



Twenty-first Regular Session of the General Conference
Agenda Item 4
Mexico City, 26 November 2009

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

1. The Nineteenth Special Session of the General Conference of OPANAL recommended a transition period and appointing a Deputy Secretary General to conclude the term of Ambassador Vargas Carreño, as well as to stabilize the financial situation and the normal operation of the Agency. By means of Resolution CG /Res. 495 “Appointment of the Deputy Secretary General, Period of Transition.” Ambassador Perla Carvalho was appointed by acclamation to occupy the post of Deputy Secretary General from 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2009, and her mandate could be extended until the holding of the Twenty-First Regular General Conference in November 2009. The Council, at its 245th Session, agreed that her term should be extended until the Twenty-First Regular Session of the General Conference.
2. This report includes the activities carried out by the Deputy Secretary General, in compliance with the provisions of the Tlatelolco Treaty and those stemming from the General Conference or the Council.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

3. In accordance with Article 17 of the Regulations of the Council, the General Secretariat convened 14 regular meetings and one special meeting of the Council (Sessions 233^a to 247^a), in which the Deputy Secretary General informed of the work performed between each meeting.

4. The Deputy Secretary General convened and was present at the 14 ordinary meetings and one special meeting of the Committee on Contributions and Administrative Matters that took place between 1 January 2008 and 26 November 2009. At each session she presented an updated report on collection of contributions from the Member States, as well as on the Agency's financial statements.
5. During its meetings, the Council was informed of the efforts made by the General Secretariat to obtain the signature and/or ratification for the amendments to the Tlatelolco Treaty. Notes S-17904 and S-18141 were remitted, in which a call was made to the Member States to complete their internal legislative formalities in order to sign/ratify the above-mentioned amendments.
6. In order to comply with Resolution CG/Res.472 (XIX-05) "*Status of the Convention on Prerogatives and Immunities of the Agency*" the General Secretariat, by means of note S-17862, called upon the Member States that have still not signed or ratified the above-mentioned Convention, to do so as soon as possible.
7. With regard to Article 14 of the Treaty, which establishes the obligation of the Contracting Parties to submit to OPANAL and to the International Atomic Energy Agency, for its information, semiannual reports declaring that no activity prohibited by the provisions of the Treaty has taken place in their respective territories, the Deputy Secretary General proposed a new consolidated report form to the Member States, with prior approval of the Council, in order to regularize the situation of various States, making it possible to cover the missing periods in a single report (notes S-17901 and S-18154). As a result of this step, various Member States brought themselves up to date with respect to this provision.
8. In relation to Resolution CG/Res.474 (XIX-05) "Application of Article 24" which refers to the obligation of the Member States to notify OPANAL of the negotiation of any international agreement linked directly to the objective of the Treaty (safeguards and nuclear non-proliferation), the General Secretariat reminded the Member States of this obligation by sending notes numbers S-17864 and S-18170.

SEMINARS AND ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

9. On 14 February 2008, the General Secretariat, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, organized an Academic Seminar to commemorate the Forty-first Anniversary of the Tlatelolco Treaty, with the participation of academics and personalities committed to disarmament topics, as well as officials and students. During the Seminar, the attendees and participants underscored the positive impact that the Tlatelolco Treaty has had in the world and its contribution to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts as the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area of the world.
10. The Deputy Secretary General participated in the Regional Seminar entitled “Towards the year 2010. The role of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Africa in Strengthening the NPT Disarmament Objectives,” organized by the Monterey Institute of International Studies of California, held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 31 March to 1 April 2008. More than 40 representatives of countries, international agencies and NGOs participated in this seminar. The topic of Africa as a nuclear-weapon-free zone and the implementation of the NPT in that Continent was addressed; the Deputy Secretary General of OPANAL spoke to the attendees about the lessons learned by Latin America when it became a nuclear-weapon-free zone, which fostered an exchange of ideas on the challenges Africa will face upon becoming a zone free of the nuclear threat.
11. She participated in the “Regional Seminar on the System of Reinforced Safeguards of IAEA for the States of the Greater Caribbean with Limited Nuclear Materials and Activities” sponsored by IAEA in the Dominican Republic from 21 to 24 July 2008, in which she made a presentation on the Tlatelolco Treaty. During her address she spoke of the importance of reinforcing the effectiveness of the safeguards system to foster trust and encourage the States to comply fully with their obligations. She informed the participants of the relations established between OPANAL and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

12. She took part in the Seminar “The Nuclear Challenges”, held on 5 September 2008, organized by FLACSO and by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Norway and Chile. The main topic of the seminar was “Promoting non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons: the role of international regimes and organizations.” OPANAL’s status as a regional political forum and the role it should play in promoting nuclear disarmament was the topic presented by the Deputy Secretary General, who also took advantage of her stay in Santiago de Chile to meet with the Director of Special Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Ambassador Eduardo Eguiguren; with Ambassador Sergio Duarte, High Representative of the General Secretariat of the UN for Disarmament and with the Director of FLACSO, Mr. José Jara, with whom she talked about the initiative to promote the holding of the Second Conference of NWFZs.

13. The Deputy Secretary General informed the Council of her steps before the Latin American Parliament so that this agency should make a statement on occasion of the Forty-second Anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The PARLATINO issued Declaration No. 13, “Commemoration of the Forty-second Anniversary of the Tlatelolco Treaty” (S/Inf.990). In this declaration, the Latin American Parliament recognized in the Treaty of Tlatelolco the reflection of the Latin American peoples’ will to live in an atmosphere of peace and security and its contribution to the objective of attaining a nuclear-weapon-free world.

14. Along the same lines as the above-mentioned declaration of the PARLATINO, through document S/Inf.993 the Member States were informed of the ‘Point of Agreement of the Chamber of Deputies of the Congress of the Union of Mexico’ in which the Chamber of Deputies endorses Declaration No. 13: Commemoration of the Forty-second Anniversary of the Tlatelolco Treaty issued by the Twenty-fourth Regular Assembly. In the document, the Deputies of the Mexican Republic recognize the importance of the Tlatelolco Treaty and indicate the need to promote education for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the parliaments of Latin America.

15. On 8 September 2009, she received the visit of the Vice President of the organization Soka Gakkai International, Mr. Hirotsugu Terasaki, who thanked OPANAL for the continuous support it has given to his organization in diverse activities relative to nuclear disarmament; he expressed his interest in actively participating with OPANAL in education activities for nuclear disarmament. SKI proposed to the General Secretariat the holding of an exhibition of photographs entitled “From a culture of violence to a culture of peace; towards the transformation of the human spirit” within the framework of the next anniversary of the Tlatelolco Treaty.
16. The Deputy Secretary General participated in the First Commission on Disarmament and International Security of the General Assembly of the United Nations in October 2008 and 2009. During both visits to New York, she held meetings with representatives of the Member States of OPANAL to inform them of the agency’s situation and activities. Furthermore, she convened a meeting of States Parties and Signatories of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones on 8 October 2008, with the aim of beginning the preparations for the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of NWFZs and their participation in the Eighth NPT Review Conference.
17. The Deputy Secretary General was invited to participate in the Commission on Hemispheric Security of the OAS in Washington, USA, on the topic: “Consolidation of the Regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Tlatelolco Treaty)” in 2008 and 2009, where she presented documents S/Inf.964 and S/Inf.992 Rev.1, respectively. Both meetings addressed to topic of the Strengthening of OPANAL and information was provided on the activities carried out by the Agency, as well as on the measures adopted by the Member States to contribute to the institutional reinforcement of OPANAL.
18. In August 2009, she received the visit of Ms. Lissa Tabassi, Head of the Legal and External Relations Division of the International Cooperation Office of CTBTO, with whom she spoke about various topics that could be addressed by the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free

Zones, among them the implementation of specific national legislations to facilitate compliance with the provision of the Treaties that establish NWFZs.

RESOLUTIONS

19. The General Secretariat prepared and presented to the Council the following resolutions for its approval:

- Resolution C/Res. 46 “Increase in the Amount of the Reserve Sub-fund and of the Fund for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.” It provides that at the close of each financial year of the years 2007, 2008 and 2009, 95 percent of the surplus in banks should be earmarked for the Reserve Sub-fund and 5 percent for the Fund for Peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy.
- Resolution C/Res.47 “Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, Treaty of Semipalatinsk.” Welcomes with satisfaction the establishment of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and decides to promote cooperation with said zone.
- Resolution C/Res.48 “Decease of Ambassador José Ricardo Martínez Cobo (Ecuador).” Regrets the passing of Ambassador Martínez Cobo and acknowledges his valuable contribution to OPANAL as Secretary General from 1981 to 1985.
- Resolution C/Res.49 “Appreciation to Ambassador Miguel Marín Bosch.” Thanks Ambassador Marín Bosch for his excellent work as speaker and co-ordinator of the course “Nuclear Problem Areas” and for his collaboration in other activities of the Agency in the field of education for peace, disarmament and non-proliferation.
- Resolution C/Res.50 “Nuclear Test conducted by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on 25 May 2009.” Condemns the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on 25 May 2009 and urges the government of that country to become reincorporated into the NPT.
- Resolution C/Res.51 "Programme of Work of the Conference of Disarmament for the 2009 Session." Welcomes with satisfaction the approval of the Programme of Work of the Conference of Disarmament and highlights the importance of this agency as the only multilateral negotiation forum on disarmament.
- Resolution C/Res.52 “Treaty on the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Africa.” Welcomes with satisfaction the establishment of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Africa and reaffirms the common goals set in the Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.

NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES

20. For the benefit of the Member States of OPANAL, there follows a brief summary of recent development in this topic.

The Deputy Secretary General presented to the Council the “Draft Working Document on the Process of Review of the NPT” (C/DT/79), with the request to the Member States to strengthen and enrich it. She convened a meeting of the Council of OPANAL in New York City on 7 October 2008, open to all the Member States, with the aim of consolidating said document and discussing the holding of the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.

21. On 8 October 2008, the General Secretariat convened an informal meeting of the States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones with the aim of defining a co-ordination mechanism to hold the Second Conference of NWFZs in 2010, prior to the next Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, in compliance with the points approved at the First Conference held in Mexico in 2005. On that occasion the Representative of Mongolia offered to host a meeting of Focal Points of NWFZs in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.
22. The Representative of Bolivia and President in turn of the Council (January/February 2008) held a new meeting of OPANAL in New York, on 13 February 2009, to resume the negotiation of a document for the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
23. The Representative of Brazil and President of the Council (March/April 2009) informed of the holding of two meetings of the Council in New York, where a new document entitled “Contributions of the States Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Treaty of Tlatelolco” was discussed.
24. The meeting of Focal Points of NWFZs was held on 27-28 April 2009 in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. The Representative of Brazil, as President of the Council, attended on behalf of OPANAL. The contributions of the Deputy Secretary General were delivered to the Representative of Brazil in the document C/DT82 “Meeting of Focal Points of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.” At the end of the meeting a Declaration of the President was issued, which was read out by the Representative of Mongolia at the Third Meeting of the Preparatory Commission of the NPT (Doc.

NPT/Conf.2010/PCIII/8), in which the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of NWFZs is convened.

25. In May 2009 an event was held in New York, entitled “The role of NWFZs in Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Security: towards the Conference of States Parties of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones of 2010” presided over by the Representative of Chile, Ambassador Labbé, in which it was decided that co-ordination of the Second Conference of NWFZs would pass to the Government of Chile, at the request of the Representative of Mexico. The Representative of Chile to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz –in collaboration with other countries and Focal Points of the NWFZs– has taken various steps before the United Nations to obtain the necessary facilities and financing for the holding of the Second Conference. With this aim the Representation of Chile in New York promoted the resolution “Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia” approved by the First Commission of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 October 2009.
26. On 12 October, the Director of International and Human Security of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Ambassador Alfredo Labbé, convened in New York a meeting of Focal Points of NWFZs within the purview of the First Commission of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in order to inform of the progress made during his co-ordination term.
27. During the 247th meeting of the Council, it was approved that the General Secretariat of OPANAL should take charge of the creation of a web page of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. The Deputy Secretary General pointed out that this effort would be an example of the cooperation sought among the NWFZs. On this website all visitors will be able to find general information on the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, communiqués from the Focal Points and documents.

**EDUCATION FOR PEACE, NON-PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR
DISARMAMENT**

28. In compliance with Resolution CG/Res.479 (XIX-05), approved in Santiago, Chile, in which “the member countries are urged to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Study on Education for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation; to continue the work of dissemination of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and promote educational activities that contribute to education for peace, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation among the Member States,” the Deputy Secretary General, with the authorization of CCAAP and the Council, started conversations with Mexican Ambassador Miguel Marín Bosch, so that he should give a classroom course on “Nuclear Problem Areas” which took place from 2 March to 2 April 2009.

The fundamental objective of the course was to provide a general overview of nuclear problem areas. During the course, a review was made of multilateral and regional efforts to face up to the threat of nuclear weapons and their proliferation; the topic of peaceful uses of nuclear energy was addressed, as was the issue of reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons by means of an international instrument, as well as the background to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and other agreements that establish NWFZs.

29. The Deputy Secretary General proposed the holding of an Online Course on “Nuclear Problem Areas” to promote dissemination of the Treaty of Tlatelolco to a wider public, in which government officials, political advisors, legislators and members of the armed forces of the Member States of the Treaty of Tlatelolco could participate. The objective of the course is to create awareness among the participants with specialized knowledge of topics of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation that contribute to decision-making at national and regional level. The Council approved the holding of three courses online, one of them in English. The first was carried out from 21 September to 27 November 2009 under the academic co-ordination of Ambassador Miguel Marín Bosch.
30. Based on the above-mentioned Resolution CG/Res.479 (XIX-05), the Deputy Secretary General presented a project for the screening of a documentary on nuclear disarmament entitled “Let’s say no to nuclear weapons,” as part of the educational activities to

contribute to education for peace, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation among the Member States. The purpose of the documentary is to provide children between the ages of 10 and 15 with a general overview of the danger represented by nuclear weapons and the efforts of the international community for their elimination, explaining the role of the Treaty of Tlatelolco as part of those efforts; create awareness among students on the importance of nuclear disarmament and foster debate on the need to do away with nuclear weapons.

ACTIVITIES IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SPHERE

31. During the meetings of the Committee on Contributions and Administrative and Budget Matters (CCAAP), the Deputy Secretary General proposed changes to the Financial Regulations in order to extend the payment deadline for contributions to 30 June each year, to facilitate Member States' compliance with their financial obligations.
32. Likewise, she invited the Representative of the Auditors Firm BDO Hernández y Cía., CP Luis Alberto Cámara Puerto, to present to the CCAAP an explanation of the modernization of the Financial Statements. Document CG/267 shows a restructuring of the financial statements. The administrative and financial topics are enlarged upon in the CCAAP Annual Report.
33. Among the mandates of operative part 2 f) of Resolution CG/Res.496 (XX-07) is that of "Presenting a proposal for the establishment of a Contingency/Emergency Fund and the rules for its functioning, as well as furthering its effective operation during the transition period." To comply with this mandate, the Deputy Secretary General proposed the reactivation of the Reserve Sub-fund provided for in Article 55 subparagraph b) of the "Rules Regulating the Functioning of the General Secretariat"; it was therefore not necessary to create a Contingency/Emergency Fund, since the purpose of said Sub-Fund is to assure the normal and continuous financial functioning of the General Secretariat. The Council, on the recommendation of the CCAAP, decided to allocate to this Sub-fund 95 percent of bank surpluses for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009.

34. The characteristics of the Fund for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy were reviewed, and the contributions of the Member States that had been used during the crisis period were restored to it. It was also decided to allocate 5% of bank surpluses for financial years 2007, 2008 and 2009 to this Fund. Currently OPANAL holds two new bank accounts, one for the Fund for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (FPUNE) and another with which it reactivated the Reserve Sub-fund.
35. She informed that the Legal Section of HSBC bank had decided not to charge Income Tax to the OPANAL account, after having made an analysis of the Headquarters Agreement. She invited representatives of HSBC bank so that they could inform CCAAP of possible investment alternatives, without risk for the Agency. It was agreed to authorize the General Secretariat to take a decision on possible investments as soon as the interest rates on time deposits increase, to obtain greater benefits for the Agency.
36. With regard to the *“Measures aimed at encouraging timely payment of contributions,”* during the visit of the Deputy Secretary General to the OAS, she held talks with the Representatives of the Caribbean countries in Washington, in order to make them aware of the situation of the Agency, and of the advantages of the programmes approved for discharging indebtedness.
37. She prepared and sent separate notes to debtor States reiterating her willingness to find a solution by mutual agreement to help them comply with their financial obligations.
38. At the request of CCAAP, the Deputy Secretary General will remit a requirement to the Member States, at the beginning of each year, showing the debts and the particulars of the bank where the Agency holds its accounts, in order to remind them of the payment of contributions. The Agency is currently up to date in the payment of rent and maintenance of its offices.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

39. The Deputy Secretary General and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico organized

a Special Session of OPANAL to welcome the Secretary-General of the UN, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, to which the Diplomatic Corps and other personalities were invited. The visit was a sign of his willingness to give renewed impetus to the topic of nuclear disarmament. During his address, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon referred to the challenges facing the international community with the existence of nuclear weapons and stressed the importance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco as an example of promotion of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

40. The Council and the Member States received the “Aide-Mémoire on Designation of National Specialists on the Matter,” prepared by the Deputy Secretary General, in which she requests the support of specialized personnel from the Member States, in order that in the future the Agency can produce in-depth information to support the work of the Agency. She informed that the Government of Mexico had appointed an official to collaborate in OPANAL’s work for six months.
41. The Deputy Secretary General organized a Special Session of the Council to welcome Ambassador Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, High Representative of the United Nations for Disarmament and International Security Affairs, and Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima, who addressed the Member States. In their statements, Ambassador Duarte and Dr. Akiba referred to the encouraging moment being experienced in the topic of nuclear disarmament, after more than a decade of stagnation. Ambassador Duarte called upon those present so that, as members of OPANAL and Parties of the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, they should take advantage of this moment to redouble their efforts and work harder in favor of nuclear disarmament.
42. The Deputy Secretary General, with the authorization of CCAAP and the Council, carried out the modernization and updating of the Agency’s archive. Currently OPANAL has a procedural archive (active phase), a concentration archive (semi-active phase) and a historical archive, as well as its own classification system.
43. The Representative of Bolivia and President in turn of the Council (January/February 2008), Ambassador Jorge Masilla Torres and the Deputy Secretary General held talks with the Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with whom they

discussed the possible reconciliation of debts between the rent owed by OPANAL and the pending contributions of the Venezuelan Government. Similarly, the renewal of the lease contract was agreed upon as of the time the Agency is endowed with a building. The Deputy Secretary General held talks with the delegation of Mexico to advance on the topic of the offer of a headquarters for OPANAL. During the meetings of CCAAP and the Council, the Representative of Mexico informed of the advances and the difficulties his government had faced in providing a physical space to OPANAL.