



Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in
Latin America and the Caribbean

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

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PRESS RELEASE

- **Necessary to start multilateral negotiations towards total and complete nuclear disarmament**
- **The 33 States party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco are ready to promote an international treaty aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons**

Geneva, Switzerland. 24 April 2013. The Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda, expressed in her address at the General Debate of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), that it was necessary to start multilateral negotiations towards total and complete disarmament. All NPT Member States and International Organizations that work in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation attend these sessions.

Ambassador Ubeda began her address by expressing that "certainly, the obvious imbalance in the implementation of the NPT and the 2010 Action Plan (by Member States), the slowness in the processes, especially regarding nuclear disarmament, as well as the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of a Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone in the Middle East are alarming factors. However, this should not cloud our vision or our efforts towards a nuclear-weapon-free world". She also added that "we acknowledge and encourage the initiatives for nuclear armament reduction. However, we consider that it is also necessary to promote multilateral negotiations on total and complete nuclear disarmament".

In this regard, she emphasized that "since 2011, the 33 States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco agreed to join the efforts of the international community to take forward the negotiation on a legally-binding instrument aimed at prohibiting nuclear weapons".

Ambassador Ubeda highlighted that the outcome of the Oslo Conference on the "Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons", held in Norway last month, brought a breath of fresh air to the debates of this Session. "Exposing the catastrophic consequences of using any nuclear weapon raises the awareness regarding the threat that they pose to humanity". She then added that "Humanity should not continue under this risk as a consequence of the security policies lacking an alternative to replace nuclear deterrence doctrines with more effective measures, with truly safe measures for humanity as a whole."

The Costa Rican diplomat assured that progress on the implementation of measures adopted in 2010 for the negotiation of complete, verifiable, and irreversible Nuclear Disarmament, would lead to the reduction of the deep asymmetry in the implementation of the three pillars of the NPT



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(disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy), and it would also reduce the risk of continuing to fracture the international architecture built from this Treaty.

The Secretary-General noted that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is a contribution to regional and global peace and security. She also reiterated the willingness of OPANAL to continue to share experiences that could be relevant to the establishment of a similar zone in the Middle East.

A total of 190 States are Parties to the NPT. The Preparatory Committee holds annual sessions in preparation for the NPT Review Conference of the Parties held every five years. The next Review Conference is scheduled for 2015.

The 33 Latin American and Caribbean States are Members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), which was created in 1969 in order to safeguard the objectives of the Treaty of Tlatelolco once it entered into force. OPANAL has its headquarters in Mexico City.