



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

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**2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

Statement by

Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares

Secretary-General of OPANAL

30 April, 2015

New York

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Mme President,

A highly respected and experienced diplomat of Algeria, and a firm defender of NPT goals, you are the President we need for a successful outcome of this Review Conference.

As requested by the Preparatory Committee, OPANAL presented a memorandum (NPT/CONF.2015/5) containing not only information regarding compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco by its Member States, but also a description of the Agency's relations with other intergovernmental organizations and NGO's. In addition, the memorandum describes positions taken by the Agency in relation to a number of Actions included in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)).

Mme President,

A major event in the past five years was the creation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States – CELAC, in 2011. At CELAC Summits, in Havana in 2014 and Costa Rica in 2015, the Heads of State and Government designated OPANAL as the specialized regional body for articulating common positions and joint actions on nuclear disarmament. Special Declarations on Nuclear Disarmament were adopted at those Summits as evidence of the prominence of the matter on the regional agenda.

Moreover, OPANAL issued a Declaration on the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (A/C.1/69/2) on 26 September last year, in which, among other matters, Member States committed to “continue to discuss and raise awareness on the multiple and catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any intentional or accidental nuclear detonation.”

Mme President,

The starting point of this IX NPT Review Conference is the Final Document of our last Conference. It is therefore necessary to assess the level of compliance with the 2010 Action Plan in order to make prospective decisions and commitments for the next five years.

The NPT Review Process cannot be a circular cycle always returning to the point of departure. We know that there are delays and setbacks, but our vision has to be future-oriented. We should avoid the pessimistic or cynical thought of assuming that the NPT is here to stay and that the world is not going to end if we fail. In fact we are here to avoid that final disaster.

This Conference is responsible for making decisions to ensure compliance with all NPT undertakings, including Action 5 adopted in 2010, which states that this Conference must “take stock and consider the next steps for the full implementation of Article VI.”

During the last five years new conflicts have emerged in the global scenario. In many regions, the humanitarian and political conditions have seriously deteriorated, as in the case of the Middle East. This is an additional reason to move ahead in implementing the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the decision to convene a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. The Conference and the decisions it adopt depend on the States of that region; however, all NPT States Party have a stake in the matter.

Adverse political conditions cannot be an incentive to give up efforts towards a Middle East Conference. If this were a valid reason, Latin America and the Caribbean States would not have accomplished the Treaty of Tlatelolco in the mid-sixties.

As a result, the 33 Member States of OPANAL hold an unsurpassed record in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and a firm position on nuclear disarmament. There have never been and there will never be nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. No State in the region is under extended nuclear deterrence policies by means of military alliances.

As stated in the preamble of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, “the privileged situation of the Signatory States, whose territories are wholly free from nuclear weapons, imposes upon them the inescapable duty of preserving that situation both in their own interests and for the good of mankind.”

Mme President,

OPANAL submits to this Conference for consideration a *working paper* containing 16 items that Latin American and Caribbean States consider essential for progress in the implementation of the NPT regime. Latin American and Caribbean States urge the Conference to include these elements in the final document.

Mme President,

Latin America and the Caribbean, true to their tradition of respect for International Law, sought security through an unprecedented treaty that has served as an inspiration to four other regions. NWFZ and Mongolia sum 116 States. They believe it is possible for our Planet to thrive without the permanent threat posed by nuclear weapons.

Thank you.