



Zona Libre de Armas Nucleares
de América Latina y el Caribe

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

S/BP/55

PRESS RELEASE

- **Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda assumes position as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica**
- **At the Ambassador's farewell gathering, OPANAL acknowledged her leadership in the revitalization of the Agency**

Mexico City, 31 July 2013. The Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) informs that Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda ends her duties today as OPANAL Secretary-General.

By appointment of the President of Costa Rica, Laura Chinchilla, Ambassador Ubeda will assume the position of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on August 1, 2013.

Ambassador Ubeda served as OPANAL Secretary-General for 3 and a half years, under her leadership it was possible to revitalize the Agency and to define its Strategic Agenda, which has as its ultimate goal the achievement of general and complete nuclear disarmament, as well as maintaining the region free of nuclear weapons.

Nowadays, the Strategic Agenda is currently being implemented; this is a task in which all OPANAL Member States actively take part in order to make progress on the path towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Ambassador Ubeda holds a degree in Law and a postgraduate degree in International Relations. She has served in a number of posts since entering the Foreign Service in 1986, including Ambassador to Mexico. She has lectured in Public International Law and International Humanitarian Law at the University of Costa Rica; she served as a consultant for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for four years, and as an external consultant for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).