



General Conference

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Agenda Item 10

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Coordination of the work of OPANAL

I. General aspects of coordination in Geneva, New York and Vienna

Currently, the coordination of OPANAL's work with the United Nations and its relevant bodies in Geneva, New York and Vienna aims at contributing to the institutional strengthening of the Agency, keeping its agenda up to date and enhancing the results of its work at the international level.

The two-way communication channel established with the coordinating offices at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, New York and Vienna is facilitated through the Secretariat, which for all purposes is the focal point of OPANAL between these offices and the Member States. Likewise, the coordinating offices in Geneva, New York and Vienna serve as the liaison between OPANAL and the Missions of the Member States accredited to the respective organizations at those headquarters.

Among other actions, the Coordinations in those headquarters support OPANAL's participation in the following ways:

- They represent the Secretary-General in meetings and events to which he is invited and cannot attend.
- They are the point of contact with the different bodies in those headquarters.
- They implement decisions, disseminate agreements and transmit communications that are agreed upon in the different OPANAL bodies.
- They serve as liaison between the Secretariat, either before the Member States or before the United Nations and its different organs, as well as before other States or Non-Governmental Organizations that so indicate.

II. Mechanism for the election of coordinators in Geneva, New York, Vienna, etc.

The appointment of the coordination of OPANAL's work before the United Nations and its relevant bodies in Geneva, New York and Vienna is assumed on a voluntary basis by a Member State through its Mission at the corresponding headquarters.

For the election of each period, the Secretariat consults the Member States and informs them of the countries that are willing or have shown interest in assuming some coordination. This information is brought to the attention of the Council and, if it so decides, is forwarded for consideration by the General Conference.

The coordination of the work of OPANAL is for a period of preferably one year. Depending on the circumstances, this period may be extended or reduced by communicating this to the Secretariat in a timely manner so as not to affect the continuity of the work of OPANAL.

III. Main activities

- Work with the Secretariat by establishing a constant two-way communication and exchange of information from Mexico City to Geneva, New York and Vienna, and vice versa to facilitate communication between the OPANAL Secretariat and the Permanent Missions of the Member States in those headquarters, as well as the implementation and follow-up of OPANAL agreements.
- To actively participate in the United Nations bodies that have nuclear disarmament on their agenda, particularly the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, the First Committee and the Disarmament Commission in New York, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in Vienna,
- Disseminate and present as official documents, when so determined, the documents and positions issued in the various OPANAL bodies and, at the same time, keep the Secretariat and the Council informed about the agenda and important issues that are discussed and agreed upon in the related forums.
- To report on relevant sessions and documents on Nuclear Disarmament within the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

- Facilitate relations with Representatives of States Parties of other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, as well as other regional groups for the purpose of facilitating coordination and cooperation in accordance with the decisions of the organs of OPANAL.
- Facilitate the Secretariat's meetings with Representatives of the Member States of the Treaty of Tlatelolco when visiting the headquarters and, when appropriate, coordinate consultations and meetings of the group of Latin American and Caribbean countries in New York, Vienna and Geneva.
- Support the Agency in the circulation of the interventions that it is responsible for making on behalf of the Secretariat or the group of States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.
- When appropriate and as previously agreed within the framework of the OPANAL bodies, to defend the positions reflected in the GRULAC position papers during the meetings and negotiations related to the topic.
- Any other activity or management requested by the Secretariat or other subsidiary bodies in accordance with the nature of OPANAL.

IV. Reestablishment of CARICOM Coordination by the year 2024

The coordinating offices in New York, Geneva and the Caribbean were established by Resolution CG/E/Res.528 of 2010, based on document C/DT/87 approved in September 2010 by the OPANAL Council, which established the objectives and guidelines for these coordinating offices. The coordination in Vienna was subsequently established by the 260th session of the Council held on June 28, 2011.

The Secretariat proposes that the XXVIII Session of the General Conference consider the reestablishment of coordination with the Caribbean for the year 2024 with the main objective of serving as a channel of communication and constant exchange of two-way information with those Member States that do not have representation in Mexico City.

This proposal responds to the importance of participation and inclusion of the entire membership for the States Parties to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and is proposed in line with the use of the dual modality, remote connection and face-to-face participation, in all meetings of the various bodies of OPANAL.

Likewise, this proposal of the Secretariat is presented after having identified the need to establish a coordination mechanism to promote and facilitate greater participation of the Caribbean States, for which the Secretary-General will consult with the Caribbean States in order to assess the feasibility and modality of its possible implementation.