



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
20 September 2013  
English  
Original: Spanish

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**Sixty-eighth session**

Agenda item 99 (aa)

**General and complete disarmament: nuclear disarmament****Letter dated 19 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as President pro tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), has the honour to transmit herewith the CELAC declaration on nuclear disarmament, adopted on 20 August 2013 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as President pro tempore of CELAC, would be grateful if the Executive Office of the Secretary-General would circulate the aforementioned declaration as a document of the General Assembly at the high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, to be held in New York on 26 September 2013.

(Signed) Rodolfo **Reyes Rodríguez**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations

President pro tempore of the Community of Latin American  
and Caribbean States



**Annex to the letter dated 19 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Declaration of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on nuclear disarmament**

[Original: Spanish and English]

Buenos Aires, 20 August 2013

The senior officials of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), having met on 20 August 2013 in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, aware of the historical commitment of the Community to nuclear disarmament, issued the following Declaration:

1. They highlighted the relevance and full validity of the special communiqué on the total elimination of nuclear weapons, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of CELAC on 3 December 2011 in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In that context, they reiterated their deep concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use or threat of use.
2. They stressed the full validity of the Declaration of the 33 States members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), adopted in September 2011, in which, inter alia, the signatory States reaffirmed the urgent need to advance towards the primary goal of nuclear disarmament and achieve complete and general elimination of nuclear weapons, and, in that regard, agreed to join the efforts of the international community to make progress towards the negotiation of a universal and legally binding instrument banning nuclear weapons.
3. They reaffirmed that the region attaches the highest priority to the achievement of complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament and reiterated that the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.
4. They reiterated that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons constitutes a crime against humanity and a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, and of the Charter of the United Nations.
5. They highlighted the importance of the active participation of CELAC member States in drafting concrete proposals in order to achieve universal nuclear disarmament, according to a multilaterally agreed, transparent, irreversible and verifiable time frame.
6. They identified the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States, a group that includes all CELAC member States, in receiving unequivocal and legally binding assurances from nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of such weapons. The CELAC member States have called for the negotiation and adoption, as soon as possible, of a universal and legally binding instrument on negative security assurances.

7. They called on all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States, to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in their doctrines, military strategies and security policies or as part of a prospective approach to conflict management, in order to achieve the total elimination of this category of weapon, regardless of its type or geographical location.

8. They stressed that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones strengthens international and regional peace and security as well as the non-proliferation regime, and is an important contribution to achieving nuclear disarmament.

9. They expressed the pride of the Latin American and Caribbean region in being the first densely populated area in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone, under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). They reaffirmed that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Latin American and Caribbean region has contributed to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as to regional and global peace and security.

10. They emphasized that the Treaty of Tlatelolco and OPANAL have served as a political, legal and institutional model for the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in different areas of the world. Today, the experience of OPANAL, together with that of the other four existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia as a single State unilaterally declared free of nuclear weapons, constitutes an important heritage of the international community to inspire the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones and advance towards the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

11. They urged nuclear Powers to withdraw all interpretative declarations to additional protocols I and II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which in reality constitute reservations prohibited by this Treaty, as a means of helping to eliminate the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons against the countries of the region. They expressed their commitment to continue working with those States parties to the Protocols in order to convince them to withdraw or modify such declarations.

12. They regretted the failure to implement the agreement on the convening in 2012 of an international conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. They reiterated that the convening of this conference is an important and integral part of the final outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They declared that the outcomes of this conference will be an important contribution to achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and reiterated their firm conviction that the establishment of such a zone would constitute a significant step forward for the Middle East peace process. They urged that the conference should be held as soon as possible.

13. They urged nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their commitments under article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to advance towards the total elimination of those weapons. They urged them to fully and immediately implement the 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, as well as the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference.

14. They reaffirmed the inalienable right of States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in

conformity with articles I, II, III and IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. They reiterated the commitment of all parties to the Treaty to facilitate participation in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

15. They expressed their total repudiation of the enhancement of existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons, which is inconsistent with the obligation of complete nuclear disarmament.

16. They called on all States to refrain from conducting nuclear weapon test explosions, other nuclear explosions or any other relevant non-explosive experiments, including subcritical experiments, for the purpose of developing nuclear weapons. Such actions are contrary to the object and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to the spirit, if not the letter, of that Treaty, undermining its desired impact as a nuclear disarmament measure.

17. They reiterated the demand for a comprehensive nuclear test ban and urged the annex 2 States, whose ratifications are essential for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, to accelerate the process of signing and/or ratifying that instrument, as a matter of priority and an indication of their political will and commitment to international peace and security.

18. They reaffirmed the importance of initiating negotiations for a legally binding international instrument banning nuclear weapons and the CELAC member States' commitment to this priority goal.

19. They recalled that the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament established the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. They urged the Conference to demonstrate the political will needed to ensure the commencement of substantive work without delay through the adoption and implementation of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work that advances the nuclear disarmament agenda.

20. They recognized the efforts of the open-ended working group established by General Assembly resolution [67/56](#) to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, as well as the proposals and contributions made to this group by States members of CELAC.

21. They reiterated the strong commitment of CELAC to the task of convening an international high-level conference to identify ways and methods of eliminating nuclear weapons as soon as possible, with the objective of agreeing on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time period, which would prohibit the development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and would call for their destruction.

22. They emphasized the intention of the CELAC member States to participate actively in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, to be held in New York on 26 September 2013, as well as in the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in New York in 2014.

23. They expressed grave concern at the vast humanitarian impact and global effects of any accidental or intentional nuclear detonation. They called on the

international community to reiterate its concern at the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in any and all discussions on such weapons. They welcomed the outcome of the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo in March 2013, and, in this regard, called on all States to participate in the second international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, to be held in Mexico on 13 and 14 February 2014.

24. They agreed to continue coordinating positions and contributing to the implementation of practical actions in follow-up to the above-mentioned high-level meeting of the General Assembly, including the adoption of a resolution on the subject in the First Committee at the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly.

25. They agreed to circulate this Declaration as a document of the General Assembly at the high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament and as a document of the OPANAL General Conference.

26. They expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of the Argentine Republic for their warm hospitality and successful organization of the meeting.

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