

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



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SECRETARIAT

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
DR. JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR, DELIVERED BY HIS
REPRESENTATIVE, DR. SOHRAB KHAERADI

I have the honour to convey to you a message from the Secretary General of the United Nations which reads as follows:

"It gives me great pleasure to extend my cordial greetings to the participants in the XI General Conference of OPANAL.

As your Conference takes place at a time of significant developments in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, it is appropriate, I believe, to recall that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America --universally known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco-- has been a pioneering effort in that field. Indeed, the Treaty was the instrument for the establishment of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a vast and densely populated area of the world.

The recent Twentieth Anniversary of the Treaty has not passed unnoticed. The anniversary has been the occasion for useful assessments, of what has been achieved since the Treaty's entry into force in accordance with its specific provisions.

Clearly, during those twenty years and particularly after the establishment of OPANAL, which as a result of a consensus decision last year was accorded observer status by the General Assembly, the non-proliferation regime promoted by the Treaty has been consolidated. A growing number of Latin American countries have become full parties to it. Extra-continental States have acceded to or ratified its Additional Protocols. The Treaty has provided a living example for other possible initiatives in the field of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Your Conference will undoubtedly evaluate, with great care and a deep sense of responsibility, the achievements of the past twenty years and assess what remains to be done. Such a review can contribute most significantly to ensuring the continuing effectiveness of the Treaty.

I wish you success in your worthy endeavours."