



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 Flávio Roberto Bonzanini

Secretary General of OPANAL

September 2020

Vienna, Austria

Mr. /Ms. Chair:

In my capacity of Coordinator of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and on behalf of the Secretary-General of OPANAL, Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini, I express my warmest congratulations to you for your election and wish you a successful 64th session of the IAEA General Conference during such difficult times.

Please, let me also reiterate congratulations of the Secretary General and OPANAL Member States to Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi for his election as Director General of the IAEA. It is our honour to welcome the first Latin-American Director General of the Agency and we reiterate our firm determination to contribute to the success of his term, promoting close collaboration and cooperation with OPANAL.

Mr. /Ms. Chair:

Latin America and the Caribbean was the first region in the world to undertake, by means of an international legal instrument, the usage of nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes, and to declare itself free of nuclear weapons.

The specific roles of OPANAL and the IAEA, as well as their coordination and cooperation, is essential for the functioning of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean.

On 3 October 1972, OPANAL and the IAEA signed the Cooperation Agreement, which has been a framework for the relation between both agencies permitting them to act in close cooperation with each other and to consult with a view of harmonizing their efforts.

In order to ensure compliance with its obligations, the Treaty of Tlatelolco maintains Control System which would not be effective without the participation of the IAEA.

The IAEA's role is focused on the technical aspect of the Control System established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco. In accordance with its Article 13, the Parties to the Treaty undertake the commitment to negotiate multilateral or bilateral agreements with the IAEA for the application of safeguards to their nuclear activities. All the 33 States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco have concluded comprehensive and small quantity safeguards agreements with the IAEA.

In accordance with Article 12 and 16 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and in conformity with the safeguards agreements concluded by the Parties, the IAEA has the power to carry out special inspections at the request of any Party, with the authorization of the Council of OPANAL and through the Secretary-General of the Agency. Up until now, these inspections have never been needed, but they are an important mechanism to be used if necessary.

Mr. /Ms. Chair:

Latin America and the Caribbean will maintain their historic commitment to strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. For this, we look forward to continue a strong relationship between our two agencies.

I thank you.