



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

- **Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares takes office as OPANAL Secretary-General**
- **The Secretary-General will lead the efforts of the LA&C Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone**

Mexico City, 11 February 2014. – During a session of OPANAL Council, Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares takes office as Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), organisation created to ensure compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

At this solemn meeting, high representatives from Member States of OPANAL Council – Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay and Venezuela – as well as from some other OPANAL Member States welcomed the appointment of Ambassador Macedo Soares as Secretary-General, and reiterated their commitment to promote joint efforts aimed at achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The unanimous election of Ambassador Macedo as OPANAL Secretary-General took place within the framework of the XXII Special Sessions of OPANAL General Conference, which were held on 7 November 2013 at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters.

Ambassador Macedo Soares has 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), he was also the Head of the Brazilian Delegation to the Review Conference for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to the UN General Assembly First Committee in 2010. Previously, Ambassador Macedo Soares served as Permanent Delegate to UNESCO (2005-2008); as Ambassador to Mexico (2000-2003), Norway (1998-2000) and India (1995-1998). He held, inter alia, the position of Assistant Secretary-General for South America, Central America and the Caribbean in the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2003-2005).

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.