



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

Secretariat

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Statement of

Ambassador Eric Anderson Machado

Coordinator of the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the
Caribbean (OPANAL) at the

International Atomic Energy Agency

and

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Peru to
the IAEA and other International Organizations in Vienna

on behalf of

Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares

Secretary General of OPANAL

September 2019

Vienna, Austria

Mr. /Ms. President:

As co-ordinator of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) at the International Atomic Energy Agency, and on behalf of the Secretary-General of OPANAL, Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, I express to you my warm congratulations for being elected to conduct the 63rd session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Mr. / Ms. President:

OPANAL is the only intergovernmental organization devoted exclusively to disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which opened for signature on 14 February 1967, was signed and ratified by the 33 countries of the region and established Latin America and the Caribbean as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. Through its three primary bodies - the General Conference, the Council and the Secretariat - OPANAL is a political and intergovernmental forum where States Party carry out consultations on the purposes, measures and procedures set forth in the Treaty.

Latin America and the Caribbean was the first region in the world committed to use nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes and the first in establishing a juridical standard of prohibition of nuclear weapons. The political and legal creation of the Latin American and Caribbean States inspired four other regions to establish their Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.

Mr. /Ms. President:

The cooperation and coordination between OPANAL and the IAEA is essential for the operation of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In accordance with Article 1 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Parties prohibit the test, use, manufacture, production or acquisition, receipt, storage, installation or deployment by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons, directly or indirectly in their territories.

In order to verify compliance with these obligations, the Treaty establishes a Control System which, according to Article 12, is performed by two International Organizations: OPANAL and the IAEA.

To guarantee that nuclear energy programs of the Contracting Parties are used exclusively for peaceful purposes, Article 13 of the Treaty compels the Contracting Parties to negotiate agreements with the IAEA for the application of Safeguards to their nuclear activities. Currently all States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco have safeguards agreements with the IAEA.

In accordance with Article 14 of the Treaty, each State Party submit to the Agency semi-annual reports stating that no activity prohibited under the Treaty, has taken place in their respective territories. The semi-annual frequency of the reports ensures that Member States do not have time enough to develop any activity prohibited in the Treaty.

Article 16 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco allows the IAEA to carry out special inspections at the request of any Member State, with the intervention of the Secretary-General of OPANAL and with prior authorization of the Council.

In accordance with Article 19, OPANAL can conclude agreements with the IAEA in order to facilitate the efficient operation of the Control System. On 3 October 1972, both organizations signed the “Cooperation Agreement between the IAEA and OPANAL.” This Agreement was signed at the 16th session of the IAEA General Conference held in Mexico City. The Cooperation Agreement allowed OPANAL and the IAEA to closely co-operate and harmonize their efforts.

Mr. /Ms. President:

The Treaty of Tlatelolco has two Additional Protocols essential to protect the region from nuclear weapons. Additional Protocol I determines that extra-regional States who are internationally responsible, *de jure* or *de facto*, for territories of the Zone of Application, to respect its denuclearized status. Having signed and ratified Additional Protocol II, the five Nuclear-Weapon States recognized in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are bound to respect the Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone.

Some States Party to the Additional Protocols have made interpretative declarations which constitute reservations, thus reducing the effectiveness of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean. Similar situation happens in relation to other nuclear-weapon-free zones and this has been a motive of concern not only for States in the zones but also to the vast majority of the international community. Final documents of NPT Review Conferences reflected this concern.

OPANAL has initiated a dialogue with those States individually, proposing the negotiation of adjustments to the relevant parts of interpretative declarations.

Mr. /Ms. President:

In addition to the obligations established in the Treaty of Tlatelolco, OPANAL has expanded its activities in last years by promoting the participation of Member States at the international debate on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. For instance, since 2014 the Agency has issued an annual Declaration adopted by the consensus of its Member States on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 26 September, as established by the United Nations General Assembly. This annual Declaration covers all important topics on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and is circulated as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly, the IAEA General Conference, and the Conference on Disarmament. Latin America and the Caribbean is the only region that issues a declaration on this topic.

Mr. /Ms. President:

OPANAL and its Member States will continue to work together with the IAEA to ensure that Latin America and the Caribbean remains a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone, as it has been for more than 50 years.

Thank you.