



OPANAL

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

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**Communiqué of the Member States of the
Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
(OPANAL) on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco**

14 February 2023

The 33 Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL):

1. **Commemorate** this day the 56th Anniversary of the adoption and opening for signature of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean – Treaty of Tlatelolco, which created the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in a densely populated area, has served as a source of inspiration for four other regions in the world and Mongolia.
2. **Reiterate** their deep concern over the threat to the survival of humankind posed by the existence of about 12 705 nuclear weapons, as well as the catastrophic humanitarian impact and environmental consequences of their possible use or any intentional or accidental detonation.
3. **Condemn** unequivocally any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances.
4. **Stress** their great concern about the prevalent international situation, which is characterized by the increasing threat, explicit or veiled, of use of nuclear weapons, many of those on alert status, in a context of geopolitical tensions and armed conflicts and threats of terrorism. **Demand** that States that possess this type of weapons cease the qualitative and quantitative improvement and modernization programs of their nuclear arsenals, the development of new types of such weapons and of new scenarios and procedures for the development and employment of new types of such weapons, which is inconsistent with international law, in particular with the obligation to adopt effective measures towards nuclear disarmament.

5. **Demand** that nuclear weapons not be used again by any actor, under any circumstances, what can only be assured by the prohibition and the subsequent transparent, verifiable and irreversible elimination of all nuclear weapons.
6. **Reiterate** that, although the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones do not constitute an end in themselves, they do represent a step towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Therefore, **encourage** the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones by means of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the respective regions.
7. **Emphasize** that the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones promote peace and stability at the regional and international levels by prohibiting the possession, acquisition, development, testing, manufacturing, production, stockpiling, deployment and use of nuclear weapons; and reaffirm the supremacy of verifiable, irreversible, transparent and complete nuclear disarmament; and reiterate that the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.
8. **Reaffirm** that the unequivocal and legally binding negative security assurances to the States belonging to Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones against the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons are a fundamental element for the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and constitute a legitimate interest of the international community.
9. **Call** on the four States Parties to the Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco that issued interpretative declarations contrary to the letter and spirit of the Treaty¹ and to international law, to examine them together with OPANAL aiming at revising or eliminating them in order to provide full and unequivocal negative security assurances to the States of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to respect the militarily denuclearized character of the region.
10. **Reiterate** their commitment to continue to promote the dialogue and cooperation among Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, including Mongolia, through, *inter alia*, the early convening of the Fourth Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, and to contribute to its successful outcome.

¹ France, Russia, United States and United Kingdom.

11. **Regret** that the X Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held from August 1 to 26, 2022, did not achieve a consensual final document, and **express** their determination to contribute to the success of the next NPT review cycle.

12. **Take note** of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), held from June 21 to 23, 2022, in Vienna., and the election of Mexico as President of the Second Meeting of States Party to the Treaty, in 2023. **Note** that Latin America and the Caribbean is the region with the largest number of States Party to this international instrument, as well as that the TPNW has joined the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the NPT, on the path towards the elimination of these weapons of mass destruction in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner.

13. **Reiterate** the commitment of the States of the region endorsed in the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, to continue to promote nuclear disarmament as a priority objective and to contribute to general and complete disarmament in order to favour the strengthening of confidence among nations.