



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

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Communiqué on the 2015 NPT Review Conference

The Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), deeply concerned about the threat posed to humanity by the ongoing existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use or threat of use, regret that the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which closed on Friday, 22 May 2015, in New York, concluded without reaching the necessary consensus to adopt a final document.

OPANAL attaches significant importance to the NPT as it represents the only multilateral legally binding instrument, in force, on a global level, on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The NPT has the main purposes of:

- a) Preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons;
- b) Achieving the elimination, through effective disarmament measures, of nuclear weapons by all States;
- a) Enforcing and supporting the inalienable right of the Parties to develop research, production and uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Among other divergences, the Conference did not reach agreement on measures related to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. In this respect, the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East continues to be unfulfilled, a decision that made possible the indefinite extension of the NPT and that represented an important point in the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

OPANAL Member States reaffirm the supremacy of verifiable, irreversible, transparent and complete nuclear disarmament; and reiterate that the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.

OPANAL reiterates the invaluable contribution of the nuclear-weapon-free zones, being Latin America and the Caribbean the oldest one among them, as an important element towards achieving nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, thereby contributing to the preservation of international peace and security.

OPANAL Member States participated in the Review Conference in a constructive spirit based on a strong position backed not only by the evident consequences and risks of nuclear weapons as considered over this review cycle but also by an overwhelming majority of 159 countries that deem that the concern over the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should be the basis for all efforts in disarmament. OPANAL Member States participated in the negotiations and tried to reach real progress towards a world without nuclear weapons based on a heightened sense of urgency that they all share. In this respect, the major result of the NPT Review Conference was the consolidation of the humanitarian initiative.

OPANAL Member States have repeatedly insisted on the elimination of the role given to nuclear weapons in security doctrines and policies, and have demanded the cessation of the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery and related infrastructure. The States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco submitted to the NPT Review Conference a working paper that recommended 16 items that should have been included in the draft of the final document in order to achieve real progress towards a nuclear weapon free world.

OPANAL Member States also regret that the draft final document did not reflect properly the desire expressed in the Humanitarian Pledge (formerly Austrian Pledge) by 110 States – the 33 OPANAL Member States among them– to fill the legal gap in compliance with Article VI of the NPT; and that it did not reflect properly the conclusions on the humanitarian consequences of a nuclear explosion, as demonstrated at the Conferences in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna.

OPANAL Member States welcome the State of Palestine as it participated for the first time as the 191st State Party to the NPT. Following the goal of its universalisation, the Latin American and Caribbean States urge all States non-party to adhere to this Treaty.

It is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances. Although the nuclear weapon States bear the ultimate responsibility to thoroughly eliminate their nuclear arsenals, it is a shared responsibility of all States to prevent the humanitarian impact and effects related to these weapons of mass destruction.

OPANAL Member States remain committed to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime established by the NPT, and will continue to fulfil and implement all their obligations and commitments contained in the Treaty and established in the review process.

In this respect, OPANAL, the specialized body in the region for articulating common positions and joint actions on nuclear disarmament, will continue to work in favour of initiating negotiations on a treaty banning and eliminating all nuclear weapons.

OPANAL Member States reiterate the call on all States Parties to the NPT to renew their commitment to the urgent and full implementation of the obligations under Article VI, and to this end, to identify and pursue effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of all nuclear weapons. OPANAL Member States pledge to cooperate to achieve this goal.

The States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco pledge to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders, States, international organisations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements, parliamentarians and civil society, in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and associated risks.