



OPANAL

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

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

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September 2024)

The Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL):

Reiterate their concern about the existence of more than twelve thousand nuclear weapons¹ which pose an unacceptable threat to the future of the humankind a danger that grows with each passing day.

Recall that this concern is reflected in numerous resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, such as Res. 1 (I)²; in the Final Document of the First Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament³; as well as in the preamble of the Treaty of Tlatelolco; in the preamble of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); and in the preamble of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Demand one more time that nuclear weapons not be used again, under any circumstances, by any actor, a feat which can only be ensured through the prohibition and the subsequent transparent, verifiable, and irreversible elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Express their alarm and dismay on account of threats to use nuclear weapons, the increased operational alertness of nuclear arsenals, the continued modernization of nuclear weapons systems and the increasingly strident nuclear rhetoric, and that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is

¹ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2024

² A/RES/1(1)

³ A/S-10/4

a violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. **Condemn** unequivocally any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, whether explicit or implicit, irrespective of the circumstances.

Renew their call for all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States, to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in their security and defence doctrines and policies and to give full compliance to their legal obligations and unconditional commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons without further delay.

Call upon non-nuclear weapon States that are covered by extended nuclear deterrence policies through military alliances to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons from their security and defence policies.

Express their grave concern for the erosion of the treaty-based disarmament architecture and **call upon** all States to comply with their legal obligations and the commitments undertaken regarding nuclear disarmament, and to promote and strengthen international peace and security; and firmly support all bilateral, regional or multilateral instruments that contribute to achieving nuclear disarmament.

Demand of nuclear-weapon States an end to the qualitative improvement of their nuclear arsenals, the development of new types of these weapons, and the consideration of new scenarios and procedures for the development and employment of new types of such weapons, which is inconsistent with the obligation to adopt effective measures towards nuclear disarmament.

Reiterate the call for nuclear-weapon States to provide full and unequivocal legally binding assurances to the States that comprise the nuclear-weapon-free zones, in accordance with the international treaties that establish them and their additional protocols.

Urge those nuclear-weapon States which have made interpretative declarations concerning Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Treaty as well as to international law, to continue the dialogue with the objective of providing full and unequivocal negative security assurances to the States Party to the Treaty, as well as to respect the militarily denuclearized character of the zone.

Reaffirm the legally binding obligations reached more than 50 years ago with the entry into force of the NPT, cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and reiterate the validity of the commitments undertaken at the NPT Review Conferences of 1995⁴, 2000⁵ and 2010⁶.

Recall the responsibility of all States Parties to fully implement the NPT and **urge** nuclear-weapon States to take immediate action for the full and effective implementation of article VI.

Urge once again all States which are not parties to the NPT to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapon States, without further delay and without conditions.

Call upon the prompt entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and therefore **urge** the Annex II States that have not yet ratified the Treaty, to take necessary measures to do so without further delay.

Reiterate their participation in the adoption and entry into force of the TPNW, which prohibits the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and **invite** all States that are not yet party to the Treaty to consider their ratification or adherence.

Underscore that the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the NPT, the TPNW, as well as the CTBT once in force, establish norms of International Law that are legally-binding on the States which signed and ratified them. **Emphasise** that these instruments are not simply declarations of intent, but rather constitute an appropriate legal basis for the process of total elimination of nuclear weapons, in a transparent, verifiable, and irreversible manner, in order to prevent their resurfacing.

Reiterate their conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones represents a step of great relevance to advance towards nuclear disarmament and is closely related to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as to the reduction of nuclear risk.

⁴ NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)

⁵ NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)

⁶ NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I) *

Reaffirm their support for the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East in accordance with the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions.

Reiterate their commitment to continue promoting dialogue and cooperation among Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, including Mongolia, and **regret** that the Fourth Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones⁷ has not yet been held.

Reiterate the need to promote a new comprehensive study of the issue of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects, in order to update the study conducted on this subject by the United Nations General Assembly almost five decades ago.

Highlight the importance of the “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”⁸, adopted through United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/60⁹ and **commit themselves** to continue working on the implementation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education programmes.

Recognise the valuable contribution of women and youth in the promotion and maintenance of peace and security and **reiterate** their commitment to promoting their full and effective representation and participation in policy formulation, planning, and execution processes in the context of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Commend the firm conviction and permanent commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to continue promoting complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament, as a priority objective; and in this regard, they recall the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and the Declarations on Nuclear Disarmament and a World Free of Nuclear Weapons from the CELAC Summits¹⁰.

⁷ A/RES/73/71

⁸ A/57/124

⁹ A/RES/57/60

¹⁰ Special Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament, CELAC, 2023