



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

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Contributions of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) on promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of resolution 77/55 “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”

The present report describes the activities carried out by OPANAL on promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and is submitted acknowledging the request made by Note ODA/2024-00034/women dated on 12 February 2024.

In 2021, the Secretary-General submitted, for the first time, to the consideration of the General Conference a resolution "Gender, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament" (CG/L.05/2021) proposing the consideration of the item taking into account the valuable contribution of women in the region in the promotion of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, especially nuclear weapons, and to the promotion of peace that has been addressed for more than twenty years by other international bodies.

The XXVII Session General Conference held on 30 September 2021 acknowledged that while women and men engage in different ways around non-proliferation and disarmament, the equal, full and effective participation of all people is essential for the promotion of peace and security.

Resolution “Gender, Non-proliferation and Disarmament” (CG/Res.05/2021) was adopted by consensus by the General Conference, the highest organ of OPANAL, with the aim of promoting equal, full and effective participation of both women and men, as one of the essential factors for the promotion of international peace and security and reaffirming the commitment of OPANAL and its organs to gender equity.

The provisions adopted in that occasion have permeated through the inclusion of a gender perspective in the activities, calls, and programs of the various bodies of OPANAL promoted by both the Secretariat and the Member States. The Secretariat's reports on the Agency's programs, courses and activities consider gender percentage participation as part of their indicators. Prior to the adoption of the resolution in question, no statistical information was recorded in this regard. Thanks to the consideration of this variable, the OPANAL can presents some encouraging numbers.

First of all, since 2021 and until 2023, the cadre of young professionals who provide support to the work of the Secretariat in the Internship Programs have been mostly women. Indeed, the composition of Secretariat official staff currently consists of the Secretary-General, three female officers, one male officer and one general services clerk (driver and other services). If all the above are taken into account, the participation of women is 50%. If we consider the professional cadre of OPANAL, female participation is 60%.

Second of all, regarding the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, the call by the organizing State and the Secretariat invited Member States to make nominations considering the promotion of a gender parity quota. As a result of these measures, during the 2021 edition the percentage of women's participation represented 58%.

Likewise, the 2022 edition had 62% and the 2023 edition 73%: reflecting an increasing trend in the participation of women diplomats in this space.

Finally, in the OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, which is taught by the Secretariat and whose selection is made by the host countries, the total participation of women was 42% in the 2022 editions and 37% in 2023.

Some figures are still in progress as the Secretariat has noted that, according to the latest update of the List of Representatives accredited to OPANAL (Inf.13/2023Rev.), among the Member States that have submitted the corresponding accreditation there are only three women representatives to the Agency.

In its day-to-day work, the Agency also implemented relevant measures such as following, to the extent possible, of inclusive, and non-sexist language guidelines in its communications, documents and presentations as well as referring, as frequently as possible, to the importance that OPANAL attaches to the promotion of gender equity and the substantive participation of women in different bodies in the interventions of the Secretary-General and of the staff of the Secretariat. For example, since 2021, the Secretariat does an informative post on the International Woman's Rights Days on March 8th each year on its social medias.

In 2022, the General Conference adopted the Resolution "Gender, Non-proliferation and Disarmament" (CG/E/Res.13/2022) with technical updates.

In 2023, the General Conference decided to strengthen the resolution and adopted the Resolution "Gender, Non-proliferation and Disarmament" (CG/Res.12/2023).

Reference resolutions of OPANAL

- CG/Res.05/2021 Resolution Gender, Non-proliferation and Disarmament:
https://www.opanal.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CG_Res.05_2021_Gender-Non-proliferation-and-Disarmament.pdf
- CG/E/Res.13/2022 Resolution Gender, Non-proliferation and Disarmament:
https://www.opanal.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/CG_E_Res.13_2022_Gender-Nonproliferation-and-Disarmament.pdf
- CG/Res.12/2023 Resolution Gender, Non-proliferation and Disarmament:
https://opanal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CG_Res.12_2023_Gender-Non-proliferation-and-Disarmament.DOC.pdf