



**Organismo para la Proscripción de las Armas Nucleares  
en la América Latina y el Caribe (OPANAL)**

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**Declaración de los Estados Partes del Tratado de Tlatelolco**

**Intervención de la Secretaria General del OPANAL, S.E. Embajadora  
Gioconda Ubeda**

**Debate General del Primer Comité de la 66° Sesión de la Asamblea  
General de las Naciones Unidas**

**11 de octubre 2011  
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**Declaration of the Members States of the Treaty of Tlatelolco**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda, Secretary General of  
OPANAL**

**At the General Debate of the First Committee of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN  
General Assembly**

**11 October 2011  
New York**

## Intervención S.E. Embajadora Gioconda Ubeda Rivera

### Secretaría General del OPANAL

Señor Presidente,

Gracias por la oportunidad para dirigirme a la Primera Comisión de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, en representación del OPANAL. Es esta una ocasión para transmitirles el mensaje que los 33 Estados de la Zona Libre de Armas Nucleares (ZLAN) de la América Latina y el Caribe, acordaron dirigirles a las delegaciones al 66° periodo de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, mediante la Declaración que se adjunta a esta intervención.

Esta Declaración fue emitida recientemente, en un tiempo en el que se conjugan dos hechos relevantes para la Región: por un lado, en febrero de 2012 se conmemorará el 45° Aniversario de la firma del Tratado de Tlatelolco y por otro, en esa misma fecha el Organismo renovará su compromiso con la construcción de un mundo libre de armas nucleares, mediante la realización del Seminario Internacional "La Experiencia de la ZLAN de América Latina y el Caribe y la perspectiva hacia el 2015 plus".

Estamos convencidos que la conmemoración del 45 aniversario, toma sentido con la renovación de ese compromiso y que éste debe expresarse en acciones concretas que se vinculan, en primer lugar, con el perfeccionamiento de la propia ZLAN, en el que tienen un rol importante los Estados Miembros y los Estados vinculados a los Protocolos Adicionales; con la cooperación y coordinación con las otras ZLANs y el apoyo a procesos para la creación de nuevas; y por supuesto, con acciones que sumen a los procesos globales hacia el desarme nuclear y la no proliferación.

Señor Presidente,

Hace casi 50 años, en 1963, cinco Estados Latinoamericanos se reunieron, por la iniciativa de México, para empezar los trabajos que dieron origen al Tratado de Tlatelolco, en una coyuntura política compleja para la Región, en un momento en el que estuvo en riesgo de ser escenario de una confrontación nuclear entre las Potencias de la guerra fría. En ese contexto y tiempo, la creación de esta ZLAN, la primera en el mundo en un territorio densamente poblado, fue sin duda una real y continuada contribución a la paz y la seguridad de la Región y al mismo tiempo, al mundo. Así se ha reconocido en diversas Resoluciones de esta Asamblea General, desde 1967 y hasta el año pasado inclusive.

Hoy, 45 años después, existen cinco ZLANs en el mundo, integradas por 114 Estados: Rarotonga, Pelindaba, Bangkok y Asia Central; más Mongolia como Estado declarado unilateralmente libre de esas armas. Por ello, uno de los propósitos del OPANAL es que se avance en la consolidación de la agenda de cooperación y coordinación entre estas ZLANs. Asimismo, colaborar con los procesos de creación de nuevas ZLANs, una razón más para participar en el Foro convocado por el Director General del OIEA, el próximo mes en Viena, donde representantes de las ZLANs compartiremos las experiencias de posible interés para la creación de una ZLAN en el Medio Oriente.

Para concretar esa agenda con los Estados Miembros de otras ZLANs, proponemos que se cree una coordinación conjunta entre representantes de las diversas Zonas, la IX Conferencia de Examen del TNP a celebrarse en el 2015, es una excelente meta para ello. Esta es una tarea que solo podremos hacer si se promueve el conocimiento mutuo entre las ZLANs y promoviendo formas de trabajo realistas y eficaces.

En el ámbito global, los Estados Miembros de la ZLAN de América Latina y el Caribe, reiteran su llamado para que los Estados poseedores de armas nucleares brinden garantías inequívocas y jurídicamente vinculantes de no usar ni amenazar con el uso de esas armas, siendo este un interés legítimo de los Estados no poseedores de armas nucleares. Por ello, instan a la Conferencia de Desarme a trabajar en la negociación de un instrumento universal jurídicamente vinculante en materia de garantías negativas de seguridad.

También, en esta Declaración los 33 Estados de la Zona manifiestan su convicción sobre la importancia de que se inicien negociaciones para un instrumento universal jurídicamente vinculante que prohíba las armas nucleares. Al mismo tiempo, hacen un llamado para que los Estados que no lo han hecho, ratifiquen el CTBT, especialmente los que figuran en el anexo 2 del Tratado.

Por su parte, el OPANAL también se compromete a seguir implementando los programas de educación para el desarme nuclear, partiendo de la convicción de que esta es una forma efectiva de contribuir con la consolidación de la paz y la seguridad internacionales.

Por último, Señor Presidente, los Estados de América Latina y el Caribe, están convencidos que solo a través de iniciativas concretas y acciones sostenidas se podrá avanzar hacia el desarme nuclear global, total, irreversible y verificable. Solo mediante la cooperación entre las ZLANs, los Estados, los Organismos Internacionales e instancias de la Sociedad Civil, se logrará avanzar hacia el objetivo final: un mundo libre de armas nucleares.

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente.

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda Rivera**

**Secretary General of OPANAL**

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the First Committee of United Nations General Assembly, as OPANAL's representative. In this occasion to transmit to you the message that the 33 States of the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (NWFZ) of Latin America and the Caribbean, agreed to address to delegations at the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, by the Declaration attached to this statement.

This Declaration was agreed recently, in a moment where two relevant facts for the Region combines: on one side, in February 2012 is the commemoration of the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco; and by the other, in that same date the Agency will renew its commitment to the construction of a nuclear-weapon-free world carrying out the International Seminar "The experience of the NWFZ of Latin America and the Caribbean and the perspective towards 2015 and beyond".

We are convinced that the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration, takes sense with the renovation of that commitment. This commitment should be expressed in concrete actions, tied to the improvement of the own NWFZ, with which Member States and Entailed States to the Additional Protocols have an important role; with cooperation and coordination with other NWFZs and by supporting processes for the creation of new ones; and, of course, with actions that contribute to the global processes towards nuclear disarmament and non proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

Almost 50 years ago, in 1963, five Latin American States gathered, by Mexico's initiative, to start the work that originated the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in a complex political setting for the Region, in a moment that was at risk to become the scenario for a nuclear confrontation between Cold War Powers. In that context and time, the creation of this NWFZ, the first one in a highly populated territory in the world, was, without doubt a real and continue contribution to peace and security of the Region, and at the same time of the world. This has been recognized in several Resolutions of this General Assembly, since 1967 and inclusive until last year.

Today, 45 years later, there exists five NWFZs in the world, integrated by 114 States: Rarotonga, Pelindaba, Bangkok and Central Asia; plus Mongolia as a State unilaterally

declared free of those weapons. For that reason, one of the purposes of OPANAL is to move forward in consolidating the cooperation and coordination agenda among NWFZs. Also, to collaborate in the new NWFZs creation processes, one more reason to participate in the Forum convened by the General Director of the IAEA, next month in Vienna, were NWFZs representatives will share the experiences of possible interest for the creation of a NWFZ in the Middle East.

To concrete that agenda with other NWFZs Members States, we propose the creation of a joint coordination among representatives of the Zones; the IX NPT Review Conference to be celebrated in 2015 is an excellent goal for it. This is a job that we would be able to do only if the mutual knowledge among NWFZs is promoted and promoting realistic and effective work forms.

At the global level, Member States of the NWFZ in Latin America and the Caribbean, reiterate their call to Nuclear Weapon States to give unequivocal legally binding guarantees not to use or threaten to use such weapons. This is a legitimate interest of Non Nuclear Weapon States. For this reason, they urge the Conference on Disarmament to work on the negotiation of a legally binding universal instrument regarding negative security assurances.

Also, in this Declaration the 33 States of the Zone, express their conviction on the importance to initiate negotiations for a universal legally binding instrument aimed to *prohibit nuclear weapons*. At the same time, they call upon States that have not yet ratified the CTBT, to do so, especially those mentioned in Annex 2 of the Treaty.

For its part, OPANAL also commits to continue implementing nuclear disarmament educational programs, convinced that this is an effective way of contributing to the consolidation of international peace and security.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Latin America and Caribbean States, are convinced that only through concrete initiatives and sustained actions we will be able to move forward towards a global, total, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament. Only with cooperation among NWFZs, States, International Organizations and other NGOs, we will advance towards our final goal: a nuclear weapon free world.

Thank you very much Mister Chairman.



## **AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

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### **DECLARATION OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) witnessing the new international circumstances surrounding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and being aware of our historic commitment with those principles; we issue the following Declaration and agree to enlighten all the States at the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

1. The creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean through the Treaty of Tlatelolco has contributed to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and also to regional and international peace and security. This has been repeatedly recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in various resolutions since 1967, last updated in 2010: *A/RES/65/40* "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)."
2. The Treaty of Tlatelolco and its Additional Protocols I & II established legal obligations to States Parties and Nuclear-Weapon States with the aim of guaranteeing the denuclearization of this Zone, first in the world to be constituted in a highly populated territory.
3. It was essential for the establishment of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone of Latin America and the Caribbean the signing and ratifying of Additional Protocols I & II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco by the Nuclear-Weapon States. Nowadays, an open dialogue with the majority of these States, in relation to their interpretative declarations to the protocols at the time of signing and/or ratifying, is most important in order to perfect the military denuclearization of the Zone. We will continue to work together with Entailed States to achieve the withdrawal or adaptation of those declarations.
4. We reiterate that the use or threat to use of nuclear weapons is a violation of the United Nations Charter and a crime against humanity. At the same time, it represents a violation of International Law and International Humanitarian Law unanimously expressed by the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Nuclear Weapons in 1996.
5. It is a legitimate interest of Non-nuclear-weapon States to be given unequivocal legally binding guarantees from Nuclear-Weapon States not to use or threaten to use such weapons against them. We urge the Conference on Disarmament to work on the negotiation of a legally-binding universal instrument regarding negative security assurances, considering nuclear weapons as a great danger to world peace and prejudicial to life on Earth.
6. The Treaty of Tlatelolco and OPANAL have been a political, legal and institutional reference in the creation of other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) in different areas around the world. Nowadays; the experience of OPANAL, along with the other four NWFZs, represents an important legacy to the international community in order to inspire the creation of new NWFZs or Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zones (WMDFFZ), such as the one proposed to the Middle East.
7. We reaffirm the urgent need to advance towards the priority goal of Nuclear Disarmament, and to achieve the total elimination and legally-binding prohibition of nuclear weapons. In this respect, we emphasize that the creation of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones embodies a major contribution to Non-proliferation efforts. We support the works done today with regards to the creation of new NWFZs,

including the International Atomic Energy Agency forum on experiences of potential interest in the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East, to be held on November 21-22, 2011 at AIEA's headquarters in Vienna.

8. Today, 114 States are part of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones worldwide: Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga), Southeast Asia (Treaty of Bangkok), Africa (Treaty of Pelindaba) and Central Asia, as well as Mongolia as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free State. Individually, they contribute to regional peace and security; collectively, to global peace and security. At the same time they contribute to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation processes.
9. Both Conferences of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, in Mexico (2005) and New York (2010) and their Final Documents constitute the starting point of the cooperation and coordination among NWFZs. We must move forward towards the creation of a common agenda that promotes the consolidation of each Zone and supports the complete and general disarmament process.
10. We acknowledge the improvements made this year by other NWFZs, they are key elements in achieving effective coordination on works made towards the common agenda. We also welcome the creation by the Member States of Pelindaba Treaty in May 2011 of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON). Since the creation of OPANAL in 1969, this is the first time another NWFZ establishes a permanent body for the achievement of the objectives of its own Treaty. We call upon all other NWFZs to consider the establishment of permanent bodies similar to the ones created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco and Pelindaba.
11. The latest achievements of the NWFZs created by the Treaties of Rarotonga and Pelindaba in the signing and ratification processes of their protocols also represent important steps towards consolidating the statutes of military denuclearization of these Zones. In this respect, we also welcome the significant efforts made by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to strengthen the entry into force of the Treaty of Bangkok. In particular, we highlight their negotiations with nuclear-weapon States stated in their Plan of Action 2007-2012.
12. The third Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that established Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, which will take place in 2015, as well as its preparation process, gives an opportunity to consolidate the coordination mechanisms between the NWFZs and plan the agenda and its work plan. For this reason, we invite all other NWFZs to collectively start the preparation process towards this Conference, which first coordination meeting may take place under the *first Preparatory Conference for the IX Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference* to be held 30 April–11 May 2012 in Vienna, Austria.
13. We expect progress in the creation of new NWFZs, such as the ones suggested in Northeast Asia and the Middle East, the institutional experience of OPANAL is made available for these processes. In this respect, we are pleased to inform that under the 45th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco to be held in February 2012, OPANAL will carry out the International Seminar on "The Experience of the NWFZ of Latin America and the Caribbean and its perspective towards 2015 and beyond", one of the seminar's outcomes will be the systematization and analysis of good practices and lessons learnt in those four and a half decades.
14. We support the exhortation made by the United Nations General Secretary in his five-point plan on nuclear disarmament to all NPT States Parties and to nuclear-weapon States in particular, to accomplish their obligation under the Treaty and to undertake negotiations on more efficient measures leading to nuclear disarmament.
15. We express, in accordance with the previous paragraph, our conviction on the importance to initiate the negotiations for a universal legally binding instrument aimed to prohibit nuclear weapons. We are committed to joining forces in favour of this main objective.