



Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in  
Latin America and the Caribbean

Original: Spanish

# OPANAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

## Executive Summary

XXIII Special Session

19 November 2014

Mexico City

### 1. Participation

19 Member States participated in this session of the General Conference. 13 delegations were headed by their Ambassadors accredited to Mexico. (List of participants: Document CG/E/663).

### 2. Relevant aspects discussed

This summary, for which the Secretariat is responsible, has the sole objective of serving as an aide-memoire for the delegations. The outcome of the deliberations is contained in the resolutions adopted by the General Conference (list on page 3). Of the 19 Member States who attended the session, 14 addressed the General Conference. In their statements, they agreed on the following topics:

- a. **OPANAL as the “specialized body” of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC):** Several Member States reiterated the need to avoid duplication of speeches presented by OPANAL and CELAC in international forums on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. They concurred that OPANAL, recognized by CELAC as a “specialized regional body”, should prepare and present the positions agreed by the 33 Member States concerning nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In January 2015, in the framework of the CELAC Summit to be held in San José, Costa Rica, it is expected OPANAL’s active participation in the preparation of the respective nuclear disarmament declaration.
- b. **Budget and collection of contributions:** The Agency’s Budget for 2015 was adopted, emphasising that the 6.85% increase is three percentage points lower than the last increase approved. This increase is based on the General Conference’s agreement on approving gradual increases to partially recover from the cumulative impact of inflation during the years

in which the budget remained unchanged. Member States reiterated the importance of complying with their respective financial obligations.

- c. Increase participation of Caribbean States:** Members attending the Conference supported the need of fomenting a closer relationship with the 11 States that do not have permanent representation in Mexico.
- d. Education and outreach activities:** Member States decided to continue with the Working-Group on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education and broaden its mandate. Members agreed to continue OPANAL's relation with the Latin American Institute of Educational Communication (ILCE), as well as the co-sponsorship of the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation (organized by the *Instituto Matías Romero* and the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs). A solemn session on 16 July 2015 on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the first explosion of a nuclear weapon will be held (16 July).
- e. OPANAL Headquarters:** The majority of Member States present referred to the need for the Agency to have visible and adequate headquarters to accommodate the Secretariat officers and Representatives attending the meetings of OPANAL. The Mexican Delegation assured that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to work alongside the Government of Mexico City (Federal District) to find permanent headquarters for the Agency. In addition, the Delegation of Mexico mentioned that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concluded that perhaps through the concept of "constitution of a diplomatic seat", OPANAL headquarters could be temporarily relocated to the property located in Juana de Ibarbourou 412. The Delegation mentioned that the ideal solution would be for the Federal Government to find permanent headquarters for the Agency which are adequate, visible, functional and modern. Moreover, the Mexican Delegation commented that the properties previously proposed by the local Government have not met the necessary criteria, thus another possibility would be for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to suggest to the Ministry of Finance that the Government procure new headquarters for OPANAL.
- f. Upcoming activities:** The first activity in which OPANAL and its Member States should participate, is the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons to be held on 8-9 December. In 2015, OPANAL expects to participate in the CELAC Summit, the III Conference of the NWFZs and the IX Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. The General Conference decided to reconvene its XXIII Special Session on 25 March 2015 in order to agree on a common position for these last two forums.

- g. OPANAL Legislation:** The General Conference reviewed and adopted the amended proposals of the “Financial Regulations” and the “Standards to Govern the Operations of the Secretariat of OPANAL”, adjusting both legal instruments to the Agency’s present needs.
- h. Other topics:** Representatives reiterated their compromise to nuclear disarmament insisting that the only assurance against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination and prohibition. They raised the importance of moving towards a universal and legally binding instrument banning the existence of nuclear weapons; they highlighted the role OPANAL has and should maintain internationally. Moreover, they stressed the catastrophic humanitarian consequences any intentional or accidental detonation of a nuclear weapon would have.

### 3. Adopted resolutions

The resolutions adopted by the General Conference on 19 November are the following:

CG/E/Res.568	Report of the Secretary-General
CG/E/Res.569	Report of the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary Matters (CCAAP)
CG/E/Res.570	Accounting Statements and External Auditor’s Report to 31 December 2013
CG/E/Res.571	Budget and Scale of Contributions for Fiscal Year 2015
CG/E/Res.572	Status of Collection of Contributions
CG/E/Res.573	Analysis and Review of the Financial Regulations
CG/E/Res.574	Amendments to the “Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Agency”
CG/E/Res.575	Special Funds
CG/E/Res.576	Report of the Working-Group on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education