



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

General Conference

XXVII Session
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Agenda Item 6

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Courtesy translation

**Statement of the Mexican Delegation to the XXVII Ordinary Session of OPANAL-
General Conference September 30, 2021**

Dear Ambassador Flavio Roberto Bonzanini, Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Dear Ambassador Carlos Alfonso Tomada, President of the XXVII (twenty-seventh) ordinary session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL),

Dear Ambassadors and representatives of the Member States of OPANAL and observers,

Dear officials who are with us this morning,

Mr. President:

The Delegation of Mexico welcomes the election of Argentina as President of this twenty-seventh Session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We are fully confident that, under the leadership of the board elected this morning, the work of this session will be successful. You have the support of the Delegation of Mexico for the performance of your functions.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco is an inescapable reference for the leadership of our region in the search for a world free of nuclear weapons. It has served as an inspiration for 115 countries of the world to now become parties to treaties that constitute Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.

The humanitarian catastrophe produced by the nuclear attacks in Hiroshima and Nagasaki showed, without a doubt, that nuclear weapons are the most dangerous, destructive, indiscriminate, harmful, risky and costly means of warfare. If a nuclear weapon detonation occurs, intentionally or accidentally, the consequences would be immediate, with global and long-lasting effects.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones are a stark reminder that nuclear weapons cannot be treated as the guarantee of international peace and security. The only guarantee against the threat posed by nuclear weapons is their prohibition and total elimination.

In this regard, Mexico reiterates its commitment to the fulfillment and implementation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and to the work of OPANAL, diligently led by Ambassador Flavio Roberto Bonzanini.

Mr. President:

54 years after the adoption of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Mexico believes that there are new hopes of moving towards disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Mexico welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), on January 22 of this year. This milestone could be reached thanks to the determined regional impulse that we gave to the negotiation and adoption of the Treaty.

Mexico would like to seize this opportunity to recognize those States of the region that are already parties to this important legal instrument. Likewise, we urge those who are not yet a party to join and those who have not ratified it to accelerate their internal processes.

Mr. President,

Mexico recognizes the work of OPANAL in matters of education for disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peace. Thanks to its work, this field of action has been strengthened in recent years.

My country encourages to continue promoting this work, through the dissemination of the activities carried out by the Agency among civil society and academic institutions.

The Internship Program has been, without a doubt, a training and promotion tool among young people from different States and has contributed to giving greater visibility to the work of our Organization.

You can be sure that Mexico will continue to decisively contribute to the work of OPANAL, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, so that the decisions that are adopted contribute to strengthening the regime established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

Mexico takes this opportunity to extend a recognition to our Secretary-General, Ambassador Flavio Roberto Bonzanini, as well as to the dedicated team of the Secretariat of the Agency, for their remarkable work consistent with the spirit and high purpose of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The effort and commitment of the Agency's officials is a key contribution for the region to continue to be a benchmark in matters of non-proliferation and promotion of nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President:

Within the framework of this Conference, Mexico believes that successful regional cooperation around the Treaty of Tlatelolco should guide us to continue developing ties with the purpose of reinforcing daily contact and solidarity between our nations.

Mexico, promoter of the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in a densely populated area of the planet, reiterates that the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used is their

total prohibition and elimination. We must continue to advance towards general and complete disarmament, since international security does not depend on arms, but on international law, solidarity and cooperation.

Thank you very much.