



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

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**Commemoration of the 45th Anniversary of the Signing of the
Treaty of Tlatelolco**

Address by

Amb. Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo

Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

Ciudad de México
14 de febrero de 2012

**Address by Under-Secretary Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo
at the Commemoration of the 45th Anniversary of the
Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Mexico City, 14 February 2012

Dr. José Narro Robles, Autonomous University of Mexico;

Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda, Secretary General of OPANAL;

Ambassador Yukiya Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

Ambassador Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization;

Ambassador Sergio Duarte, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs;

Dr. Enrique Castillo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica;

Ambassador Luis Almagro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay;

Dear Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

Dear Ambassadors,

Distinguished members of the Diplomatic Corps, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you again to Mexico City and thank you for presence here at this historic auditorium to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the adoption and signing of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In its 45 years of existence, the Treaty of Tlatelolco remains as relevant today as in 1967, since the 33 Member States still enjoy the gains of this important achievement of Latin American diplomacy, gains which, as we heard today, have been widely acknowledged by the international community.

Latin America and the Caribbean should be very pleased with the successful implementation of this Treaty; thus, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico celebrates and reaffirms its validity. Besides being an achievement of regional diplomacy and an important contribution to the international non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime; it prevails as a sign of hope that we can achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

Dear friends,

During the last two years, we have witnessed a series of events that have highlighted the priority that is carried by the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

Nevertheless, the progress is still insufficient since there are more than 22 thousand nuclear warheads in existence today, new arsenals are emerging and the *disarmament machinery has been paralyzed* for over three lustrums; we are still a long way away from our objectives. Therefore, this Commemoration represents an excellent opportunity to reflect upon the present and the best way in which the Treaty of Tlatelolco could contribute to moving the disarmament agenda forward.

OPANAL could play a key role in the consolidation process of the nuclear-weapon-free zones international regime. As the Treaty of Tlatelolco created the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in a highly populated area and a permanent agency to ensure compliance with the Treaty, it has been granted an orchestrating nature useful to promoting disarmament and non-proliferation in various multilateral forums for the benefit of its members.

The experience gained in the region, the good practices developed during these four decades and the recognition OPANAL has enjoyed thus far, constitute a solid basis to be transmitted to all countries for the consolidation of other Zones' regime.

Undoubtedly, it is with great pleasure that we welcome the creation of new Zones which have found inspiration in the Treaty of Tlatelolco. This constitutes a bulwark of our common cause.

We constitute a significant number of States which should continue to coordinate efforts for the purpose of achieving the objective of a nuclear weapon free world.

Dear all,

We hope that in today and tomorrow's Seminar these and other aspects will be explored in depth, in order to strengthen the Zone's agenda and ensure that Latin America and the Caribbean continue to contribute relevantly to the final objectives of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, as our ancestors did more than forty years ago.

Thank you.