



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

Secretariat

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OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

Introduction

The United Nations General Assembly, in its LVII Session adopted the Resolution 57/60 “*Study of the United Nations about the education for the disarmament and no proliferation*”. The primary objective of the Resolution is to impart knowledge to the population, especially to the youth, women and more vulnerable groups, so that they, as recipients, contribute as national and world citizens to the achievement of the final objective of general and complete disarmament.

The General Conference of OPANAL, in its XXVII Session, celebrated on September 30th, 2021, adopted the Resolution CG/Res.04/2021, in which it resolves “*To invite again Member States to communicate to the Secretariat their willingness to host the Course of OPANAL on disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, as long as the sanitary conditions allow it, as well as to explore the possibility of the realization of said course in virtual mode, exceptionally and guaranteeing technological access under equal conditions to all Member States*”.

The OPANAL course on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is one of the Agency’s initiatives to follow up on the implementation of education programs for disarmament and the non-proliferation, addressing the danger posed by nuclear weapons and joining the fight for its elimination.

From 2017 to 2019, four editions of the Course on disarmament and non-proliferation have been held. The first one took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, from December 11 to 15, 2017, in the headquarters of the Artigas Institute of Foreign Service (IASE); the second course took place in La Paz, Bolivia from December 3 to 7, 2018 in the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, and the fourth course took place from September 24 to 27, 2019 in the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua. 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.

In accordance with the Resolution CG/Res04/2021, adopted by the XXVII Session of the General Conference, that took place on September 30th, 2021, the Secretariat is available to organize the course both in person, subject to certain financial requirements, as well as virtually. The course is held at the request of a Member State, expressing through a Note its interest to the Secretariat, which is available to provide all the required information.

Appendix 1

Organization and Logistics

Duration: 5 days (2 classes a day) in the virtual mode and 3 days (3 classes a day) in the face-to-face mode.

Inscriptions: The host State will be in charge of the inscriptions. Participation in the course is subject to the discretion of the host country (diplomatic corps, academic institutions, military bodies, diplomatic academies, etc.)

Number of participants: Generally, about 30 people participate in each course; however, the number of participants is at the discretion of the host country.

Certificates: The Secretariat of the OPANAL will issue certificates signed by the Secretary General and the representative of the host country, which will be delivered to the participants of the course at the closing ceremony.

Course evaluation: course participants will be given a questionnaire to provide their opinion and recommendations regarding the organization and content of the course.

Language: The possibility of giving the course in English or Spanish has been planned, depending on the requirements of each country.

Materials: The Secretariat will share with the host state and course participants the materials, presentations and bibliography for each class of the course.

In Person Mode:

Execution: The course will be taught by an official of the OPANAL Secretariat

Venue: To be decided by the host country (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense).

Opening Ceremony: the organization of a high-level opening event is desirable.

Equipment and Facilities: The room for the course must have the capacity for all of the participants and instructor; as well as all the necessary technological equipment for the presentations (wireless internet connection, computer, data show, printer, among others)

Financing: flight, lodging, and travel expenses for the Secretariat Official who teaches the course must be eventually discussed.

Virtual Mode:

Execution: The course will be taught by the officials of the OPANAL Secretariat

Platform: The course will be held on a platform that guarantees technological access under equal conditions to all Member States.

Equipment and Facilities: It is responsibility of the host country to ensure that each participant of the course has a computer and stable internet connection.

Appendix II

Syllabus of the OPANAL Course on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

Class 1: origin of nuclear weapons

- Introduction
- Origin of nuclear weapons
- World War II – Manhattan Project – Hiroshima and Nagasaki – Nuclear arms race
- Cold War
- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Class 2: Tlatelolco Treaty

- Immediate Background
- Structure of the Treaty of Tlatelolco
- Operation of the Treaty

Class 3: Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

- Nuclear non-proliferation regime
- Negotiation
- Structure
- Implementation
- Three pillars
- Review conferences
- Current challenges

Class 4: International Atomic Energy Agency

- Safeguards
- Peaceful uses of nuclear energy
- Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- Relationship with OPANAL

Class 5: Prohibition of Nuclear Tests

- History of Nuclear Tests
- Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and its background
- Monitoring System
- Preparatory Commission for the Organization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
- Current challenges

Class 6: Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ)

- Overview – Concept – Background
- Existing instruments: Antarctica, Outer Space, Seabed, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa, Central Asia – Mongolia.
- Characteristics of the NWFZ: NWFZ Conferences – Future NWFZ.

Class 7: Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

- Background: Humanitarian Initiative
- Negotiation
- Status of signatures and ratifications
- First Conference of States Parties

Class 8: Gender and intersectionality in nuclear weapons

- Feminist perspectives for disarmament
- Inclusion and current status in international forums and instruments
- Prospective reflections

Class 9: Current challenges of OPANAL

- Recent activities of Member States
- Declarations and Communiqués of the Member States of OPANAL
- Participation of OPANAL in international conferences