



## **General Conference**

XXVII Session  
30 September 2021  
Agenda Item 9

**CG/10/2021**  
Original: English/Spanish

### **Education for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

This report summarizes the activities that the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean has carried out in the field of education for peace, disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

#### **I. Introduction**

1. Resolution CG/Res.518, adopted in the XXI Session of the General Conference, celebrated on 26 November 2009, urged Member States to implement the recommendations contained in the “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.”<sup>1</sup>
2. In the Declaration of 26 September 2021, on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, Member States declared to “reaffirm the importance of the 'United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education' adopted by Resolution 57/60 of the United Nations General Assembly, in its LVII Session<sup>2</sup> (2002) and commit themselves to continue working on the implementation of programs of education programs on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, convinced that they are an effective means to contribute to the consolidation of international peace and security.”

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<sup>1</sup> [A/57/124](#)

<sup>2</sup> [A/RES/57/60](#)

3. In its Resolution 55/33 of November 2000, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) requested the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of a group of qualified government experts, a study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and training. The overall purpose of disarmament and non-proliferation education was to impart knowledge and skills to empower individuals to make their contribution, as national and world citizens, to the achievement of general and complete disarmament.
4. In UNGA Resolutions 57/60 of 22 November 2002, 59/93 of 3 December 2004, 61/73 of 6 December 2006, 63/70 of 2 December 2008, 67/77 of 8 December 2010, 67/47 of 3 December 2012, 69/65 of 2 December 2014, 71/57 of 5 December 2019, 73/59 of 13 December 2018 it is recognized the importance of promoting concerted international efforts at disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, with a view to strengthening international security and enhancing development, at the time of furthering the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study.<sup>1</sup>
5. In OPANAL Resolution CG/Res.445, adopted at the XVII Session of the General Conference, held on October 14, 2003 and Resolution CG / Res.479, adopted at the IX Session of the General Conference, held on October 8 November 2005, OPANAL Member States were urged to follow the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

## **II. Evolution of activities**

### **a. OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**

6. At its XXIII Special Session held on 19 November 2014, the General Conference took note of the recommendations of the GTE contained in its report SG.14.2014 and through Resolution CG/E/Res.576, the mandate of the GTE was extended in order to

explore new possibilities for the implementation of the course “Education for Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.”

7. During the 297<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council held on 3 September 2015, the Secretary-General proposed the implementation of a basic course on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (Doc. Inf.011/2015), which would be based on the Secretary-General’s proposal of 2012, as well as the draft budget for 2016 that included its financial implications. By doing so, the Council decided to submit both proposals to the XXIV Session of the Agency’s General Conference.
8. During the XXIV Session of the General Conference, the proposal of the aforementioned course (C/12/2015) was presented, which was supported by the GTE in its report CG/04/2015. Therefore, through Resolution CG/Res.01/2015 the implementation of the Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was adopted in a face-to-face mode with a duration of five working days at the countries of the different Member States that decided to host the course.
9. From 2017 to 2019, there have been four editions of the Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The first one took place in Montevideo, Uruguay from 11 to 15 December 2017 at the headquarters of the Artigas Foreign Service Academy (IASE, for the Spanish acronym); the second one was held in La Paz, Bolivia from 3 to 7 December 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The third course was held from 13 to 17 May 2019 at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, and the last course to date was held from 24 to 27 September 2019 at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua.
10. All four editions of the Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation have been conducted with the supported of Ambassador Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, former United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and current President of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs.

11. In 2020 and 2021 the OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was not held due to the health contingency caused by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

**b. Internship Program with financial support for Member States of CARICOM**

12. In document CG/04/2015 dated 26 November 2015, presented at the XXIV Session of the General Conference, the internship program was reopened and organized into two modalities: one for CARICOM Members States and the other one for Latin-American Member States.

13. The internship program for Caribbean Member States has the purpose of encouraging their participation at OPANAL. The Secretary-General presented a proposal to the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mexico to cover the airfare and a one thousand US dollar monthly allowance for a five-month internship for two Caribbean interns per year. The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands responded affirmatively, thus on 26 November 2015 the Secretariat of OPANAL and the Kingdom of the Netherlands signed a cooperation agreement in this regard.

14. From 2016 to 2019, the Secretariat welcomed eight young people from Belize (2), Dominica, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia (2) as part of the Internship Program earmarked for Caribbean Member States.

15. In 2020 and the first semester of 2021, the Secretariat, in coordination with the Embassy of the Netherlands in Mexico, decided to suspend the Program due to the health contingency caused by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. In the second semester of 2021, the Secretariat reactivated the Internship Program for CARICOM Member States and welcomed two interns from Barbados and Belize.

16. On 31 August 2021, the Secretariat contacted the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mexico in order to extend the Internship Program earmarked for

Caribbean Member States to 2022. Currently, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is consulting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague in order to confirm their financial support for the Internship Program earmarked for Caribbean Member States.

**c. Internship Program without financial support**

17. Since the beginning of the Internship Program without financial support, twenty-one interns from different parts of the world have been received: Germany, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United States, France, Japan, Mexico and the Netherlands.

**d. Summer School**

18. At the 288<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council held on 19 June 2014, it was decided to associate the Agency to the “Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation”, in which diplomats from the region participate, and which is co-organized by the Matías Romero Institute and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies.

19. To date, the Summer School on Disarmament and Non-proliferation has had seven editions: in 2014, from 7 to 11 July; in 2015, from 13 to 17 July; in 2016, from 4 to 8 July; in 2017, from 10 to 14 July; in 2018 from 23 to 17 July.; in 2020 from 6 to 17 July 2020 (virtually); and in 2021 from 29 June to 9 July (virtually).

**III. Recommendations**

20. According to the abovementioned, the following is recommended:

- a. To continue with the implementation of the Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, as long as the sanitary conditions allow it, as well as considering the virtual mode for realizing the course.

- b. To invite Member States to communicate to the Secretariat their willingness to host the Course of OPANAL on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which can be instructed in both English and Spanish.
- c. To continue to support the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation organized annually by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, OPANAL and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies.
- d. To continue the Internship Program in the OPANAL Secretariat and grant financial support for the interns starting from January 2022.
- e. To extend the Internship Program earmarked for Caribbean Member States to 2022.
- f. To invite Member States to transmit and disseminate the initiatives of the OPANAL in the field of education for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.