NPT to achieve their political goals, which have nothing to do with nuclear non-proliferation and arms control, has an extremely negative impact both on the review process and on the sustainability of the Treaty as a whole.

We are grateful to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean that, for the most part, in pursuit of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, they do not get involved in such politicized discussions. We are aware that our positions do not always coincide, but we have great respect for the role that the OPANAL Member States play in addressing the challenges of strengthening international peace and security.

Thank you for your attention.