



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

Secretariat

August 01, 2022

Inf.25/2022

Original: English/Spanish

**REPORT ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
(OPANAL)
IN THE 2022 VIENNA CONFERENCE ON THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS
AND
THE FIRST MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE
PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (TPNW)**

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I. The 2022 Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

The 2022 Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons took place on the eve of the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), on 20 June 2022, and brought together state representatives, international organizations, scientific community, survivors and civil society to discuss and explore established and new research on the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons.

Building on the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo (March 2013), Nayarit (February 2014) and Vienna (December 2014), the 2022 Conference provided an overview of their findings and discussions, and provided additional insight and new research conducted since. The aim was to further advance the common factual and scientific foundation for the global discussion on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The 2022 Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons was opened by H.E. Alexander Schallenberg, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria (through video message), H.E. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and H.E. Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei - Director General Emeritus of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (2005).

The opening ceremony was followed by the testimonials of three survivors of nuclear weapons use and testing: Kido Suechi, Secretary-General of Nihon Hidankyo and survival of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki; Suzuka Nakamura of Know Nukes Tokyo, a third-generation survivor from Nagasaki; Danity Laukon of MISA4ThePacific, survivor of nuclear weapons testing in the Marshall Islands.

The sessions included the following topics: “What we Know: Key Facts on Humanitarian Consequences and Risks of Nuclear Weapons”, “Impact of nuclear weapons on people and the planet: new developments and findings”, “The Risks of Nuclear Weapons, the Threat of Use, and Nuclear Deterrence”, and featured leading world experts in the field, such as Cordula Droege - Chief Legal Officer and Head of the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); James Revill - Head of the WMD

Programme at United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR); Patricia Lewis - Director, International Security Programme at Chatham House, UK; Mary Olson, Senior Radioactive Waste Policy Specialist with Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) (ret.); Ambassador of Norway (ret). Steffen Kongstad; John C. Polanyi - 1986 Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry; Moritz Kütt – Senior Researcher at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg; Michael J. Mills – Project Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, US; Kim Scherrer – Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Bergen, Norway; Alexander Glaser (Associate Professor, Princeton University) on behalf of Sébastien Philippe – Associate Research Scholar at Princeton University’s Program on Science and Global Security and at the Nuclear Knowledges Programm at Sciences-Po, Paris; Togzhan Kassenova – Senior Fellow, Center for Policy Research, SUNYAlbany; Hans M. Kristensen – Director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists; Tytti Erästö - Senior Researcher in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); Daryl G. Kimball - Executive Director, Arms Control Association; Eva Lisowski – Associate Fellow, Asia-Pacific Leadership Network & Consultant to the Joint Project on Nuclear Weapon Use Risk Reduction; Zia Mian – Co-Director of Princeton University’s Program on Science and Global Security.

More detailed information on the Conference, including the program, overview of speakers with biographies and abstracts, official brochure, and the recording of all the presentations can be found on the official website of the 2022 Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons¹.

¹ <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/disarmament/weapons-of-mass-destruction/nuclear-weapons/2022-vienna-conference-on-the-humanitarian-impact-of-nuclear-weapons/#:~:text=The%202022%20Vienna%20Conference%20on,in%20the%20Austria%20Center%20Vienna.>

II. First Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

Introduction

Article 8 (2) of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons reads, in part, as follows: “The first meeting of States Parties shall be convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations within one year of the entry into force of this Treaty.”

In a letter dated 10 August 2021, the President-designate of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty informed the Secretary-General that the States parties had agreed that the unprecedented circumstances arising as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had made it no longer feasible to hold the Meeting by that date and had also confirmed that the Secretary-General was no longer required to convene the first Meeting of States Parties within one year of the entry into force of the Treaty in accordance with its article 8 (2). In a letter dated 22 March 2022, the President-designate informed the Secretary-General that, in the light of the evolving calendar of disarmament meetings and the COVID-19-related restrictions currently in place at the United Nations Office at Vienna, the States parties had decided to hold the first Meeting from 21 to 23 June 2022 at the Austria Center Vienna.

Accordingly, in a note verbale dated 4 April 2022, the Secretary-General convened the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty from 21 to 23 June 2022 at the Austria Center Vienna².

Procedural matters

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 21 June, the Meeting considered its provisional rules of procedure (TPNW/MSP/2022/L.1³), which were subsequently adopted and issued as document TPNW/MSP/2022/3⁴. Furthermore, the Meeting adopted its agenda

² [Draft report of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW/MSP/2022/L.2\)](#)

³ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N22/352/84/PDF/N2235284.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/390/06/PDF/N2239006.pdf?OpenElement>

(TPNW/MSP/2022/1)⁵. Afterwards, the Meeting took note of the draft program of work (TPNW/MSP/2022/INF/3)⁶.

The Meeting took note of decisions that had been taken prior to the Meeting, in accordance with rule 45 of the rules of procedure. In that regard, the Meeting took note of the intersessional decision, taken pursuant to rule 1 (4), to accept the participation of the non-governmental organizations listed in document TPNW/MSP/2022/CRP.3 (*not made publicly available*). In addition, the Meeting took note of the intersessional decision to hold the meeting at the Austria Center Vienna, from 21 to 23 June 2022⁷.

The Meeting elected Alexander Kmentt of Austria as its President, and Kazakhstan, Mexico, Thailand as its Vice-Presidents.

The Meeting took note of the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of Christopher King as Secretary-General of the Meeting.

Pursuant to rule 4 of the rules of procedure, according to which the Credentials Committee is to be composed of five members, the Meeting appointed Côte d'Ivoire, Guyana, Malta, Paraguay and Samoa as members of its Credentials Committee. At its 6th meeting, on 23 June, the conference adopted the draft resolution set out in paragraph 14 of the report of the Credentials Committee (TPNW/MSP/2022/4)⁸, as recommended by the Committee after it had examined the credentials of the representatives of States parties to the Meeting and found them to be in order.

Attendance

Representatives of 49 States Parties participated in the Meeting, 20 of them are OPANAL Member States: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Delegates of 34 States attended the Meeting as observers, including 2 OPANAL Member States: Brazil and Dominican Republic.

⁵ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/352/72/PDF/N2235272.pdf?OpenElement>

⁶ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/382/81/PDF/N2238281.pdf?OpenElement>

⁷ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N22/386/80/PDF/N2238680.pdf?OpenElement>

⁸ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/382/80/PDF/N2238280.pdf?OpenElement>

In accordance with rule 1 (2) of the rules of procedure, representatives of the following UN funds and programmes, as well as intergovernmental organizations and other entities attended the Meeting as observers without the right to vote: United Nations (UN), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON), the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

In accordance with rule 1 (3) of the rules of procedure, representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) attended the Meeting as observers without the right to vote. Representatives of 85 relevant non-governmental organizations attended the Meetings under rule 1 (3) of the rules of procedure⁹.

The meeting also was vastly attended by the representatives of the civil society.

The full list of participants can be found in document TPNW/MSP/2022/INF/4¹⁰.

High-level Opening Session and General Exchange of Views

At its 1st plenary meeting, the Meeting conducted its high-level opening session under agenda item 4, during which it heard an address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other high-level officials.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres provided a video message noting that nuclear weapons offer false promises of security and deterrence, while guaranteeing only destruction, death, and endless brinksmanship. “We cannot allow the nuclear weapons wielded by a handful of States to jeopardize all life on our planet,” he warned.

⁹ [Draft report of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW/MSP/2022/L.2\)](#)

¹⁰ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/440/20/PDF/N2244020.pdf?OpenElement>

“Disarmament is everybody’s business, because life itself is everybody’s business,” he said, noting that the TPNW is part of the critical disarmament architecture¹¹.

The high-level opening session was followed by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, H.E. Izumi Nakamitsu. In accordance with agenda item 3, H.E. Alexander Kmentt, in his capacity of the President of the Meeting, made introductory remarks.

In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Alexander Kmentt, thanked all states, international organizations, civil society groups, academics, but especially the hibakusha for attending and for driving forward this treaty that seeks once and for all an end to nuclear weapons. He described the TPNW as a “ray of hope” in these dark times when nuclear risks are as high as ever and threats of use are being made¹².

At the same plenary meeting, the Meeting began its general exchange of views under agenda item 10, which continued at the 2nd and 3rd plenary meeting, also on 21 June, as well as on June 22, respectively.

Nearly 60 delegations delivered statements during the general exchange of views at the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW (1MSP). Many delegations highlighted the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental impacts of nuclear weapons use and testing. Most delegations expressed significant concern about the current geopolitical context and the implications—and need—for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Some delegations outlined their expectations for the 1MSP, which many described as an historic meeting. Multiple delegations stressed the complementarity between the TPNW and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the instruments establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs). Many delegations spoke positively about the role played by civil society, academia, hibakusha, and affected communities, with many thanking the latter for their tireless work and dedication to the cause of nuclear disarmament¹³.

¹¹ [UN Secretary-General’s video message to the Opening of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#)

¹² [“Lighting a path to nuclear abolition at 1MSP”, Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 2, Reaching Critical Will, 21 June 2022](#)

¹³ [“Lighting a path to nuclear abolition at 1MSP”, Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 2, Reaching Critical Will, 21 June 2022](#)

Several nuclear armed state allies participated as observers in the Meeting and some of them delivered their statements. In this regard, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland spoke. Each of the three NATO members reiterated the claim that as long as nuclear weapons exist, NATO will remain a nuclear alliance. Norway asserted that joining the TPNW would be incompatible with its NATO obligations—a belief that has been found to be incorrect by many experts—and said it “stands fully behind NATO’s nuclear posture.” Sweden critiqued the TPNW because it “does not include any of the countries that possess nuclear weapons, which we do not see as a realistic or effective way forward.” Norway, Sweden, and Netherlands focused their remarks on strengthening the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and on calling for the development of other treaties that have been under consideration to no avail for decades. Netherlands and Sweden also raised concerns about the compatibility of the TPNW with the NPT. Switzerland, on the other hand, “welcomed the various statements to the effect that the purpose of the TPNW is to contribute to the implementation of the NPT provisions, in particular its Article VI.” Germany and the Netherlands stated that they are not bound by TPNW provisions and do not accept that its provisions are applicable under customary law. The Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden reiterated they do not intend to sign or ratify the TPNW. The Netherlands reminded that it participated actively in the treaty negotiations and tried to find ways to make the treaty more “acceptable” to NATO allies but that these suggestions were rejected.¹⁴

The Secretary-General of OPANAL delivered the statement (Inf.19/2022)¹⁵, in which he highlighted the following:

- “The potential use and threat of nuclear weapons must be condemned, as a matter of principle, in the most serious terms by the entire international community. Therefore, explicit and repeated threats to use nuclear weapons by a nuclear-armed state are unacceptable, as they should be to any nuclear-armed state or military coalition that bases its security on nuclear deterrence.”

- “The First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW provides States committed to supporting the nuclear weapons ban norm. This support is not only a relevant platform to

¹⁴ [“Disarming the debates about “realism” through real action”, Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 3, Reaching Critical Will, 22 June 2022](#)

¹⁵ <https://www.opanal.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Statement-SG-OPANAL-1MSP-2022-Inf.pdf>

express their concerns about nuclear risk, but also another forum to take action and work on effective nuclear disarmament measures leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.”

- “We are present here today to contribute from our experience and support the logical convergence between the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and the TPNW.”

- “...with the universalization and effective implementation of [...] the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we will be on the right path towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons through establishing a universal zone free of nuclear weapons.”

Statements delivered under agenda item 4 “High-level opening session: address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and addresses by high-level officials” and agenda item 10 “General exchange of views”, which have been transmitted to the UN Secretariat by delegations, can be found on the official website of the Meeting, in the section “Statements”¹⁶.

Consideration of the status and operation of the Treaty and other matters important for achieving the objectives and purpose of the Treaty

At its 3rd to 5th plenary meetings, on 22 and 23 June, under agenda item 11, the Meeting considered the status and operation of the Treaty and other matters important for achieving the objectives and purpose of the Treaty. The President and the facilitators presented the results of the consultation processes related to the sub-items of agenda item 11. Delegations made comments¹⁷.

Declarations regarding the ownership, possession or control of nuclear weapons (article 2)

The Secretary-General of the Meeting reported that no declarations regarding the ownership, possession or control of nuclear weapons had been received in accordance with article 2 of the Treaty.

¹⁶ https://meetings.unoda.org/section/tpnw-msp-1-2022_general-statements_20582/

¹⁷ [Draft report of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW/MSP/2022/L.2\)](#)

Universality (article 12)

Austria, Costa Rica, and Indonesia co-facilitated a working paper “Implementing article 12 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: universalization” (TPNW/MSP/2022/WP.7)¹⁸, which offered suggested activities for the implementation of said article.

In its intervention, Costa Rica noted that the paper has three sections, focusing on engagements with states not yet party, the establishment of a working group or informal contact group to take forward universalization efforts among states parties in coordination with the ICRC and the ICAN, and recommendations for steps after 1MSP, including the promotion of the TPNW’s norms as well as increasing numbers of adherents¹⁹.

Several delegations made specific comments on the working paper’s recommendations, while others reported on their universalization efforts. In particular, South Africa, Malaysia, Philippines, Ecuador, Indonesia, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Fiji, Comoros, Guyana, Mozambique, Lao PDR, Guatemala and Venezuela contributed to the discussion, as well some of the NGO’s, such as ICRC, ICAN and the African Council for Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace.

Vienna Action Plan: universality

States committed to making universalization a priority, including by:

- Conducting diplomatic outreach visits with other countries that haven’t joined yet (Action 3);
- Appointing a government representative (contact point) responsible for this work in 60 days (Action 6);
- Highlighting the importance of the TPNW in statements at the UN and getting more countries to join UN General Assembly resolutions supporting the Treaty (Actions 8 and 9)
- Coordinating with all relevant partners (Action 13)²⁰

¹⁸ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/388/85/PDF/N2238885.pdf?OpenElement>

¹⁹ “Disarming the debates about “realism” through real action”, Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 3, Reaching Critical Will, 22 June 2022

²⁰ https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_7-Draft-Action-Plan-new.pdf

Deadlines for the removal from operational status and destruction of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, and their removal from national territories (article 4)

South Africa presented its working paper “Deadlines for the removal from operational status and destruction of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, and their removal from national territories (article 4)” (TPNW/MSP/2022/WP.9)²¹ and proposed the following:

- The 1MSP should adopt a maximum upper limit of 10 years as the deadline required for nuclear weapons destruction, in accordance with a legally binding, time-bound plan for the verified and irreversible elimination of that State Party’s nuclear-weapon programme, including the elimination or irreversible conversion of all nuclear-weapons-related facilities, pursuant to Article 4 (2).

- The 1MSP should also acknowledge the possibility of extension requests and agree to establish a maximum extension period up to 5 years. An extension request may be granted by a Meeting of States Parties or a Review Conference on an exceptional basis to overcome unexpected difficulties in the disarmament process.

- With regard to deadlines for the removal of nuclear weapons from hosting States, and given historical precedents, a deadline of up Report on Discussions on Article 4 to a maximum period of 90 days should be adopted by the 1MSP²².

A few delegations provided their comments under this agenda sub-itme, including Philippines, Indonesia, Cuba, Ecuador and Mexico, who supported the recommendations and relevant actions on deadlines. Institute for Peace Research and ICAN spoke on behalf of civil society and also contributed to the discussion.

In this regard, section IV of the working paper has been included in the draft action plan. The relevant language was read out to the conference, and provisionally adopted.

Vienna Action Plan: towards the elimination of nuclear weapons (Article 4), Actions
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²¹ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/397/14/PDF/N2239714.pdf?OpenElement>

²² “Disarming the debates about “realism” through real action”, Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 3, Reaching Critical Will, 22 June 2022

15-18

- States agreed to set a deadline of 10 years for the elimination of nuclear weapons when nuclear-armed states join the TPNW and 90 days for the removal of weapons from host states when they join the Treaty.
- States agreed to pursue further discussion on designating the body that will be responsible for verifying nuclear disarmament (Action 15)²³

Competent international authority, including verification (article 4)

Mexico and Brazil co-facilitated working paper “Designation of a competent international authority/authorities” (TPNW/MSP/2022/WP.1)²⁴ in keeping with article 4(6).

Mexico presented the working paper and proposed that:

- The 1MSP invite states parties to each designate within 60 days a national contact point to take part in the intersessional work with regard to the designation of the international authority/authorities;

- The 1MSP establish an informal intersessional working group towards the designation of the international authority/authorities. Participation of representatives of the Scientific Advisory Group, and participation of relevant agencies, think tanks civil society organizations, the ICRC, academia and other stakeholders should be encouraged in the working group, as appropriate.

- The Working Group could pursue discussion on developing a coherent approach to this issue including general obligations to the specific mandate of the authority; clarify terms; identify what technical aspects of verification require input from the Scientific Advisory Group, among other possible topics.

Mexico explained that these recommendations feed into the draft action plan.

While the Philippines and Malaysia welcomed the working paper, South Africa noted the criticism about the lack of a verification mechanism for the treaty and as such, this is an area of implementation that will be subject to scrutiny. Cuba said that the 1MSP is

²³ https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_7-Draft-Action-Plan-new.pdf

²⁴ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/372/89/PDF/N2237289.pdf?OpenElement>

under no obligation to make a decision about this but needs to start working out the parameters under which states parties can select a national authority in future²⁵.

Victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation and assistance (articles 6 and 7)

Kazakhstan presented the working paper “Implementing Articles 6 and 7” (TPNW/MSP/2022/WP.5)²⁶, that it had co-facilitated with Kiribati.

Kazakhstan explained that the working paper presented a series of recommendations for states parties to consider adopting at the IMSP, under the six following areas: a) commitment to implementation; b) establishment of an implementation framework; c) reporting on implementation measures; d) intersessional work; e) international trust fund for affected states; and f) commitment to inclusivity²⁷.

Following delegations participated in the discussion and generally supported recommendations presented by Kazakhstan: Malaysia, South Africa, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Samoa, Ecuador, Switzerland, as well as Peace Boat, ICRC, IFRC and ICAN.

Vienna Action Plan: victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation and assistance, (Articles 6 and 7), Actions 19-32

All states agreed to steps to create a framework for implementation, including:

- Closely consult with affected communities at all stages and engage with civil society and the UN system (Actions 19 & 24)
- Establish a government representative (focal point) responsible for this work within 3 months and adopt any national laws to implement it (Actions 21 & 22)
- Ensuring the principles of accessibility, inclusivity, non-discrimination throughout; as well as transparency and to consider a reporting format (Actions 25 & 28)
- Examining how to establish an international trust fund to fund this work (Action

²⁵ [“Disarming the debates about “realism” through real action”, Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 3, Reaching Critical Will, 22 June 2022](#)

²⁶ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/376/14/PDF/N2237614.pdf?OpenElement>

²⁷ [“Disarming the debates about “realism” through real action”, Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 3, Reaching Critical Will, 22 June 2022](#)

29)

States that consider themselves affected by nuclear weapons use and testing agreed to:

- Start reviewing the impacts of nuclear weapons use in their country by the second meeting (Action 30)
- Develop a national plan to begin helping those impacted by nuclear weapons use and testing and to remediate the environment by the second meeting (Action 31)

Other states also agreed to provide support, including financial and technical to states that consider themselves affected (Action 32)²⁸

National implementation measures (article 5)

Under this agenda item, the representatives of the civil society made a statement highlighting role of other actors involved in the nuclear weapons industry, ranging from companies, universities, research institutions, lobbyists, to financial backers and urging accountability for the directors and leaders of corporate bodies that are responsible for acts that violate the TPNW by facilitating nuclear weapons development or maintenance and the importance of incorporating of the TPNW into national legislation so that its prohibitions can be used to prosecute violations²⁹.

Cuba supported the establishment of a voluntary international fund to help develop legislative capabilities.

Institutionalizing scientific and technical advice for the effective implementation of the Treaty

Ambassador Alexander Kmentt of Austria, the President of 1MSP, presented working paper “Institutionalizing scientific and technical advice for the effective implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons”

²⁸ https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_7-Draft-Action-Plan-new.pdf

²⁹ “1MSP Stands Strong Against the Bomb” Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 4, Reaching Critical Will, 23 June 2022

(TPNW/MSP/2022/WP.6)³⁰. He said the proposal to establish a Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) means that TPNW states parties would have access to scientific and technical advice that will help facilitate decision making processes. The group would offer advice on various issues, including implementation, positive obligations, elimination, verification, and more. In addition, scientific attention on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and nuclear risks will contribute to the wider disarmament and nonproliferation discourse³¹.

Civil society, Malaysia, South Africa, Cuba, Mexico spoke in favor of establishment of a SAG and made their respective contributions through recommendations regarding the number of experts to comprise the group, its impartiality and geographic and gender balance etc.

When clarifying some of the doubts of the States Parties, the President of 1MSP informed that all states parties will receive information about the nominations and will have the right to object to specific candidates. He also said that invitations to send expressions of interest had already been sent to states parties in May 2022 and two nominations had been received. He reiterated the call to nominate qualified candidates within the next 90 days³².

Vienna Action Plan: decision for the institutionalization of scientific and technical advice for the effective implementation of the Treaty (establishment of a scientific advisory group) and institutionalizing scientific and technical advice for the effective implementation of the TPNW, Actions 33-34

States decided to create a Scientific Advisory Group which will:

- Advise states parties and report regularly on the status and developments regarding nuclear weapons, nuclear weapon risks, the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament, and related issues.
- Comprise of up to 15 members and take into account the need for a comprehensive spread of relevant fields of scientific and technological expertise, gender balance, and equitable geographical distribution³³

³⁰ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/388/63/PDF/N2238863.pdf?OpenElement>

³¹ [“1MSP Stands Strong Against the Bomb” Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 4, Reaching Critical Will, 23 June 2022](#)

³² Ibid

³³ https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_7-Draft-Action-Plan-new.pdf

Intersessional structure for the implementation of the Treaty

The President of the Meeting, Ambassador Kmentt, presented working paper “Intersessional structure for the implementation of the Treaty” (TPNW/MSP/2022/WP.8)³⁴, which set out three draft decisions: to establish a Coordinating Committee for the period between 1MSP and 2MSP; to create three working groups; and to appoint an informal facilitator to further explore and articulate the possible areas of tangible cooperation between the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and other treaties, to report back at 2MSP³⁵.

The draft decisions have been transferred into another document, “Decisions to be taken at the 1MSP” (TPNW/MSP/2022/CRP.6)³⁶, contained in paragraph 2.

Following the introduction by the President, states engaged in discussion about the language of the document, with some proposing textual changes, i.e., South Africa, Cuba, Mexico, Jamaica, New Zealand and Ireland.

Vienna Action Plan: decision on the establishment of an intersessional structure for the implementation of the Treaty and Additional Aspects of Support for Treaty Implementation, Actions 43-45

States agreed to establish informal working groups to advance these actions and a committee to coordinate them, including civil society and to meet at least once every quarter.

Informal working groups include:

- One on universalization, co- chaired by South Africa and Malaysia;
- One on victim assistance, environmental remediation; international cooperation and assistance, co-chaired by Kazakhstan and Kiribati;

³⁴ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/388/88/PDF/N2238888.pdf?OpenElement>

³⁵ “1MSP Stands Strong Against the Bomb” Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 4, Reaching Critical Will, 23 June 2022

³⁶ <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/nuclear-weapon-ban/1msp/documents/decisions.pdf>

- And one on the implementation of Article 4, in particular work related to the future designation of (a) competent international authority(ies), co-chaired by Mexico and New Zealand³⁷

Complementarity of the Treaty with the existing nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation regime

Ireland introduced working paper “Complementarity with the Existing Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Regime” (TPNW/MSP/2022/WP.3), which it co-facilitated with Thailand. The paper emphasized the contribution of the TPNW to global norms and standards, and to understandings of the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons. The primary decision of this paper was to appoint informal facilitator(s) to explore and articulate possible areas of tangible cooperation between the TPNW and the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other relevant instruments before 2MSP³⁸.

Thailand said working on complementarity will increase the visibility of the TPNW in other fora and promote the strength of cooperation. It encouraged others to promote the TPNW in other relevant treaty bodies and international frameworks and said it is committed to doing more until the misinformation and accusation against the TPNW have been eradicated and all states are on right side of history³⁹.

Philippines, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Kazakhstan, Cuba, South Africa and ICRC engaged in the discussion agreeing on the complementarity of the Treaty and providing their recommendations in this respect.

Vienna Action Plan: the relationship of the TPNW with the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, Actions 35-38

States agreed the TPNW builds upon, contributes to and complements a rich and diverse disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and agreed on some steps to highlight this including:

³⁷ https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_7-Draft-Action-Plan-new.pdf

³⁸ “1MSP Stands Strong Against the Bomb” Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 4, Reaching Critical Will, 23 June 2022

³⁹ Ibid

- Appointing an informal coordinator to articulate areas for cooperation between the TPNW and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) (Action 36)
- Cooperate with other international bodies, such as the IAEA and the CTBTO, in order to enhance cooperation (Action 37)
- Highlight the complementarity between the TPNW and the existing disarmament and non-proliferation regime, including Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaties (Action 38)⁴⁰

Financial matters

At its 6th plenary meeting, on 23 June, the Meeting took note of its financial report (TPNW/MSP/2022/2)⁴¹.

Preparations for the second Meeting of States Parties

In accordance with rule 6 (3) of the rules of procedure, at its 6th plenary meeting, on 23 June, the Meeting elected Mexico as the President of the second meeting of States Parties, and designated Kazakhstan as the president of third meeting of States Parties, to be elected at the second meeting of States Parties.

States Parties agreed that the Second Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW will take place from 27 November to 1 December 2023, at the UN headquarters in New York.

Adoption of the Declaration “Our Commitment to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons”, Final Report and the Vienna Action Plan for the effective and timely implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

At its 6th meeting, the Meeting adopted three outcome documents: a Final Report⁴², a Declaration⁴³, and an Action Plan⁴⁴. The Declaration and Action Plan put nuclear-armed

⁴⁰ https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_7-Draft-Action-Plan-new.pdf

⁴¹ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/386/98/PDF/N2238698.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴² <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N22/386/80/PDF/N2238680.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴³ https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_8-Draft-Declaration.pdf

states firmly on notice: their actions and policies are unacceptable, immoral, and illegal, and plans are being made for both the elimination of their arsenals and reparative justice for the harms they have caused. The documents highlighted the timeliness for the possessors of these weapons to renounce their politics of violence and join the majority of the international community in seeking peace through cooperation and disarmament⁴⁵.

The Declaration spoke stridently against nuclear weapons, describing them as being used to coerce, intimidate, and heighten tensions. “This highlights now more than ever the fallacy of nuclear deterrence doctrines, which are based and rely on the threat of the actual use of nuclear weapons and, hence, the risks of the destruction of countless lives, of societies, of nations, and of inflicting global catastrophic consequences.” The Declaration also expresses alarm and dismay “by threats to use nuclear weapons and increasingly strident nuclear rhetoric.” States parties “condemn unequivocally any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances.”⁴⁶

The Action Plan provides a clear path forward for collective against nuclear weapons. Far from being an aspirational paper, it is a roadmap designed by states parties in partnership with survivors, impacted communities, civil society, and international organizations, consisting of practical steps to implement the TPNW. The actions include starting work on a trust fund to support people harmed by the impact of nuclear explosions, establishing a scientific advisory board, setting a ten-year deadline for destruction of nuclear weapons, getting more countries to join the TPNW, and more⁴⁷.

III. Bilateral meetings in the margins of the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Meeting between the Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), Ambassador Flávio

⁴⁴ https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_7-Draft-Action-Plan-new.pdf

⁴⁵ “IMSP Stands Strong Against the Bomb” Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 4, Reaching Critical Will, 23 June 2022

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ “IMSP Stands Strong Against the Bomb” Nuclear Ban Daily, Vol. 3, No. 4, Reaching Critical Will, 23 June 2022

**Roberto Bonzanini and the Executive Director of the International Campaign to
Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Beatrice Fihn**

20 June 2022

1. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

- In this first encounter with Ms Beatrice Fihn, the Secretary-General Bonzanini recalled the active participation of the OPANAL Member States in the negotiation of the Treaty, and highlighted the historic commitment of the region to complete nuclear disarmament.
- Ms Fihn congratulated the Secretary-General on completing universal adherence to the Treaty across Central American region.
- Ms Fihn thanked the Secretary-General for the support to the Treaty and shared the news about the upcoming ratification of Grenada that day.

2. Cooperation among nuclear-weapon-free zones

- Secretary-General shared that OPANAL closely cooperates with other nuclear-weapon-free zones, particularly with the African NWFZ. In this regard, the Secretary-General mentioned that on two occasions OPANAL and AFCONE issued joint communiqués: on the entry into force of the Treaty and on the First Meeting of the States Parties.
- Ms. Fihn informed that she is aware of the joint communique of the heads of OPANAL and AFCONE, issued on the occasion of the First Meeting of the States Parties and welcomed the initiative.
- Ms. Fihn highlighted the importance of the nuclear-weapon-free zones in promoting the universalization of the Treaty and shared the activities that ICAN had been carrying out together with the AFCONE. She also mentioned that ICAN has recently organized an event with the Caribbean states aimed at reaching to the policy-makers from the region.
- Secretary-General agreed on the important role of the nuclear-weapon-free states in the process of achieving the complete adherence to the Treaty and offered to Ms. Fihn Secretariat's full support in case ICAN plans to organize any events in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. Education for disarmament

- Secretary-General shared the educational activities that the Secretariat had been carrying out, including Internship Programs and courses on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- Secretary-General highlighted the upcoming Summer School for diplomats from the region and invited Ms. Fihn to participate as a panelist at the session on the TPNW, as her participation would enrich the course and the participants could learn a lot from her.

Meeting between the Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini and the Executive Secretary African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), Mr. Messaoud Baaliouamer

20 June 2022

1. Joint initiatives

- Secretary-General thanked the Executive Secretary for his availability and willingness to issue, on behalf of both heads of the organizations, a Joint Communiqué on the occasion of the First Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW.
- Secretary-General proposed to the Executive Secretary to explore other possibilities of joint actions at other international fora, for example the Tenth Review Conference of the NPT.

2. New AFCONE Executive Secretary

- The proposal was well received by the Executive Secretary. Nevertheless, Mr. Baaliouamer informed the Secretary General that since July 2022 new Executive Secretary will take the office.
- Mr. Baaliouamer shared that his successor is Enobot Agboraw, who previously worked with the IAEA.

3. Memorandum of Understanding

- The Secretary General and the Executive Secretary discussed the plan of action for the implementation of the MoU, which the Secretariat sent to AFCONE but had not received any feedback so far.
- The Secretary General shared that the OPANAL Member States wish for the plan of action to be first approved by the Council, before the beginning of its implementation.

- In this regard, since the approval by the OPANAL Council would take time, the Executive Secretary of AFCONE proposed to concentrate on a couple of this year's activities, e.g. NPT RevCon, while continue working on the next year's plan of action to be approved by the Council.

Meeting between the Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini and the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna, and Coordinator of OPANAL in Vienna, Ambassador Luis Javier Campuzano Piña

21 June 2022

1. Introduction

- The Secretary General thanked Ambassador Campuzano for his time and congratulated Mexico for the Vice-presidency of the Conference.
- The Secretary General thanked Ambassador Campuzano and his team for all the help that OPANAL received for this trip.

2. Overview of OPANAL activities

- The Secretary General shared with Ambassador Campuzano the current state of affairs.
- In particular, the Secretary General mentioned the hybrid meetings of the Council that the OPANAL Secretariat has been carrying out recently with the help of Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and informed that soon these meetings will have simultaneous interpretation.
- The Secretary General added that the COVID-19 pandemic and, as a consequence, online meetings, enhanced the participation of the Caribbean Member States who do not have representation in Mexico City but have been able to participate remotely.
- Furthermore, the Secretary General told Ambassador Campuzano about OPANAL's relations with other existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the African counterpart AFCONE last year, as well as the upcoming signature with the Central Asian NWFZ.
- Ambassador Campuzano welcomed the news about the increased participation of the Caribbean Member States in the work of OPANAL and congratulated the Secretary General on the introduction of hybrid meetings.

3. Education for disarmament

- The Secretary General shared with the Ambassador Campuzano the state of preparations for the 8th Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation for diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean, including the preliminary program, number of participants and logistical aspects.
- Ambassador Campuzano took note of the state of preparations for the upcoming Summer School and reiterated Mexico's full support and commitment to the education for disarmament.
- Ambassador Campuzano added that he had received the invitation to speak at one of the panel discussions of the Summer School, nevertheless couldn't yet confirm his availability due to a busy agenda.

4. Women in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation

- Ambassador Campuzano mentioned that education for disarmament and the promotion of equal participation of women in disarmament and non-proliferation processes are one of the main priorities that Mexico promotes in international fora, such as CTBTO and IAEA.
- In this regard, Ambassador Campuzano shared the successful implementation by the IAEA of the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme.
- The Secretary General, in turn, recalled the resolution "Gender, non-proliferation, and disarmament" adopted unanimously for the first time at the XXVII Session of the OPANAL General Conference.
- Ambassador Campuzano expressed his interest in receiving a copy of the Resolution and the Secretary General assured Ambassador Campuzano that he would receive it as soon as possible.

5. Coordination of OPANAL in Vienna

- The Secretary General expressed his gratitude to Mexico for taking over the coordination of the work of OPANAL at the UN headquarter in Vienna.

- Ambassador Campuzano recalled Mexico's historic commitment to nuclear disarmament and underscored that it is Mexico's honor to represent and promote OPANAL in the UN headquarter in Vienna.
- The Secretary General listed some of the OPANAL activities with which the coordination in Vienna usually assists OPANAL.
- In this regard, the Secretary General mentioned the promotion of the Declaration of the OPANAL Member States on the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September) and Communiqué of the OPANAL Member States on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco (14 February), among the permanent missions in Vienna.
- Furthermore, the Secretary General mentioned the upcoming IAEA General Conference where OPANAL is usually represented by its Coordination in Vienna.
- Ambassador Campuzano reaffirmed Mexico's full support to the promotion of the OPANAL activities in the UN headquarter in Vienna and confirmed its availability to represent the Agency at the 66 sessions of the IAEA General Conference.
- The Secretary General thanked Ambassador Campuzano for his availability and informed that the official request, as well as the text of the statement will be sent soon.

Meeting between the Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini and Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan - H.E. Mukhtar Tileuberdi

21 June 2022

1. Welcoming remarks

- The Secretary-General thanked the Minister for accepting the invitation to hold the meeting despite his busy agenda.
- The Deputy Prime Minister thanked the Secretary General for the initiative to hold the meeting and thus strengthen the cooperation between the two NWFZs.

2. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

- The Secretary-General congratulated the Minister on the vice presidency of the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW.
- The Deputy Prime Minister thanked the Secretary General and underlined that due to its tragic history, Kazakhstan sees nuclear disarmament as one of its priorities and had been one of the supporters of the TPNW since the beginning.
- The Secretary-General in turn highlighted the importance that the Treaty represents to Latin America and the Caribbean, due to the historic commitment of the region to complete nuclear disarmament, as well as active participation of the OPANAL and its Member States in the negotiation and adoption of the Treaty.

3. Cooperation between the Central Asian and the Latin American and the Caribbean NWFZ's

- The Secretary-General shared with the Minister Tileuberdi that strengthening of the cooperation between all the nuclear-weapon-free zone is his priority. In this regard, the Secretary General mentioned that it is his intention to create a net of the Memoranda of Understanding with each of the existing NWFZ's and consequently with Mongolia.

- The Deputy Prime Minister thanked the Secretary General for the initiative and informed that the text of the counterproposal had been almost agreed between the Member States of the Central Asian NWFZ (CANWFZ), and that it will be soon sent to the OPANAL Secretariat by Kirgizstan, in its capacity of a Coordinator of the CANWFZ.

4. Institutionalization of the CANFWZ

- The Deputy Prime Minister added that Central Asia, being the youngest NWFZ, has a lot to learn from the oldest NWFZ, which is Latin America and the Caribbean. In this regard, Minister Tileuberdi mentioned the question of institutionalization of the CANWFZ and willingness of its Member States to hear about the experience of OPANAL in this regard and learn the best practices from the OPANAL Secretariat.
- The Secretary General in response assured the Deputy Prime Minister that the CANWFZ can count on the OPANAL Secretariat's support with this issue.

5. Additional Protocols to the treaties establishing CANFWZ and LACNWFZ

- The Secretary General and Minister Tileuberdi exchanged the information regarding the state of the Additional Protocols to the two treaties establishing the respective NWFZ's and agreed to join their efforts in order to provide the states belonging to the NWFZ's with the appropriate negative security assurances. Both also acknowledged the difficult current geopolitical situation.

6. The Fourth Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia

- The Secretary General and Minister Tileuberdi shared with each other their concern regarding the postponement of the Fourth Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, as well as Mongolia's resignation from the role of Coordinator of the Conference. In this regard, the Deputy Prime Minister recalled that the last time the representatives of the NWFZ's met was in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan in 2019.

Meeting between the Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini and the Executive Director of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non- Proliferation, Ms. Elena Sokova

22 June 2022

1. Introduction

- The Secretary-General thanked Ms. Sokova for her time to hold the meeting
- Ms. Sokova congratulated the Secretary-General on the joint communiqué with the Executive Secretary of AFCONE and highlighted that in the current geopolitical context, it is more important than ever when the heads of the organizations in charge of two NWFZ's come together to deliver their common position regarding the increasing nuclear threat.

2. Education for Disarmament

- The Secretary-General shared some of the activities that OPANAL carries out in the field of education, such as the Internship Program at the OPANAL Secretariat, OPANAL Course on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and Summer School for diplomats from the region organized by Mexico, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and OPANAL.
- Regarding the latter, the Secretary-General shared that it is of knowledge of the Secretariat that Ms. Sokova will be travelling to Mexico City to give several lectures to the participants of the Summer School. He thanked Ms. Sokova for accepting that invitation and highlighted the importance that this strategic partnership with the CNS represents for the Agency.
- Ms. Sokova congratulated the Secretary-General on the successful implementation of the educational programs and regarding the OPANAL Course on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation added that, in case needed, VCDNP and CNS experts would be glad to offer their help on delivering lectures on the topics of the area of their expertise.

- In turn, Ms. Sokova shared with the Secretary-General the latest information regarding the VCDNP educational programs, such as the Course for diplomats in Vienna, paid Internship Program, and the recent launch of the Mentorship Program for women.
- Ms. Sokova added that at the VCDNP and CNS they take seriously the gender issue and at each of their projects intend to have gender parity not only among the participants but also among the lecturers.

2. Resolution on the Comprehensive Study of the NWFZs

- The Secretary-General shared with Ms. Sokova that OPANAL Member States are working on the resolution on the new Comprehensive Study of NWFZ's, to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly next year.
- Ms. Sokova congratulated the Secretary-General on the initiative and offered the support of the VCDNP experts, in case the Working Group of independent experts is convened.

Meeting between the Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi

24 June 2022

1. Introduction

- The Secretary-General thanked Director General for his time to hold the meeting despite his busy agenda. He also thanked Director General Grossi for his constant attention to OPANAL and the Treaty of Tlatelolco, as was the case of the commemoration of the 54th anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in 2021, held virtually, and to which the Ambassador Grossi sent a prerecorded message.
- The Secretary-General underlined the importance of cooperation between the IAEA and OPANAL in terms of verification of compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco by its States Parties, which had proven to be crucial for the preservation of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Besides, the Secretary-General congratulated Director General Grossi on new Member States of the IAEA (Tonga, Saint Kitts and Nevis).
- The Director General thanked Secretary-General for his visit and congratulated OPANAL on its participation in the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

2. First Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW

- The Director General and the Secretary-General exchanged their views on the outcome of the First Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW.
- The Secretary-General shared that it was the will of the Member States that OPANAL was represented at the conference and recalled their role in the negotiation and adoption of the Treaty. He expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the conference and highlighted the importance of the participation as observers of some of the NATO countries, although some of them expressed an open criticism to the Treaty.

- The Director General shared that due to the varying positions of the IAEA Member States concerning the Treaty, it was not possible for the Agency to participate as an observer in the conference.

2. 66th Session of the IAEA General Conference

- The Secretary-General informed that the Secretariat, as every year, had received the invitation to participate as observer in the 66th Session of the IAEA General Conference. In this regard, the Director General expressed his hope to see the Secretary-General at the Conference.
- The Secretary General lamented to inform that due to a limited budget of the Agency, it will most probably not be possible for him to participate. Nevertheless, he added that the Secretariat had been in touch with the Permanent Mission of Mexico regarding its participation in the Conference in representation of OPANAL, in its capacity of Coordinator of OPANAL in Vienna.

3. Education for disarmament and non-proliferation

- The Secretary-General shared with Director General Grossi some of the activities that OPANAL carries out in the field of education, such as the two modalities of the Internship Program at the OPANAL Secretariat, OPANAL Course on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and the upcoming Summer School for diplomats from the region, in which the Director General is expected to address the participants.
- The Director General thanked the Secretary-General for the kind invitation to address the participants of the course and highlighted the importance of Education for disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, he recalled the IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme that aims to help increase the number of women in the nuclear field.

4. IAEA-OPANAL Cooperation

- The Secretary-General recalled the existing Cooperation Agreement between the two agencies and expressed his intention to strengthen the cooperation by joining the efforts in order to achieve common goals.
- In this regard, the Secretary-General offered his and the Secretariat's good offices to help the IAEA to achieve that some countries from the region, mainly Caribbean countries, adopt the revised version of the Small Quantity Protocols (SQPs).
- The Director General welcomed the proposal and added that the IAEA officer in charge of the issue would get in touch with the Secretariat and explore the possible areas of cooperation in this regard.
- The Director General further mentioned that if the two agencies wish to join their efforts with regards to Caribbean Member States, the IAEA could send its expert to the Caribbean to talk about SQPs at an event that could be jointly organized by the OPANAL and IAEA.
- The Secretary-General welcomed the idea, and the heads of the two agencies agreed that their respective officers will keep in touch regarding this joint project.

Annex

**Statement by the Secretary General of OPANAL during the general debate of the
First Meeting of States Party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
(TPNW)**



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

Secretariat

21

June

2022

Inf.19/2022

Original:English

**First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
(TPNW)**

**Statement by Ambassador Flavio Roberto Bonzanini,
Secretary-General of OPANAL**

21 June 2022

Vienna, Austria

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

In my capacity as Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, I am pleased to convey warm congratulations to you, Ambassador Kmentt, for your election to conduct the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

I am certain that under your leadership, this Meeting will be able to take all relevant decisions regarding the establishment of the procedural and institutional framework of the Treaty, as well as to set the path towards its effective operation. You can count on the full support and cooperation of OPANAL for your work ahead.

Mr. President,

The forecasts in the increase in the size of nuclear arsenals and their continued modernization, as it was estimated in the last report on world nuclear forces by SIPRI, is a matter of deep concern for the international community and the Member States of OPANAL are not the exception. This has been reflected in several joint positionings of the region, particularly, in the Declarations to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Moreover, the current geopolitical scenario is, to say the least, alarming and worrisome. The potential use and threat of use of nuclear weapons should be condemned, as a matter of principle, in the most serious terms by the entire international community. Thus, the explicit and reiterated threats of use of nuclear weapons by one nuclear armed state are unacceptable, as it should be to any nuclear armed state or military coalition relying on nuclear deterrence.

The First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW provides those States committed to support the prohibition norm on nuclear weapons not only with a relevant platform to express their concerns about the nuclear risk, but also with another venue to take joint actions and work on effective measures on nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

The entry into force of the TPNW, on 22 January 2021, allowed the Treaty to join the path towards the total elimination of those weapons of mass destruction, in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner and within clearly established time frames, that have marked the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the NPT. Our region has been critical and has spearheaded these efforts. Of the current 61 States Parties of the TPNW, 24 are also parties

to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which demonstrates the compatibility of these Treaties as fundamental means in our joint quest for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

In particular, the experience of OPANAL, whose operation has continued uninterrupted for more than five decades, is of special relevance for the TPNW. One of the lessons learned is that international treaties are what States Parties make of them. For instance, the Treaty of Tlatelolco evolved and was further tailored -through a series of amendments to respond to the needs and challenges of the States Parties to the Treaty.

Today, the States parties to the TPNW will have the opportunity to make important decisions for its future functioning. For this reason, I would like to underline the importance of considering this new international regime as a living entity that will further evolve, in order to respond to future challenges, rather than a static entity.

Mr. President,

Latin America and the Caribbean, true to their tradition of respect for International Law, sought security through an unprecedented treaty, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, that has served as an inspiration to four other regions. Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and Mongolia sum 115 States. We believe it is possible to eliminate the permanent threat posed by nuclear weapons.

Moreover, we are present here today to contribute from our experience and support the logical convergence between Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and the TPNW.

We also believe that, with the universalization and effective implementation of another landmark treaty: the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we will be on the right path towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons through the establishment of a universal nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Thank you, Mr. President,