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## **Joint Communiqué**

### **Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)**

On this day, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, the Executive Secretary of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), Mr. Messaoud Baaliouamer, and the Secretary General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), Ambassador Flavio Roberto Bonzanini, are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on joint cooperation measures and strengthening the relationship between the Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zones of Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean established by the African Nuclear Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

Mindful on the utmost relevance of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and international efforts towards peace and security, the two Heads of AFCONE and OPANAL, entities in charge of ensuring compliance with the obligations of the Treaty of Pelindaba and of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, signed the MoU on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Within the framework of this instrument, AFCONE and OPANAL will act in close cooperation, exchange information relating to matters of common interest and coordinate joint efforts on issues relating to their goals, purposes, and principles.

This MoU between the African NWFZ and the Latin American & the Caribbean NWFZ, which unite 75 % of the total NWFZs States, represents the conclusion of a successful negotiation process initiated, in 2019, with the aim to strengthen the coordination efforts among the existing Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and to fulfill the determination to promote cooperation in all aspects.