



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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Statement by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Mr. Marco Tulio Chicas Sosa,

President of the twenty-eighth General Conference of the OPANAL,

Mr. Secretary General, Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini,

Dear Representatives of the Members States,

We cordially greet you on behalf of the Delegation of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and we wish you the greatest success in the celebration of this new edition of the General Conference of the OPANAL,

The implementation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco is an important example of the pacifist vocation of our region; thus, Venezuela ratifies its support to the work and contributions that this Organization has been making in international efforts to reach nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We therefore endorse all initiatives aimed at the revitalization of the OPANAL.

Mr. Secretary General,

The current international situation, exacerbated by growing rivalry among the major powers and the continuous and gradual erosion of multilateralism in all fields, including arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament, is threatening the achievement of the elimination and ban of nuclear weapons.

Throughout almost six decades, the OPANAL has contributed decisively to its role as an inspiration for existing and future nuclear-weapon-free zones, and by its active participation in negotiations on this matter.

Venezuela considers necessary the creation of new Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in different parts of the world within the framework of the United Nations, as they constitute an effective measure to limit the geographic spread of nuclear weapons as well as contributing to the cause of nuclear disarmament.

Our country ratifies its commitment to the promotion and consolidation of a secure and peaceful world. The attainment of this objective relies on the unanimous commitment of all member states of the international community, to ensure the adoption of effective measures aimed at a general and complete disarmament.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela ratifies its commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Our country has been adopting transforming measures that will allow us to reach economic, social, scientific and technological development through international cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). However, among the obstacles to achieving this objective is the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, which seriously threatens our right to achieve this objective.

Venezuela regrets that the X Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty did not reach a substantive outcome to effectively address the dangers of the nuclear arms race and missed this opportunity to strengthen the Treaty and progress towards its objectives.

Moreover, Venezuela salutes the outcomes of the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which took place in Vienna in June 2022, and endorses the content of the documents adopted.

Mr. Secretary General,

Venezuela once again seizes this occasion to reiterate the Special Communiqué on the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons adopted at the founding Summit of CELAC in December 2011, held in Caracas, Venezuela. Likewise, it reaffirms the content of the Proclamation on Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, adopted at the II Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in 2014, based on the respect of the principles and norms of International Law and the Principles and Purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

To conclude, our delegation wishes to reaffirm once again that in the current context of nuclear threat, efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament must continue with greater intensity; the

diplomacy of dialogue and cooperation is more needed than ever to achieve complete and effective nuclear disarmament, and that is why Venezuela reiterates its commitment to keep contributing to the revitalization and strengthening of the OPANAL as the regional organization to ensure strict respect and compliance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

Thank you very much.