



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

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**Report of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) regarding resolution 72/42 entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 4 December 2017**

1. Article 1 of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), regarding the obligations of the States Party, covers all aspects concerning the prohibition of nuclear weapons:
  - a. The testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons, by the Parties themselves, directly or indirectly, on behalf of anyone else or in any other way and*
  - b. The receipt, storage, installation, deployment and any form of possession of any nuclear weapons, directly or indirectly, by the Parties themselves, by anyone on their behalf or in any other way.*
2. The activities prohibited in Article 1 are addressed to *the Parties themselves, directly or indirectly, on behalf of anyone else or in any other way*. Consequently, States Party undertake to avoid in their national territories that any non-State actor, including terrorists, produce, test, acquire or deploy nuclear weapons.
3. Verification of compliance with the obligations contained in Article 1 is performed in accordance with Articles 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 21 of the Treaty. These articles constitute the Control System. It has the purpose of verifying that *none of the activities prohibited in Article 1 of this Treaty are carried out in the territory of the Contracting Parties with nuclear materials or weapons introduced from abroad [...]*. This includes the obligation of States Party to conclude agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the application of safeguards to their nuclear activities (Article 13). All the States Party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco have concluded safeguards agreements with the IAEA, in accordance with both the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

4. The 33 States Party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco compose the membership of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL). In accordance with Article 13, the Parties undertake to submit to OPANAL *semi-annual reports stating that no activity prohibited under the Treaty has occurred in their respective territories*. This, of course, covers activities by non-state actors.
5. Since the adoption of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in 1967, the Control System has shown thorough compliance of the States Party through OPANAL.
6. The Member States of OPANAL have also sustained that the Treaty of Tlatelolco is not limited to keep the region free of nuclear weapons. The Latin American and Caribbean Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is understood as a practical contribution to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.
7. On the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2017, the 33 Member States of OPANAL stated in its Declaration (Doc. Inf.18/2017Rev.5):

*the elimination [of nuclear weapons] is the only truly effective guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.*

8. It should be noted that 17 Member States of OPANAL<sup>1</sup> are Parties to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and 4 other Member States of OPANAL<sup>2</sup> have signed it.

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<sup>1</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Uruguay.

<sup>2</sup> Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Guyana.