



General Conference

XXVIII Session
3 November 2023
Agenda Item 9

CG/06/2023
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Working methods for OPANAL meetings in 2024

I. Background

The XXVII Special Session of the General Conference, held on 17 November 2022, considered as part of its work an agenda item dedicated to the working methods for OPANAL meetings in 2023 and adopted the resolution (CG/E/Res.10/2022) which resolved:

1. To take note of and express appreciation for document CG/E/07/2022 elaborated by the Secretary General on working methods.
2. To invite the Council to take the necessary steps to implement the recommendations contained in document CG/E/07/2022 in order to improve the working methods for OPANAL meetings in 2023.
3. To instruct the Secretary-General to provide the necessary support to the Council to implement this resolution and to keep the Member States informed of these measures and their execution.

II. Measures implemented

In addition to the provisions adopted by the XXVII Special Session of the General Conference, the following measures were adopted:

- Taking into account the important contribution that the participation and inclusion of the entire Membership represents for the States Parties to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the double modality, remote connection and face-to-face participation, was used in all the meetings of the different organs of OPANAL.

- The Government of Mexico, in its capacity as Depositary State of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and headquarters of the Secretariat of OPANAL, made available to the Membership and the Secretariat the facilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from which all the meetings of the Council were held¹.
- The Secretariat circulated in advance of all Council meetings an annotated agenda with a brief description of the items to be discussed as part of the agenda.
- A General Interventions item was maintained as an agenda item for all Council meetings.
- Simultaneous interpretation, Spanish-English and English-Spanish, was enabled at all meetings of the various organs of OPANAL, making use of the multilingual nature of the Agency and with the aim of increasing the participation of Member States.
- The Secretariat used an independent and specialized interpretation service considering the best value for money. The costs of interpretation services for the meetings were covered by the Agency's 2023 budget.
- The dates of the meetings of the Council and the Committee on Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary Matters (CCAAP) were reflected in the respective annual work plans of those bodies and convened in that regard, when so decided by the Chair in turn.
- The invitation, the provisional agenda for meetings of the Council and the Committee on Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary Matters, as well as the working documents were circulated, as far as possible, in advance. It is worth recalling, in this connection, that the staff of the Secretariat has suffered a reduction of 25% in recent years.
- The meetings of the subsidiary bodies of OPANAL, particularly the technical working groups established by the Council, were convened consecutively together with other meetings, in order to stimulate face-to-face participation and make better use of time, after consultation with the Chair and/or coordination in turn.
- In response to various reports from the Membership, the Secretariat prepared the document " Distribution of Secretariat communications and documentation exchange services of the

¹ 342nd Council meeting held on 7 February 2023, 343rd Council meeting held on 9 March 2023, 344th Council meeting held on 18 May 2023, 345th Council meeting held on 6 July 2023, 346th meeting held on 18 September 2023 and the 347th meeting scheduled for 18 October 2023.

OPANAL" (Inf.14/2023) and implemented temporary extraordinary measures in order to ensure that the work of the Council and the other organs of OPANAL were not interrupted.

- Bearing in mind the logistical and technical challenges for the Agency's work, the CCAAP incorporated as an agenda item at its 162nd meeting, on 27 June 2023, an item on the challenges associated with information and communication technologies.
- In this regard, the Secretariat conducted a comprehensive analysis of the existing infrastructure at the temporary headquarters and, considering the best value for money, contracted the corresponding services that were covered by the Agency's 2023 budget.
- At the initiative of the President of CCAAP, the draft resolution "Modernization of OPANAL's information and communication technologies" is submitted for consideration by the XXVIII Session of the General Conference (CG/L.12/2023).
- The declarations and communiqués issued by consensus by OPANAL were presented by the Secretariat for the consideration of the Member States from a simplified and current approach².
- As part of the efforts to continue promoting the inclusion and full participation of the entire Membership, the Secretariat established points of contact with the representations of the Member States, particularly those that do not have a representation in Mexico City, at every opportunity when trips were made to international conferences in combination with the coordination of OPANAL in the different headquarters of the United Nations.
- All the measures implemented during 2023 regarding the working methods for OPANAL meetings were covered by the Agency's 2023 budget.

III. Recommendations of the Secretariat

The Secretary-General submits to the General Conference the draft resolution "Working methods for the meetings of OPANAL in 2024" (CG/L.12/2023) and proposes that the XXVIII

² Declaration of the Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September 2023) - (Inf.37/2023Rev.4); Communiqué of the Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco (Inf.01/2023Rev.4)

Session of the General Conference consider this item taking into account the considerations presented.