



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

Secretariat

11 July 2022

Inf.21/2022
Original: English

**SUMMER SCHOOL ON NON-PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR
DISARMAMENT FOR DIPLOMATS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Welcoming remarks by Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini
Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin
America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)

- *Dr. Eduardo Jaramillo Navarrete, General Director for the United Nations of the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs,*
- *Mr. David Olvera Ayes, Acting General Director of the Matías Romero Institute,*
- *Dr. William Potter, Founding Director of the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies,*

Dear colleagues,

Distinguished participants,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the “8th Edition of the Summer School on Non-proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament for Diplomats in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

We are very pleased to have you in-person (finally!) after two years of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, I would like to thank the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, the Matias Romero Institute, and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies for co-organizing this Summer School, which I personally consider “the flagship initiative” of our region on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

In this convulsed times of great power competition, geopolitical challenges, and the increased of nuclear risk, providing specialized high-level training to young diplomats of Latin America and the Caribbean is key to continue with the long-standing role of the region in multilateral disarmament diplomacy.

For this reason, during this week you will have the opportunity to discuss about the most relevant and contentious topics with some of the “top-notch” experts and practitioners in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. I am certain that you will take advantage of this training not only for the benefit of your own country, but ultimately for the benefit of our region.

I wish you all very fruitful and insightful discussions during this Summer School.

Thank you.