



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

Secretariat

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Report of the sixth edition of the OPANAL Course on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

Background information

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 non-proliferation, addressing the danger posed by nuclear weapons and joining the fight for its elimination.

In the period from 2017 to 2019 - prior to the COVID-19 pandemic -, four editions of the Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons had been carried out. 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. The third course was held from May 13 to 17, 2019, at the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the fourth course was held from September 24 to 27, 2019, at the Nicaraguan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2020 and 2021, the OPANAL Course on disarmament and non-proliferation was not held due to the health contingency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During 2022, once global health conditions allowed it, the Agency resumed this program as part of its Disarmament Education activities, with the fifth edition taking place from November 8 to 10 at the Academy of Diplomacy "Doctor Jorge García Granados" located in Guatemala City and in line with the Resolution CG/Res.04/2021 adopted by the XXVII Session of the General Conference of OPANAL.

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

On March 22, 2023, the Embassy of the Republic of Guatemala in Mexico, in line with Resolution CG/E/Res.01/2022 adopted by the XXVII Special Session of the General Conference of OPANAL and through note 366/EMX /N3/2023, expressed its interest in once again hosting the OPANAL Course, through the "Antonio José de Irisarri" Diplomatic Academy. After having carried out informal consultations with the aforementioned Diplomatic Academy, the OPANAL Secretariat responded to the request with note S-272/2023 of April 4, 2023, informing to the Embassy of Guatemala the dates of the Course.

In this respect, from July 24 to 26, 2023, the "Antonio José de Irisarri" Diplomatic Academy of the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Affairs served as the venue for the Sixth Edition of the OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in an in-person format. In order to contribute to the training of personnel around key issues, the course delved into the following topics related to international peace and security: the origin of nuclear weapons, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nuclear-weapon-free zones, international humanitarian law, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and gender and intersectionality in nuclear weapons.

Throughout three days, the OPANAL Course was attended by a total of 24 officials and diplomatic corps from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of National Defense, Rafael Landívar University, National Institute for Strategic Security Studies, and the Diplomatic Academy¹. Ambassador Mónica Eunice Escobar García, Deputy Director General for Multilateral and Economic Relations; and the Secretary General of OPANAL, Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini (through a video message), welcomed the Course participants during the opening ceremony.

¹ See the list of participants of the OPANAL Course on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Annex I

The course consisted of a total of ten classes and was facilitated by two OPANAL Officers². For the first time, one of the classes on the agenda was given by the International Committee of the Red Cross, related to International Humanitarian Law and the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

At the end of each day, the participants had the opportunity to take part in an interactive quiz that consisted of questions on the topics learned. The course materials, including the presentations and the bibliography for each class, were shared with the participants³. At the end of the course, a Closing Ceremony took place, with the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Mario Adolfo Búcaro Flores, and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Roberto Palma Urzúa, who delivered the diplomas to the participants. An opinion and feedback form was provided to all the participants to find opportunities and improvement areas around the Course⁴.

² See the Program of the Course in the Annex II

³ See the Bibliography of the Course in the Annex III

⁴ See the participant's feedback in the Annex IV

Annex I

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

Number	Name	
1	Silvia Nohemy Carrera Moreno	
2	Gerhard Didier Rodriguez Arenales	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3	Lynsay Hernández de Muñoz	
4	Romeo Manuel Escobar Mejía	
5	Julia del Carmen Guzmán Osorio	
6	Christopher Daniel Herrera Sosa	
7	Alejandro Isaac Gálvez Peñate	
8	María Alejandra Oliva Orellana	
9	Juan José Cacoj Ortiz	
10	José Manuel Betancourt Rodriguez	Ministry of the Interior
11	Vivia Mishan Chicas Lázaro	
12	Claudia Victoria García García	National Institute for Strategic Security Studies (INEES)
13	Luis Enrique Fuentes López	
14	Nathan Estuardo Santay Campos	
15	Sandra Izabel Zapeta Pérez	
16	Eduard Alberto Schoenbeck Juárez	
17	Lilian Roxana Ramírez Sarti	
18	Rodrigo Andres Avila Portillo	Rafael Landivar University
19	Capitan Primero de Ingenieros, Willi Ernesto Mazariegos	Ministry of National Defense
20	Capitan Primero de Ingenieros, René Alexander Escobar Hernandez	
21	Carlos Guillermo Norman González	
22	Jorge Eduardo de León Gómez	Diplomatic Academy
23	Juan José Godoy Argueta	
24	Ana Gabriela Pérez Mendizabal	

Annex II

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

Day 1: Monday, July 24, 2023

09:00	Opening Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H. E. Ms. Mónica Eunice Escobar García, Deputy Director General of Multilateral and Economic Relations • H.E. Mr. Flávio Roberto Bonzanini, Secretary-General of OPANAL (video message) • Ms. Natalia Zhurina, OPANAL Research and Education Officer; Mr. Alain Ponce Blancas, OPANAL Research and Communication Officer
09:30	Lecture 1: Origin of nuclear weapons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Origin of nuclear weapons • World War II - Manhattan Project - Hiroshima and Nagasaki - Arms race • Cold War • Proliferation of nuclear weapons
11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:30	Class 2: Treaty of Tlatelolco: origin, international context, relevance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate background • Structure of the Treaty of Tlatelolco • Operation of the Treaty • Interpretative declarations made by the States Parties to the Additional Protocols • OPANAL, its main bodies and its current challenges • Recent activities of Member States
13:00	LUNCH
14:00	Class 3: Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Nuclear non-proliferation regime. Challenges of proliferation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear non-proliferation regime • Negotiation • Structure • Implementation • Three pillars • Review Conferences • Current challenges

Day 2: Tuesday, July 25, 2023

09:00	<p>Lecture 4: Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ): history, existing and future zones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview – concept – background • Existing instruments: Antarctica, Outer Space, Seabed, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa, Central Asia, Mongolia. • NWFZ characteristics • NWFZ conferences • Establishment of future NWFZ
10:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:00	<p>Class 5: International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons <i>Class taught by the International Committee of the Red Cross</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law • Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons • Current status of the legality of the use of nuclear weapons in the context of armed conflicts
12:30	LUNCH
13:30	<p>Lecture 6: Multilateral Efforts to Ban Nuclear Weapons, Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPAN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background: humanitarian initiative • Negotiation of the TPAN • Role of OPANAL Member States in the negotiation, adoption and entry into force of the TPAN • Status of signatures and ratifications • First Meeting of the States Parties • Current challenges
Day 3: Wednesday, July 26, 2023	
09:00	<p>Lecture 7: History of nuclear tests, provisions, verification, and status of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of nuclear tests • Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its background (CTBT) • Monitoring system • Preparatory Commission for the Organization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBTO) • Current and future challenges of the Treaty
10:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:00	<p>Class 8: Peaceful uses of nuclear energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atoms for peace • International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) • Safeguards • Nuclear safety • Role of the IAEA in the preservation of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean

12:30	LUNCH
13:30	Lecture 9: Gender and intersectionality in nuclear weapons <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feminist Perspectives for Disarmament• Inclusion and current status in international forums and instruments• The Resolution of the Member States of OPANAL "Gender, non-proliferation and disarmament" (CG/Res.05/2021)• Prospective reflections
15:00	Class 10: Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interactive exercise• Course Evaluation
16:00	Closing ceremony and delivery of certificates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Mario Adolfo Búcaro Flores, Minister of Foreign Affairs• H.E. Mr. Roberto Palma Urzúa, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs• Ms. Natalia Zhurina, OPANAL Research and Education Officer; Mr. Alain Ponce Blancas, OPANAL Research and Communication Officer

Annex III

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

Lecture 1: Origin of nuclear weapons

1. Nuclear Weapons – Office for Disarmament Affairs <https://www.un.org/disarmament/es/adm/nuclear-weapons/>
2. Nuclear Weapons – International Committee of the Red Cross <https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/weapons/nuclear-weapons>
3. Nuclear Weapons – Outrider <https://outrider.org/nuclear-weapons>

Lecture 2: Tlatelolco Treaty: origin, International context, validity

1. Text of the Treaty of Tlatelolco - <https://www.opanal.org/en/text-of-the-treaty-of-tlatelolco/>
2. Declaration of the Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean OPANAL - International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons - https://www.opanal.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Inf_30_2022Rev.4_eng.-Dec.26sept.2022-1.pdf
3. The Treaty of Tlatelolco: as valid as 50 years ago - <https://www.revistas.unam.mx/index.php/rri/article/view/63237>

Lecture 3: Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Non-proliferation regime. Proliferation challenges

1. Text of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) - https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/infcircs/1970/infcirc140_sp.pdf
2. NPT Briefing book <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/csss/research/non-proliferation/nuclear-non-proliferation>
3. Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - Office for Disarmament Affairs <https://www.un.org/es/conferences/npt2020>

Lecture 4: Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ): history, existing and future zones

1. Treaty of Rarotonga: <https://treaties.unoda.org/t/rarotonga>
2. Bangkok Treaty: <https://treaties.unoda.org/t/bangkok>
3. Treaty of Pelindaba: <https://treaties.unoda.org/t/pelindaba>
4. Central Asia Treaty: <https://treaties.unoda.org/t/canwfz>

Lecture 5: International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons

1. International Committee of the Red Cross, International Humanitarian Law. Answers to your questions, Geneva, Switzerland, July 2015, <https://shop.icrc.org/international-humanitarian-law-answers-to-your-questions-pdf-en.html> (pp. 4 – 41).
2. Kurzgesagt, What would happen if we nuked a city? - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iPH-br_eJQ (Spanish subtitles available)
3. ICRC, A Story of the Atomic Bomb. Ban Nuclear Weapons - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB-molQ8abM&list=PLB9nHe5nhQnlSXxPhgHZaKTGgpczqMqND> (Spanish subtitles available)
4. ICRC, Nils Melzer, International Humanitarian Law. A General Introduction, Geneva, Switzerland, March 2019, <https://shop.icrc.org/international-humanitarian-law-a-comprehensive-introduction-print-fr.html> (Additional reference material. Not required for the course)

Lecture 6: Multilateral efforts to ban nuclear weapons, Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

1. Text of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) - https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2017/07/20170707%2003-42%20PM/Ch_XXVI_9.pdf (page 61)
2. First Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW: <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/nuclear-weapon-ban/1msp>
3. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons From the Origins to the First Meeting of States Parties - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoBeeNO382o>

Lecture 7: History of nuclear tests, provisions, verification and status of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

1. Text of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) - https://www.ctbto.org/sites/default/files/Documents/treaty_text_Spanish.pdf
2. A Time-Lapse Map of Every Nuclear Explosion Since 1945 by Isao Hashimoto - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLCF7vPanrY>
3. Interactive website on the impact of nuclear tests <https://www.nucleartestimpacts.org/>

Lecture 8: Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

1. Nuclear energy, uses and challenges – UNAM <https://ciencia.unam.mx/leer/1268/energia-nuclear-usos-y-desafios->
2. Atomic power: potential to save lives - <https://www.un.org/es/chronicle/article/la-energia-atmica-potencial-para-salvar-vidas>
3. Seven examples of nuclear technology improving food and agriculture - <https://www.fao.org/zhc/detail-events/en/c/1039633/>

Lecture 9: Gender and intersectionality in nuclear weapons

1. Resolution of the Member States of OPANAL "Gender, non-proliferation and disarmament" (CG/E/Res.13/2022) https://www.opanal.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/CG_E_Res_13_2022_Gender-non-proliferation-and-disarmament.docx.pdf
2. The role of women in nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and nuclear security <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbSPja1dyj8>
3. Gender and Intersectionality Around Nuclear Weapons <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnKCps7wflg&t=82s>

Annex IV

Feedback received from the participants of the OPANAL Course on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

	1.- How satisfied are you with the course?	2.- How relevant and useful was the course to your work?	3.- How did you like the logistics, duration of the course and number of classes?	4.- What could be improved?	5.- Any additional comments about the sessions or the general agenda?
1	Very satisfied	Very relevant	Excellent	Pins for everyone	Very good course
2	Fairly good	Very relevant	More days of courses were needed	More interactive activities	Everything was fine
3	Satisfied	Quite relevant	Good	The diction of the speakers.	More videos
4	Excelent	Very relevant. It is part of expanding knowledge	Very good	Everything was fine	Continue working like that
5	Excelent	Very relevant, especially for internationalists, very helpful.	Excellent all the logistics	Everything was excellent	I would like to participate as an intern
6	100 %	Relevant and dynamic. It is useful for diplomatic work	Excellent. Dynamic academy, with substantive content	Everything was fine	Brilliant exhibitors.
7	Very satisfied	Regular, not my area of application	Excellent	Tone of voice, one more dynamic activity in the middle of the long class	Very interesting course and excellent presentation exhibitors
8	Very satisfied. Both Natalia and Alain are excellent at what they do, and they shared a lot of knowledge with us! All my admiration for them.	Very relevant since I lead the first commission at the UN from the direction of multilateral politics	Very good. I think it could be expanded a little more to discuss more deeply some topics but in general I think it's very good.	It would be good to send some bibliography in advance to be able to have doubts prepared before the course.	I think the gender issue was a bit ambiguous and could be deepened further and give more concrete ideas on how to involve women.
9	Very satisfied	Indispensable	Excellent duration and timing	It would be nice if all dissertations were in an in-person format.	Very good topics, they are little known topics, but they are essential for decision makers at different levels of application.
10	9	9	Fine, just make it clear on the invitation that	The last class lacked a better	Interesting topics

			lunch is at your discretion.	development of the impact, progress, and importance in the gender issue	
11	Very satisfied	Very relevant	Fine	I think it would be good to have fewer hours and more days, due to the workload of the institutions	It would be interesting to have a practical part or group work
12	Very satisfied	For knowledge and replication, it is useful. I can replicate the information for future courses at the National Institute for Strategic Security Studies	Excellent	Revitalize the format of the bibliography by being able to receive it digitally to share it and study.	None
13	Very satisfied. I learned a lot about the subject.	Very relevant and useful.	Very well distributed time and logistics designed correctly.	More audiovisual components such as illustrative videos of the effect of Nuclear Weapons	Everything was fine
14	Very satisfied	Not much, but the topic is important	Excellent	Everything was fine	None
15	Very satisfied	Very relevant	Good logistics, the duration was adequate, and I think the duration was fine, however I think there are topics during the first days that could be taught in less time.	More dynamic classes, not a magisterial format.	Congratulations, thank you for sharing your knowledge, a very interesting and vitally important topic to safeguard the well-being of humanity.
16	Very satisfied	Very interesting and very relevant in the scope of my work	Very good logistics in general	Material	Thanks for the knowledge imparted.
17	Very satisfied, very good presentations	Very relevant and very useful, in the sense that sometimes you lose interest in these issues due to the situation in the country, but with this course we realize the importance. In addition, due to my work, I must have knowledge of this subject	Good	Everything was fine	Very good presentations
18	Excellent content, I feel very grateful to be able to attend	Very important for the type of information that is presented, because it frames history and relevant data for the current context of the countries.	Excellent logistics and very good time, excellent content	Nos gustaría que a todos nos dieran material de acuerdos y pines	The content is very interesting, I would like to know more statistical data

19	Very good, it has topics of considerable interest to all of us who participated.	I work as an explosives technician and for me it is actually very beneficial to know the nuclear weapons disarmament process, in addition to knowing the different issues that were developed and knowing the context of the current disarmament process.	I consider that a Q&A session is needed to clarify doubts	Proporcionar el tratado del Tlatelolco a todo el personal	All good until the last day...
20	Very satisfied	Very important, especially because of the follow-up given to the issue from the Foreign Ministry and other Guatemalan institutions.	Excellent. Important topics were covered in a timely manner	Ampliación en el tema de genero	I found everything excellent.
21	Very satisfied. The level of the speakers and their expertise on all the topics discussed was optimal.	Quite useful and full of enriching details on my professional life as a diplomat and internationalist. It contributed to my professional growth.	Good duration. In terms of logistics, it would have been quite proper to bring kids for all the course participants.	Nada, creo todo fue de buena calidad.	Everything was excellent!!
22	Very satisfied	Very good and very useful to learn to make yourself and other people aware of the damage and effects that arise from nuclear weapons	Very good	La implantación de texto de los temas para llevar la secuencia de los mismos	A little more information about the operational activities carried out by OPANAL members or staff