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**Declaration of the Member States of OPANAL on the occasion of the  
International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**

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The Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), aware of our historic commitment to global nuclear disarmament,

**Proud** to belong to the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, the first densely populated area in the world that became a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone by means of the Treaty of Tlatelolco

**Cognisant** that we have been a political, legal and institutional reference for the establishment of other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in different parts of the world

**Reiterating** our full support to the Declarations on Nuclear Disarmament adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on 20 August 2013, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and on 29 January 2014, in Havana, Cuba

**Recognising** that the priority objective of achieving global peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons is one of the major challenges of humanity

The Member States of OPANAL,

**Welcome and join** in the commemoration, for the first time in history, of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/32

**Invite** the international community to commemorate this International Day with different activities in order to increase public awareness, education and knowledge about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the pressing need for their prohibition and total elimination so as to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons

On this occasion, we, the Member States:

1. Reiterate our deep concern over the imminent threat posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their potential use or threat of use, as well as over the humanitarian consequences of enormous proportions and the global effects of any nuclear detonation, accidental or deliberate.
2. Affirm the pressing need to begin negotiations for the prompt adoption of a universal legally-binding instrument aimed at banning the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, disposing of their destruction in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner with a multilaterally agreed schedule; and our commitment to join efforts in favour of this priority objective.
3. Reiterate our call on States, particularly the Nuclear Weapon States, to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons from their doctrines, security policies and military strategies, and to fully comply with their legal obligations and unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons without further delay.
4. Call on the Nuclear Weapon States to cease the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons.
5. Urge, once again, the Nuclear Weapon States, that made interpretative declarations to the Additional Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, to withdraw them without further delay in order to give full security assurances to the States that comprise the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Confirm the inalienable right of all States, according to the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to conduct research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.
7. Urge the Nuclear Weapon States to comply with the commitments undertaken under Article VI of the NPT and to move forward towards the total elimination of such weapons. We urge them to continue to move forward on the implementation of the practical steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed at the NPT Review

Conference held in 2000, as well as of the Action Plan adopted at the Review Conference held in 2010.

8. Undertake to continue to implement nuclear disarmament education programmes, convinced that it is an effective approach to contribute to the consolidation of international peace and security.
9. Shall continue to foster the discussion and broad awareness of the multiple and catastrophic humanitarian consequences caused by a nuclear detonation, accidental or deliberate. In this respect, we welcome the initiative of the Government of Austria to convene the Vienna Conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and urge all countries to participate and continue to deepen the knowledge on the terrible effects of nuclear weapons, based on the deliberations and conclusions of the two previous conferences held in Norway and Mexico, in 2013 and 2014 respectively.
10. Recall that the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 68/32 decided to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard.
11. Reaffirm the historic declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, on the occasion of the CELAC Summit held on 29 January 2014, in Havana, in which we declare the commitment of the States in the region to continue to promote nuclear disarmament as a priority objective and contribute to general and complete disarmament in order to promote confidence building among nations.
12. Stress our life commitment to present and future generations in order to ensure the legacy of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Mexico City, 26 September 2014