
SECRETARIAT

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF OPANAL ON HER TRIP TO
GENEVA AND VIENNA, FROM 15 TO 25 JUNE 2011.**

From 15 to 25 June, the Secretary General of OPANAL, Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda, made a work trip to the cities of Geneva and Vienna that was planned considering her participation on the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, called by the General Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to be held from 20 to 24 June, 2011, in Vienna.

First, she participated on June 16th, in the Plenary Session of the Conference on Disarmament, which headquarters are in Geneva, being this the first time that a Secretary General of OPANAL is welcomed by this multilateral forum. During the session, she made a statement about the Treaty of Tlatelolco, its origin and present time; as well as about the reason of existence of other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) and the joint agenda of those towards the final objective of nuclear disarmament.

In the Conference on Disarmament, as well as in the Ministerial Conference of IAEA, the Secretary General had the opportunity of talking with representatives of Member States of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and with other actors dedicated to nuclear disarmament issues.

Also, during her stay in Vienna, meetings that had been coordinated from Mexico took place. Among them, with the General Director of the IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano; with the Executive Director of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Mr. Tibor Tóth; with the High-Representative of the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs, Ambassador Sergio Duarte; with Mongolian Ambassador; with a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom, Mr. Iain Cox; and with the Director of the Vienna Center for Nuclear Disarmament and Non Proliferation.

The trip fulfilled the purpose of initiate the reestablishment of bonds with the IAEA, to strengthen the cooperation agenda with the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, in Vienna and also, the Agency was present in IAEAs Ministerial Conference; in the same way, to achieve a first approximation with the Conference on Disarmament, that could be the foundation for a dialogue, starting on 2012. The support from Member States of OPANAL was very important in order to achieve this objectives, specially, the Brasil Representation to the Conference on Disarmament and the Missions of Costa Rica in Geneva and Vienna.

I. Participation in the Plenary Session of the Conference on Disarmament.

On June 16th, I participated in the Plenary Session of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) that took place in “Palais des Nations”, in Geneva. The Permanent Representation of Brasil invited to this activity, all Permanent Missions of Member States of OPANAL. The Session was chaired by the Representative of Colombia.

My statement was introduced by Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, Permanent Representative of Brasil to this Conference, as Coordinator of the Work of OPANAL in Geneva for 2011. Ambassador Macedo underlined the contribution of the Agency as a referent for the creation of other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) and its role of coordinator of the two Conferences of States Parties that took place in 2005 and 2010. He stated that this is the first time that a Secretary General is welcomed to make a statement to the CD. Attached is the complete statement. (Document S/Inf.1068 “Statement of Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, Permanent Representative of Brazil, in the Conference on Disarmament, 16 June 2011”).

During my participation, I talked about the importance of International Organizations that work for nuclear disarmament and non proliferation, to share their current agendas. I emphasized that NWFZs, which concept and practice started in Latin America and the Caribbean, appeared as means to achieve complete and general disarmament, and not as an end in their self. They were conceived as dikes to avoid nuclear weapons proliferation in specific territories but today they must evolve and become bridges in the nuclear disarmament process. It was very timely to share with CD Members that in this new stage, OPANAL is re-dimensioning the reason to exist of the Zone in order to be part, more dynamically, to the final purpose that is to build a world free of the nuclear threat. In that sense, I emphasized the need of achieving effective coordination and cooperation among NWFZs, including Mongolia, and the fact that 114 States have a lot to say in the nuclear disarmament process. (Document S/Inf.1066 Statement of Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda, Secretary General of OPANAL, in the Plenary Session of the Conference on Disarmament, 16 June 2011).

One point that called for our attention was that the procedure in the CD does not allow establishing a dialogue between the guest and Member States. Nevertheless, some representatives that took the floor when the plenary session reinitiated, talked about my participation and the importance that could have been to have a dialogue after my statement. Ambassador Arturo Hernández Basave, Mexican representative, highlighted that his delegation hopes that the CD has an interactive dialogue with the Secretary General in the near future, in order to get full benefits of her assistance. The importance of NWFZs was also emphasized by the delegations of Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Argelia and the United States of America.

Even when in this opportunity we could not establish a dialogue, without a doubt my participation opened the door for future encounters in the framework of the CD, not just because of the statement in its self, but because of the concepts that I transmitted that seeded interest in the CD Member States representatives, and for the importance of NWFZs in the present time and the role that our Zone could have. The pillars for that dialogue were transmitted, now is our turn to follow up and to search for the right channels to make it effective.

At the same time that I was making my statement in the DC, the document was sent by the General Secretariat to all Member States of OPANAL (to the Embassies in Mexico and to the 11 ministers of foreign affairs of the States that do not have representation in this city), also to the permanent representations with the help of each coordinator in New York, Geneva and CARICOM. Also, to Member States of other NWFZs, to the States that are part of the Protocols of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, to International Organizations and to NGOs committed to nuclear disarmament issues and those with who we have regular contact. Also, it was an opportunity to send a press statement that we sent to the communication media whose contacts has been facilitated to us from some Member States. We knew that Xinhua Agency (People on line), from the Popular Republic of China, sent an international press note and that NGO Reaching Critical Will also

published it. We also registered the fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica sent a communication to their national press based in ours.

II. Ministerial Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Nuclear Safety

I assisted, as observer, to the Ministerial Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Nuclear Safety, from 20 to 24 June in its headquarters, in Vienna. The presidency of the Conference was on Ambassador Antonio Guerreiro, Brazil Permanent Representative, to whom I had the opportunity to talk about the work of OPANAL.

During the plenary sessions that took place the first two days, the heads of delegations of the Member States of IAEA, expressed their opinions about nuclear safety facing the tragedy that hit the people of Fukushima, Japan, on 11 March 2011. All reiterated their condolences and solidarity with the Japanese people and government, and most of them made reference to the need to rescue the learned lessons of this triple tragedy (earthquake, tsunami and radioactivity) and the measures taken to attend it. They emphasized the complexity of all the elements that were involved in it, getting to the conclusion that it is necessary to review the regulations and procedures on nuclear safety matters globally, considering that the effects of this tragedy had consequences that crossed over the borders.

At the end of the 20 June session, it was adopted the Ministerial Declaration by consensus, in which all agreed to strengthen the safety systems, the preparation for emergencies and protection for their people. (Attached is document INFCIRC/821 “IAEA Ministerial Declaration on Nuclear Safety”)

The first two days of the Conference, there were plenary sessions in which the representatives of States that uses nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, expressed their interest in continue developing it, except Germany that reiterated that will close its

nuclear plants by 2022. Other States that do not use it, expressed their interest for continue developing their plans with that purpose towards the future, and the others announced that they will postpone any decision about it. The declaration of the Austrian chancellor contrasted but it was expected, related to the rejection of his country to the use of this kind of energy. Also El Salvador expressed a similar position.

In these two days and in the final conclusion of the work groups, States agreed on the importance of reviewing and strengthen safety systems on nuclear energy plants, in the important role of the IAEA on the subject and in the rules and procedures as the base for Member States to fulfill these objectives.

During the next days, 23 and 24 June, they were work groups in which it was discussed about the following subjects:

- 1.- Preliminary assessment of the Fukushima accident. From this group came out recommendations to improve safety actions and to improve application of IAEA's established standards, as well as the importance of the Agency role in safety. States committed to watch over these standards.
- 2.- Preparation and response to emergencies. In this group it was agreed that it is necessary to check the existing instruments to respond to emergencies, as well as to widen IAEA role in emergency radioactivity emergency and constantly analyze possible scenarios and conditions. It was established that it would be important to have more coordination of Member States with aid and assistance International Agencies, combined with IAEA's role.
- 3.- Global framework for nuclear safety. In this group the conclusion was the importance of the joint work in each State that develop nuclear energy, but always working according to the safety international framework for strengthen their efforts. All the agencies, organizations and operators, national or international, should work jointly to achieve the common goal of safety.

On the last day of the Conference, Friday June 24th, IAEA's General Director, Mr. Yukiya Amano, pointed out that even there were differences among participants, the agreement achieved in the basic principles of nuclear safety is worthy of recognition. He said that it has high value and is an important contribution for the Action Plan that he has to present to Member States next September during the General Conference, in order to strengthen nuclear energy plants international safety control and avoid that a crisis as the one of Fukushima happens again. Mr. Amano said that he trusts that Member States will support his efforts to raise the necessary money to apply the most rigorous safety measures.

III. Bilateral Meetings

1. General Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr. Yukiya Amano

On 23 June, I had the opportunity to be welcomed by the General Director of the IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano, who was accompanied by his Chief of Cabinet, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, and by Ms. Margit Bruck-Friedrich, External Relations Officer.

Mr. Amano highlighted the historical importance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, of OPANAL and of our Zone. I took the occasion to express him the importance for OPANAL to reestablish effectively our ties with IAEA and, with it, the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement signed between both agencies since 1972. In the framework of this agreement, I spoke about OPANAL interest in getting the support from IAEA for technical advice to prepare a document that could be used by Member States of OPANAL to discuss positions related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. I told him that this is an important discussion that has been postponed since several years and it would be important to have it, no matter the final decision of the Member States. I also took the opportunity to invite General Director to the 45th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and to the opening ceremony of the Seminar that we are organizing for this celebration. At the end, I delivered him a copy of my recent intervention in the Conference on

Disarmament, what pleased him a lot and he expressed that he would read it, referring to its English version.

We will follow up this first contact with the purpose of strengthening the relation and the cooperation between both agencies.

To this reunion, I was accompanied by Minister Counsellor Helbert Espinoza, from the Mission of Costa Rica in Vienna.

2. Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, Mr. Tibor Tóth

On June 22nd, I had a meeting with Mr. Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), in its headquarters in Vienna. He was accompanied by Mr. Bernardo Ribeiro y Ms. Nalinie Sewparsadsingh, External Relations Officers of the External Relations and International Cooperation Section.

The purpose of this meeting was to follow up the cooperation actions that both agencies are implementing according to the Agreement signed in 2002 and to the meeting had in May 2010, in the framework of the NPT Review Conference.

In this occasion I reiterated to Ambassador Tóth, that I expect that Latin America and the Caribbean could be the first NWFZ in the world that ratifies the CTBT, considering that of the 33 Member States, only 3 are missing in order to achieve that objective. We took the opportunity to reiterate the interest in working for this goal, and also for collaborate with the educational programs that both agencies are implementing.

The Executive Secretary of the CTBTO informed me about the international verification work that the organization does and about the follow up and review work that they made immediately after the accident of Fukushima, on March 11th. He underlined the importance of this work for prevention and follow-up of radioactivity effects. He also highlighted the importance of the compliance by Dominica of article 14 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, for the first time.

3. Meeting with Mr. Iain Cox, of the Nuclear Missile Defense Team in the Security Policy Department of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom

The purpose of this meeting was to follow up the conversations had in May 2010 with the Permanent Representative of United Kingdom to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Ambassador John Duncan. Nevertheless, this objective was relative because the conversations were tied to the fact that the new government could settle. The important thing now is that our statement about reviewing the interpretative declarations, especially those to the Additional Protocol II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, will be brought to the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We said that we will send them a document that contains the explication of our request for modify or review those declarations and, with this, to formalize the beginning of the conversations. My impression was that we have to focus even more the efforts, in order to move forward towards the perfection of our Zone.

4. Vienna Center for Nuclear Disarmament and Non Proliferation

I also took the occasion to visit the Vienna Center for Nuclear Disarmament and Non Proliferation on 24 June. In a meeting with the Executive Director, Ms. Elena Sokova, we informed about the current work of each institution. She recognized the contribution of our Zone to other NWFZs creation processes.

The Center is an initiative of the Austrian government with the academic support of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. She informed me that next September they have scheduled a general seminar about Nuclear Disarmament and Nonproliferation, and they asked me to make it of the knowledge of OPANAL Member States. I reiterated the Agency's interest in finding work lines with all the pertinent actors that work for global disarmament. We agreed to continue communication in order to determine common interest lines and implement cooperation actions.

This Center officially opened past February 25th with the objective of research nuclear disarmament and non proliferation matters, especially in Europe.

5. Contact with the High Representative of the United Nation for Disarmament Affairs and with other Members States of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and NWFZs representatives.

As in several other occasions, in the possible measure I contact Member States Representatives, with the purpose of strengthening the ties with them; in this sense, I also follow up matters of OPANALs Agenda, as in the case of Ambassador Sergio Duarte, High Representative of the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs. With him, I had the opportunity to reiterate our interest in his participation in the seminar that we are organizing for the 45th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Also, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina said to me that in the next days I would receive an invitation from his government to participate in a ceremony to celebrate 20 years of ABACC that will take place next 8 July, in Buenos Aires.

Related to other Nuclear Weapon Free States, I exchanged impressions with the Mongolian permanent representative to International Organizations in Vienna, Ambassador Einksheikhan. In particular, we talked about the importance of NWFZs starting to organize the first preparatory meeting for the III Conference of States Parties, in the framework of the PrepConf for the 2015 NPT Review Conference that would take place in Vienna, in April 2012.

IV. Conclusion and recommendations

The trip to Vienna and Geneva was an excellent occasion to promote the work of OPANAL and its future vision. It was also a great occasion to re-start the relation with

IAEA and start it with the Conference on Disarmament, as well as to strengthen ties with other organizations.

During my stay in Vienna, where are several headquarters of important international organizations related to the purpose of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, it was clear the importance of having a coordinator of the works of OPANAL in this city. In this occasion, that role was assumed as an emergency, by the Mission of Costa Rica in Austria.

Without a doubt, the impact of these actions will be proportional to the follow up that we give to them in the next years. The foundations are settled, now it is our turn to deep in it.

Mexico City, 28 June 2011.

Gioconda Ubeda Rivera

Secretary General of OPANAL