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Joint press release from the Secretariat of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico (SRE), and the Matías Romero Institute (IMR)

Mexico hosts the eighth edition of the OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Today concluded successfully the Course of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, organized with the support of the Matías Romero Institute (IMR) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico (SRE), from January 15 to 25.

39 officials from the Mexican Foreign Service, the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico (SRE), the National Defense Secretariat (SEDENA), the Navy Secretariat (SEMAR), and the Security and Citizen Protection Secretariat (SSPC) participated in this capacity building program. Over two weeks, they deepened their knowledge of the international regime of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as the main international instruments that comprise it - such as the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

During the opening event, the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Ambassador Joel Hernández García, and the Secretary-General of OPANAL, Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini, delivered welcome messages to the course participants, emphasizing the importance of promoting values and principles of education for peace and disarmament among new generations.

The OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is part of OPANAL's activities in the field of education for nuclear disarmament and aims to promote education for peace, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, prevent their catastrophic humanitarian consequences, and unite efforts in the struggle for their elimination. It seeks to provide a space for analysis, reflection, and discussion on the importance of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and the value of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, better known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

Mexico has a deep-rooted diplomatic tradition in disarmament affairs and has been a promoter of multiple initiatives to advance disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The negotiation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, led by the Emeritus Ambassador Alfonso García Robles, Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1982), and the recent Second Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW, chaired by Ambassador Juan Ramón de la Fuente, bear witness to Mexico's historical commitment to nuclear disarmament.

The decision to provide government officials with the OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is an action by the Government of Mexico to promote



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education for peace and disarmament, in compliance with the guiding principles of its foreign policy and international commitments made within the framework of the United Nations.

OPANAL, based in Mexico City, was created by the Treaty of Tlatelolco to monitor its implementation and serve as a forum for information exchange and coordination among the countries of the region and as an interlocutor with other countries forming nuclear-weapon-free zones.