



OPANAL
Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean

General Conference

XXVI Special Session
15 November 2018

CG/E/04/2018
Original: Spanish

XXVI Special Session of the General Conference Report

The XXVI Special Session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean – OPANAL – convened at the Embassy of Argentina in Mexico on 15 November 2018.

Nineteen Delegations of OPANAL Member States attended the Session, as shown in the List of Participants (CG/E/03/2018Rev.).

1. Opening of the XXVI Special Session

In accordance with article 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the Representative of Mexico, H.E. Ambassador Luis Javier Campuzano Piña, in his capacity as President in 2017 of the XXV Special Session of the General Conference, declared opened the XXVI Special Session of the General Conference.

The President of the XXV Special Session of the General Conference thanked the Embassy of Argentina in Mexico for hosting the XXVI Special Session of OPANAL General Conference.

Having quorum, the President called the Session to order at 10:17 a.m on the 15 November 2018.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

In accordance with articles 6 and 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference¹, the Secretary-General notified Member States on the date of this Special Session and sent the Provisional Agenda (CG/E/01/2018Rev.2) on 12 October 2018. Afterwards, through note number S-606/2018 of 12 October 2018, the Secretariat transmitted the revised version of the Agenda (CG/E/01/2018Rev3).

Pursuant to articles 12 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference², the President of the XXV Special Session of the General Conference submitted the Agenda of the Session **CG/E/01/2018Rev.3** to the Member States.

The Agenda was adopted as follows:

AGENDA

1. Opening of the XXVI Special Session.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents.
4. Report of the Secretary-General.
5. Report of the Council.
6. Statements by Member States.
7. Interpretative declarations made by States Party to the Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.
8. Control System of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.
9. Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education.
10. OPANAL Coordinators in Geneva, New York and Vienna in 2019.

¹ **Art. 6** The Secretary General shall notify all Member States of the Agency, of the opening of each Special Session not less than fourteen working days in advance.

Art. 9. The Agenda of each Special Session shall be communicated to the Member States of the Agency on the same date as the notification referred to in **Art. 6**.

² **Art. 12.** During each Session, the Agenda and the list of supplementary items shall be submitted for the approval of the General Conference as soon as possible after the opening of the Session.

Art. 13 The General Conference by a majority of the Member States present and voting shall amend or delete items on its Agenda.

- 11.** Revision of the Financial Regulations.
- 12.** External Auditor and review of accounts.
 - 12.1. Report of the External Auditor as of 31 December 2017.
 - 12.2. Appointment of the External Auditor.
- 13.** Financial Situation of the Agency.
 - 13.1. Status of collection of assessed contributions.
 - 13.2. Measures for some Member States to overcome their situation of non-compliance with the financial obligations established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco.
- 14.** Budget and Scale of Assessments for the financial period 2019.
- 15.** OPANAL Headquarters.
- 16.** XXVI Session of the General Conference – 50th Anniversary of OPANAL.
- 17.** Other matters.
- 18.** Closing of the XXVI Special Session.

The President referred to Agenda item 6 “Statements by Member States” reminding the assistants that, through note S-631/2018 (1 November 2018), the Secretariat invited Member States to inscribe themselves on the List of Speakers. The President pointed out that the statements would be delivered in order of inscription.

3. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents.

The President of the XXV Special Session of the General Conference noted that according to article 22³ of the Rules of Procedure, the General Conference should elect the Bureau that would conduct the proceedings of the XXVI Special Session.

Traditionally the host State chairs the session of the General Conference, the President of the last Session of the General Conference proposed His Excellency Ezequiel Sabor, Head of the Delegation of Argentina, host State of the XXVI Session of the General Conference, to serve as President of the XXVI Special Session. Ambassador Sabor was elected by acclamation.

The President of the XXV Special Session of the General Conference also proposed that Guatemala and Peru serve as Vice-Presidents of the XXVI Session of the General Conference. **It was so decided, therefore, serving as the Bureau of the XXVI Special Session were Argentina as President, and Guatemala and Peru as Vice-Presidents.**

From then on, Ambassador Ezequiel Sabor, President of the XXVI Special Session of the General Conference, conducted the Session.

The President thanked the confidence given to him for conducting the work of the XXVI Special Session. He also thanked the Delegations of Guatemala and Peru for accompanying him as Vice-Presidents.

The President greeted and welcomed all Ambassadors and Members of the Delegations. In addition, he highlighted the presence and participation of H.E. Anton Edmunds of Saint Lucia, Ambassador of that Member State to the United States of America and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States. He also welcomed the Ambassador of Jamaica, H.E. Jason Keats Mathew Hall, who had recently taken up his post in Mexico.

³ **Art. 22** The General Conference shall elect one President and two Vice-Presidents from among the Heads of Delegation.

4. Report of the Secretary-General

The President gave the floor to the Secretary-General who presented his Report, which is contained in Document CG/E/11/2018.

The Secretary-General mentioned that 2018 hasn't been a positive year concerning nuclear disarmament. He emphasized the tension and consequent threat of war perceived in the international relations. The Secretary-General stressed the exceptionality of Latin America and the Caribbean, region in which there are not, and there has never been, nuclear weapons.

He stressed the fact that the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which prohibits nuclear weapons in the region, has been unfailingly complied with for more than 50 years. He stressed the role of the Secretariat as a catalyst of the purposes and positions of Member States, taking into account its various nuances, in order to achieve consensual expressions that produce an impact beyond our region. This, he said, has been concretely demonstrated by the two joint manifestations of OPANAL Member States: one on the occasion of the anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco (14 February) and the other one on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September).

The Secretary-General made a brief exposition on the situation of OPANAL. The Agency's situation is very positive from a political point of view, in the sense that it acts through the participation of its Member States and it is recognized and influential on the international arena. From the legal point of view, he mentioned that OPANAL's situation is not positive at all since article 14 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco has not been fully complied with by all States Party. From the administrative point of view, he commented that the situation of OPANAL cannot be considered positive since arrears amount to 189% of the budget, adding the fact that the Agency does not dispose of permanent Headquarters.

The Secretary-General insisted on the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to increase the participation in the activities of the Agency of Caribbean Member States that have no resident Representation in Mexico City.

Finally, the Secretary-General stressed the importance of OPANAL -which in 2019 will celebrate 50 years of existence and constant work.

5. Report of the Council

The “Activities of the Council in 2018. Report to the General Conference” (CG/E/12/2018) was presented to the General Conference by Mr. Alejandro Torres Lépori, Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of Argentina in Mexico (Argentina being the current President of the OPANAL Council).

The President of the Council mentioned that the Members of the Council in 2018 were Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Peru and Uruguay. Minister Torres Lépori mentioned, *inter alia*, the external relations of the Agency regarding its participation in international fora; the démarches undertaken in relation to the interpretative declarations made by States Party to Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty; the activities on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education; compliance by Member States with articles 14 and 24 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco; the 2017 external audit; the FY2019 Draft Budget, and the measures for States with long term arrears in order for them to overcome their situation of non-compliance with the financial obligations under the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

6. Statements by Member States

At the XXV Special Session of the General Conference, the following delegations delivered a statement in conformity with the order of inscription:

1.	Cuba	His Excellency Pedro Núñez Mosquera, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
2.	Argentina	Mr. Alejandro Torres Lépori, Minister Counselor
3.	Mexico	His Excellency Luis Javier Campuzano Piña, Director for United Nations Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico
4.	Uruguay	His Excellency Jorge Alberto Delgado Fernández, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
5.	Chile	His Excellency Domingo Edmundo Arteaga Echeverría Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
6.	Brasil	His Excellency Mauricio Carvalho Lyrio, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
7.	Bolivia	Ms. Alexandra Moreira López, Minister Counselor
8.	Colombia	Mr. Juan Pablo Hernández de Alba, Minister Counselor
9.	Paraguay	Mr. Pedro Cañete Ortíz, First Secretary
10.	Guatemala	His Excellency Nelson Rafael Olivero García, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
11.	Ecuador	His Excellency Leonardo Arízaga Schmegel, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

12.	Saint Lucia	His Excellency Anton E. Edmunds, Ambassador to United States and Permanent Representative to the OAS
13.	Nicaragua	Mr. Juan Carlos Gutiérrez Madrigal, Chargé d'affaires, a.i. of the Embassy of Nicaragua in Mexico
14.	Perú	His Excellency Julio Garro Gálvez, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

The statements may be found in the annex to this report in the original languages and are available on the webpage of the Agency (www.opanal.org).

7. Interpretative declarations made by the States Party to Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The President recalled that, at its XXIV Special Session, the General Conference adopted Resolution CG/E/Res.02/2017, deciding, *inter alia*:

1. *To reconfirm the validity of Resolution CG/Res.03/2015, and therefore that of the plan on action presented by the Secretary-General in Document CG/05/2015Corr.;*
2. *To take note and thank the Member States of the Council (Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru) for the démarches undertaken by their Representatives, in December 2016, before the Governments of the Russian Federation and the French Republic for the purpose to present the respective memoranda and proposals of Adjustment to the interpretative declarations that constitute reservations made by those States;*

Delegations received a report prepared by the Secretary-General on the interpretative declarations made by States Party to the Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, contained in document CG/E/08/2018.

Additionally, delegates received draft Resolution “Interpretative declarations made by the States Party to Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco”- CG/E/L.01/2018.

The Delegation of Cuba suggested an amendment to preambular paragraph 10th of draft resolution CG/E/L.01/2018:

Reaffirming the Special Declarations of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on nuclear disarmament, in which OPANAL Member States have requested, *inter alia*, that the **militarily denuclearized character** ~~denuclearization for military purposes~~ of Latin America and the Caribbean be respected and that nuclear-weapon States withdraw the interpretative declarations to Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco that are incompatible with the objective and purpose thereof;

The draft resolution “Interpretative declarations made by States Party to Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco” (CG/E/L.01/2018) was submitted for consideration of the General Conference with the amendment suggested by Cuba. Since there was no objection, **Resolution CG/E/Res.01/2018 was adopted.**

8. Control System of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

Delegations received the document CG/E/05/2018Rev. “Control System of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Report by the Secretary-General” and Draft Resolution CG/E/L.02/2018 “Control System of the Treaty of Tlatelolco”.

The President thanked the thirteen Member States that, after submitting their reports as of 30 June 2018, were in full compliance with article 14 of the Treaty; those being Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, Perú, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.

The Head of the Brazilian delegation, H.E. Mauricio Carvalho Lyrio, thanked the proposal presented by the Secretary-General regarding the format for compliance with Article 14 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which without doubt facilitates compliance. Since it is really an incentive for the fulfillment of the control system, Brazil suggested an amendment to operative paragraph 2 of the Draft Resolution, since its wording implied that the format of presentation of semestral reports is mandatory and actually there are countries that already comply with such obligation in a different way. In that sense, Ambassador Carvalho, proposed that operative paragraph 2, reads as follows:

To adopt, as an option for compliance with the obligation established in Article 14 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the format of semestral reports of Article 14 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, proposed by the Secretary-General in his Report on the Control System, annex to document CG/E/05/2018Rev.2.

The Head of the Delegation of Nicaragua, Mr. Juan Carlos Gutiérrez Madrigal stated that Nicaragua, in compliance with article 24 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, notified to the Secretariat of OPANAL the ratification by Nicaragua of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Alternate Representative of Cuba, Ms. Sonia Hernández Camacho, supported the amendment suggested by Brazil regarding compliance with article 14 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

Draft Resolution CG/E/L.02/2018 “Control System of the Treaty of Tlatelolco” was submitted for consideration of the General Conference and **was adopted with the amendment suggested by Brazil as Resolution CG/E/Res.02/2018.**

9. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education.

“Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education” was included under item 4 in the report on the Activities of the Council in 2018. The President indicated that Delegations received Draft Resolution CG/E/L.03/2018, “Internship Programme at the Secretariat” and CG/E/L.04/2018 “Courses on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons”.

The President informed that the Secretariat expects to continue with the internship programme like in 2016, 2017 and 2018, trusting that the Agreement of cooperation with the Government of the Netherlands for Caribbean Member States will be renewed. Thus far, the Programme has proven to be successful and has had the participation of internees from Belize, Jamaica, Guyana, Saint Lucia (2) and Haiti.

The President commented that it is also expected to have candidates for internship from the other Member States not covered by the Agreement with the Netherlands.

In that sense, the President mentioned that the Resolution invited once again Member States to give dissemination and support to the internship programme as well as to nominate candidates.

Through the second Resolution, the General Conference approved that OPANAL courses continue to be implemented in 2019. The President pointed out that in this year the second course of OPANAL will be held in La Paz, Bolivia, from the 3 to the 7 of December 2018.

The Resolution invites again Member States to communicate to the Secretariat their willingness to host the OPANAL course on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Moreover, the President informed that the Secretariat will continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico for the organization of the “Summer School on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation”.

Draft Resolutions CG/E/L.03/2018 and CG/E/L.04/2018 were adopted as **Resolutions CG/E/Res.03/2018 “Internship Programme at the Secretariat” and CG/E/Res.04/2018 “Courses on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons”**.

10. OPANAL Coordinators in Geneva, New York and Vienna for 2019.

The delegations received Draft resolution CG/E/L.05/2018 “OPANAL Coordinators in Geneva, New York and Vienna for 2019”.

The President thanked Brazil, Mexico and Peru for their great work as OPANAL coordinators in New York, Geneva and Vienna, respectively, in 2018.

Regarding the coordinators in 2019, the Council received the willingness of Brazil and Peru to continue as OPANAL Coordinators in New York and Vienna, respectively, in 2019.

The President reminded that, though the work of the coordinators of OPANAL does not represent a major effort for the Members States that assume them, their support is of immense value for the activities of the Agency and the dissemination of OPANAL’s official documentation at the United Nations.

The nominations for OPANAL Coordinators in New York and Vienna, Brazil and Peru, respectively, were welcomed by the General Conference. It was therefore agreed that OPANAL Coordinators in 2019 be as follows:

Brazil – New York
Peru – Vienna

Having no candidacies for Geneva, the President suggested that the General Conference delegates the Council to continue considering this subject during its 318^o Meeting.

Resolution CG/E/Res.05/2018 “OPANAL Coordinators in Geneva, New York and Vienna in 2019.” was adopted.

11. Revision of the Financial Regulations.

Delegates received document CG/E/06/2018, which included as an annex document CCAAP/23/2018Rev.3Corr. Draft Financial Regulations. Also, regarding this subject, they received draft Resolution CG/E/L.06/2018.

The Head of the Delegation of Ecuador, His Excellency Leonardo Arízaga Schmegel, commented that, regarding that subject, his delegation stands ready to support any initiative for reviewing the Financial Regulations in order for it to reflect the needs of the Agency. He also commented that the subject of reviewing the Scale of Assessments is a sensitive topic for his country. Finally, he said that it is really important that Member States pay their contributions in time and form.

The new Financial Regulations (CG/E/06/208) were adopted by Resolution CG/E/Res.06/2018 “Amendments to the Financial Regulations”.

12. External Auditor and review of accounts.

12.1 External Auditor’s Report as of 31 December 2017.

The President indicated that delegates had received the Financial Statements and the External Auditor’s Report as of 31 December 2017 (CG/E/09/2018) and Draft Resolution CG/E/L.07/2018.

Resolution CG/E/Res.07/2018, “Financial Statements and Report of the External Auditor as of 31 December 2017”, was adopted.

12.2 Appointment of the External Auditor.

The President indicated that the Secretariat prepared document CG/E/07/2018 “Appointment of the External Auditor”, which contains the proposal of contract presented by the firm “Vieyra, Mota y Asociados, S.C.”

All delegations received Draft Resolution CG/E/L.08/2018, “Appointment of the External Auditor”. The President enquired whether the Member States’ Representatives agreed to appoint Vieyra, Mota y Asociados as External Auditor of OPANAL.

The audit firm “Vieyra, Mota y Asociados” was appointed External Auditor of OPANAL, through Resolution CG/E/Res.08/2018, “Appointment of the External Auditor”.

13. Financial situation of the Agency.

13.1 Status of collection of assessed contributions.

The President referred to Document Inf.01/2018Rev.15Corr., “Status of Collection of Member States’ Assessed Contributions”, which indicates the level of collection of Member States’ assessed contributions to the Agency as of 14 November 2018. As shown in said document, the percentage of collection is as follows:

Percentage of collection for **2016: 84.60%**

Percentage of collection for **2017: 58.49%**

Percentage of collection for **2018: 37.80%**

The President reiterated that the proper functioning of the Agency depends on the Member States’ assessed contributions, which constitute a legally-binding obligation under the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The President also thanked the Member States that have fully complied with their financial obligations to the Agency in 2018, those being Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Grenada, Jamaica, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Saint Kitts and Nevis y Saint Lucia.

The Secretary-General commented that among the fifteen States that fully comply with their financial obligations, should be mentioned other three States that are practically up-to-date as only have a pending balance for 2018, those being Guatemala, Honduras and Perú. The Secretary-General said that four Member States represent more than 70% of the collection of contributions; unfortunately, out of those four States only México had paid its contribution.

The Head of the Delegation of Ecuador stressed the worrying situation. He said that Member States should be coherent because all of them talk about the importance of the Agency. He commented that, regrettably, the level of collection had decreased. He called all Member States, specially the major contributors, to make an effort for paying their assessed contributions. Ambassador Arízaga mentioned that Ecuador supports all the proposals made at the Council and the CCAAP for affronting the problem of low collection of financial contributions.

The Representative of Argentina commented that his country shares the preoccupation of the Secretary-General and the Representative of Ecuador. Minister Torres, informed that his Government will soon make the corresponding payment of its assessed contribution for 2018. He made clear that the lack of payment of Argentina does not mean a lack of commitment with the Agency, but it is due to intern problems that do not affect the loyalty of his country to OPANAL.

The Head of the Delegation of Uruguay mentioned that he received a communication from his capital informing that the corresponding payment of FY2018 has already been put at the disposal of OPANAL.

The Delegation of Cuba suggested an amendment to the last preambular paragraph of Draft Resolution:

Bearing in mind that an Organization with the political importance of OPANAL, which gathers all the States of Latin America and the Caribbean, ~~cannot~~ **should not** be threatened by financial crises.

The General Conference noted with appreciation the comments of the Representatives of Ecuador, Argentina and Uruguay. **Resolution CG/E/Res.09/2018 “Financial obligations of the Member States. Status of collection of assessed contributions.” was adopted with the amendment proposed by Cuba.**

13.2 Measures for some Member States to overcome their situation of non-compliance with the financial obligations established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The Delegations received document “Measures for some Member States to overcome their situation of non-compliance with the financial obligations established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco” CG/E/13/2018.

The Secretary-General mentioned that since he took office in 2014, there were seven States that have not paid their contributions since they ratified the Treaty. After the payment programs adopted by the General Conference in 2015, 2016 and 2017, four of those States (Dominica, Grenada, República Dominicana and Saint Lucia) paid their assessed contributions and overcame their situation of noncompliance with the Agency.

The Secretary-General commented that in order for the three remaining States to overcome their situation of noncompliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco, document CG/E/13/2018 suggest a different approach from the one suggested in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The Delegations received Draft Resolution CG/E/L.10/2018 “Measures for some Member States to overcome their situation of non-compliance with the financial obligations established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco” which considers consultations with the three aforementioned States about the way in which they might or would be ready to solve their situation of non-compliance with its financial obligations.

The Secretary-General added that this new approach would allow interested Member States to consider the problem and to present their own proposals without a percentage and time limit imposed. He said that what matters the most is to overcome the situation of noncompliance with the Treaty.

He commented that the Secretariat will make its best endeavours to identify, in each of the said three Member States, the governmental entity responsible of the matter. If the problem was resolved in the cases of Dominica, Grenada, República Dominicana and Saint Lucia, why would not be the case with El Salvador, Haiti and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines?

The President presented for approval Draft Resolution CG/E/L.10/2018 “Measures for some Member States to overcome their situation of non-compliance with the financial obligations established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco”.

The delegation of Cuba supported the Secretary-General’s initiative for solving the problem of the aforementioned Member States. However, Cuba suggested the following amendment to Draft Resolution:

- To change the title: “~~Measures for some Member States to overcome their situation of non-compliance to support the compliance with the financial obligations established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco~~”
- To eliminate section a) in the last preambular paragraph:

Bearing in mind that, in the cases in which States have never paid their contributions, the Agency is seeking to:

- ~~a) solve the legal and political situation in which those States find themselves;~~
- b) guarantee compliance to the Treaty of Tlatelolco;
- c) ensure the effectiveness of the annual budgets and corresponding collection of financial contributions;
- d) to make possible the continued functioning of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean – OPANAL;
- To modify operative paragraph 5:

To instruct the Secretary-General to make the necessary contact and negotiations so that Haiti, El Salvador and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, regularize their situation of **arrears with the Agency**. ~~legal and political situation of non-compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in order for them to be fully involved in the activities of the Agency~~

- To modify operative paragraph 6:

To **authorize** the Secretary-General to consult the aforementioned Member States about the way in which they might ~~or would be ready to~~ solve **the pending payment of their** ~~situation of non-compliance to the~~ financial obligations ~~and, consequently,~~ to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The Representative of Argentina suggested to eliminate the first operative of the Draft Resolution because it is repeated in Resolution CG/E/Res.09/2018, which was adopted previously.

Resolution CG/E/Res.10/2018 “Measures to support the compliance with the financial obligations established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco” was adopted with the amendments suggested by Cuba and Argentina.

14. Financial Year 2019 Budget and Scale of Assessments.

Member States received Document CG/E/10/2018 “Draft Budget and Scale of Assessments for Financial Year 2019” with its annex CCAAP/13/2018Rev.2.

The President mentioned that for four consecutive years, the General Conference is considering a Draft Budget with zero increase.

Resolution CG/E/Res.11/2018 “Budget and Scale of Assessments for the Financial Year 2019” was adopted, by means of which Document CCAAP/13/2018Rev.2, “Budget and Scale of Assessments for Financial Year 2019”, was adopted.

15. OPANAL Headquarters.

Member States' Representatives received Document CG/E/14/2018 "OPANAL Headquarters" which contains information and considerations about the need for OPANAL to have a permanent Headquarters.

The President reminded the assistants that, in accordance with article 7 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, OPANAL has its seat in Mexico City.

He mentioned that after almost 50 years since the Agency started its work, OPANAL does not have a permanent Headquarters and depends on a leasing contract.

The President presented for approval of Member States Draft Resolution CG/E/L.12/2018 "OPANAL Headquarters", and he read the following operative paragraphs:

1. **To request** the participation and support of all Members States to ensure that OPANAL has permanent and independent Headquarters, as soon as possible.
2. **To mandate** the Council to continue with the analysis and discussion of the considerations contained in document CG/E/14/2018, and to present a report to the General Conference at its next Session.

The Head of the Delegation of Ecuador reminded that Member States had a meeting with Mr. Marcelo Ebrard, designate Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. Ambassador Arízaga suggested that in the next meeting with the Mexican Minister the subject of OPANAL Headquarters should be addressed. Ambassador Arízaga said that the Minister offered to talk with the Head of Government of Mexico City about this matter. The Head of the Delegation of Ecuador invited other Member States to give continuity to the subject in order to find a solution for the Agency.

The Representative of Mexico, Ms. Carolina Fernández, thanked Ambassador Arízaga for the information. She recalled that the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been working on this question for ten years. However, she said that it hasn't been possible to find a suitable Headquarters for the Agency. She said that she expects that, with the political willingness of the new government elect, the problem can be solved.

Resolution CG/E/Res.12/2018, "OPANAL Headquarters" was adopted without modifications.

16. XXVI Session of the General Conference.

The President noted that in accordance with article 9, paragraph 1, of the Treaty of Tlatelolco⁴, the General Conference holds regular sessions every two years. Therefore, the upcoming Session of the General Conference will be in 2019, the XXVI Session.

The President commented that it would be ideal to start with the preparations for the XXVI Session of the General Conference in the framework of the 50th Anniversary of OPANAL. He also said that it would be very positive to know the date and venue (host State) of such session.

It was agreed that the Council would suggest to Member States, in a timely manner, the date of the the General Conference.

The Secretary-General stressed the importance of the XXVI Session of the General Conference in the framework of the 50th Anniversary of OPANAL. He commented that it would be a great opportunity for Member States to issue a political declaration as it was done in 2017 during the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The Secretary-General suggested that for., besides Member States of OPANAL, States Party to Additional Protocols, Representatives of the others Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zones, the United Nations Secretary-General (who recently released his peace and disarmament agenda) be invited. Finally, the Secretary-General commented that, the Region has to seize such important occasion.

The head of the Delegation of Guatemala, H.E. Nelson Olivero commented that he will consult with his authorities the possibility of hosting the General Conference in Guatemala.

The head of the Delegation of Perú, His Excellency Julio Garro Gálvez, requested the Secretary-General to present to Member States logistical details and requirements to host the General Conference. The Secretary-General took note of that request.

Resolution CG/E/Res.13/2018, “XXVI Session of the General Conference –50th Anniversary of OPANAL” was adopted without modifications.

⁴ Article 9. The General Conference, the supreme organ of the Agency, shall be composed of all the Contracting Parties; it shall hold regular sessions every two years, and may also hold special sessions whenever this Treaty so provides or, in the opinion of the Council, the circumstances so require.

17. Other matters.

The Head of the Delegation of Guatemala in his capacity of Vice-President of the General Conference, took the floor to propose the adoption of Draft Resolution “Vote of Thanks to the Embassy of Argentina in Mexico” (CG/E/L.14/2018) for the hospitality provided by the Government of Argentina. He thanked Ambassador of Argentina, H.E. Ezequiel Sabor. The suggestion was welcomed. The document was adopted as Resolution CG/E/Res.14/2018, “Vote of Thanks”.

The Head of the Delegation of Brazil, H.E. Mauricio de Carvalho Lyrio, informed about the approval of Draft Resolution “Fourth Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones” at the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on 8 November 2018. He gave a brief summary of said process:

“The draft was adopted by 171 votes in favour, none against and 6 abstentions: United States, France Israel, United Kingdom and Russia; the Delegation of Ruanda abstained by mistake and requested the Secretariat to register in the report of the Committee its intention of voting in favour. Since the beginning of the negotiations was clear that the major obstacle for the approval of the draft was the matter of the status of non-Member States of United Nations which are Parties or Signatories of the Treaties that established such zones. Morocco was against the participation of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), which is a Party to the Pelindaba Treaty, which declares the African continent as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The Mission of Morocco to the United Nations made it perfectly clear that it will not accept any formulation that allows the participation of the SADR in the fourth Conference of NWFZ. Morocco presented several proposals of language that will block the participation of non-Member States of the UN. The Brazilian delegation made modifications to the draft resolution in contact with key stakeholders and brought the text closer to the drafting of previous resolutions, which did not deal explicitly on participation. The amendments allowed to avoid the worries of Morocco. However, it also permits that, on the base of a subsequent decision, the participation of UN non-Member States be allowed. The Draft Resolution was approved by the favourable vote of all the States belonging to Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, including Algeria and Morocco. Though it does not assure the definitive solution of the problem, the approval of Draft Resolution represents an important sign of commitment and, is expected that it will contribute to the difficult task of Mongolia of coordinating the preparatory works for the Conference.”

The Secretary-General commented on the matter mentioned by Brazil. He highlighted two facts. The first one is the accomplishment of adopting a Resolution which convenes the Conference of 2020, two years in advance. This will allow a proper preparation and will enable a successful Conference. Furthermore, the Secretary-General said that, as mentioned by the Ambassador of Brazil, the impasse was avoided on the matter of the participation, but, anyway, the subject will arise during the discussions of the rules of procedure which will take place in 2019. The second point, he commented, is the relevant fact of having been designated a coordinator State which will preside the Conference, Mongolia. The Secretary-General added that he recently attended a side-event at the Mission of Kazakhstan in New York, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, in which the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations also participated. The Secretary-General said that in that occasion he had the opportunity to talk with him and he got the feeling that Mongolia has a great interest about the participation of OPANAL in the preparation of the Conference. Finally, the Secretary-General said that the Council will be follow the subject from the beginning of 2019.

18. Closing of the XXVI Special Session

After all agenda items were considered, the President closed the XXVI Special Session of the General Conference of OPANAL.

The Session was closed at 14:17.