



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

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**Global Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education  
Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Nagasaki, Japan  
10-11 August 2012**

**Remarks by Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda  
OPANAL Secretary-General**

Due to the conflagration between the two world powers during the so-called Missile Crisis at the Bay of Pigs, Cuba (1962), the threat of a nuclear war triggered the unification of the will of Latin American and Caribbean governments to establish the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) in a densely populated area. Thirty-five years have passed since the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in 1967 in order for the 33 States to fully incorporate themselves as members of the Zone. It was a long and complex process; the political will, dialogue, transparency in the negotiations, flexibility to reach agreements, building of trust, solid leadership of those who promoted the process, and their vision to face changes in political junctions played a determinant role. Simultaneously with the Treaty, Additional Protocols I and II were negotiated with Nuclear Weapon States, who ratified them more than 20 year ago. This was a good practice, and so was the creation of OPANAL to ensure compliance with the Treaty. Good practices and lessons learnt emerged from the consolidation process of the NWFZ; many of them continue to nurture OPANAL's works. We believe that our wealth of experience might be of interest to the creation process of other NWFZs, including the Middle East. I had the opportunity to share a number of these experiences at the forum convened by IAEA Director-General in November 2011. I enclose herewith the initial presentation I made at the aforementioned forum. (Document S/Inf. 1075)

The 5 existing NWFZs have many challenges to face. The preparations for the III Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties establishing NWFZs to be held in 2015, in Indonesia, started in April this year. I would like to share with you the remarks I made at the PrepCom held in Vienna on 27 April (Document S/Inf.1089) which includes OPANAL's latest statements on the subject.

Needless to say, the Treaty of Tlatelolco gave birth to the NWFZ as a means to achieve the ultimate goal: a nuclear-weapon-free world. We are convinced that in order to achieve this goal we have to educate present and future generations, we must work together to generate a collective consciousness of the importance of transforming our world into a place where nuclear weapons do not exist. Today, our NWFZ welcomes the celebration of the Global Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education in the City of Nagasaki, which brings together government representatives and International Organizations, researchers and academics, national and international non-governmental organizations.

We look forward to joining forces with you in the near future to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education through concrete initiatives and actions.

I congratulate the Government of Japan and the United Nations University on this initiative. I wish every success to all the participants.

Thank you.