

**STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR MABEL GÓMEZ OLIVER,
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**PLENARY I ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TLATELOLCO
DECLARATION, COORDINATION AND COOPERATION AMONG NWFZ.**

MEETING OF FOCAL POINTS FOR NWFZ AND MONGOLIA

As I expressed in the opening session, this Meeting provide us with an excellent opportunity to commence a new stage of communication and cooperation among NWFZ that could reinforce our contribution to peace and security and to the overall goal of a nuclear weapons free world.

The “Tlatelolco Declaration” that came out of the First Conference of State Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Established NWFZ in April 2005, identifies areas in which we have common positions and concerns and the way in which these could be addressed.

Among other things, the Declaration reaffirms our commitment to reach the common objectives established on the NWFZ Treaties; to cooperate in the advancement of ratifications by all states that belong to a NWFZ; to contribute to the strengthening of the NPT and to nuclear disarmament, including through mechanisms such as joint meetings of State Parties, Signatories and observers of NWFZ Treaties and cooperation agreements signed among them in a systematic manner within the framework of the NPT Review Conferences.

Hence the Tlatelolco Declaration provides us with the fundamental guidelines to orient our work, but we certainly must work them out and turn them into concrete practical steps, based on cooperation.

In order to move forward in this objective, let me share with you some ideas as to concrete practical steps that I hope could be useful to our discussion. I envisage these ideas under 4 major chapters:

I. Procedural Aspects

- Define the role of the NWFZs Focal Points; coordination functions and regular rotation (every 2 years for example).
- Through Focal Points of NWFZs, we could exchange opinions in order to participate jointly in the disarmament and non proliferation meetings, for example: making joint statements or presenting working documents.
- From this particular point, it would be natural to delineate a program of work that includes, what already is envisaged: 3 PrepCom; Second Conference of NWFZ, 2010 Review Conference.

II. Communication and exchange of information

- Intensify the exchange of information among NWFZs in order to make progress in our common objectives. This exchange of information could be made by email. Also the UNODA could help us in facilitating this exchange.
- Create a web page of NWFZ that could be updated frequently by the NWFZ Coordinator. This web page could contain the text of the Treaties that establish NWFZs; background and updated information of each NWFZ, including status of ratifications, a calendar of relevant meetings, relevant documents and materials, among other issues. This web page could also be useful to exchange information, through thematic or general electronic fora.
- Through the strengthening of communication and the exchange of information, we would be able to identify specific priorities and areas of

common interest in which consultations and cooperation among NWFZ could be taken forward.

- On the basis of those specific priorities and areas of common interest, promote the organization of seminars related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, even on-line seminars (OPANAL experience). Probably UNIDIR could help us in this task.

III. Proactive measures before NWS and other States

- Bilateral and multilateral pressure on Nuclear-Weapon States and any other State mentioned in the relevant Protocols of the treaties establishing NWFZs, which have not yet signed or ratified the Protocols and urge them to do so as soon as possible.
- Making further efforts to urge nuclear-weapon States that have signed or ratified any of the relevant Protocols of a Treaty establishing NWFZ and that did so with reservations or unilateral interpretations affecting the status of the denuclearized zone to modify or withdraw such reservations or unilateral interpretations;
- Request Nuclear-Weapon States to provide effective assurances to Non-Nuclear Weapon States that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against them. In this connection, the appeal should be reiterated to Nuclear-Weapon States to take measures for the conclusion, as a matter of priority, of a universal, unconditional and legally binding treaty on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States and, pending the conclusion of such a treaty, to respect the commitments made regarding security assurances;
- Encourage NWS –both NPT and Non-NPT- to increase accountability and transparency about their nuk arsenals.

IV. Proactive and Confidence-Building Measures before States and Regions not being part of NWFZ.

- Consult with and encourage States that have not done so, to ratify the Treaty of Pelindaba;

Promote the establishment of new NWFZ through coordinated actions for example by making joint demarches in countries where a NWFZ is urgently required, in particular in regions where tension prevails. In the case of the Middle East (ME), NWFZ that have ratified other WMD Treaties, could consult and encourage Middle East States to do its part. Middle East Resolution (1995) and the NPT Review and Extension Conference committed NPT States “to extend their cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts” in ensuring early achievement in establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction (ME NW WMD FZ). The actions that we could make in this regard in the Middle East could be replicated in other regions.

These are some ME Confidence-Building Measures in which we could work:

1. NWFZ States could consult, advise and assist ME States to establish intergovernmental expert groups to address key issues for the future NWFZ.
2. NWFZ States that have negotiated negative security assurances with NWS could explore or facilitate the process of developing the region – specific NSAs that will be required for a future ME NW WMD FZ.
3. States Part of NWFZ, could asses the key national interest that guided their accession to an NWFZ and find ways to explore such assessments with States that may have similar interests in the ME.
4. Invite all ME States and States in other potential NWFZ to the Second Conference of NWFZ prior to the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
5. NWFZ States could engage in bilateral and multilateral consultations to foster accessions to the CTBT.

These are only some ideas that could improve our joint work and that could also have a positive impact in the efforts towards nuclear disarmament and non proliferation. Specifically those ideas that I put under chapters III and IV (related to proactive measures before NWS and Confidence-Building Measures before States not being part of NWFZ) are conceived as areas in which governments could establish a strong partnership with other stakeholders (NGO's, academic and research institutions, parliamentarians, f. ex.).

The existing NWFZ and the Nuclear-Weapon Free Status of Mongolia has shown the commitment of a large number of countries from all the world to keep their region free from nuclear weapons. With final ratification of the Treaty of Pelindaba in view, 110 of the world's States will soon be covered by NWFZ Treaties. This constitutes a majority of states; a new global majority needed to reinvigorate the process for achieving the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament, and a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.