



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

SG.28.2013

Original: Spanish

## **OPANAL GENERAL CONFERENCE**

### **XXIII Regular Sessions**

**21-22 August 2013**

**Buenos Aires, Argentina**

### **Report of the Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education**

On the basis of the General Conference Resolution CG/E/Res.547 “Peace and Nuclear Disarmament Education”, adopted at its XXI Special Session held on 13 November 2012, the Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education (hereafter, WGE) was formed. It was open to all OPANAL Member States interested in the subject.

The responsibilities of the WGE, which derived from the aforementioned Resolution, are to recommend appropriate practical and monitoring actions based on the proposal submitted by the Secretary-General (SG.11.2012) on the design of a course on “Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education”; and to find, as soon as possible, the necessary resources for its implementation

The WGE held its first session on 28 February 2013 (SG.13.2013) and was formed by the Secretary-General and the representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Argentina, serving the latter as Group Coordinator (Annex 1). Moreover, the rules of the WGE were adopted at its second session (SG.16.2013, Annex 2).

The WGE submits its Report to the General Conference, at its XXIII Regular Sessions; this document is divided into three sections: I. Background, II. Mandate of the General Conference and the Group’s progress, and III. Conclusions and Recommendations.

#### **I. Background**

1. OPANAL General Conference, in its Resolutions CG/Res.479 (XIX-05) and CG/Res.518 (XXI-09), exhorts Member States to implement the recommendations of the “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education”; it also encourages them to continue with the Treaty of Tlatelolco outreach programme and to promote educational activities that contribute to peace, disarmament and non-proliferation education.

2. As required by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Reference ODA/33-2012/ED-STUDY-ORGS dated 5 March 2012, based on UN General Assembly Resolution 65/77 entitled “United Nations Study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”; the Secretary General of OPANAL submitted a report (Document SG.05.2012) to the United Nations Secretary-General, describing initiatives on disarmament and non-proliferation education undertaken over the last two years.
3. From 2009 to 2012, OPANAL implemented four courses on “Nuclear Issues” and “Nuclear Challenge”; the first three courses were delivered in Spanish and the last one was delivered in English. The first one was a face-to-face course and the remaining three courses were delivered online.
4. In the Joint Declaration of OPANAL Member States, adopted in September 2011, they commit themselves to “continue implementing programmes on Nuclear Disarmament Education and to promote alliances with other institutions that facilitate the creation and commitment to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world; bearing in mind that Nuclear Disarmament and non-proliferation Education has been reiterated in the United Nations General Secretary’s reports since 2002 as an important contribution to the consolidation of international peace and security.”
5. During the International Seminar “The experience of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean and the perspective towards 2015 and beyond” that was held in Mexico City, on 14-15 February 2012, within the framework of the commemoration of the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in which Member States expressed the political will to work for general and complete nuclear disarmament through educational and outreach programmes;
6. The Secretary-General submitted to the General Conference, at its XXI Special Sessions held on 13 November 2012, the Course proposal “Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education” (SG.11.2012).

## **II. Mandate of the General Conference and progress made by the Group**

On 13 November 2012, OPANAL General Conference adopted, at its XXI Special Sessions, Resolution CG/E/Res.547 “Peace and Nuclear Disarmament Education” and resolved:

*“To create an open working group to all Member States interested in the subject with the aim of recommending appropriate practical and monitoring actions, based on the proposal submitted by the Secretary-General (SG.11.2012); including the design of a course on “Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education” and the search for resources in*

*order to begin its implementation as soon as possible. The Group must report to the General Conference at its next Regular Session on the progress of its work.”*

The WGE held three sessions (28 February, 21 March and 2 July 2013) in which its Members discussed the objectives, methodology and contents of the course.

Moreover, the Secretary-General then proceeded to contact the Latin American Institute for Educational Communication (ILCE) in order to move forward with the proposal of implementing a digital platform for online learning. The Secretary-General also contacted governmental and academic experts that might collaborate in delivering the lessons.

The Secretary-General has also had conversations with the Government of the Netherlands about cooperation projects in the area of publishing and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education. Currently, the Secretariat General is developing two project profiles, it is expected that at the end of 2013 or early 2014 these projects will be published.

The WGE submits to the General Conference the concept, design and contents of the Elementary Course.

### **Elementary Course “Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education”**

conducted by OPANAL

The Course “Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education” aims at providing a general overview of the threat posed by nuclear weapons, the importance of the non-proliferation regime, and the challenges in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. This foundation course is designed to address a broad and diverse audience, and seeks to introduce the overall theme of the nuclear issue, with particular emphasis on the contributions of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs), particularly the Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Its contents will be delivered in 40 hours, they are divided into five modules and must be covered in a period no longer than three months; or possibly in a shorter period of time as the methodology of the course is based on independent learning. The objective of the course is to lay the foundations for a more extensive and specialized course in the near future.

The course will be delivered on a digital platform. To this end, OPANAL and ILCE have signed a Specific Agreement, in which OPANAL is responsible for the contents of the modules and ILCE for the design of the digital platform. Such modules would have to be validated by the WGE.

Course modules and contents proposal.

#### **Module I. Introduction to Nuclear matters**

##### **1. Introduction to Nuclear Energy**

- *What is an atom?*
- *Description of Nuclear Energy*
- *Difference between fusion and fission*

- *Different Nuclear Energy uses (including cobalt, uranium and plutonium)*

## **2. Development and emergence of the atomic bomb**

- *Scientific development for the creation of the atomic bomb*
- *The Manhattan Project*
- *What is an atomic bomb and how does it work?*
- *Different kinds of atomic bombs*
- *Atoms for peace*

## **3. End of WWII and the use of the atomic bomb**

- *Development of WWII and the end of the conflict*
- *Potsdam Ultimatum and the decision to launch the atomic bomb*
- *Launching of atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki*
- *Humanitarian consequences of nuclear explosions*

## **4. The Cold War**

- *Nuclear arms race between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*
- *Development of military nuclear programmes in France, the United Kingdom and China*
- *Mutual Assured Destruction –MAD (global security building from MAD)*
- *October Crisis, Cuba, 1962. The so-called “Missile Crisis”*

## **Module II. The Tlatelolco System**

### **1. The negotiation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the establishment of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America**

- *Joint Declaration on the denuclearization of Latin America by the Heads of State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico. 29 April 1963*
- *The Joint Declaration was submitted to the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament (ENCD) at its 128<sup>th</sup> Session*
- *United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1911 (XVIII)*
- *Preliminary Meeting on the Denuclearization of Latin America (REUPRAL) held on 23-27 November 1964*
- *Preparatory Commission for the Denuclearization of Latin America (COPREDAL) from March 1965 to February 1967*

### **2. Signature and Ratification of the Treaty of Tlatelolco**

- *Signature and ratification process of the Treaty of Tlatelolco*
- *Inclusion of Caribbean States that became independent after the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco (link this topic with Amendments I, II and III)*

### **3. Additional Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco**

- *Negotiation of Additional Protocol I with countries that have territories for which, de jure or de facto, they are internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical Zone established in that Treaty*
- *Negotiation of Additional Protocol II with Nuclear Weapon States*
- *Signature and ratification of Additional Protocols I and II*
- *Interpretative Declarations made by Nuclear Weapon States*
- *OPANAL's challenges to obtain complete negative security assurances from nuclear weapon states that are signatories to Additional Protocols to the Treaty*

### **4. The Tlatelolco System in the international architecture**

- *Relationship between the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)*
- *Control System of Tlatelolco and its relationship with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*
- *Relationship with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)*
- *Relationship with the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC)*

## **Module III. OPANAL**

### **1. Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)**

- *Main Organs*
- *Purposes (mission and objectives)*
- *Member States' participation*

### **2. OPANAL's role in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda**

- *Preamble of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. "Recalling that militarily denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage."*
- *Declaration of OPANAL Member States issued in 2011, paragraphs 14 and 15 towards general and complete disarmament (submitted to the UNGA First Committee)*
- *OPANAL Strategic Agenda*

## **Module IV. Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs)**

### **1. The contribution of the NWFZ of Tlatelolco to regional and global peace and security**

- *Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (description, origin and elements)*
- *Relevance of the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean*
- *What did it mean to its Member States? Its importance as a measure to protect the populations of the Zone*
- *Difference between the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean and the NWFZ in the Antarctic*
- *The contribution of the Treaty and the Zone to global peace and security*

### **2. The importance of the consolidation of the NWFZ in Latin America and the Caribbean**

- *The consolidation of the Zone as a process (summarise the ratification of the Treaty and the Additional Protocols)*
- *Challenges for the consolidation of the Zone (pending obligations: Amendments I, II and III, Articles 14 and 24, Convention on Prerogatives and Immunities)*
- *Importance to continue to consolidate the NWFZ*

### **3. Evolution of the concept of NWFZs and their implementation starting from the Treaty of Tlatelolco**

- *Existing Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (Latin America, Southeast Asia, South Pacific, Central Asia and Africa)*
- *Treaties, Additional Protocols and characteristics of the different NWFZs*
- *Mongolian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status*
- *Contribution to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime*

### **4. Conferences of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia**

- *I Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, Mexico City 2005*
- *II Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, New York City 2010*
- *Towards the III Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (2015)*

### **5. Towards the constitution of other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones**

- *A Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons*
- *Efforts towards a Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone in the Middle East*

## **Module V. Global Nuclear Disarmament and the Non-Proliferation Regime**

### **1. The Non-Proliferation Regime and its international architecture**

- *Current Non-Proliferation Regime*
- *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)*
- *Three pillars of the NPT: Non-Proliferation, Nuclear Disarmament and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy*
- *Other Treaties that strengthen the Non-Proliferation Regime*

### **2. Opportunities and prospects towards total nuclear disarmament**

- *Where do we stand today? And where are we going? To achieve general and complete nuclear disarmament*
- *Towards nuclear disarmament from a humanitarian perspective*

### **3. Existing Nuclear Disarmament Initiatives**

- *State or multilateral initiatives towards complete nuclear disarmament*
- *Initiatives on the establishment of an international instrument to ban nuclear weapons*
- *Model Nuclear Weapons Convention submitted to the United Nations General Assembly by Costa Rica and Malaysia in 2007*

### **4. The importance of Education in the disarmament and non-proliferation process**

- *The importance of education in the disarmament and non-proliferation process*
- *Description of Peace Education*

## **III. Conclusions and recommendations**

1. The concept, design and contents of the course are at an advanced stage; it is the responsibility of the WGE to continue with the validation of the contents of the five modules.
2. In order to maintain unity and to ensure the course objectives, it is recommended to request Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda to assume the position of Academic Coordinator of the Elementary Course on “Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education”, apart from her current position as OPANAL Secretary-General.
3. In order to continue making progress in the design and implementation of the Elementary Course digital platform, it is necessary to follow the action plan derived from the Specific Agreement (S/Inf. 1109) that was signed by OPANAL and ILCE, at the 281<sup>st</sup> session of the Council. The purpose of the e-learning elementary course “Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education” is to train and raise awareness among, inter alia, State and Governmental Actors, NGOs’ representatives, members of the academia. This agreement is based on the Cooperation Framework Agreement (Doc. S/Inf.1104) signed by both parties

in 2012. The Group's feedback and the academic coordination with ILCE will be essential for the course materials and implementation.

4. The possibility that the pilot elementary course may be delivered during the first half of 2014 is being assessed. To this end, the Secretary-General has identified and maintained direct communication with collaborators regarding the delivery of lessons. This is very relevant since the added value of this course will focus on the inclusion of experts from OPANAL Member States, regional or bilateral agencies like ABACC, and representatives of the academia and NGOs related to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
5. It is intended that this group of collaborators will contribute to the consolidation of a new generation of experts and specialists in the strategic agenda of OPANAL.
6. It is important to continue to promote negotiations on the conclusion of cooperation projects in order to support the Agency's education and outreach programmes.
7. It is recommended that the General Conference renews the mandate of the WGE according to the attached Draft Resolution, in order to continue with the design of the Elementary Course for its future implementation.



**ANNEX 1**

<b>Member States' Representatives</b>	
Argentina	Secretary Francisco Tropepi (Group Coordinator)
Bolivia	Secretary Peggy Maldonado
Brazil	Secretary Juliana Soares Santos
Costa Rica	Consul María Amelia Hidalgo
Dominican Republic	Counsellor Madelyn Fernández Agüero
Ecuador	Minister Counsellor Juan Veintimilla
Mexico	Sandra García, BA
Peru	Minister Counsellor Elizabeth Alice González
OPANAL	Secretary-General, Ambassador Gioconda Ubeda

**ANNEX 2**

**Rules of procedure for the Working Group formed by OPANAL General Conference Resolution CG/E/Res.547.**

1. The Working Group is a subsidiary organ of the General Conference pursuant to Article 8 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and Article 35, Chapter VIII, of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference.
2. The Working Group shall be open to all Contracting Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco during its first four working sessions; from its fifth session onwards, Member States' representatives may join the Group as observers.
3. The Working Group shall elect a Coordinator from among Member States' representatives; his duty shall be to lead the work of the Group. In the temporary absence of the Coordinator, the Group shall elect an interim Coordinator.
4. The Working Group shall meet as many times as it considers appropriate.
5. The Working Group could form subgroups aimed to address specific issues under the mandate conferred on them.
6. The Working Group shall make every effort to adopt its decisions by consensus. In the event that consensus could not be reached, the Group would then take decisions by simple majority of the votes cast by Member States' representatives.
7. OPANAL Secretariat General shall provide technical assistance to the Working Group, including the production of the minutes of all its meetings.
8. The minutes produced by the Secretariat General shall not individually identify any Member States' representatives, their positions and/or comments. The minutes shall describe the deliberations of the Group in an impersonal way, unless Member States' representatives request otherwise.