



13 December 2021

Inf.48/2021
Original English

**Contribution of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America
and the Caribbean
to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs YearBook 2021**

The Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean ([OPANAL](#)), established by article 7 of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), presents herewith its contribution to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs Yearbook 2021.

1) Declarations of Member States

On 26 September 2021, the Member States of OPANAL issued a [declaration](#) to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Among other relevant aspects, it refers to their concern about the erosion of the treaty-based disarmament architecture; the responsibility of all States Parties for the full implementation of the NPT, particularly on article VI; the determination to work for the success of the X NPT Review Conference; the establishment of new Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones; and the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

On 14 February 2021, the Member States of OPANAL issued a [communiqué](#) to commemorate the 54th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. It highlights the contribution of the Treaty as a political, legal and institutional reference for the creation of other nuclear-weapon-free zones; that denuclearized zones do not constitute an end in themselves, but rather a highly relevant intermediate step towards nuclear disarmament; and their commitment to continue to promote the dialogue and cooperation among Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.

2) XXVII General Conference of OPANAL

The XXVII Session of the [General Conference](#) was held on 30 September 2021. The Secretary-General, Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini, was reelected for another term. The General Conference introduced, for the first time, the relationship between gender, non-proliferation and disarmament by adopting a [resolution](#) on this matter. It also adopted a [resolution](#) aimed to support future interns effort with a symbolic remuneration.

3) 76th UN General Assembly - First Committee

The Secretary-General of OPANAL, Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini, delivered a statement during the [general debate](#) of the First Committee, and participated in the [event](#) “Discussions and exchanges with independent experts and other high-level officials”.

4) Cooperation with other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones

Africa: On 22 January 2021, the Secretary-General of OPANAL and the Executive Secretary of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) issued a joint [communiqué](#) on the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Similarly, on 1 December 2021, they issued a joint [communiqué](#) on the occasion of the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. The Secretary-General of OPANAL participated in the commemoration event of the 25th anniversary of the Treaty of Pelindaba, on 12 April 2021; the 12th anniversary of its entry into force, on 15 July 2021; and the 5th Conference of States Parties of the Treaty, on 21 October 2021. Correspondingly, the Executive Secretary participated in the 54th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the XXVII General Conference of OPANAL.

Central Asia: A representative from Kazakhstan participated in the XXVII General Conference of OPANAL on behalf of the Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone. Also, both Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones are currently under negotiations to formalize the cooperation between the zones.

South Pacific: The Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Mr. Henry Puna, participated in the XXVII General Conference of OPANAL. The Secretary-General of OPANAL held a bilateral meeting with Secretary-General Puna, on 27 September 2021, and discussed the strengthening of future cooperation under the 2003 Cooperation Agreement between both zones.

South East Asia: A representative from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat participated in the XXVII General Conference of OPANAL. The Secretary-General of OPANAL held a bilateral meeting with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Mr. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, on 18 November 2021, in order to explore areas of future cooperation.

5) Disarmament and non-proliferation education

For the seventh time, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Matías Romero Institute, OPANAL, and the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies (CNS) of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS), organized the [Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation](#) which took place from 28 June to 9 July 2021, in a virtual modality. It was attended by 37 diplomats and officials from 17 different countries.