



OPANAL

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

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Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

On 14 February, the 33 member States¹ of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) issued a communiqué² to commemorate the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in which they highlighted the Treaty's contribution as a political, legal and institutional reference for the creation of other nuclear-weapon-free zones. They also stated that OPANAL member States would continue to promote dialogue and cooperation between nuclear-weapon-free zones.

From 11 to 15 July, OPANAL joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Matías Romero Institute and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies to hold the eighth Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in-person.³

In June, the OPANAL Secretary-General delivered a statement to the First Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.⁴ In August the Secretariat participated at the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons⁵ and contributed with a memorandum⁶ and a working paper from the member States.⁷ Additionally, the member States issued a joint communiqué regretting the failure of the Conference to adopt a final document.⁸

On 26 September, OPANAL member States issued a declaration⁹ to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The States referenced, inter alia, the following: (a) concern over the erosion of the treaty-based disarmament architecture; (b) the responsibility of all States parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty for the full implementation of that agreement, particularly article VI; and (c) the promotion of

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

² OPANAL, document [Inf.01/2022Rev3](#)

³ OPANAL, [press release](#)

⁴ For the statement, see OPANAL, document [Inf.19/2022](#)

⁵ For the statements, see OPANAL, documents [Inf.24/2022](#); [Inf.26/2022](#); [Inf.27/2022](#);

⁶ [NPT/CONF.2020/2/Add.1](#)

⁷ [NPT/CONF.2020/WP.7](#)

⁸ OPANAL, document [Inf.32/2022](#)

⁹ OPANAL, document [Inf.30/2022Rev.4](#)

disarmament and non-proliferation education. Additionally, they regretted the failure to convene the Fourth Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia.

From 8 to 10 November, the OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala.¹⁰ This course is an initiative of the Agency in the field of education that emerged in 2014 with the aim of preparing cadres in Latin America and the Caribbean on disarmament issues, in line with the resolution 73/59 of the United Nations General Assembly entitled “United Nations Study on Education for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation”.

At the twenty-seventh special session of the OPANAL General Conference, held in Mexico City on 17 November, member States adopted the budget and scale of contributions for the financial year 2023. In addition, the Conference adopted practical measures to improve the Agency’s working methods.¹¹ Furthermore, the Conference adopted a resolution that request the States Parties to Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco to review or withdraw the interpretative declarations they have made with respect to those instruments.¹²

In October, the OPANAL Secretary-General delivered a statement to the First Committee of the General Assembly during its general debate. Additionally, he addressed participants during the thematic event entitled “Discussions and exchanges with independent experts and other high-level officials”.

Throughout 2022, OPANAL engaged in activities to strengthen cooperation with other nuclear-weapon-free zones.

¹⁰ OPANAL, [press release](#)

¹¹ OPANAL, document [CG/E/Res.10/2022](#)

¹² OPANAL, document [CG/E/Res.03/2022](#)