



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

Secretariat

29 August 2020

Inf. 27/2020
Original: English

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN (OPANAL), AMBASSADOR FLÁVIO ROBERTO BONZANINI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS

Today, on the 29th of August 2020, we commemorate the International Day against Nuclear Tests, which was declared by the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly through the unanimously adopted resolution 64/35. This resolution, an initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, is aimed at increasing awareness “about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.”

The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean - Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established the first in the world nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area, prohibits testing, use, manufacture, production, acquisition, as well as the receipt, storage, installation, emplacement and possession of nuclear weapons in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin American and the Caribbean (OPANAL) have constantly reaffirmed their commitment to continue to work for a world free of nuclear testing, highlighting that a legal norm that prohibits nuclear tests is an indispensable step to achieve complete nuclear disarmament.

In the Declarations on the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which the Member States of OPANAL have been issuing since the first year of that commemoration, they have repeatedly called upon “all States to refrain from carrying out nuclear weapon test explosions, or any other non-explosive experiment,

including subcritical experiments for the improvement of nuclear weapons”, as well as have urged “the States included in Annex II to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty that have not ratified the Treaty to take necessary measures to do so without further delay.”

The humanitarian impact and implications of nuclear test explosions cannot be overestimated. Kazakhstan is one of the countries which has suffered and is still suffering the consequences from 40 years of nuclear testing. In Latin America and the Caribbean, we consider the rejection of the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site an important contribution of Kazakhstan to the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

United in our joint commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and the goal of complete nuclear disarmament, it is our mission, as nuclear-weapon-free States, to work together to achieve a global nuclear test ban.

On this important day, I wish to reiterate the OPANAL Member States’ determination to a close cooperation with other nuclear-weapon-free zones in order to accomplish our common goals.