



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

**Secretariat**

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

**Ambassador Flavio Roberto Bonzanini**

**12th Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the African Nuclear Weapon  
Free Zone (Pelindaba Treaty)**

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Dear friends,*

It is a great honor for me to participate in this commemorative event and I am grateful for the opportunity to share this video message with the high authorities of the Governments of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, as well as to our good friends from the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), especially to its Executive Secretary, Mr. Messaoud Baaliouamer.

*Dear friends,*

The close cooperation and collaboration between AFCONE and OPANAL are central in the international efforts towards the achievement of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

In that regard, I would like to take the opportunity to highlight that AFCONE and OPANAL, two entities created by treaties establishing nuclear-weapons-free zones and regional agencies entirely devoted to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, maintain close talks in order to further strengthen our cooperation.

A clear example of the aforementioned was the OPANAL-AFCONE Joint Communiqué, on 22 January 2021, on the occasion of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in which we also expressed our commitment to strengthening the norms established by the treaties that created nuclear weapon free zones to achieve and preserve a world free of those highly threatening weapons.

Moreover, on 14 February 2021, the Executive Secretary of AFCONE participated in the commemoration of the anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and I had the honor to participate in a similar virtual setting on 12 April 2021, when we commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the opening for signature of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty)

Once again, please allow me to reiterate that OPANAL looks forward to joining efforts during the IV Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia

that will take place, hopefully, next year alongside with the X NPT Review Conference.

*Dear friends,*

Let me conclude my intervention by sharing with you one more time that I am delighted to have the opportunity to participate in this commemoration and I wish you all the best in the joint efforts to consolidate the Pelindaba Treaty, as well as the prohibition norm enshrined in all the treaties establishing nuclear weapon free zones.

I sincerely thank you all of you for your attention.

*Thank you.*