

## **PNND presentation to the 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the OPANAL General Conference**

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**Full presentation.**

**In the interests of time the [bracketed section] was not delivered verbally.**

Your Excellencies,

Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), is a global, cross-party network of legislators working to prevent nuclear proliferation and achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. On behalf of PNND, I thank you for the invitation to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> OPANAL General Conference.

PNND recognizes the leadership of OPANAL and the example of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in the vitally important issues of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

We joined our partner organization the World Future Council in bestowing OPANAL and the Treaty of Tlatelolco with the 2013 Future Policy Award which was presented to Ambassador Gioconda Úbeda Rivera, then the Secretary-General of OPANAL, at the United Nations in New York. The Future Policy Award, recognized that the treaty 'has been critical to advancing regional peace and security as well as creating a precedent and inspiration for subsequent NWFZs and giving impetus to the universal elimination of nuclear weapons.'

PNND is honoured to have participated in a number of previous OPANAL General Conferences (in Santiago, Havana and Mexico City) and to have worked with, and alongside OPANAL for over a decade to support the Treaty of Tlatelolco, build cooperation between nuclear weapon free zones, promote the establishment of additional zones, and promote initiatives for multilateral nuclear disarmament.

We commend OPANAL, and the governments of Mexico and Chile, for bringing the regional NWFZs together for the Conferences of States Parties to NWFZs in 2005 (in Mexico City) and 2010 (in New York), the final documents of which were presented to the NPT Review Conferences in New York. These helped build a successful outcome to the 2010 NPT Review Conference. PNND was honoured to be invited, along with Mayors for Peace, to organize the civil society forums for these NWFZ conferences. The results of which were also submitted to the NPT Review Conferences.

We thank OPANAL for joining PNND at a number of our events, including at the 128<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Ecuador in March 2013. There we launched the Spanish edition of the *Handbook for Parliamentarians on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament*. And with OPANAL's help, we successfully encouraged the IPU to choose nuclear disarmament as its principal topic for the 2013-2014 cycle.

This resulted in a ground-breaking resolution adopted by the 130<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in 2014 supporting nuclear weapon free zones, calling for the elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, supporting negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention and calling on parliaments to commemorate Sep 26 - the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The IPU

resolution was supported by all parliamentary delegations, including those from nuclear-armed States and their allies. This shows that OPANAL, PNND and IPU are leading the way, and can be effective in moving those who currently rely on nuclear weapons to agree to their elimination under effective international control and through cooperative security.

We thank OPANAL, member parliaments and parliamentarians from Latin America and the Caribbean for taking action on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in 2014 and 2015. This included events at the UN and in parliaments. It also included a *Joint Statement of Parliamentarians, Mayors and Religious Leaders for a Nuclear Weapon Free World*, which was adopted in Hiroshima on August 6, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nuclear bombing of the city, and presented to the United Nations in September, in line with progress in the three Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons previously held in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna.

Our collective efforts helped build support for the *United Nations Open Ended Working Group* in 2013, which was chaired so effectively by Ambassador Manuel Dengo from Costa Rica, and which developed concrete legal measures for the achievement of a nuclear weapon free world.

And just this month, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution introduced by Mexico, among other very resolutions co-sponsored by our country on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and so-called humanitarian promise to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, to re-establish the Open Ended Working Group in order to undertake substantive work on these measures and pave the way for negotiations.

The United Nations has also decided to hold a High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament no later than 2018, an initiative proposed by the first Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). We would hope that the Open Ended Working Group will be able to prepare a draft agreement (or agreements) on nuclear disarmament to be adopted at the UN High Level Conference.

[A key to success is disarmament action by nuclear armed States. One current initiative to push the nuclear armed States to implement their nuclear disarmament obligations is the case lodged by the Marshall Islands against them in the International Court of Justice. The Marshall Islands has invited other non-nuclear countries to join the case through exercising the right of intervention. Latin American and Caribbean countries were very actively involved in the historic 1996 International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion which affirmed the unconditional obligation to achieve nuclear disarmament. It would be appropriate and helpful to also be active in this follow-up case. ]

The effort to raise awareness of the immense destructive power of nuclear weapons and their indiscriminate nature, understanding of the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and the reaffirmation of the validity of the multilateral arena as the ideal to meet the challenges of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, it deserves a coordination of efforts between the executive and legislative branches for the relief of their various international commitments seeking to contribute to negotiations aimed at eventually outlawing nuclear weapons. It should be recalled that nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction that are not subject to an express prohibition by international law. This size is the challenge we take those who are part PNND.

Thank you