



General Conference

XXVIII Session
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Agenda Item 14

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Gender, non-proliferation and disarmament

I. Background

The XXVII Session of the General Conference, held on 30 September 2021, adopted for the first time resolution CG/Res.05/2021 "Gender, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament" proposed by the Secretariat, bearing in mind the valuable contribution of women in the promotion of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, especially nuclear weapons, as well as the promotion of peace; issues that have been addressed by other international organizations for more than two decades¹. Since then, in various international forums, public policies adopted by governments in this and other regions, and by civil society, have strengthened contributions in this regard, in accordance with the pillars of equity, equality and justice². The adoption of this resolution for three consecutive years would formalize the recognition of the invaluable contribution of women in the Latin American and Caribbean region from the supreme organ of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), with its effects permeating the other organs of OPANAL.

The purpose of this report, which accompanies a draft resolution in this regard, is to present an overview of the importance of ensuring the visibility and representation of women in the functions performed by representatives, as well as their alternates before OPANAL, as a fundamental element closely linked to their full participation in accordance with the principle of equity.

II. Measures implemented

¹ United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) (S/RES/1325 (2000)); Women, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control (A/RES/65/69) and Women, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control (A/RES/69/61), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

² Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 9: A New Agenda for Peace, July 2023; Women and peace and security, Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/740 (2022)); IAEA Director General's Report, Staff: Women in the Secretariat GOV/2023/47-GC (67)/19 (2023)

The provisions adopted by the XXVII Session of the General Conference have permeated through the inclusion of a gender perspective in the activities, calls and programmes of the various bodies of OPANAL promoted by both the Secretariat and the Member States³.

- Since then and until 2023, the cadre of young professionals who provide support to the work of the Secretariat in the Internship Programmes have been mostly women.
- The Secretariat's reports on the Agency's programmes, courses and activities consider gender percentage participation as part of their indicators. Prior to the adoption of the resolution in question, no statistical information was recorded in this regard.
- Regarding the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, the call by the organizing State and the Secretariat invited Member States to make nominations considering the promotion of a gender parity quota. As a result of these measures, during the 2021 edition the percentage of women's participation represented 58%. Likewise, the 2022 edition had 62% and the 2023 edition 73%; reflecting an increasing trend in the participation of women diplomats in this space.
- As for the OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, which is taught by the Secretariat and whose selection is made by the host countries, the total participation of women was 42% in the 2022 editions and 37% in 2023.
- The composition of Secretariat official staff currently consists of the Secretary-General, three female officers, one male officer and one general services clerk (driver and other services). If all of the above are taken into account, the participation of women is 50%. If we consider the professional cadre of OPANAL, female participation is 60%.
- The Secretary-General and the staff of the Secretariat have referred in several interventions to the importance that OPANAL attaches to the promotion of gender equity and the substantive participation of women in different bodies.
- The Secretariat has followed, to the extent possible, inclusive and non-sexist language guidelines in its communications, documents and presentations.

³ Draft resolutions "Internship Program" CG/L.03/2023, "Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for Diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean", "OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" CG/L.08/2023.

- The Secretariat has noted that, according to the latest update of the List of Representatives accredited to OPANAL (Inf.13/2023Rev.), among the Member States that have submitted the corresponding accreditation there are only three women representatives to the Agency.

III. Recommendations of the Secretariat

To submit for consideration by the XXVIII Session of the Conference the draft resolution “Gender, non-proliferation and disarmament” (CG/L.04/2023Rev.2) addressing the momentum of the gender agenda not only as a moral imperative, but also as a strategic necessity to address global challenges with a broader and more diverse approach, examining this issue taking into account the considerations presented.