



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

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Courtesy translation

**Speech by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the XXVII Ordinary
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Very good morning to all. Thank you for the opportunity to greet you during the General Conference of OPANAL. I want to thank OPANAL for organizing this General Conference. Due to the pandemic, today we see each other in a virtual way. I hope we can meet in real life very soon.

For the Netherlands, the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is a top priority. Therefore, the work of OPANAL is valuable, because part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands belongs to the OPANAL zone. I mean the Caribbean. This means that we are a partner in the region. For this reason, the Netherlands actively contributes.

An important example of our contribution is the grant to finance internships at OPANAL for two students from the Caribbean. This year, a student from Belize and a student from Barbados had the opportunity to work at OPANAL. These internships are a great success.

Furthermore, the Netherlands is actively committed to disarmament, transparency and non-proliferation in the world. For these reasons, the Netherlands has supported OPANAL over the past years. As I have already said, the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is a priority for the Netherlands. The Netherlands strives for strong international agreements on nuclear weapons control.

With respect to disarmament, we know that there are disagreements and geopolitical tensions that make success difficult. For that reason, we have to keep looking for steps that can be taken now.

With these words, I want to thank OPANAL for its commitment. Cooperation in the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone remains a priority.