



Joint Communiqué on the occasion of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

- 22 January 2021 -

We are pleased to welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

This landmark instrument adds to the treaties that establish nuclear-weapons-free zones and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on the path towards the elimination of these weapons of mass destruction. These treaties establish norms of International Law that are legally-binding on the States which signed and ratified them, and are a suitable legal basis for the process aimed at eliminating all nuclear weapons.

Currently, a vast majority of states belonging to our militarily denuclearized zones are parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which represents 56% of the required number of ratifications that have permitted, today, its entry into force. We, therefore, commend the states that have already ratified the treaty and urge those who have not done so to join in this vital action.

The existing nuclear-weapons-free zones have reaffirmed their commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in pursuing negotiations in good faith on effective measures related to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with article VI. This was also demonstrated by their contribution to the negotiation and adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We will continue strengthening the norm established by the treaties that created nuclear-weapon-free zones, urging the states listed or mentioned in the relevant protocols to sign and ratify them as soon as possible, and we take this opportunity to renew our commitment to achieve and preserve a world free of nuclear weapons.

Amb. Flávio Roberto Bonzanini

Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)

Mr. Messaoud Baaliouamer

Executive Secretary of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE)