

Remarks on 50th Anniversary of Treaty of Tlatelolco

Mexico City

14 February 2017

Good morning/afternoon, everyone.

I am pleased to deliver a short message on behalf of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr Yukiya Amano.

MESSAGE BEGINS

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I send my warm congratulations to the Government of Mexico, and to the 32 other States which are Parties to the *Treaty of Tlatelolco*, on the 50th anniversary of this landmark agreement.

I also send my greetings to Secretary General De Macedo Soares of OPANAL. The IAEA greatly values our close and constructive partnership with OPANAL.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco established the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a populated area. Latin America led the way in 1967, providing inspiration for the whole world in making this key contribution to arms control and disarmament.

Four similar treaties have since been established: in Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

A total of 133 countries – nearly two-thirds of the countries of the world – now belong to nuclear-weapon-free zones. This is a significant achievement, and it started here – in Mexico, 50 years ago.

I believe that nuclear-weapon-free zones are a highly effective tool of non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament.

Latin America and the Caribbean is a very important region for the IAEA.

We work closely with the countries of this region in many areas, helping them to make optimal use of nuclear science and technology for development.

I have greatly enjoyed my visits to countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, most recently in 2016. I am sorry that it was not possible for me to join you in Mexico City on this occasion.

I again send all State Parties my warm congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the Treaty.

The IAEA looks forward to strengthening and deepening our relations with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the coming years.

Thank you.

END OF MESSAGE.