



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

General Conference

XXVII Session
30 September 2021
Agenda Item 15.3

CG/04/2021Rev.2
Original: English/Spanish

Status of the financial contributions of the Republic of Haiti

On January 14, 2021, the Secretariat received, in its dollars account of HSBC Bank, the amount of \$ 130,905.92 USD (one hundred thirty thousand nine hundred and five 92/100 American dollars), corresponding to the payment of the debt of Haiti with the Agency.

The aforementioned amount was related to an accumulation of debts of the Republic of Haiti with OPANAL of more than fifty years, since Haiti signed the Treaty of Tlatelolco on February 14, 1967 and deposited the relevant instrument of ratification on May 23, 1969. That explains the total debt that existed, of just over one hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

On January 21 2021, after OPANAL duly accounted the payment of the Government of Haiti, the Secretariat sent the corresponding payment receipt to the Embassy of Haiti in Mexico (document S-037/2021).

On February 4, 2021, the Embassy of Haiti in Mexico sent the Note AHM/OPANAL/53/2021 to the Secretariat of OPANAL, where it was mentioned that the payment of Haiti had been made in an erroneous way, and that the country would be beneficiary of an 80% reduction in its accumulated debt.

On May 3 the Secretariat sent the note S-238/2021 to the Embassy of Haiti in Mexico with the objective of fulfilling the mandate of the Council by asking, on behalf of that collegiate body, a formal request from the Republic of Haiti raised directly from the Ministry issuing the funds received by OPANAL on January 14, 2021 and thus be able to continue with the examination of the case.

Also, on May 3 the Secretariat sent to the external auditor of the OPANAL the note S-237/2021, asking for a formal report to be presented at the meeting on May 27, as requested by the Council, on the documents to be required and the actions to be taken by the Agency, in case of deciding to make the return of part of the payment from the Republic of Haiti made on January 14 of this year.

On May 7, the external auditor presented its report to OPANAL, where it is mentioned that in case the return of part of the payment of the Republic of Haiti is decided, it is necessary to present the details of the bank account from which the funds were transferred to the OPANAL account, with the objective that the resources are returned to the same ordering bank, including the reason for the return.

On May 11, complying with the disposition of the Council, the Secretariat held a meeting with the Ambassador of Haiti in Mexico and its Minister Counselor, who reported having already requested from their Foreign Ministry in Port-au-Prince the document requested in the note S-238/2021 and that they expected to have the document as soon as possible, in order to give continuity to the matter

In the same meeting, the Embassy of Haiti and the Secretariat agreed, in terms of the Resolution CG/Res06/2019, numeral 2 that, pending approval by the pertinent instances, the discount and consequent refund of 80% would be observed relative to the payment made by the Government of Haiti on January 14, 2021, covering the amount owed by the country until the year 2020, inclusive, this being at that time the last financial year due.

On September 15, the Embassy of Haiti in Mexico sent to the Secretariat the note AHM/OPANAL/585/2021, to which it attached a copy of the official letter DGB/PB/1213 of August 12, 2021 from the Ministry of Economy and Finance addressed to the Haitian Foreign Ministry, with the bank details and the request for the reimbursement of 80% of the payment made.

On September 17, the Secretariat transmitted to the Member States of the Agency, through the notes S-526 and S-527 in Spanish and English respectively, the copy of the note AHM/OPANAL/585/2021 of the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Mexico.

On September 20, the Secretariat requested to the external auditor of the Agency to study the documents presented by the Republic of Haiti in order to continue examining this matter.

In summary, it is proposed, through the draft resolution CG/L.16/2021Rev., to instruct the CCAAP and the Council to continue with the study of the reimbursement request presented by Haiti, taking into account the pertinent norms and mechanisms, with a view to finding a favorable solution and delegating the decision to the Council.