
SPECIAL DECLARATION ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, on the occasion of the VII Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on January 24th, 2023 in Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic.

1. Reaffirm our commitment to the consolidation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a "Zone of Peace", proclaimed during the II CELAC Summit held in Havana, Cuba, on January 29th, 2014, which includes the commitment of the States of the region to continue promoting general, complete and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament as a priority objective.
2. Reiterate our deep concern for the threat to humanity as a consequence of the existence, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as their humanitarian impact, and we strongly emphasize that they must not be used under any circumstances, and that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons constitute a crime against humanity and a violation against International Law, including International Humanitarian Law and the United Nations Charter. Thus, the only effective guarantee against the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total prohibition and elimination in a transparent, verifiable irreversible manner and within a clearly defined timeframe.
3. Emphasize our condemnation of the perfecting and modernizing of existing nuclear weapons, nuclear stockpile increases and of the development of new types of this armament, which is inconsistent with the obligation to adopt effective measures in favor of nuclear disarmament.
4. Urge the States who possess nuclear-weapons to fulfill their unequivocal obligations to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and the commitments arising from the NPT Review Conferences. We reaffirm that the NPT does not establish any right to the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by any State.
5. Take note of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) from June 21-23, 2022, in Vienna; and the election of Mexico to chair the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty in 2023. We observe that the TPNW has joined the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the NPT to promote the elimination of these weapons of mass destruction in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner and clearly established deadlines.
6. Regret that, despite the efforts and compromises made by delegations to reach a consensus document, the Tenth NPT Review Conference, held from August 1-26, 2022, did not arrive at a consensus outcome document, getting further away from the goal of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. We continue to hope that measures will be taken, in good faith, to improve accountability in the next review cycle.
7. Reaffirm the importance of collaboration and cooperation between CELAC and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America the Caribbean (OPANAL).

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8. Urge the adoption, as soon as possible, of a universal and legally binding instrument on negative security assurances. We urge the States who possess nuclear weapons to withdraw the interpretative declarations to Protocols I and II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and to respect the denuclearized nature of Latin America and the Caribbean.
 9. Commit ourselves to active participation of the region in the High-Level Meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which is celebrated every September 26th at the United Nations, under resolution No. A/RES/68/32.
 10. Celebrate more than 30 years of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials -ABACC-, the only global bi-national system for accounting and control of nuclear material, and underscore its importance as an innovative and effective safeguard and confidence-building mechanism that has contributed to the preservation of peace and security in the region, as well as a benchmark for best practices in nuclear safeguards and nonproliferation verification.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, January 24, 2023