

Acknowledgements

The commemoration of any treaty anniversary is a privileged opportunity to examine past experiences and reflect on future new challenges. The Thirtieth Anniversary of the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco represents such an endeavour. The idea for this commemoration originally emerged during informal discussions with Counselor Juan Manuel Gómez-Robledo of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the International Organizations at Geneva. We then entertained the idea to organize a seminar on *Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in the Next Century*. This Seminar, which took place in Mexico City, on 13 and 14 February 1997, appeared to be an appropriate proposition, given the Commemorative Celebration of the Anniversary as well as Mexico being Depository State of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

We are pleased to extend our gratitude to all of the individuals who have made the hosting of this Seminar possible. First, Ambassador Sergio González Gálvez, Under-Secretary of Multilateral Affairs of Mexico, for his appropriate decision to co-sponsor the Seminar on the occasion of official celebrations of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Ambassador Margarita Diéguez Armas and Minister Silvia Klee y González were instrumental in consolidating the Government of Mexico's insightful and logistical support for the preparation of the Seminar. Mr. Raúl Cueto Martínez, Director of Agencies and Mechanisms of Latin American Coordination and Integration, and Mrs. Eva Pizano, Under-Secretary for the Rio Group and OPANAL, are equally appreciated for their support in maintaining fluent communication channels between the Government of Mexico and UNIDIR. All these efforts along with the support received are much appreciated by the staff of UNIDIR.

Another appropriate co-sponsor was the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin American and the Caribbean (OPANAL). We heartily thank the Council of OPANAL for their approval in organizing a joint venture with UNIDIR as indicated in OPANAL's resolution C/E/Res.31 on 21 November 1996. With this legal support, we would like to pay a special tribute to OPANAL's Secretary-General, Ambassador Enrique Román-Morey, who has provided UNIDIR with adequate and unconditional support. His foresight allowed for the idea of the Seminar to become a reality. His perseverance to ensure the participation of each signatory State of the Treaty, as well as representatives from other regions of the world, at present reinforces UNIDIR's care to pursue the widest possible geographical distribution and representation in all of our meetings. This event illustrates the opportunity to maintain and indeed reinforce OPANAL as a viable agency committed to overseeing this important legal instrument, the Treaty of Tlatelolco. UNIDIR was honored to participate in such an undertaking.

Special reference is also extended to the staff of OPANAL for their readiness to cooperate with UNIDIR. We would therefore like to acknowledge Mr. Javier Cureño, Ms. Eva Suck de López, Mr. Juan Yanaculis, Ms. Jessica Miano and Ms. Guadalupe Menchero.

We are also pleased to recognize the representatives from the Permanent Missions at Geneva for their attention, time and support, and for their helpful consultations which aided in the formulation of a coherent agenda for the Seminar. During these meetings, several concerns were expressed related to the Treaty itself as well as OPANAL. Unfortunately, given the short period of the Seminar, not all relevant concerns of the member States could be included, such as the concern of nuclear material transshipment in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Although not focused within the agenda, the issue of nuclear weapon traffic is nonetheless a fundamental concern that was covered in the debates. This and other related concerns likewise reinforced this Seminar.

In this same context, we wish to thank the Permanent Missions and the organizations which have provided UNIDIR with financial support, either direct or indirect, for the realization of the Seminar.

We gladly recognize the staff of UNIDIR for their administrative and logistical support. We take this opportunity to also acknowledge Mr. Diego Oyarzun-Reyes from UNCTAD at Geneva, for collaborating with the conception of the poster for the Seminar and the cover of this book. His artistic and professional skills have added nice complements to the designs of certain UNIDIR publications.

Undeniably, the calibre of a tripartite cooperation, along with the participation of a number of diplomats, academia, specialists, and experts in the field, assured UNIDIR that the *Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones* Seminar would be a success and a challenging effort aimed towards the *Next Century*.

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