



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

General Conference

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Agenda item 6

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Courtesy translation

Statement by the Soka Gakkai

President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary General of OPANAL,

Representatives of participating States, colleagues.

In November 2003, twenty years ago, at the General Conference of OPANAL in Havana, Resolution CG/Res.456 was approved, which institutionally supports the participation of Soka Gakkai International in joint actions with this esteemed institution.

There are many places and actions that we should be grateful for in favor of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Just two months ago, Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini participated in the opening of the exhibition Everything You Treasure: For a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World at the "Juan José Arreola" Library of the University of Guadalajara. This Soka Gakkai International exhibit has been shown in a hundred cities in 21 countries, with the support of colleagues from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN.

On its tour in Mexico, the exhibition was inaugurated on Tuesday, September 8, commemorating that Sunday, September 8, but in 1957, when the then second President of Soka Gakkai, Mr. Josei Toda, in front of thousands of young heirs of a nation that witnessed the atrocity of the nuclear bombing in two cities, vowed to take action to eradicate these weapons.

66 years have passed since then and this Declaration was the beginning of multiple actions that Soka Gakkai has carried out, with institutions linked to this purpose, to move towards a better planet. I give the floor to my colleague, Aline Rodríguez:

(Aline Rodríguez)

Good morning. Thank you very much for the invitation, for the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala and OPANAL to be gathered in this beautiful city.

In his global proposal presented on April 27 of this year, Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, President of Soka Gakkai International, commented that it is our duty as members of civil society to help ensure that the commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons is adopted more quickly and generates the fundamental impetus for a change in the era by reiterating the principle that "in a nuclear war there are no victors and that is why we must never participate in it", taking up the "recipe of hope" that Drs. Lown and Chazov, co-founders of the International Association of Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, IPPNW, proclaimed in 1986 "Let us live together, instead of die together".

The assertive and sagacious work of diplomacy based on persevering communication between nations is fundamental to the achievement of the establishment of a world without nuclear weapons, and the force that guides each one in the decisive moments to continue outside the diplomatic apparatus, when the outlook seems bleak, comes from the strength of the human spirit that nests the immovable hope to protect life in our daily actions.

Today more than ever, Soka Gakkai International reiterates that it walks together with OPANAL in its role as a civilian observer and seeks to redouble its efforts as members of the international community, especially in our younger generations, to contribute to the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

Thank you very much.