



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

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**Informative document of the Secretariat on the vote on
Draft Resolution “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”
at the 68th plenary meeting of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

1. On 23 December 2016, at the 68th plenary meeting of the 71st Session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations” (Doc. A/RES/71/258), which had been circulated as Draft Resolution A/C.1/71/L.41 during the debates of the First Committee. Through this Resolution it was decided to convene in 2017 a United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons.
2. Draft Resolution L.41 was submitted by Austria, Brazil, Mexico, Ireland, Nigeria and South Africa. A total of 57 States co-sponsored this draft resolution, including 21 Member States of OPANAL.
3. At the 68th plenary meeting, the voting result on this draft resolution was 111 in favour, 37 against, and 13 abstentions.
4. While 177 States voted this draft resolution in the First Committee, only 161 States did so in the Plenary (a difference of 16 States).
5. States not taking part in the vote: 16 in the First Committee and 32 in the Plenary.

6. 10 out of the 16 States that did not vote this draft resolution in the First Committee decided not to participate in the Plenary;
6 States that did not vote this draft resolution in the First Committee, voted in favour in the Plenary;
22 States that voted this resolution in the First Committee did not vote in the Plenary.
7. These 22 States, except one, had voted in favour in the First Committee: 12 African States, 4 States from the South Pacific, 3 States from Latin America and the Caribbean, 2 States from Central-Asia and 1 State from Asia-Pacific. It is therefore clear that the 21 States that had voted in favour in the First Committee and decided not to participate in the Plenary chose not to take part instead of changing their vote.
8. 123 votes in favour in the First Committee equalled 69% of the total of States voting. 111 votes in favour in the Plenary also equalled 69% of the total of States voting.
9. One Member State of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) voted in favour of Resolution A/RES/71/258 in the Plenary: Italy (a State storing nuclear weapons that belong to the United States of America).
10. The Netherlands, another Member of NATO (also storing nuclear weapons that belong to the United States of America), voted abstention in the First Committee and in the Plenary.

11. A fundamental point is that three nuclear-weapon States also voted abstention (China, India and Pakistan). DPRK voted in favour in the First Committee but did not take part in the plenary meeting. Therefore, only five out of the nine States possessing nuclear weapons voted against this resolution.

12. To conclude, the vote results in the Plenary were more positive than the results in the First Committee due to three factors:
 - 1) One Member State of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) voted in favour of Resolution A/RES/71/258 in the Plenary.
Another Member of NATO voted abstention in the First Committee and in the Plenary;
 - 2) A total of 21 States that voted in favour in the First Committee preferred not to take part in the vote in the Plenary, instead of changing their vote;
 - 3) Three nuclear-weapon States voted abstention (China, India and Pakistan). Although the DPRK did not attend the plenary meeting, it voted in favour of the draft resolution in the First Committee. That is to say that those four States did not oppose the content of Resolution A/RES/71/258. Therefore, only five out of the nine States possessing nuclear weapons voted against.