



SPECIAL COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3rd December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), reiterated their deep concern at the threat to humankind posed by the ongoing existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use, or threat of use. In this regard, they reaffirmed the importance of complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament as the highest priority, and also reiterated the priority of nuclear non-proliferation.
2. At the time of setting up the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), they confirmed that Latin America and the Caribbean is proud to be the first densely populated area in the world to be declared a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ), by means of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). They found that this fact confirms the identity of the region and stressed that the establishment of



internationally recognized Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones strengthens international and regional peace and security, as well as the non-proliferation regime. All of this constitutes an important contribution to the achievement of nuclear disarmament.

3. They urged the nuclear Powers to withdraw all reservations to the Protocols of the Tlatelolco Treaty, thus helping to eliminate the possible use of nuclear weapons against the countries of the region.
4. The Heads of State and Government called for the full and balanced fulfillment of the three pillars of the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT): nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful nuclear cooperation.
5. They reaffirmed their commitment to the application of the comprehensive IAEA safeguards requested by the NPT, and urged all States to implement all relevant safeguards in accordance with their international obligations.
6. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the holding of the Conference of the Parties on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in May 2010, and the adoption of a



final substantive document, after years of stagnation. However, they reiterated the urgent need for an accelerated progress towards the full implementation of the commitment of the States holding nuclear weapons to achieve the priority goal of nuclear disarmament and the elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons, through irreversible, clear and verifiable initiatives.

7. Likewise, they urged the States concerned, whose ratification is essential, for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to accelerate their process of signing and/or ratifying of this instrument. They also called for the beginning of the negotiations of a Treaty to prohibit the Production of Fissile Material.
8. They highlighted the importance of our active participation in drafting concrete proposals in order to achieve general Nuclear Disarmament, as well as the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in accordance with a multilateral, clear, irreversible and verifiable schedule.
9. They reaffirmed their wish for CELAC to articulate a joint position regarding the issues for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including a view



to a concerted action in the 2015 NPT Review Conference and its preparatory works for 2012, 2013 and 2014. For this purpose, OPANAL shall cooperate with CELAC within the area of their competence.

10. They expressed their strong commitment to work on convening an international high-level conference to identify ways and methods to eliminate nuclear weapons as soon as possible. The aim of this conference will be to agree on a programme in stages in favour for the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time. This programme shall prohibit the development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and also stipulate their destruction.