



COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF OPANAL, AMBASSADOR  
FLÁVIO ROBERTO BONZANINI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH  
RATIFICATION OF THE TPNW

24 October 2020

It is with great pleasure that I have received the news that today, 24 October 2020, the number of ratifications needed for the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), has been reached. With this milestone, humanity is now closer to achieve and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons. The TPNW adds itself to the norm established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and other international instruments strengthening the nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation regime.

The announcement of the entry into force of the TPNW coincides with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the United Nations that settled the basis for a long-lasting peace and security, but also with the first atomic detonation and the first military use of atomic bombs against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 75 years ago in which the humanity witnessed the devastating humanitarian consequences of these types of weapons that should never be used again, by any actor, under any circumstance.

The States from Latin America and the Caribbean, through the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean - Treaty of Tlatelolco-, established the first in the world Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in a densely populated area, prohibiting testing, use, manufacture, production, acquisition, as well as the receipt, storage, installation, emplacement and possession of nuclear weapons. Since then, the region of Latin America and the Caribbean has constantly reaffirmed its commitment to continue working towards *“ending the armaments race, especially in the field of nuclear weapons, and towards strengthening a world at peace, based on the sovereign equality of States, mutual respect and good neighbourliness”*, as is established in the preamble of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The Member States of OPANAL played a leading role in the negotiation and adoption of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and, along with the Secretariat of the Agency, contributed to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by sharing lessons and experiences from the negotiation and implementation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

This legally binding norm that will be in force, 90 days from now, undoubtedly constitutes an important contribution towards the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons which is essential for the accomplishment of the priority objectives of humanity, those being peace, security, development, and the protection of the environment.