



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

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**STATEMENT OF THE CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE EMBASSY OF
PANAMA IN MEXICO, HIS EXCELLENCY, ERICK CAJAR GRIMAS, AT
THE XXVII SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF OPANAL**

I would like to begin by extending my thanks to the outgoing President, Ambassador Julio Garro of Peru, for the excellent work done during the XXVI General Conference and at the same time to extend successes to the new President Ambassador Carlos Tomada of Argentina and his Vice-Presidents Ambassador Mario Búcaro and Ambassador Manuel Flores and to the Secretary General, Mr. Flavio Borzanini

Since 1998, the Republic of Panama has been a party to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, an essential way to establish a solid and stable international framework that contributes to the achievement of our common goal, nuclear disarmament.

Although this Treaty has not entered into force, its international verification regime is a fundamental instrument, offering valuable data and scientific information to Member States.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Panama, as a country that respects international law and international instruments that guarantee international peace and security and promotes dialogue and the union of peoples, reiterates its commitment to peace, international security and to efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

We must continue to strengthen all mechanisms to raise awareness of the magnitude of environmental risks and loss of life and to support efforts to generate the commitment of all to disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies

Latin America and the Caribbean was the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in a permanently populated territory on the planet. This experience served as an example to other regions, the road has not been easy since 1967 when the Treaty of Tlatelolco was opened for signature, there have been many obstacles and challenges in its implementation, but here we are, and we have been able to verify the treaty works and we remain committed as a region to the total prohibition of nuclear weapons, through cooperation and solidarity actions.

We must continue to strengthen mechanisms to raise awareness of the magnitude of environmental risks and loss of life, and we strongly support all efforts to generate the commitment of all to disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Your Excellencies:

We must remember that a few days ago, on the 26th, we commemorated the 25th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which is a fundamental piece of the global architecture of international security and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which is much more than collecting legitimate aspirations for existence in a world at peace, it is a necessary commitment for the very survival of humanity.

I thank you.