



General Conference

XXVIII Session
3 November 2023
Agenda Item 9

CG/Res.03/2023
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Resolution

Working methods of OPANAL

The General Conference,

Bearing in mind its role and authority as the supreme organ of OPANAL and stressing that the revitalization of the Agency's work is essential for the promotion of the values of the Treaty of Tlatelolco;

Bearing in mind the importance of continuing to strengthen the inclusiveness, efficiency, interactivity, and transparency of the deliberations of OPANAL bodies;

Taking into consideration that, to date, eleven Member States of OPANAL do not have diplomatic representation resident at the Agency's headquarters, and that their participation in the meetings of OPANAL bodies have been made possible thanks to the possibility of remote connection;

Recognizing that multilingualism is fundamental to the promotion of dialogue and diversity, which are indispensable elements of multilateralism;

Bearing in mind resolution CG/E/Res.10/2022 "Working methods for OPANAL meetings in 2023", adopted by the XXVII Special Session, on November 17, 2022, and the report of the Secretary-General contained in document CG/06/2023 on the measures implemented by the Secretariat;

Bearing in mind also resolution CG/Res/13/2023 "Strengthening and professionalization of the Secretariat", adopted at this General Conference;

Stressing that the preparation and timely circulation of documentation by the Secretariat is an essential condition for the proper functioning of governance bodies;

Appreciating the initiatives of the Council and the Committee on Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary Matters (CCAAP) in favour of the revitalization of the work of

OPANAL, including those aimed at overcoming challenges associated with the information and communication technologies used by the Secretariat;

Resolves:

1. **To take note of and thank** document CG/06/2023 presented by the Secretary-General on working methods, as well as the important progress made in the implementation of the recommendations annexed to Resolution CG/E/Res.10/2022.
2. **To instruct** the Secretary-General to implement the following measures to continue the process of revitalizing the work of OPANAL:

Regarding the support of the Secretariat to intergovernmental bodies

- a. **To ensure** that the provisional agendas and notices for convening meetings of the Council, the CCAAP and the Working Groups, are circulated to the membership at least two weeks in advance, unless otherwise decided by the organ in question, an indispensable measure to favor the presence of the Member States.
- b. **To give continuity** to the practice of convening, after prior consultation with the presidencies and coordinations in question, the meetings of the Working Groups consecutively to the meetings of the CCAAP, in order to stimulate participation in an in-person modality and have a better use of time.
- c. **To continue** the practice of including in the agenda of all Council meetings an agenda item entitled "general interventions".
- d. **To ensure** that the documentation to be examined at the meetings of the Council, the CCAAP and the Working Groups are circulated to the membership at least seven days in advance, unless otherwise decided by the organ in question, an indispensable measure to promote the inclusiveness, effectiveness, and interactivity of the deliberations.
- e. In relation to the previous point, **to give** priority to the documents that will be subject to negotiation by the membership.

- f. **To ensure** that the annotated agendas provide not only a description of the items to be addressed, but also make explicit the action expected as a result of the deliberation (perspective exchange or document approval).
- g. **To ensure** that draft minutes of Council and CCAAP meetings are sent to their respective presidencies for review and approval no later than two business days after the meeting. The minutes should be written in a summarized manner, for the benefit of conciseness.
- h. **To consider** that, if it is not possible to have spaces provided by the host State for the holding of the meetings of the Council on the dates foreseen in its work plans, these should then be held at the Provisional Headquarters of OPANAL.
- i. **To give continuity** to simultaneous interpretation Spanish-English and English-Spanish in the meetings of the Council, the CCAAP and the Working Groups, using independent and specialized interpretation service for whose hiring the quality/price ratio must be taken into consideration.
- j. **To give continuity** to the practice of convening all meetings of OPANAL bodies in an in-person format, with the possibility of remote connection.

Regarding the declarations and communiqués negotiated in OPANAL

- k. **To give continuity** to the practice of prioritizing the preparation of concise texts, which are easily communicable and
- l. **To consider** that, in circumstances in which a communiqué or declaration is expected to be read at another intergovernmental meeting, such as special sessions held at the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, there is often a time limit for such intervention.

Regarding the working methods of the Secretariat

- m. **To organize** the activities of the professional body of the Secretariat in such a way as to ensure support for the day-to-day work of the intergovernmental bodies of the Agency, especially through the preparation and timely circulation of documentation.

- n. **To ensure** that full use is being made of the possibilities offered by the information and communication technologies that have been provided to the Secretariat to increase its productivity, including with the objective of reducing the use of paper.
 - o. As soon as the Agency's new website becomes operational, **to discontinue** printing documents for meetings of OPANAL bodies, including the book of the General Conference.
 - p. **To adopt** administrative procedures relating to all expenses associated with the participation of the Secretariat in international conferences and events, in order to provide timely scheduling of such expenses and seek possible savings. Such procedures should be submitted to the CCAAP for consideration at its first meeting in 2024.
 - q. **To take advantage** of the spaces of other forums and events in which it participates by invitation so that, if appropriate, make contacts with the representatives of States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Additional Protocols I and II, other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, the Secretariats of other relevant international organizations and with civil society organizations and academia with activities in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
3. **To instruct** the five Member States that will make up the Council in 2024, with the support of the Secretariat, to submit to the last meeting of the Council in 2023 a calendar containing the dates planned for the meetings of the body for the year.
 4. **To request** the President of the CCAAP to be elected at the first meeting of the Commission in 2024, with the support of the Secretariat, to prepare a calendar containing the dates of the meetings of the body for the year, bearing in mind the advisability of holding them one week in advance in relation to the meetings of the Council.
 5. **To encourage** the Presidencies of the Council and CCAAP to implement the following measures to continue the process of revitalizing the work of OPANAL:
 - a. **To perform its best efforts** to respect the dates foreseen in the calendars that will be produced in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 above.

- b. **To ensure** that, upon receipt of draft documents prepared by the Secretariat, they do not take more than two business days to be reviewed and approved so as to not compromise timely submission to the membership.
 - c. **To bear in mind** that, Article 10 of the Rules Governing the Council, establishes, when the President, is unable to exercise his functions, the Presidency will be held by the next State Member of the Council subject to acceptance by said Member State.
6. **To encourage** Member States that have diplomatic representation resident at the Agency's headquarters to prioritize in-person participation in meetings of OPANAL bodies.
7. **To instruct** the Council to include the item "working methods of OPANAL" in its periodic agenda and **to instruct** the Secretary-General to also report to the General Conference, at its next session, on the implementation of this resolution.