

AG/RES. 2298 (XXXVII O/07)

CONSOLIDATION OF THE REGIME ESTABLISHED IN THE TREATY FOR THE
PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
(TREATY OF TLATELOLCO)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in particular the section on the Committee on Hemispheric Security (AG/doc. /07);

RECALLING its previous resolutions on this topic, especially resolutions AG/RES. 1499 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1571 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1622 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1748 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1798 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1903 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1937 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2009 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2104 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2245 (XXXVI-O/06);

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the statement issued by the states of the Hemisphere in the Declaration on Security in the Americas in which they affirmed that the establishment of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area through the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the protocols thereto constitutes a substantial contribution to international peace, security, and stability;

BEARING IN MIND that the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the adoption and opening for signature of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) was held in Mexico City on February 14, 2007;

AFFIRMING that the consolidation of the nuclear-weapon-free zone set forth in the Treaty of Tlatelolco constitutes a firm demonstration of the commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to the cause of complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, in keeping with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;

CONSIDERING that, under Article 1 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Contracting Parties undertook “to use exclusively for peaceful purposes the nuclear material and facilities which are under their jurisdiction, and to prohibit and prevent in their respective territories: (a) the testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons, by the Parties themselves, directly or indirectly, on behalf of anyone else or in any other way, and (b) the receipt, storage, installation, deployment and any form of possession of any nuclear weapons, directly or indirectly, by the Parties themselves, by anyone on their behalf or in any other way,” and that the Contracting Parties also undertook “to refrain from engaging in, encouraging or authorizing, directly or indirectly, or in any way participating in the testing, use, manufacture, production, possession or control of any nuclear weapon”;

CONSIDERING ALSO that Article 17 of the said Treaty states that nothing in its provisions “shall prejudice the rights of the Contracting Parties, in conformity with this Treaty, to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in particular for their economic development and social progress”;

NOTING the dialogue initiated by the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) with the nuclear-weapon states that are parties to Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in relation to the request that they modify or withdraw their declarations on said Additional Protocols;

CONSIDERING the Santiago de Chile Declaration, adopted by the General Conference of OPANAL at its XIX Regular Session (Santiago, November 7-8, 2005);

TAKING NOTE of the coordination efforts carried out by OPANAL with other denuclearized zones in keeping with the Declaration adopted by the Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties That Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (Mexico City, April 26-28, 2005);

RECALLING that the 33 states parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco are subject to international verification under the safeguards agreements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

CONVINCED:

That the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones that comply with international criteria is an important step that significantly strengthens all aspects of the international disarmament and nonproliferation regime, thus contributing to the maintenance of peace and international security; and

That, as stated in the preamble to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, militarily denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves, but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage;

RECOGNIZING that the Treaty of Tlatelolco has become the model for the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world, such as the South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga), Southeast Asia (Treaty of Bangkok), Africa (Treaty of Pelindaba), and Central Asia (Treaty of Semipalatinsk), which, when they enter into force, will cover more than half the countries of the world and all territories in the Southern Hemisphere; and

UNDERSCORING its firm support for all actions undertaken by all the states parties, associated states, and OPANAL to strengthen the denuclearization regime envisaged in the Treaty of Tlatelolco,

RESOLVES:

1. To call upon those states of the region that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the amendments to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), adopted by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) in resolutions 267 (E-V), 268 (XII), and 290 (E-VII).

2. To reaffirm the importance of strengthening OPANAL as the appropriate legal and political forum for ensuring unqualified observance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in its zone of application and for promoting cooperation with the agencies of other nuclear-weapon-free zones.

3. To reaffirm its commitment to continue striving for a disarmament and nonproliferation regime that is universal, genuine, and nondiscriminatory in every aspect.

4. To call upon OPANAL, in its area of competence, to continue to maintain appropriate ties or contact with the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) of the Organization of American States and report to it periodically on the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken by the states of the region in this resolution and in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, in particular, paragraph 11 of the latter, as they pertain to nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

5. To entrust the Permanent Council with holding, in the framework of the CSH, a meeting on consolidation of the regime established in the Treaty of Tlatelolco, with the support of OPANAL and the participation of the United Nations and other international organizations competent in the area.

6. To recognize the work of OPANAL in ensuring compliance with the obligations undertaken in the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

7. To reaffirm its conviction that, throughout its four decades, the Treaty of Tlatelolco has been essential to regional and international peace and security, has paved the way for the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones, and has complemented efforts to attain general and complete disarmament.

8. To support OPANAL's cooperation and coordination mechanisms with the Treaties of Rarotonga, Bangkok, and Pelindaba, with Mongolia, and with those that may be established in the future, as well as with their respective agencies, in order to expedite the achievement of common objectives, as agreed to at the Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Mexico City in April 2005.

9. To take note of the decision of the Governments of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons in Central Asia, thus expressing their full commitment to preserving international peace and security.

10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

11. To request the Secretary General to transmit this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Secretary General of OPANAL.