



OPANAL

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

Secretariat

21 October 2020

Inf.29/2020Rev.

Original: Spanish / English

Report on the activities carried out by the Secretariat of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) regarding Education for Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - 2020

For the information of Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the Secretariat of the Agency presents a list of the activities carried out regarding Education for Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons during 2020.

Internship Programs

According to resolution “Internship Program at the Secretariat”, document CG/Res.10/2019, adopted by the XXVI Session of the General Conference on 7 November 2020, the Secretariat along with the Member States have continued working on the implementation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education programs, convinced that these are effective means of contribution to the consolidation of international peace and security. In this sense, participation in the two existing modalities was encouraged.

- **Internship Program at the Secretariat (without financial support):** During 2020, four interns were accepted in this modality; two Mexicans and two Brazilians. Due to the circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the first two interns carried out their internship in a virtual modality during the first semester of the year, while the last two attended the program in a semi-presential format.
- **Internship Program earmarked for Caribbean Member States (with financial support):** on February 27, 2020, the Secretariat of the Agency was informed by the Government of the Netherlands about the renewal of the cooperation agreement with OPANAL allowing to continue with this modality of the program. However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was agreed between the Agency and the Government of the Netherlands to defer the use of the corresponding funds to the financial year 2021, thus postponing the activities that were planned for 2020.

Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Outreach

- **Radio podcast “Las Relaciones Internacionales de México” (*Foreign Affairs of Mexico*):** As part of the commemorative activities for the 53rd Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Secretary General of OPANAL featured as a guest in the podcast “*Reflections on the Treaty of Tlatelolco*”¹ carried out by the Matías Romero Institute in collaboration with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), which was issued on February 11, 2020.
- **Discussion on the “Relevance and effectiveness of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in light of the current challenges for nuclear disarmament”²:** Also, for the commemorative activities earmarked on the 53rd Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, on February 13, 2020, with the coordination of the Matías Romero Institute, the Cuauhtémoc Mayor's Office and the Government of Mexico City, a discussion was held around the following questions: i) What can we learn from the success of the Treaty of Tlatelolco after five decades of its signature?, ii) How can we target new audiences in order to reduce or eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons?. iii) What kind of global responses are necessary and plausible? and iv) What are the risks for humankind if we fail to continue what Mexico created in 1967?

The Secretary-General of OPANAL, Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanin³; Emeritus Ambassador of Mexico, Sergio González Gálvez; Dra. Maria Cristina Rosas, President of the Research Center for Peace, Security and Development Olof Palme A.C.; Rafael Media Martínez, President of the Diplomatic Foundation Alfonso García Robles A.C., Rachel Bronson, President of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists; and Alejandro Alday, General Director of the Institute Matias Romero, participated in the discussion.

- **Virtual workshop “Good practices and lessons learned with respect to the implementation of Treaties establishing Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones”⁴:** The Secretary General of OPANAL and Ambassador Gerardo Alberto Simón Yerres, of Honduras, in his capacity as President of the OPANAL Council during the months of July and August 2020, were invited to participate in the workshop organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Organization (UNODA) held from 7-9 July, 2020, in a virtual modality.

¹ <https://soundcloud.com/imatiasromero/reflexiones-sobre-el-tratado-de-tlatelolco/>

² <https://www.gob.mx/imr/es/videos/conversatorio-relevancia-y-vigencia-del-tratado-de-tlatelolco-y-los-retos-actuales-para-el-desarme>

³ Inf.08/2020 http://www.opanal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Inf_08_2020_Elementos-Conversatorio-13feb2020.pdf

⁴ <https://www.un.org/disarmament/mezf-section2-suba/>

The Virtual Workshop had six modules divided as follows: i) Adapting to the regional context, ii) The role of general obligations and provisions in the context of global disarmament and non-proliferation objectives; iii) How zones address transit, visitation and overflight; regulation of exclusive economic zones and the high seas, iv) How zones address relations with external States, including security assurances, v) How zones address arrangements for regional control and cooperation and vi) How zones institutionalize arrangements for regional peace, disarmament and non-proliferation.

- **Report of the United Nation's Secretary-General on Disarmament and non-proliferation education:** The Secretariat of the Agency, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/59, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary General to prepare a report that examines the results of the implementation of the recommendations made in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and new possibilities to promote education for that purpose are considered, presented the information required in response to the invitation of the United Nations Secretary General.

The full document, which includes the information presented by OPANAL, has been presented at the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly under the nomenclature (A/75/127)⁵.

Outreach and Cooperation with Academia

- **Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation:** For the sixth time, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Matías Romero Institute organized, along with OPANAL and the James Martin Non-Proliferation Studies Center (CNS) of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS), the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation which took place from July 6 to 17, 2020, in a virtual modality due to the conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's summer course was attended by 63 diplomats and officials from 24 Latin American and Caribbean States, and three officials from OPANAL. It was the largest number of participants in the program since its creation, which was also gender balanced with 31 female participants.

⁵ <https://undocs.org/en/A/75/127>

The presentations were given by 33 experts from 13 countries and 21 different institutions, among which were: i) Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, ii) Ambassador Rafael Grossi, Director-General of the IAEA, iii) William C. Potter, Founding Director of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS), iv) Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, President Designate of the Tenth NPT Review Conference, v) Ambassador Flavio Roberto Bonzanini, Secretary-General of OPANAL and vi) Alejandro Alday, Director-General of the Institute Matías Romero

- **International Program on Security, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of the NPS Global Foundation:** The Secretariat received a Scholarship offer from the NPS Global Foundation consisting of an exemption from the corresponding fee for the course and allocated for diplomatic personnel to take part of the International Program on Security, Disarmament and Non-proliferation 2020.

The information was circulated among the Member States and, exceptionally for this occasion, the Foundation awarded the scholarship to representatives of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.

- **Visiting Fellows program of the James Martin Center for Non Proliferation Studies del Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey:** As part of the collaboration between the James Martin CNS and OPANAL, the Secretariat was invited to submit an application for a scholarship in the program designed to assist junior and mid-career policy and technical professionals to obtain an in-depth understanding of legal, political, regional, and technical aspects of nonproliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The program's overall goal is to train a new generation of experts in that area by providing them with the knowledge and understanding of the nonproliferation regime and international policy-making process, and help build countries' core competences to secure and curb the spread of dangerous materials and technologies.

This year's program which is being held virtually in September-December 2020, due to the conditions generated by the pandemic caused by COVID-19, was taught, for the first time only to representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean. The program scholarship was awarded to representatives from Argentina, Bahamas, Haiti, Chile, Guatemala and Mexico and, from the Secretariat, to Martha Mariana Mendoza Basulto, International Relations Officer of OPANAL.

- **Seminar on International Security, Institute of International Relations, University of West Indies (UWI, Trinidad and Tobago):** The OPANAL Secretariat received the

invitation to give a guest lecture on Nuclear Weapons and the Non-Proliferation Regime, in early January 2021, as part of Dr. Michal Pawinski's master's program of the Institute of International Relations of the University of West Indies, on the Trinidad and Tobago campus.