



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

Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean

S/BP/60 EN

PRESS RELEASE

- **Latin American and Caribbean States appoint new OPANAL Secretary-General**
- **Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares will lead the efforts of the LA&C Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone**

Mexico City, 7 November 2013. States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) ratified their commitment to the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in their region by electing unanimously Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares Guimarães as Secretary-General of OPANAL for the period 2014-2017.

Ambassador Macedo Soares has a vast experience in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. He served as Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (2008-2010) and was the Head of the Brazilian Delegation to the Eighth NPT Review Conference in 2010 and to the UN General Assembly's First Committee. He was previously Permanent Delegate to UNESCO (2005-2008) and Ambassador to Mexico (2000-2003), Norway (1998-2000) and India (1995-1998). In the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has held, inter alia, the positions of Assistant Secretary-General for South America, Central America and the Caribbean (2003-2005).

H.E. Marcos Leal Raposo Lopes, Brazilian Ambassador to Mexico, thanked the appointment of Ambassador Macedo Soares on behalf of the Government of his country. Ambassador Leal Raposo expressed the commitment of the newly appointed Secretary-General to continue to undertake the exceptional efforts of his predecessor, Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda, who aimed at strengthening OPANAL.

The election of Secretary-General took place during the XXII Special Sessions of OPANAL General Conference held today at the Headquarters of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The General Conference also elected, unanimously, Mexico and Paraguay as Members of OPANAL Council for a four year period. Therefore, as of 1 January 2014, the Council will be integrated by Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay and Venezuela. The Sessions were chaired by H.E. Perla Carvalho, from the Mexican MFA; H.E. Javier Eduardo León Olavarría, Peruvian Ambassador to

Mexico, and Dr. Hervey Loiseau, First Secretary of the Haitian Embassy in Mexico, served as Vice-Presidents.

OPANAL, an intergovernmental Agency based in Mexico City and formed by the 33 Latin American and Caribbean States, is devoted to ensure compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco. This regional legal instrument, which established the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area, prohibits the manufacture and acquisition, by any means, of any nuclear weapons in the territory of application. The Treaty also requests Nuclear Weapon States not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the region.

Last October, the Treaty of Tlatelolco was granted the *2013 Future Policy Gold Award* for sustainable disarmament, thanks to its invaluable contribution to regional and global peace and security.