



## **General Conference**

XXVIII Session  
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Agenda Item 12

**CG/05/2023**  
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### **Education on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation**

#### **I. Introduction**

In accordance with Resolution 57/60 "United Nations Study on disarmament and non-proliferation education" of the United Nations General Assembly, adopted at its LVII Session, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) has carried out various activities in the field of education for peace, disarmament and non-proliferation. This report compiles the activities carried out since the XXVII Special Session of OPANAL.

#### **II. OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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 for peace programs and to contribute to the training of cadres specialized in the region in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. As of 2021, the Course has been taught by the OPANAL Secretariat, taking into account the professional cadre that currently integrates the staff of the Secretariat, which, to date, is made up of specialized profiles in line with the matters dealt with by the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

Since 2017, six editions of the Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have been held. The first one took place in Montevideo, Uruguay from December 11 to 15, 2017, at the headquarters of the Artigas Institute of Foreign Service (IASE). The second edition was held in La Paz, Bolivia from December 3 to 7, 2018, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The third edition of the Course was held from May 13 to 17, 2019, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, and the fourth was held from September 24 to 27, 2019, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua. In 2020 and 2021, the OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was not held due to the health contingency caused by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The fifth edition of the Course was hosted by the Government of Guatemala through the Academy of Diplomacy "Doctor Jorge García Granados", from November

8 to 10, 2022. The sixth edition was hosted again by the Government of Guatemala, by the Diplomatic Academy "Antonio José de Irisarri" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from July 24 to 26, 2023.

The seventh and eighth editions of the OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are scheduled to take place from December 5 to 7, 2023 in Quito, Ecuador, and from January 15 to 26, 2024 in Mexico City, Mexico, respectively.

### **III. Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for Latin American and Caribbean diplomats**

The Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean is the educational space resulting from the close collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Matías Romero Institute, the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies, and OPANAL, whose objective is to train diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean in issues related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

To date, the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation has had nine editions: in 2014, from 7 to 11 July; in 2015, from 13 to 17 July; in 2016, from 4 to 8 July; in 2017, from 10 to 14 July; in 2018 from 13 to 17 July; in 2020 from July 6 to 17 (virtually); in 2021 from June 29 to July 9 (virtually), in 2022 from July 11 to 15, and in 2023 from July 10 to 15.

At the XXVIII Session of the General Conference, the draft resolution entitled "Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for Diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean" is presented for the first time to demonstrate the support of Member States for this initiative, which in 2024 will commemorate its tenth anniversary.

### **IV. Internship Programs at the OPANAL Secretariat**

Resolution CG/Res.01/2015 of the General Conference opened the internship program, organized in two modalities: Internship Program for OPANAL Member States that are also members of the Caribbean Community – CARICOM, and the Internship Program for countries in the rest of the world.

The internship program for OPANAL Member States that are also members of the Caribbean Community – CARICOM, aims to encourage their participation in OPANAL, and from 2016 to 2022 was sponsored by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. However, due to the decision of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to discontinue funding, as of 2023 the Program is funded by the Agency,

which has reduced its scope and impact. For example, in 2023, only one intern from the Caribbean could be accepted due to the Agency's limited budget.

Within the framework of the internship program for OPANAL Member States that are also members of the Caribbean Community – CARICOM, from 2016 to 2023, the Secretariat welcomed thirteen young people: Barbados (1), Belize (3), Dominica (1), Guyana (3), Haiti (2), Jamaica (1) and Saint Lucia (2).

Since the beginning of the Internship Program open to all countries, thirty-six interns have been received from twelve countries around the world: Germany (1), Bolivia (1), Brazil (2), Colombia (1), Costa Rica (1), Ecuador (1), United States (2), France (2), Japan (1), Mexico (20), Netherlands (1) and Peru (1)<sup>1</sup>.

Since 2022, interns receive MXN 1000 per month as a stimulus and recognition of their constant work during their period at OPANAL, in accordance with Resolution CG/Res.03/2021, adopted by the XXVII Session of the General Conference.

## **V. Recommendations**

According to the above, the following is recommended:

- a) To invite Member States to host the OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
- b) To instruct the Secretary-General to carry out actions that guarantee the availability of the necessary resources to allow the continuity of OPANAL's educational and dissemination activities.
- c) To encourage Member States to support and report on the implementation of the biennial resolution of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education".
- d) To invite Member States to present their candidates to participate in the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, which in 2024 will commemorate its tenth anniversary and tenth edition.

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<sup>1</sup> And two interns in 2012 and 2013 with unidentified nationality.

- e) To continue supporting interns with MXN 1000 per month as a stimulus and recognition of their constant work during their period at OPANAL.
  
- f) To instruct the Secretary-General to carry out negotiations with potential donors with the objective of obtaining sources of financing to guarantee the permanence of the Internship Program for OPANAL Member States which are also members of the Caribbean Community – CARICOM, and to keep Member States informed about the implementation of the respective resolution.