

Declaration of the
Member States of
OPANAL

International Day for the Total
Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

26 September 2026



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The Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL):

- **Reiterate** their concern over the existence of 12,187 nuclear weapons, which represents an unacceptable threat to the future of humanity, and a danger that grows more severe each day.
- **Recall** that this concern is reflected in numerous resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly such as Res. 1(I); as well as in the Final Document of the First Special Session on Disarmament; the preamble of the Treaty of Tlatelolco; the preamble of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); and in the preamble of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
- **Demand, once again**, that nuclear weapons never be used again, by any actor and under any circumstances. This can only be ensured through the prohibition and subsequent transparent, verifiable, and irreversible elimination of all nuclear weapons.
- **Reiterate** their alarm and dismay for the threats of nuclear weapons use, for the increase in the operational alert status of nuclear arsenals, the ongoing modernization of nuclear weapons systems and the increasingly strident nuclear rhetoric. **Reiterate also** that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a violation of International Law, including the United Nations Charter. **Condemn** unequivocally any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, whether explicit or implicit, and regardless of the circumstances.

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- **Reiterate their call** to all States, particularly those possessing nuclear weapons, and those States under policies of extended nuclear deterrence and military alliances, to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in their security and defense doctrines and policies. Reiterate also that nuclear-armed States must fully comply with their obligations and commitments, particularly, the total elimination of the nuclear arsenals without further delay.
- **Express** their grave concern over the erosion of the treaty-based disarmament architecture and **call upon** all States to comply with their legal obligations as well as commitments undertaken regarding nuclear disarmament, and to promote and strengthen international peace and security; as well as firmly support all bilateral, regional or multilateral instruments that contribute to achieving nuclear disarmament.
- **Urge** nuclear-weapon States to engage in negotiations in accordance with their obligations under Article VI of the NPT and, taking note of the expiration of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), call upon the States possessing the two largest nuclear arsenals, to resume dialogue and restart bilateral negotiations, in good faith, aimed at the control and reduction of their nuclear arsenals.
- **Call upon** the nuclear-weapon States to put an end to the increase and qualitative modernization of their nuclear arsenals, the development of advanced nuclear capabilities, and the formulation of doctrines, scenarios or procedures for their production and use, considering that such actions are incompatible with the obligation to adopt effective measures in furtherance of nuclear disarmament.
- **Reiterate the legitimate call** for nuclear-weapon States to provide full and unequivocal legally binding assurances to the States that comprise the nuclear-weapon-free zones, in accordance with the international treaties that establish them and their additional protocols.

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- **Urge** those nuclear-weapon States which have made interpretative declarations concerning Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Treaty as well as to International Law, to continue the dialogue with the objective of providing full and unequivocal negative security assurances to the States Party to the Treaty, as well as to respect the militarily denuclearized character of the zone.
- **Reiterate** their commitment to the NPT, the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime; regret that the XI Review Conference of the NPT, held from 27 April to 22 May 2026, concluded without a final document, and express their determination to contribute to the success of the next NPT review cycle. In this regard, they recall the obligations of all States parties to the NPT, particularly of nuclear weapon States, and **urge them** to comply fully with the Treaty and to accelerate the full and effective implementation of its Article VI; **reaffirm** the validity of the commitments undertaken at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences, and **urge once again** those States that are not yet parties to the NPT to accede as non-nuclear-weapon States, without further delay and without conditions.
- **Emphasize** their growing concern over the possible military uses of Artificial Intelligence through the lifecycle of nuclear weapons, including in the nuclear command, control, and communication structure. As progress is made towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, significant human control must be maintained over nuclear weapons and their delivery systems in the context of the development of artificial intelligence technology in the military domain.

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- **Celebrate** the 30th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the fact that Latin America and the Caribbean was the first region in the world where all states have signed and ratified the Treaty, and call for the prompt entry into force of this Treaty and therefore urge those States listed in Annex II, which have not yet ratified it, and whose ratification is necessary for its entry into force, to take the necessary measures to do so without further delay.
- **Draw attention** to the full implementation of the TPNW, which prohibits the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and invite all States that are not yet parties to the Treaty to consider ratifying or acceding to it.
- **Underscore** that the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the NPT, the TPNW, as well as the CTBT once in force, establish norms of International Law that are legally-binding on the States that have signed and ratified them. **Emphasize** that these instruments are not merely declarations of intent but rather constitute an appropriate legal basis for the process of total elimination of nuclear weapons, in a transparent, verifiable, and irreversible manner, in order to prevent their resurfacing.
- **Reiterate** their conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones represents a step of great relevance to advance towards nuclear disarmament, as well as a contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as to the reduction of nuclear risk.

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- **Welcome with appreciation** the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/Res/79/241 entitled "Comprehensive study of the issue of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects", promoted by the States parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, as a contribution to the strengthening of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and the establishment of new zones; and the convening by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the Group of Qualified Experts. **Welcome** that the aforementioned study was concluded and agreed by consensus by the Group and **anticipate** its remittance to the United Nations General Assembly.
- **Reaffirm** their support for the objective of creating new nuclear-weapon-free zones, including a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, in accordance with the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, and the commitments under the NPT.
- **Regret** that the Fourth Conference of States Parties and Signatories of the Treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia has not yet been held, and **reiterate** their commitment to continue promoting dialogue and cooperation among the zones.
- **Underscore** the importance of the "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education" adopted through United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/57/60 and **commit** to continue working on the implementation of education programs for disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

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- **Recognize** the valuable contribution of women and youth in the promotion and maintenance of peace and security, and reiterate their commitment to continue promoting their full and effective representation and participation in the policy formulation, planning, and implementation processes related to disarmament and non-proliferation.
- **Commend** the firm conviction and permanent commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to continue promoting complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament as a priority objective, and in a manner consistent with the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

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