



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



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PRESS RELEASE

- **Latin America and the Caribbean celebrates the 47th Anniversary of its Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone**
- **LA&C countries reiterate their commitment to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world**

Mexico City, 14 February 2014. - The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) celebrates the 47th anniversary of its signing with the commitment from States in the region to continue to promote the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

All Latin American and Caribbean States are parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Through this legal instrument, the world saw the birth of the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) in a densely populated area; since then, it became a political and legal reference for the establishment of similar zones around the world. There are currently five NWFZs and Mongolia (a nuclear-weapon-free country), a total of 115 States that represent an invaluable contribution to the process to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world; being the latter the ultimate goal of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco grants the right to use nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes and prohibits and prevents the design, installation, deployment, development and any form of possession of any nuclear weapons in the territories of Latin America and the Caribbean.

With the signing of the Additional Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Nuclear Weapon States (China, the United States of America, France, Russia and the United Kingdom) undertook “*not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons*” against States Parties to the Treaty.

During the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) (Havana, 28-29 January 2014), the Heads of State and Government highlighted the regional nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation commitment under the Treaty of Tlatelolco. They also reaffirmed the “*Urgent Need for General and Complete Nuclear Disarmament [...]*”, as well as the full implementation of the “*Strategic Agenda of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) [...]*”; international agency devoted to ensure compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

In the same vein, at the CELAC Summit, Latin America and the Caribbean was declared as a “Zone of Peace” based on the principles and norms of international law.

In *OPANAL Strategic Agenda*, Member States undertook, inter alia, to ensure full and complete implementation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco through the obtaining of negative security assurances from nuclear-weapon states; to intensify actions in the multilateral arena that support the negotiation and adoption of a legally-binding instrument aimed at banning nuclear weapons; to promote greater cooperation and coordination between NWFZs, international organizations and

civil society organizations; as well as to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Last October, after almost 47 years of existence, 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.