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**Declaration of the Member States of OPANAL on the occasion of the  
International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**

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The Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), aware of our historic commitment to global nuclear disarmament,

**Proud** to belong to the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, the first densely populated area in the world to become a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone by means of the Treaty of Tlatelolco,

**Cognisant** that we have been a political, legal and institutional reference for the establishment of other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in different parts of the world,

**Reiterating** our full support for the Declarations on Nuclear Disarmament adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on 20 August 2013, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and on 29 January 2014, in Havana, Cuba,

**Recognising** that the priority objective of achieving global peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons is one of the major challenges of humanity,

The Member States of OPANAL,

**Welcome and join** in the commemoration, for the first time in history, of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/32;

**Invite** the international community to commemorate this International Day with different activities in order to increase public awareness, education and knowledge about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the pressing need for their prohibition and total elimination so as to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons;

On this occasion, we, the Member States:

1. Reiterate our deep concern over the imminent threat posed by the ongoing existence of nuclear weapons and their potential use or threat of use, as well as over the humanitarian consequences of enormous proportions and the global effects of any accidental or intentional nuclear detonation;
2. Affirm the pressing need to begin negotiations for the prompt adoption of a universal legally-binding instrument prohibiting the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and providing for their destruction in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner under a multilaterally agreed schedule; and our commitment to join efforts in favour of this priority objective;
3. Reiterate our call on all States, in particular the Nuclear Weapon States, to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons from their doctrines, security policies and military strategies, and to fully comply with their legal obligations and unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons without further delay;
4. Call on the Nuclear Weapon States to cease the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons;
5. Urge, once again, the Nuclear Weapon States that made interpretative declarations to the Additional Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco to withdraw them without further delay, in order to give full security assurances to the States that comprise the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean;
6. Reaffirm the inalienable right of all States, in conformity with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination;
7. Urge the Nuclear Weapon States to fulfil their commitments under Article VI of the NPT and to advance towards the total elimination of such weapons, and urge them to continue to make progress in implementing the practical steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, as well as the Action Plan adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference;

8. Undertake to continue to implement nuclear disarmament education programmes, convinced that they are an effective means of contributing to the consolidation of international peace and security;
9. Shall continue to discuss and raise awareness of the multiple and catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any intentional or accidental nuclear detonation, and, in this regard, welcome the initiative of the Government of Austria to convene, in Vienna, the Conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and urge all countries to participate and to continue to increase awareness of the terrible effects of nuclear weapons, based on the discussions of the two previous conferences, held in Norway and Mexico, in 2013 and 2014 respectively;
10. Recall that the United Nations General Assembly, in its Resolution 68/32, decided to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard;
11. Reaffirm the historic declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace at the CELAC Summit held in Havana on 29 January 2014, at which we, the States of the region undertook to continue to promote nuclear disarmament as a priority objective and to contribute towards general and complete disarmament, in order to promote confidence-building among nations;
12. Stress our life commitment to present and future generations, in order to guarantee the legacy of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Mexico City, 26 September 2014