



OPANAL

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

1 December 2021

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**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)**



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, 1st 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 1st 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.



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY AND THE AGENCY FOR THE
PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON
JOINT COOPERATION MEASURES AND STRENGTHENING OF THE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS FREE ZONES IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)

Hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

MINDFUL on the need of assuring the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories and strengthening global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; and consolidating international efforts towards peace and security;

RECALLING that militarily denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage;

CONVINCED that general and complete disarmament under effective international control is a vital matter which all the peoples of the world equally demand;

REITERATING the inalienable right of all States to carry out research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination;

REAFFIRMING their commitment to strengthen the coordination efforts among the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones; and desiring to promote cooperation in all aspects;

REAFFIRMING their support for the objectives and provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and their desire to promote universal adherence to that Treaty;

REAFFIRMING their support for the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards system and their desire to work together to ensure its continued effectiveness within the respective Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones;

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HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

**ARTICLE I.
COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION**

1. The Parties agree that they will endeavour to coordinate their efforts on issues relating to their goals, purposes and principles, through the United Nations and the other relevant institutions, including for the creation of new Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones;
2. The Parties will act in close cooperation and hold consultations on the matters of common interest. To this end, they will consider the appropriate framework of such consultations as and when necessary.
3. The Parties will cooperate in order to achieve an effective utilization of existing experience whenever this may be appropriate in the light of their respective responsibilities.

**ARTICLE II.
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION**

1. The Parties agree to exchange information, publications and documents relating to matters of common interest, subject to any limitations which either Party considers to be necessary for the safeguarding of information which, in its judgment, or according to its rules, has a confidential character, and subject to any obligations which it may have to third parties.
2. Without prejudice to paragraph II.1 above, the Parties shall, at the request of either Party, arrange for consultations regarding the provision by either Party of such special information as may be of interest to the other Party.
3. The Parties shall designate focal points with a view to interact on matters of common interest.
4. The Parties shall consult regularly, or at any time at the request of either Party, in order to ensure the effective implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding between the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON) and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) on joint cooperation measures and strengthening of the nuclear weapons free zones in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (*hereinafter referred to as the Memorandum*) and/or to review matters of common interest.

**ARTICLE III.
RECIPROCAL REPRESENTATION**

The Parties may consider to extending invitations to participate, as observers, in the ordinary sessions of their respective main decision-making organs, if they decide to do so, and in accordance with their rules of procedure.

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**ARTICLE IV.
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM**

1. The Parties may request from each other scientific, technical and research cooperation in matters of common interest, subject to the policies of confidentiality of the Parties.
2. If any cooperation would involve the assistance from one Party to the other under the terms of this Memorandum and compliance with such request would involve substantial expenditure for the Party complying with the request, consultation shall take place with a view to determining the most equitable manner of meeting such expenditure.
3. The Secretary-General of OPANAL and the Executive Secretary of AFCONE may enter into such administrative arrangements for the implementation of this Memorandum as may be found desirable in the light of the operating experience of the two organizations.
4. The Secretariats of the two organizations shall maintain a close working relationship in accordance with such arrangements as may have been agreed upon from time to time.

**ARTICLE V.
NOTIFICATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO THE AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION FOR FILING AND RECORDING**

1. In compliance with its Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations, OPANAL will inform the United Nations forthwith of the terms of this Memorandum.
2. According to the Article 21 of the Pelindaba Treaty related to the Depositary Functions, the AFCONE will inform the African Union Commission of the terms of this Memorandum.
3. On the coming entry into force of this Memorandum in accordance with the provisions of Article X, the OPANAL and the AFCONE will communicate it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for filing and recording.

**ARTICLE VI.
IMPLICATION OF COMMITMENT**

The present Memorandum does not, of itself give rise to any implication of commitment of resources, financial or otherwise, on the part of any of the Parties;

**ARTICLE VII.
SUPPLEMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Parties may, within the competence of their mandates, enter into such supplementary arrangements for the purpose of cooperation and coordination, as may be found desirable.

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**ARTICLE VIII.
SIGNING OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH OTHER NUCLEAR NUCLEAR-
WEAPON-FREE ZONES**

Nothing in this Memorandum affects the right of the parties to conclude memoranda of understanding with other nuclear-weapon-free zones in order to promote cooperation between non-nuclear weapon states and global nuclear disarmament.

**ARTICLE IX.
SETTLEMENT OF DISAGREEMENTS**

In the event of disagreement over the application and interpretation of the present Memorandum, the Parties agree to hold consultations and negotiations.

**ARTICLE X.
ENTRY INTO FORCE, REVISION AND WITHDRAWAL**

1. This Memorandum may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties expressed in writing
2. The Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature by duly authorized representatives of the Parties.
3. Either of the Parties may withdraw from the present Memorandum by giving six months' written notice to the other Party.

Signed this 1st day of December 2021, in duplicate, in English and Spanish, the texts in both languages being equally authentic.

**For the African Commission on Nuclear
Energy**



Messaoud Baaliouamer
Executive Secretary

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



Flavio Roberto Bonzanini
Secretary General



Secretario Ejecutivo / Executive Secretary
Messaid Baaliouamer (AFCONC)



Secretario General / Secretary General
Flavio Roberto Bonzanini (OPANAL)