



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

## **Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

- **OPANAL Member States promote total and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons**
- **The General Conference adopts Strategic Agenda**

Buenos Aires, Argentina; 22 August 2013. Representatives of Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) gathered together at San Martín Palace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic, to hold the XXIII Regular Sessions of OPANAL General Conference.

The main Organ of OPANAL, Agency created under the Treaty of Tlatelolco, adopted its Strategic Agenda, whose guiding principles are to reach negative security assurances by nuclear-weapon-states to all States in the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean; to effectively contribute to total and general nuclear disarmament by promoting actions in the multilateral arena that support the negotiation and adoption of a legally-binding instrument aimed at banning nuclear weapons and; to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education, as well as the dissemination of the work of the Agency.

Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of Argentina, closed the aforementioned Sessions and highlighted that *“world security is down not only to nuclear non-proliferation, but also to the establishment of rules and behaviour patterns that could be uniformly applied”*. The President also stressed that ideas should be the weapons, and added that *“if there are ideas that could primarily embody what humanity desires and needs, these are triumphs that are a lot more important than military triumphs”*.

Moreover, within the framework of the General Conference, Argentina signed the Convention on Prerogatives and Immunities of the Agency. As the host country, Argentina chaired the General Conference with Cuba and Costa Rica serving as Vice-Presidents.

The General Conference is the main Organ of OPANAL, it is formed by the 33 Member Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco. According to the provisions of this Treaty, the General Conference has the power to make most important decisions.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco is a legal international instrument that prohibits the manufacture and acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons in its zone of application. The Treaty also requests nuclear-weapon-states not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the region, thereby establishing the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in a densely populated area. In order to ensure compliance with Member States' obligations, the Treaty created OPANAL in 1969, whose ultimate goal is to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.