



**AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN**

**DECLARATION OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) witnessing the new international circumstances surrounding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and being aware of our historic commitment with those principles; we issue the following Declaration and agree to enlighten all the States at the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

1. The creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean through the Treaty of Tlatelolco has contributed to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and also to regional and international peace and security. This has been repeatedly recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in various resolutions since 1967, last updated in 2010: *A/RES/65/40* “Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco.)”
2. The Treaty of Tlatelolco and its Additional Protocols I & II established legal obligations to States Parties and Nuclear-Weapon States with the aim of guaranteeing the denuclearization of this Zone, first in the world to be constituted in a highly populated territory.
3. It was essential for the establishment of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone of Latin America and the Caribbean the signing and ratifying of Additional Protocols I & II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco by the Nuclear-Weapon States. Nowadays, an open dialogue with the majority of these States, in relation to their interpretative declarations to the protocols at the time of signing and/or ratifying, is most important in order to perfect the military denuclearization of the Zone. We will continue to work together with Entailed States to achieve the withdrawal or adaptation of those declarations.
4. We reiterate that the use or threat to use of nuclear weapons is a violation of the United Nations Charter and a crime against humanity. At the same time, it represents a violation of International Law and International Humanitarian Law unanimously expressed by the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Nuclear Weapons in 1996.
5. It is a legitimate interest of Non-nuclear-weapon States to be given unequivocal legally binding guarantees from Nuclear-Weapon States not to use or threaten to use such weapons against them. We urge the Conference on Disarmament to work on the negotiation of a legally-binding universal instrument regarding negative security assurances, considering nuclear weapons as a great danger to world peace and prejudicial to life on Earth.
6. The Treaty of Tlatelolco and OPANAL have been a political, legal and institutional reference in the creation of other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) in different areas around the world. Nowadays; the experience of OPANAL, along with the other four NWFZs, represents an important legacy to the international community in order to inspire the creation of new NWFZs or Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zones (WMDFFZ), such as the one proposed to the Middle East.
7. We reaffirm the urgent need to advance towards the priority goal of Nuclear Disarmament, and to achieve the total elimination and legally-binding prohibition of nuclear weapons. In this respect, we emphasize that the creation of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones embodies a major contribution to Non-proliferation efforts. We support the works done today with regards to the creation of new NWFZs,

including the International Atomic Energy Agency forum on experiences of potential interest in the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East, to be held on November 21-22, 2011 at AIEA's headquarters in Vienna.

8. Today, 114 States are part of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones worldwide: Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga), Southeast Asia (Treaty of Bangkok), Africa (Treaty of Pelindaba) and Central Asia, as well as Mongolia as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free State. Individually, they contribute to regional peace and security; collectively, to global peace and security. At the same time they contribute to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation processes.
9. Both Conferences of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, in Mexico (2005) and New York (2010) and their Final Documents constitute the starting point of the cooperation and coordination among NWFZs. We must move forward towards the creation of a common agenda that promotes the consolidation of each Zone and supports the complete and general disarmament process.
10. We acknowledge the improvements made this year by other NWFZs, they are key elements in achieving effective coordination on works made towards the common agenda. We also welcome the creation by the Member States of Pelindaba Treaty in May 2011 of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE). Since the creation of OPANAL in 1969, this is the first time another NWFZ establishes a permanent body for the achievement of the objectives of its own Treaty. We call upon all other NWFZs to consider the establishment of permanent bodies similar to the ones created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco and Pelindaba.
11. The latest achievements of the NWFZs created by the Treaties of Rarotonga and Pelindaba in the signing and ratification processes of their protocols also represent important steps towards consolidating the statutes of military denuclearization of these Zones. In this respect, we also welcome the significant efforts made by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to strengthen the entry into force of the Treaty of Bangkok. In particular, we highlight their negotiations with nuclear-weapon States stated in their Plan of Action 2007-2012.
12. The third Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that established Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, which will take place in 2015, as well as its preparation process, gives an opportunity to consolidate the coordination mechanisms between the NWFZs and plan the agenda and its work plan. For this reason, we invite all other NWFZs to collectively start the preparation process towards this Conference, which first coordination meeting may take place under the *first Preparatory Conference for the IX Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference* to be held 30 April–11 May 2012 in Vienna, Austria.
13. We expect progress in the creation of new NWFZs, such as the ones suggested in Northeast Asia and the Middle East, the institutional experience of OPANAL is made available for these processes. In this respect, we are pleased to inform that under the 45th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco to be held in February 2012, OPANAL will carry out the International Seminar on “The Experience of the NWFZ of Latin America and the Caribbean and its perspective towards 2015 and beyond”, one of the seminar's outcomes will be the systematization and analysis of good practices and lessons learnt in those four and a half decades.
14. We support the exhortation made by the United Nations General Secretary in his five-point plan on nuclear disarmament to all NPT States Parties and to nuclear-weapon States in particular, to accomplish their obligation under the Treaty and to undertake negotiations on more efficient measures leading to nuclear disarmament.
15. We express, in accordance with the previous paragraph, our conviction on the importance to initiate the negotiations for a universal legally binding instrument aimed to prohibit nuclear weapons. We are committed to joining forces in favour of this main objective.

16. We highlight the significance to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in security policies, we note nuclear postures and doctrines reviews made by some nuclear-weapon States and we encourage them to continue moving forward to reduce their arsenals for the purpose of their total elimination.
17. We reiterate our demand for the binding cessation of all nuclear-weapons-test explosions, as well as the need to achieve universal adhesion to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) from all nuclear-weapon States in particular, and the States mentioned in Annex 2 of the Treaty. We call upon all states in this regard, to uphold the moratorium on nuclear weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosion pending the entry into force of the Treaty. We underscore our commitment to continue encouraging the ratification of the Treaty from all 33 Member States of this Zone, 30 of them have already ratified it, and one more has signed it.
18. We congratulate the signing of the Agreements between Argentina and Brazil for Exclusively Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy which gave birth to the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) on the occasion of their Twentieth Anniversary celebrated this year. In this way, the political dialogue, transparency and mutual trust in the nuclear area became a central pillar in the strategic relationship between these two South American States, benefiting the integration and cooperation of the whole region, as well as the consolidation of the regime established in the Treaty of Tlatelolco and OPANAL. We highlight that the successful significance of the Argentine-Brazilian experience and the ABACC have been worldwide recognized and represent an example and a source of inspiration to all other regions around the world, in particular to those where Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones are not yet present.
19. We are committed to continue implementing programmes on Nuclear Disarmament Education and to promote alliances with other institutions that facilitate the creation and commitment to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world; bearing in mind that Nuclear Disarmament Education and non-proliferation have been reiterated in the United Nations General Secretary's reports since 2002 as an important contribution to the consolidation of international peace and security.
20. International political reality urges to move forward towards nuclear disarmament. It is a responsibility of all States, particularly of nuclear-weapon States, from whom we expect improvements in their commitment to accelerate concrete progress on measures aimed to achieve nuclear disarmament, established in Measure 5 of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, towards a full entry into force of the provisions of Article VI of this Treaty.
21. We are convinced that only through concrete initiatives and sustained actions we will be able to move forward towards a global, total, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament. Therefore, with the cooperation of NWFZs, States, International Organizations and other NGOs we will draw near to our final destination of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Mexico City, September 2011.