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Communiqué

Nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) condemns the new nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 3 September 2017, and expresses its firm rejection concerning all kinds of nuclear tests anywhere in the world.

On previous occasions, The Council of OPANAL has expressed its condemnation of nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, actions qualified as a threat to international peace and security. These actions endanger the lives of millions of people and constitute a violation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations. OPANAL therefore reiterates the demand for the immediate cessation of nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Council of OPANAL has also urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) without delay; to return to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a non-nuclear-weapon State; and to return to the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The 33 States Party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), Members of OPANAL, maintain a clear and firm position against nuclear weapons and nuclear tests, no matter who possesses them or who conducts them.

The States Party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco underscore that any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences and that the complete elimination of such weapons is the only guarantee that they will never be used again.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco, opened for signature on 14 February 1967, prohibits nuclear weapons in the Region. The Treaty has been fully complied with by its Parties over the last 50 years.

In the framework of the 50th Anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Latin America and the Caribbean reaffirm their pride in being the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone established in a densely populated area. Moreover, they confirm the invaluable contribution of the Treaty of Tlatelolco to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as to regional and international peace and security. The Treaty clearly shows that a nuclear-weapon-free world is an attainable goal.

OPANAL reaffirms its commitment to general and complete nuclear disarmament endorsed in the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, signed by the Heads of State and Government of the region in January 2014.

OPANAL, while supporting the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in strict compliance with International Law and respecting the sovereign equality of States, as well as the principle of the non-use or threat of use of force, deems it prudent to resume the dialogue, talks and negotiations, as being the only way that could lead towards peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.