



**AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**XXII Regular Sessions of the General Conference
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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
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INTRODUCTION

The Secretary General presents her Annual Activity Report before Member States at the XXII Regular Sessions of the General Conference, according to Article 11, section 4 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco; beginning on 18 November 2010 and ending on 16 November 2011.

In 2010 Annual Activity Report to the General Conference, the Secretary General highlighted the efforts made over the year, the many stages that OPANAL subsidiary bodies had to go through, from a financial crisis to the consolidation of a substantive agenda; at the same time as the redesign of the working method and the rationalization of resources. The aim was to maximize the available resources and direct them into the improvement of the Zone; and strengthen the scope of the agency in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation process.

In this respect, achievements in 2010 built a strong platform for tasks in 2011, on both levels; regionally, with Member States and States Signatories to Additional Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, regarding negative security assurances. Internationally, progress has been made in relation to States Parties and Signatories to Treaties to other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) and the renewal and/or strengthening of the relation with other organizations; such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), the Conference on Disarmament and the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Moreover, the relationship with NGOs and academic sectors has been orchestrated at an international level. Coordination offices in New York, Geneva, Vienna and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), created in 2010, have played a major role in supporting the efforts of OPANAL before international organizations; as well as the preparations for GRULAC meetings, particularly in New York where 3 meetings were held between May 2010 and October 2011. All these achievements and

challenges have taken place in a growing and renewed international context as regards the issue of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

The task to build a Zone's new vision for the future has started this term, a vision for the short and long-term future, together with the gradual identification of mechanisms which allow the development of this purpose or aspiration. Precisely, this General Conference is held in the middle of such process. The International Seminar "The Experience of the NWFZ in Latin America and the Caribbean and the perspective towards 2015 and beyond" to be held 14-15 February 2012, within the framework of the Commemoration of the 45th Anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, will be an opportunity to discuss and systematize the Zone's vision for the future. The Declaration of States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved in September 2011 and presented as an official document to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly draws together 21 elements of this vision.

Finally, also in this period, the Secretary General and the Council have enhanced a sense of origin of the Zone through two different paths: the first one, in which the Agency's efforts are directed to building peace through a nuclear-weapon-free world; and the second one, in which Member States were more aware and empowered of the political heritage, and the responsibility represented by the Zone from the moment they freely agreed to create it under the Treaty of Tlatelolco in 1967.

I. CONSOLIDATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. This is one of the most relevant topics regarding the objectives of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, involving various matters summarized in this section and the two following sections. Before approaching these matters, it is necessary to make reference to some of the background aspects of the establishment of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean (also called NWFZ or the Zone) and its importance to the Region.
2. The NWFZ creation constitutes a contribution towards regional and global peace and security; having been acknowledged, since its origin, by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution 1911 – 27 November 1963), when the Presidents of Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico signed the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of Latin America in April 1963, in which they committed themselves to signing a multilateral Latin American agreement under this purpose. The acknowledgement of this contribution has been reiterated by the international

community through numerous resolutions, including the 2010 General Assembly through Resolution A/RES/65/40.

3. It is necessary to recall the political context of the 1960s in order to dimension the relevance of this decision and its consequential achievement. Time in which the nuclear arms race and the doctrines of deterrence (mutually assured destruction) were the base for security policies of Great Powers. In this context, the horror of a new war, nuclear war this time, was dominating; a military confrontation between Great Powers which took place in regional settings. Latin America was the location for such a fear and threat during the called Missile Crisis at the Bay of Pigs, Cuba.
4. The signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in 1967 created the first NWFZ in the world, in a highly populated area and, in 1969, its entry into force gave birth to the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), agency responsible for ensuring compliance with the Treaty. Thirty-five year passed in order for the 33 Member States to fully incorporate this Treaty. To that end, it was necessary the building of trust among Parties, the transparency of the negotiations and the flexibility of the long and complex process that achieved the incorporation of the last State in 2002. Regarding the flexibility of the process, it was necessary to make three amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco between 1990 and 1992; basically, to enable the insertion of newly Sovereign Caribbean States which emerged during the decolonization period and, to adjust the Control System in order for Argentina and Brazil to become full Parties, even though they signed the Treaty in 1967. Concerning the transparency, the participation of Observer States was notorious and extensive from the beginning of the discussions to agree the Treaty text.
5. In this complex process of consolidation of the Zone, the signing and ratification of Additional Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco from Signatory States was a crucial act for the efficacy of the military denuclearization regime in the Region. France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and China signed and ratified Additional Protocol II between 1967 and 1979. The Netherlands, the United States, the United Kingdom and France signed and ratified Additional Protocol I between 1967 and 1992, being France the last one to do so. Until today, the NWFZ in Latin America and the Caribbean is the only one of all five existing Zones in the world to have its Protocols signed and ratified by Signatory States to the military denuclearization regime of the Zone.

6. We must continue to consolidate and improve the Zone; a heritage of the Region which gave the world inspiration and hope that it was possible to reach multilateral agreements through States' sovereign will to declare nuclear-weapon-free territories. The consolidation and improvement of the NWFZ has been one of the most important challenges for OPANAL and States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Although the Zone is consolidated regarding the full integration of States Parties to the Treaty and the ratification of both Protocols from all Signatory States, there are still aspects to overcome in order to continue with its improvement, even though they have not limited the efficacy of its Control System, it is necessary to move forward to its completion and/or commitment. The most significant aspects related to this challenge are the following:
 7. The lack of compliance by States Parties with the signing and/or ratification of Amendments I, II and III to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and, with the signing and/or ratification of the Convention on Prerogatives and Immunities. In the attached Chart (Doc. SG.02.2011), showing the Status of Compliance with Obligations, each State can identify its degree of compliance with these four legal instruments related to the improvement of the Zone. The Secretary General avails herself of this opportunity to observe that although this issue was addressed at last year's Conference no improvement was made in spite of notes sent reiterating this issue. Except for the Bahamas, State which this year has notified its interest in ratifying, the Amendments to the Treaty. In this respect, the Secretariat has sought to approach CARICOM Members establishing direct communication with Foreign Affairs Ministers' offices seeking simultaneous translation, from Spanish to English, of most working documents and through the Coordination Office to these States. This has made little but significant progress in other related topics: Antigua and Barbuda complied with Article 14 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which the country had not done since 1995; Dominica did it for the first time in 2010, Suriname handed over its Media contact list and, Guyana made a fee payment for the first time last year.
 8. The proposal of the Secretary General is to delegate to the Council together with the Secretariat General the detailed analysis of this issue and the proposal of more efficient mechanisms in order to make progress on this matter, considering the existence of important challenges reflecting the following: Amendment I has neither been signed by 7 States nor ratified by 10 States; Amendment II has neither been signed by 9 States nor ratified by 15 States; Amendment III has neither been signed by 9 States nor ratified by 11 States. Regarding the Convention on Prerogatives and Immunities, it has neither been signed by 12 States nor ratified by 14 States.

Among all these deficiencies, the fact that 5 States have not yet signed any of these four legal instruments draws special attention (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago). It should also be noted that Saint Lucia is the only State to have never presented the biannual report indicated in Article 14.

II. CONTROL SYSTEM AND SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM

9. The Control System established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco is worth deep reflection. It must be mentioned that the Safeguards System established in the Treaty was originally in the hands of the IAEA through the signing of the agreements under Article 13; same Control System established by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Moreover, through Amendments to Articles 14, 15, 16, 19 and 20, the obligations established under Article 14 owe their allegiance to both agencies and, Article 16 empowers IAEA to run special inspections according to Article 12 and through the safeguards agreements signed by States with this Agency. In Section 2 of previously mentioned Article 16, OPANAL could request IAEA to start inspections according to Article 15. Article 19 empowers OPANAL to sign agreements with IAEA *“as it considers likely to facilitate the efficient operation of the Control System established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco.”*
10. In 1972 a Cooperation Agreement was signed between both agencies, it must be noted that this happened before the adjustment to articles impacted by Amendment III made in 1992. The Secretary General considers convenient to study this Agreement in light of this adjustment with the aim to strengthen the symbiotic relationship with IAEA established under the Treaty, regarding the Control System. The Secretary General has made important approaches to IAEA’s highest levels of authority and is moving forward towards deepening cooperative relations regarding matters contained in the Treaty. The Council would be informed, as well as Member States and this Conference about any progress on this respect.
11. Back to the Control System with respect to OPANAL, States Parties pursuant to Article 14 shall submit biannual reports *“stating that no activity prohibited under this Treaty has occurred in their respective territories.”* The Secretary General observes that not all States are fulfilling this obligation; the most extreme case is presented by four States which have never submitted any reports; Saint Lucia, Belize, Guyana and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Some other States need to reach their obligations; although most States fulfil them.

12. About Article 24, States must notify OPANAL about any international agreement signed concerning matters referred to in the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Nowadays, there are 11 States who have never informed about the signing of international conventions or agreements on these matters; it would be necessary to study if the absence of these reports is the result of not having signed any agreements of this kind. However, the most important aspect of this article is its content, the matters it refers to and their scope. This is still an unanswered question since the beginning of the Treaty, and it would be necessary to analyze Article 24 regarding other related articles in order to determine the kind of international agreements it refers to. There are State reports that contain all kind of Agreements and some others which have many restrictions. In the opinion of the Secretary General, as the Agency does not set forth specific criteria, it is convenient that all States report to OPANAL in full detail, taking into account the nature of the norm that is closely related to the integrity of the NWFZ, and the measures to guarantee non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

III. INTERPRETATIVE DECLARATIONS RELATED TO ARTICLE 3 OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL II

13. The adaptation and/or withdrawal of interpretative declarations made by Signatory States to Additional Protocols during the signing and/or ratification of these instruments is an issue that restarted last year, the General Conference was informed about it. Regarding the United States of America, the Secretary General met again earlier this year with Ambassador Susan F. Burk, Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Non-proliferation, to whom she reiterated the expectation of OPANAL to see the adaptation of those interpretative declarations. Ambassador Burk replied that the modification of those interpretative declarations is related to the progress on the ratification of the Pelindaba and Rarotonga Treaties by the Senate. For more details, please see the following reports presented by the Secretary General (Docs. S/Inf.1043 and S/Inf.1063.)
14. On the other hand, talks with the Russian Federation continued in the same direction as the ones with the United States. During last meeting, 7 October 2011, the Secretary General met Mr. Mikhail I. Ulyanov in New York, Director of the Department for Security Affairs and Disarmament, to whom she delivered a document expressing the position of the Agency and the reasons for the adaptation of Interpretative Declarations that restrict the military denuclearization of the Zone. This document aims at promoting political consultations with

the Russian Federation regarding interpretative declarations made to Additional Protocol II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which are related to assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against any territory within the NWFZ established by the Treaty. The document contains background details, as well as OPANAL reasons to promote such consultations. Mr. Ulyanov observed that in his country this is indeed a political issue; although he noted that progress has been made with other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones which reflect the commitment of his country to States Parties to NWFZs and NPT Parties. He committed himself to assessing the document and replying to OPANAL. We are currently awaiting the opinion of this country regarding this matter. The Secretary General's reports are available for more information (Docs. S/Inf.1043 and S/Inf.1063.)

15. The Secretary General would proceed with OPANAL-USA and OPANAL-Russian Federation talks and restart communications with the United Kingdom and France with the aim to continue with last year's talks. It would be very convenient that Member States included this subject matter in their agendas in order to support the new phase process started by the Secretary General.
16. About issues addressed in sections I, II, and III; a resolution has been presented to the Conference including all those issues with their respective operative section. CG/L.558
17. The following is a list of negotiations made by the Secretary General to promote compliance with obligations from OPANAL Member States: Notes S-18588 and S-18693, on the signing and ratification of Amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the Treaty Status, have been sent to Member States; regarding Article 14, the Secretariat General has sent notes S-18587 and S-18691; regarding Article 24, note S-18692 and, for the Convention on Prerogatives and Immunities of the Agency, note S-18693. On the subject of financial obligations, notes S-18621 and S-18687 were sent as a fee payment reminder.

IV. WORK COORDINATION OFFICES TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN NEW YORK, GENEVA, VIENNA AND CARICOM

18. The work coordination offices of OPANAL to International Organizations have become an instrument to strengthen the agency; they enhance and facilitate the work of the Secretary General. They also improve the communications among Member States and allow the Secretary to fortify relations with International Organizations in New York, Geneva and Vienna. Before the Caribbean Community, it facilitates greater communication concerning the

activities of OPANAL, as well as the development of an awareness system focused on the importance of belonging to the Zone in order to achieve a greater degree of participation, and compliance with obligations by Caribbean States.

19. During 2011, the Work Coordination office of OPANAL in Geneva has been headed by the Federative Republic of Brazil appointing Ambassador Felipe Macedo Soares, approved by the Council at their 255th Session. The Work Coordination office of OPANAL in New York has been headed by the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, appointing Minister Counsellor Federico Perazza during 2011 first half and, by the Republic of Costa Rica appointing Counsellor Maritza Chan during 2011 second half, approved by the Council at their 256th Session. The Work Coordination office of OPANAL before CARICOM has been headed by Jamaica, appointing Counsellor Sheree Chambers, approved by the Council at their 258th Session. After analyzing needs and benefits, it was approved by the Council at their 260th Session to establish a Work Coordination office of OPANAL in Vienna, which has been headed by the Republic of Costa Rica appointing Ambassador Ana Teresa Dengo. The Secretary General thanks States for heading these offices and acknowledges the excellent efforts made in favour of the Agency and the NWFZ.
20. Bearing in mind that the existence of these coordination offices has been a total benefit to the Agency and the Zone's scope; it is a recommendation made by the Council and the Secretariat General to the General Conference through Resolution CG/L.559 to include the Work Coordination office in Vienna. Furthermore, to recall that this responsibility is voluntarily assumed by States following the "Coordination Guidelines of OPANAL in New York and Geneva to International Organizations" (Doc. C/DT/87); which, from now on, would have to change its name including all four coordination offices.

V. OPANAL MEMBER STATES DECLARATION BEFORE MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21. This Declaration was approved in September 2011 and presented by the Secretary General on 11 October at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly First Committee (Doc. A/C.1/66/2). It reflects, in 21 items, the consensus of 33 Member States, showing the inward dynamics of the Zone, in relation to other NWFZs and the global agenda. It also reflects the most advanced positions on nuclear disarmament, including its commitment to contributing towards efforts to achieve a legally-binding instrument aimed to ban nuclear weapons. It also incorporates

the challenges with a vision for the future. Without a doubt, this constitutes one of the most current OPANAL reference documents concerning the work of the Agency and the projection of the NWFZ. Another document, of a different nature but the turning of a page in recent years, is the Address of the Secretary General at the Second Session of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva, 16 June 2010. (Doc. S/Inf.1066)

VI. COMMEMORATIVE EVENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO AND THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR “THE EXPERIENCE OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND THE PERSPECTIVE TOWARDS 2015 AND BEYOND”

22. From mid-year the Council approved the proposal of the Secretary General to host an event in Commemoration of the 45th Anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco on 14-15 February 2012; including the International Seminar on the experience of the NWFZ and the perspective for the future. Preparations are well underway; the Secretary General thanks Council Members for their support and Observers for attending Council sessions, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico for its auspices. The Secretary General would extend invitations to States and the respective Preliminary Programme in the coming days. Mr. Yukiya Amano, IAEA Director General, has already confirmed his participation; as well as Ambassador Sergio Duarte, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. Please find the 1st draft of the Programme joining the Commemorative event of the 45th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the International Seminar.
23. It should be noted that this International Seminar is not only a scheduled activity – 14-15 February 2012, Mexico City – but also a process which started right at the beginning of 2011 with all the systematizing work and the analysis of good practices and lessons learnt in the creation and consolidation of the Zone. This process is embedded in a larger one, which is the reflection upon the final aim of OPANAL efforts, the perspective on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation related-topics, the design of a joint leadership with Member States of other NWFZs with the aim of moving towards a nuclear-weapons-free world, the pertinent collaboration method in the creation processes of new NWFZs, to name a few. The 45th Anniversary Commemoration would go further; it will be an

opportunity for reflection and the possibility to open up this space to other international actors, as Signatory States to Additional Protocols to the Treaty, States Parties and Signatories to Treaties establishing NWFZs, experts, academic staff and NGOs related to these issues.

VII. PEACE AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT EDUCATION

24. In compliance with Resolution CG/Res.479 (XIX-05) approved in Santiago, Chile; which resolves *“To exhort the Member States of OPANAL to implement the recommendations found in UN General Assembly Resolution 59/93 “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.” And also “to continue efforts to disseminate the Treaty of Tlatelolco in the media and academic institutions, promoting educational activities that will contribute to peace, disarmament, and non-proliferation education among the Member States,”* online courses are still available; coordinated by Ambassador Emeritus Miguel Marín Bosch. With the primary aim of offering an overview of nuclear issues, multilateral and regional efforts were reviewed in order to address the threat and proliferation of nuclear weapons; the issue on peaceful uses of nuclear energy was also addressed and the possibility to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons through an international instrument; in particular, the Treaty of Tlatelolco and other agreements establishing NWFZs.
25. A Working Group formed by Member States Representatives enrolled in the online course “Nuclear Issues”- Argentina, Costa Rica and Guatemala- held informal meetings and presented their conclusions to the Council. They also analyzed the course, its objectives and contents and, finally presented several recommendations, most of which were collected by the Council and transmitted to Ambassador Marín Bosch by the Secretariat General. This led to a few changes, starting with the title of the course, from “Nuclear Issues” to “Nuclear Challenge”, the number of pupils, from 15 to 25 and the enclosure of more information about OPANAL and the Treaty of Tlatelolco.
26. The novelty of 2011 continuing into the beginning of 2012 is that this first course will be delivered in English. The concern is that the Agency does not have sufficient funding to continue with these courses, which is why the related reflections are brought to this Conference for consideration. The Secretary General draws attention to the importance of continuing these online courses and yet ensuring that the programme is gradually

synchronized to topics of great interest to the Agency and the NWFZ. She also suggests that a way to fund these courses is by proposing cooperation projects with interested parties in the promotion of nuclear disarmament and a culture of peace.

27. The Secretariat General is currently taking part in an educational project on disarmament promoted by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LIREC), in which a module is dedicated to the Treaty of Tlatelolco; it is expected to achieve the funding to run the course in 2012 second quarter.
28. Along the same lines, OPANAL launched this year an English version of the documentary "Say No To Nuclear Weapons". This effort of the Secretariat General together with the endorsement and support of the Council aim to reach out to a wider public, including Caribbean States, other international organizations and States Parties to other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.

VIII. RELATION WITH OTHER NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES

29. This year the Agency continued communications with States Parties or Signatories to Treaties establishing other NWFZs with the purpose to build a joint leadership aimed to move towards topics of common interest through mutual understanding and the identification of cooperation mechanisms. In 2015, the III Conference of these States will be held and it would be appropriate to go beyond Final Declarations. The Secretary General believes that the preparatory meeting of the XIX NPT Review Conference, to be held in Vienna in the first half of 2012, would be an occasion to move towards this objective as well as the International Seminar of OPANAL; mainly module four of the Preliminary Programme.
30. The Secretariat General has maintained communication with Australia, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Indonesia, Mongolia, Egypt and South Africa. It is expected that it would maintain communication with representatives who will attend the Forum called by IAEA Director General to share experiences of possible relevance to the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

IX. SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL, CCAAP AND THE AGENCY'S BUDGET

31. During 2011, the sessions of the Council were outlined by substantive items of the Agency's agenda. A total of eight sessions were held, with an average attendance of 12 States, including all five Members of the Council. These sessions were dynamic and intense, decisions were made so smoothly and efficiently that enabled the consolidation of the Agency's agenda, as well as the completion of short term actions in spite of limited resources. For more details please refer to the minutes of the respective sessions listed in Annex III of this Report.
32. CCAAP held five sessions, efficacious compliance with its mandates was achieved through them. For more details please refer to the Report of CCAAP President. (Doc. CG/645)
33. Concerning the budget, the Secretary General would only like to draw attention to the financial situation of the Agency, disregarding fee payment, but regarding the fixed annual fee for each country. For this purpose the Secretary General placed before CCAAP and the Council a Memorandum of Financial Year 2012 Budget (Doc. SG01.2011), it has remained the same for the past six years, which is the subject for consideration by Resolution CG/L.564. This same document analyses and justifies the proposal for FY2013 with the objective to make the Conference reflect upon this subject, if possible, to agree on a method to discuss this project over the first half of 2012.

X. PARTICIPATION AT FORUMS AND INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS

34. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru - Invitation to the Seminar "Peace, Security and Development in Latin America" 28 February to 1 March - Lima. The Secretary General participated in the debate on "The Latin American and the Caribbean experience in the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the limitations of expenditures on nuclear armament, and Confidence-building measures." This was a very important opportunity to establish a link with Peruvian authorities, the academic sector and other local organizations. In her intervention, she addressed the issue of the contribution of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the agenda of OPANAL in the current context towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
35. Participation at the Seminar on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation hosted by the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Organization of American States and the Inter-

American Defense College. This event was held at the Organization of American States Headquarters in Washington D.C. 28-30 March. During her intervention the Secretary General stressed that the subject of moving towards total and global nuclear disarmament is a key item on the Agency's agenda. She expressed the importance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco to the hemisphere's peace and security. She noted that the creation of this Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone, the first one of its kind, is a clear example that the whole region believes that nuclear deterrence is not a political option, she also spoke about the three dimensions of the political agenda of the Agency (regional, interregional and global) highlighting that "all of them converge toward the final aim of Nuclear Zero, some may say it is a utopia, indeed, but reachable."

36. Participation and address at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) (S/Inf.1066 S/Inf.1068). Thanks to the efficient coordination of Brazil in Geneva, the required conditions for the Secretary General to participate at the Plenary Session of the CD on 16 June were achieved. In her address, she observed the importance of sharing agendas among international organizations devoted to disarmament, particularly in this new phase of global disarmament, which she judges as crucial, analyzing this era with a long-term vision that started back in 1945. In this long-term vision, the Conference on Disarmament and OPANAL have had times of great changes and others of underdevelopment. In this vision, it is necessary to recall that we are in a new season with new challenges. In this regard, she posed that NWFZs were created as islands, as dykes to protect all those States that voluntarily declare themselves nuclear-free. Today, the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean is evolving towards the final objective of Free Zones: to contribute towards total and general nuclear disarmament efforts. In this respect, she highlighted that all existing NWFZs should evolve until they become bridges and support the hard work of the new agenda for global nuclear disarmament. This is the first time for an OPANAL Secretary General to address the CD at one of its sessions, an opportunity that left the door open to starting the dialogue with this forum. It would be important in future CD interventions to pose the possibility to hold an informal meeting with Member States, after the intervention at the formal session, in order to establish a dialogue with Members and Observers.
37. IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security in Vienna, from 20 to 24 June. It addressed the events that took place in Japan-Fukushima, lessons learnt and follow up

accidents occurred in that country: an earthquake, a tsunami and a nuclear accident. The Secretary General participated as an observer at this Conference, being of great relevance as it gave her the opportunity to reflect upon the point of convergence between the role of OPANAL and nuclear security matters. Moreover, this propitiated her first official meeting with Mr. Yukiya Amano, IAEA Director General, who received Ambassador Ubeda in his office. She took the opportunity to address items on the agenda, the reestablishment and deepening of the relation between both agencies. She extended the invitation to Mr. Amano to the Commemorative Event on the occasion of the 45th Anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco; a few days later, he confirmed his attendance.

38. Meeting of Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative Directors-General, 8 September. “The Contribution of NWFZs to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation” was the title of the Secretary General’s address in the meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico Headquarters. In her address at this forum, where high representatives of the 10 States forming the initiative took part, she spoke about the importance of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones to the Non-Proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime. She approached what needs to be done and the importance of progressing on a common agenda, not only among NWFZs, but also among all States and parties interested in the promotion of total and global nuclear disarmament.
39. The Secretary General of OPANAL attended, as an observer, the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee, from 7 to 14 October. The General debate took place on 10 and 11 October, in which Ambassador Ubeda addressed the Assembly and emphasized the message which the 33 Member States of the Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to address to the Assembly States through the Declaration of Member States issued in September 2011. (Doc. A/C.1/66/2) This Declaration was given to all attendees and then circulated as a United Nations official document thanks to the Mission of Costa Rica which has been responsible for the Work Coordination Office of OPANAL during the second half of 2011.
40. Participation at the Seminar on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of ABACC, Rio de Janeiro, 10-11 November. This was an appropriate setting to strengthen relations with this

Agency and approach the possibility to jointly work on subjects of common interest; making any necessary considerations in the first place.

41. Participation at the 20th Anniversary of ABACC held in Palacio San Martín, Buenos Aires Argentina, 8 July. This event represented a huge opportunity to strengthen relations and talks with ABACC, as well as representatives responsible for Nuclear Disarmament matters in Argentina and Brazil.
42. On 22 June a meeting was held between the Secretary General and Mr. Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). The purpose of this meeting was to monitor cooperation actions which both agencies agreed to implement under the Agreement signed in 2002 and the meeting held in May 2010 within the framework of the NPT Review Conference. Mutual interest in working on the ratification of the CTBT in Latin America and the Caribbean was reiterated, as well as the collaboration on respective educational programmes implemented by both agencies.
43. Participation at the IAEA Forum on “Experience of possible relevance to the creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East” on behalf of the NWFZ in Latin America and the Caribbean. This will be held in Vienna, 21-22 November. The Secretary General would take this opportunity to meet with GRULAC Ambassadors; activity coordinated by the Mission of Costa Rica in their capacity as current work coordinators of OPANAL in Vienna. Also, to coordinate a meeting with IAEA high authorities and representatives of Member States or Signatories to Treaties establishing NWFZs.
44. The maximum utilization of resources has been consistent in every single one of the trips made by the Secretary General since last year, careful planning is made prior to trips, regarding not only the addresses of the Secretary General at multilateral forums she is attending to, but also a complementary agenda with representatives of Member States, Signatory States, States Parties to other NWFZs, International Organizations and NGOs.
45. The Secretary General informs that other invitations were received; however, due to previous commitments or a lack of financial resources it was not possible for her to attend. Including: 1) 55th Regular Session of IAEA General Conference, in Vienna, 19-23 September. 2) Conference on Facilitating the Entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, New York, 23 September. 3) 2011 Sessions of Working Groups

A and B of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission. 4) CTBT Conference: Science and Technology 2011, held in Vienna, 8-10 June. Other invitations:

- 20th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) Vienna, 11-15 April.
- Industrial Development Board of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Vienna, 22-24 June.
- 40th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, San Salvador, 5-7 June.
- Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) Evaluation of Environmental Status, Chile, 13-15 September.
- Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Netherlands, from 28 November to 2 December.
- Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, New York, 12-21 December.

XI. RELATION WITH NGOs AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

46. Since last year, an important cooperation has been established with the NGO Soka Gakkai International, headquartered in Japan, which works for peace and nuclear disarmament. In 2011, besides its participation at the 44th Anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco on 11 February, joint collaboration activities were conducted which strengthen the bond between both organizations. One of these activities was the lecture given by the Secretary General on “Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and their importance to nuclear disarmament efforts” at the Commemorative event of the 54th Anniversary of a declaration calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons made by Jose Toda, second president of Soka Gakkai, on 8 September 1957. Moreover, the participation at the official ceremony of laying the first stone of the new Soka Gakkai Mexico Headquarters, on 22 September. The efforts of OPANAL in conjunction with SKI have been constant and at the request of the Secretary General they have agreed to co-sponsor the International Seminar “The experience of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean and the perspective towards 2015 and beyond”, to be held on 14-15 February 2012 in Mexico City.

47. The Secretary General visited the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) on 24 June and met with Mrs. Elena Sokova, Executive Director; they

addressed issues related to current activities conducted by each institution and their agendas, stressing in particular the subject of Education. They spoke about the importance of working in line with all pertinent nuclear-disarmament actors and the continuation of talks in order to determine areas of common interest and implement cooperation actions. After this meeting, Lic. Jessica Miano, OPANAL Education Programme Officer, received a VCDNP scholarship to take part in the intensive course on “Nuclear Non-proliferation” held in Vienna, 26-30 September.

48. Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND). The Secretary General maintains constant communication with Mr. Alyn Ware, PNND Global Coordinator, concerning international ongoing matters related to nuclear disarmament, as well as the progress on common interest subjects. Ambassador Ubeda was invited to participate with a paper in their Annual Assembly, held in Switzerland on 15-16 October. As it was not possible for the Secretary General to attend, the Declaration of OPANAL Member States was sent to be presented and circulated to this Assembly.
49. Global Action to Prevent War. On 10 October, Ambassador Ubeda met with Dr. Robert Zuber, Director of Global Action to Prevent War, NGO with which a dialogue on common interest topics has been kept, including nuclear disarmament. The Secretary General invited Dr. Zuber to participate at OPANAL International Seminar, Module 5, highlighting the importance of the participation of the civil society in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation process.

XII. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE AGENCY

50. In Commemoration of the 44th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Secretariat General organized, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, an Extraordinary Session of the Council on 11 February. The opening of the Soka Gakkai International exhibition “From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace: Transforming the Human Spirit” was part of the commemoration. The Minister- Counsellor of the Brazilian Embassy in Mexico gave the lecture “The contribution of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones to the Nuclear Disarmament process.”
51. Over 2011, the Secretary General designed a protocol for documents and press release distribution. This has facilitated the circulation of documents and addresses of the Secretary General to Member States, International Organizations, NGOs and the Media.

This is part of the dissemination process that, over 2011, OPANAL seeks to strengthen; as well as the press release distribution to the Media Contact list of Member States.

52. Cooperation with the Latin American Institute for Educational Communications (ILCE). Thanks to the relation established between both organizations, works on subjects of common interest are carried out. The documentary “Say No to Nuclear Weapons” was repeatedly broadcast by Channel 22 (Mexican Television), over August and September thanks to the intervention of ILCE.
53. A Request for Authorization is presented to the General Conference in order for the Secretary General to sign a Framework Cooperation Agreement with ILCE. (Doc SG/04.2011)
54. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC). The Secretary General met with Mrs. Amanda Regimbald, UNLIREC Director, on 2 March. Both addressed issues concerning peace and disarmament education. As local organizations, they agreed on the importance of mutual collaboration. The proposal to participate in a Seminar on Disarmament organized by UNLIREC was derived from this meeting, Seminar to be held during the first half of 2012.
55. Regional Postgraduate Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of the Non-Proliferation for Global Security Foundation. The Council approved, at its 255th Session, the diffusion and auspice of this course, which started in April 2011 and is the only one of its kind in the region delivered in Spanish. The use of OPANAL emblem was also approved to endorse the course.
56. Internship Programme. List of participants: Manuela Micoli, post-graduate student from Monterey Institute in California, from 6 February to 10 June. Fabiola Gil, International Relations student at UNAM, from February 2011 until today. Jorge López, International Relations, graduated from Tecnológico de Monterrey Campus Chihuahua, from September 2011 until today.

CONCLUSION

It has been the purpose of the Secretary General to present in this report the diversity and richness of the actions, relations, improvements and perspective towards the future that has been collectively built over the last few years. This is a cooperative task and outcome in which all OPANAL bodies participate together with States; individually, from voluntary coordination offices, to constant participation as Members or Observers of CCAAP and the Council. Without a doubt, the requirements of the new international scenario join the internal dynamics of the Agency concerning nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation matters.

The challenges of the Agency have been identified; the commitment to regional and global peace and security has been renewed, it is now indispensable to strengthen, even more, the participation of States Parties in this new agenda, with a vision for the future to continue building alliances with actors who share common purposes from different settings.

It is essential to know that we have made significant steps; it is not time to lose ground but to keep walking towards the reachable utopia of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

ANNEX I

Status of Signatures and Ratification to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and its amendments, Status of the Convention on Prerogatives and Immunities of the Agency and on the Fulfilment of the Control System. (Doc. SG.02.2011)

ANNEX II

Status of collection of pending fees of OPANAL Member States. (Doc. SG.03.2011)

ANNEX III

SESSIONS HELD BY THE COUNCIL

The Secretary General called the following ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the Council:

- 255th Session held on 27 January. Attending: 4 Members and 8 Observers.
- 256th Session held on 24 February. Attending: 5 Members and 12 Observers.
- 257th Session held on 7 April. Attending: 5 Members and 12 Observers.
- 258th Session held on 26 May. Attending: 5 Members and 10 Observers.
- 259th Session held on 28 June. Attending: 3 Members and 8 Observers.
- 260th Session held on 11 August. Attending: 5 Members and 10 Observers.
- 261st Session held on 6 September. Attending: 4 Members and 7 Observers.
- 262nd Session held on 20 October. Attending: 5 Members and 9 Observers.

SESSIONS HELD BY CCAAP

The Secretary General called and attended all five Regular Sessions of the Commission of Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary Matters

- 89th Session held on 24 February. Attending: 5 Members and 7 Observers.
- 90th Session held on 7 April. Attending: 5 Members and 5 Observers.
- 91st Session held on 26 May. Attending: 5 Members and 6 Observers.
- 92nd Session held on 9 August. Attending: 4 Members and 7 Observers.
- 93rd Session held on 4 October. Attending: 5 Members and 4 Observers.