



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

**Council**

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**C/14/2017Rev.**  
Original: Spanish

**Activities of the Council in 2017**

The Council of OPANAL submits to the General Conference its 2017 Activity Report, in accordance with Article 10, section 6 of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, which reads as follows:

“The Council shall submit an annual report on its work to the General Conference as well as such special reports as it deems necessary or which the General Conference requests of it.”

**I. Composition of the Council and meetings held in 2017**

The five States Members of the Council in 2017 are Mexico and Paraguay (both elected for the 2014-2017 term), Brazil, Guatemala and Peru (all three elected for the 2016-2019 term). In 2017, the Presidency of the Council alternated pursuant to Article 12 of the Regulations Governing the Council<sup>1</sup>, which reads as follows:

“The Presidency of the Council will be exercised by turns, by the Member States of the Council itself, by Spanish alphabetic order. Each President shall remain in office for a period of two calendar months.”

<b>2017</b>	<b>State</b>
January-February	Guatemala
March-April	Mexico
May-June	Paraguay
July-August	Peru
September-October	Brazil
November-December	Guatemala

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<sup>1</sup> The Regulations Governing the Council were amended through Resolution CG/E/Res.02/2016, adopted at the XXIV Special Session of the General Conference held on 10 November 2016. These Regulations entered into force on 1 January 2017.

As of September 2017, the Council held five meetings at the Agency Headquarters:

<b>Sessio n</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Observers</b>	<b>Summary record</b>
306 <sup>th</sup>	30 January 2017	Brazil Guatemala (President) Mexico Paraguay Peru	Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela	C/03/2017
307 <sup>th</sup>	6 April 2017	Brazil Guatemala Mexico (President) Paraguay Peru	Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras and Uruguay	C/08/2017Rev.
308 <sup>th</sup>	29 June 2017	Brazil Guatemala Mexico Paraguay (President) Peru	Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras and Uruguay	C/13/2017
309 <sup>th</sup>	23 August 2017	Brazil Guatemala Mexico Paraguay Peru (President)	Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica and Uruguay	C/19/2017
310 <sup>th</sup>	12 September 2017	Brazil (President) Guatemala Mexico Paraguay Peru	Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay	C/25/2017

## **II. Decisions made by the Council in 2017.**

At its first meeting of the year, the Council approved the “Working Plan of the Council for 2017” (Doc. C/01/2017Rev.2), which was up-dated throughout the year. The working plan includes 7 items. The following paragraphs describe such items and a summary of the decisions and actions taken on each item.

### **1. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco**

Through Resolution CG/Res.11/2015 entitled “50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco”, adopted by the General Conference on 26 September 2015, it was agreed to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco within the framework of the XXV Regular Session of the General Conference to be held at the ministerial-level in Mexico City on 13-14 February 2017. Moreover, it was also agreed that OPANAL Member States would issue a declaration and that an International Seminar would be organized.

At various meeting held in 2016 and at the first meeting held in 2017, the Council learnt all the preparations for these activities and made the necessary decisions guiding the Secretariat.

On 13 February 2017, the International Seminar “A world free of nuclear weapons: is it desirable, is it possible? How could it be achieved?” was held at the Headquarters of the Inter American Conference of Social Security (ICSS). 12 speakers from different countries participated in the Seminar and almost 200 people were in attendance. Thanks to the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Secretariat prepared a publication of the Seminar containing all the presentations and debates.

The XXV Session of the General Conference of OPANAL was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, on Tuesday 14 February 2017, at the Ministerial level. The Session was opened by the President of Mexico, His Excellency Enrique Peña Nieto. Argentina and Guatemala served as Vice-Presidents; these were represented by their Foreign Ministers; Her Excellency Susanna Malcorra and His Excellency Raúl Morales, respectively. Delegations from 26 out of the 33 OPANAL Member States participated in the Session; 10 of them were represented by their Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Observers: Additionally in attendance were the delegations from the 6 States Party to the Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco; 2 delegations representing the Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones (Central Asia and Southeast Asia); 6 delegations from International Organizations; 32 delegations from States accredited in Mexico; 10 Civil Society organizations and 38 special guests.

The List of Speakers included 35 participants (24 Member States, three States Party to the Additional Protocols, two NWFZ Representatives, five international organizations and one guest State).

The General Conference adopted the “Declaration by the Member States of OPANAL on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Conclusion of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)” (Document CG/03/2017). This document was circulated as a document of the United Nations General Assembly (Doc. A/71/803), as a document of the Conference on Disarmament (Doc. CD/2091), as a document of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Doc. NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/2) and as informative document of the International Atomic Energy Agency (Doc. INFCIRC/914). Thanks to the OPANAL Coordinators in Geneva, New York and Vienna – Mexico, Brazil and Guatemala, respectively, the Declaration had a worldwide distribution.

Moreover, the General Conference also re-elected by acclamation, Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, as Secretary General for the 2018 -2021 term, through Resolution CG/Res.01/2017, the only operative paragraph of which reads as follows:

**“To elect** Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares as Secretary General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) for the period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2021.”

It is worth noting that through Resolution CG/E/Res.566 “Election of the Secretary General” dated 7 November 2013, the General Conference elected by acclamation, Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, as Secretary-General for the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2017. On 29 November 2016, the Government of Brazil officialised the nomination for re-election of Ambassador Macedo Soares for the 2018-2021 term by means of *notes* sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Embassies of Member States accredited in Mexico and to the capitals of Member States. Furthermore, by note No. 01, dated 3 January 2017, and in conformity with Article 8, paragraph h of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, Brazil requested the inclusion of the election of the Secretary General in the Agenda of the XXV Session. The Secretariat communicated the former to all Member States on 5 January (Note S-039/2017). At the 306<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council, the provisional agenda of the XXV Session of the General Conference was presented, it included item 6: “Election of the Secretary-General”.

Moreover, the General Conference adopted the resolution “Vote of thanks” (Doc. CG/Res.02/2017), addressed to the Government of Mexico.

Furthermore, in 2016, OPANAL organised a poster contest as one of the initiatives to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The Members of the Council served as adjudicators and shortlisted 10 posters, gave an honorific mention to two participants (posters submitted by two girls from Venezuela aged 10 and 12) and chose the winning poster. The contest was closed on 26 September 2016 and included 166 posters from 20 countries in 3 different continents. The short-listed posters, an exhibition of historic photographs of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and a poster prepared by the Secretariat were displayed throughout February 2017 at the Headquarters of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Headquarters of the CISS, venue for the International Seminar, on 13 February 2017. In addition, these posters will be displayed also at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in October 2017.

Prior to the opening of the XXV Session of the General Conference, Dr Rosa María Fernández de Zamora, President of the Regional Committee of the UNESCO Programme “Memory of the World”, presented to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Honourable Luis Videgaray Caso the certificate with which the Treaty of Tlatelolco is registered in the Memory of the World.

A special draw of the Mexican National Lottery entitled “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco” took place on 15 February 2017 at the Auditorium of the Headquarters of the Mexican National Lottery. The commemorative ticket was printed with the image of the winning poster.

The Mexican Government also promoted the issuance of commemorative underground tickets in Mexico City distributed throughout February 2017.

Finally, the Government of Mexico published a commemorative book entitled: “The Treaty of Tlatelolco: a retrospective view fifty years later”.

## **2. External Relations of OPANAL**

### **2.1 V Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)**

The V CELAC Summit was held in Punta Cana, the Dominican Republic, on 21-25 January 2017. On this occasion the OPANAL Secretary-General was not invited to attend.

On 25 January 2017, CELAC adopted the “Special declaration 4 on nuclear disarmament”. In this declaration, CELAC welcomed the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Also in this disarmament declaration, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of collaboration and cooperation between CELAC and OPANAL.

## **2.2 United Nations Conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, convened by Resolution 71/258 (27-31 March and 15 June -7 July 2017, New York)**

Pursuant to Resolution A/RES/71/258, the UNGA convened a “United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination” in New York from 27-31 March and from 15 June to 7 July 2017, with the participation and contribution of international organizations and representatives of the civil society”. The OPANAL Secretary-General was invited to participate, he attended the first session on 27-31 March and delivered a statement (Doc. Inf.05/2017) and presented an information document prepared by the Secretariat (Doc. A/CONF.229/2017/WP.1), in accordance with the powers of the Secretary-General. Apart from the International Council of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, OPANAL was the only intergovernmental organization attending the Conference.

**On the occasion of this Conference**, a commemorative event on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco was organized by the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, in its capacity as coordinator of OPANAL in New York. This event was held at the ECOSOC Chamber at the UN Headquarters, on Monday, 27 March.

The Secretary-General attended the second session of the United Nations Conference from 3 to 7 July 2017. On this occasion the SG delivered a brief statement (Doc. Inf.15/2017) on 7 July, day on which the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted.

At the 310<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council, the Secretariat distributed document Inf.17/2017 to Member States “*Consideraciones de la Secretaría del OPANAL sobre el texto del Tratado sobre la Prohibición de las Armas Nucleares, concluido el 7 de julio de 2017*” (Spanish only).

## **2.3 First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) (2-12 May 2017, Vienna, Austria)**

The Secretary-General attended the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), in Vienna, Austria on 2-5 May 2017. On Thursday, 4 May, the Secretary-General delivered a statement to the Preparatory Committee (Doc. Inf.08/2017).

The “Declaration of the Member States of OPANAL on the 50th Anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)” was submitted as a document of the NPT PrepCom (Doc. NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/2).

While in Vienna, the Secretary-General met with Dr Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). The SG also met with Ambassador Alice Guitton, Permanent Representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament. The purpose of this meeting was to boost the efforts in solving the situation concerning the States Party to the Additional Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and their interpretative declarations, which constitute reservations to such legal instruments. Ambassador Guitton commented that the matter is being considered at the *Quai d'Orsay*.

Moreover, as informed at the 308<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council, the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), under the coordination of Venezuela, in conjunction with the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) organized a panel entitled “Tlatelolco at 50: The Continued Relevance and Potential of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones” on 3 May 2017. Mr Yukiya Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), delivered a statement at the opening of the event.

On 4 May, the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) organized an event entitled “Task Force on Enhancing Cooperation among Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zones”, in which the Secretary-General also took part.

On 5-6 May, the VCDNP and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) organized a fourth diplomatic workshop entitled “A World in Disarray: Implications for Vienna”, which took place in Krems Austria. The Secretary-General was also invited to participate in this workshop.

#### **2.4 International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September 2017).**

As done in previous years, the Secretariat prepared a draft declaration that was submitted to Member States through note number S-649/2017, dated 17 August 2017, and presented to the Council at its 309<sup>th</sup> Meeting, including the proposal of amendment submitted by Cuba (Inf. 18/2017Rev.)

At the aforementioned Meeting, some Member States indicated that they would submit additional observations. The Council therefore decided to convene a technical meeting open to all Member States on Wednesday, 6 September 2017, at the Agency Headquarters. Said meeting was convened by the Secretary-General through note number S-662/2017, dated 25 August.

In attendance to the meeting were the Representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay. At the end of the technical meeting, through note number S-727/2017, the text agreed (Document Inf.18/2017Rev.2) was transmitted to Member States and was subject to a silence procedure expiring on 13 September 2017, at 12:00hrs (UTC-6). Subsequently, through note number S-775/2017, the Secretariat submitted the Draft Declaration (Document Inf.18/2017Rev.3) including a new proposal of amendment submitted by Cuba and convened a new technical meeting on Thursday, 14 September 2017.

After receiving an additional proposal of amendment from Cuba, the Secretariat submitted to Member States the Draft Declaration (Doc. Inf.18/2017Rev.5) through note number S-783/2017, dated 21 September 2017. This was subject to a silence procedure expiring on Friday, 22 September 2017, at 12:00 h (UTC-6).

The Declaration was sent to the Member States through note S-786/2017, dated 22 September 2017 and to the OPANAL Coordinator in Geneva (Note S-789/2017), New York (note S-787/2017) and Vienna (Note S-788/2017). The Declaration is also available on the website of OPANAL and was circulated internationally on Monday, 25 September 2017 to different media and to the International Atomic Energy Agency (Note S-798/2017), to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (Note S-799/2017), to the Conference on Disarmament (Note S-800/2017), to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (Note S-801/2017) and to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (Note S-802/2017).

In its capacity as OPANAL Coordinator in Geneva, Mexico informed that the Declaration would be circulated as an official document of the 2018 Session of the Conference on Disarmament given that the 2017 Session has concluded and the annual report has been adopted.

## **2.5 LXXII Session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, October 2017)**

The Secretary-General will participate at the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in the second week of October 2017. In addition to delivering a statement at the general debate, the Secretary-General has requested, as he has been requesting since 2014, that the presidency of the First Committee include the participation of the Secretary-General of OPANAL in the “structured discussion” on disarmament that brings together the chief officers of international organizations.

Furthermore, within the framework of the LXXII Session of the UN General Assembly, OPANAL has suggested the convening of a side-event on Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, in accordance with the proposal submitted to the Council at its 308<sup>th</sup> Meeting through document C/12/2017Rev. This proposal was described and updated through documents C/16/2017 and Inf.16/2017, both submitted to the Council for consideration at its 309<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations in New York confirmed that the side-event will take place on 10 October, at Conference Room 8 at 10:00a.m.



## 2.6 OPANAL Coordinators

The Council was kept informed of the status of OPANAL Coordinations at the seats of the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna in 2017:

<b>Seat</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
New York	Brazil
Geneva	Mexico
Vienna	Guatemala

The Secretary-General commented that, upon approval of the Council, he would like to request that the three current coordinators extend their terms until 31 December 2017. The SG commented that this proposal results from the fact that the session of the United Nations General Assembly starts in September and, therefore, it would be more efficient if the terms of OPANAL Coordinators would run from January to December.

The Council agreed to the proposal of the Secretary-General, who sent letters to the three Coordinators requesting that they extend their terms to 31 December 2017.

<b>Seat</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Note sent by the Secretariat</b>	<b>Reply submitted by their Embassies in Mexico</b>
New York	Brazil	S-545/2017 (18 July 2017)	Positive Note number 31 (16 August 2017)
Geneva	Mexico	S-546/2017 (18 July 2017)	Positive Note DNU0005330 (24 July 2017)
Vienna	Guatemala	S-544/2017 (18 July 2017)	Positive Note number 1031/EMX/OPANAL (24 August 2017)

Given that the General Conference should be informed in this regard, at the 309<sup>th</sup> and 310<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Council, Member States were asked whether they were willing to serve as OPANAL Coordinators in 2018.

Through note number S-585/2017 (dated 31 July 2017), the Secretariat invited Member States to communicate their willingness to serve as OPANAL Coordinators, matter that would be considered by the General Conference at its XXV Special Session.

Through note number S-644/2017 (dated 17 August 2017), the Secretariat informed that Brazil was willing to continue to serve as OPANAL Coordinator in New York in 2018.

On 25 September 2017, through note number S-803/2017, the Secretariat reiterated the invitation to Member States to communicate their willingness to serve as OPANAL Coordinators in Vienna and Geneva in 2018.

Considering that, as of 26 September 2017, no nominations were received, the Council may address this matter again at its 311<sup>th</sup> Meeting scheduled for Thursday, 9 November 2017.

<b>OPANAL Coordinators in 2018</b>			
<b>Seat</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Start term</b>	<b>End term</b>
New York	Brazil	1 January 2018	31 December 2018
Geneva	[Vacant]	1 January 2018	31 December 2018
Vienna	[Vacant]	1 January 2018	31 December 2018

### **3. Interpretative declarations made by the States Party to Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.**

Pursuant to Resolution CG/Res.03/2015 adopted on 26 November 2015 by the OPANAL General Conference, at its 305<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 27 October 2016, the Council decided that joint *démarches* should be undertaken in Paris and Moscow with the French and Russian Governments by the five Members of the Council in order to deliver the respective memoranda and Proposals of Adjustment on specific paragraphs of their interpretative declarations that constitute reservations to Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The French interpretative declaration was presented on 2 March 1979, upon signing Additional Protocol I. The Russian interpretative declaration was issued on 18 May 1978, upon signing additional Protocol II. Both Declarations include paragraphs that constitute reservations to the commitments undertaken upon signing and ratifying the Additional Protocols.

Under the leadership of Brazil, President of the Council at the time, the *démarches* undertaken in Moscow took place on 16 December 2016, and those in Paris on 20 December 2016. At the 306<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council held on 30 January 2017, Ambassador Enio Cordeiro presented a report on the *démarches* undertaken by the Representatives of the Council in Paris and Moscow, a summary of which is presented below.

## **Démarches undertaken with the Governments of Russia and France**

### **Démarches in Moscow**

On 16 December 2016, a meeting took place at the headquarters of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs between Representatives of OPANAL Council Members and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In attendance to the meeting were, on behalf of the Council, the Brazilian Ambassador to Moscow, in conjunction with the Ambassadors of Paraguay and Peru and the *Chargés d’Affaires* of Guatemala and Mexico, accredited to the Russian Government; and, Ambassador Mikhail Ulyanov, Director of the Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

At said meeting, the Representatives of the Council presented documents C/29/2016 and C/30/2016, which contained the Memoranda and Proposal of Adjustment addressed to Russia concerning the specific paragraphs that constitute reservations in reference to the recognition of the Zone of Application of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the commitment not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the Contracting Parties to the Treaty. The Representatives of the Members of the Council expressed to the Russian Official that the purpose of these démarches by OPANAL was to end the misunderstanding caused by the Russian declaration, which has been a cause for concern to the States of Latin America and the Caribbean for decades.

Ambassador Ulyanov confirmed to the Representatives of the Council that the matter under discussion was very sensitive since Russian national security was involved; he further commented that he did not understand the concern of Latin America. He also added that the Russian declaration is still valid and reasonable.

Ambassador Ulyanov informed the Representatives of the Council that the documents and suggestions would be studied in a constructive manner and in detail by the relevant organs at the Russian MFA. Ambassador Ulyanov anticipated that it would take a few months to reach a decision.

### **Démarches in Paris**

On 20 December 2016, the Ambassador of Brazil to France, in conjunction with the Ambassadors of Guatemala and Paraguay and the *Chargés d’Affaires* of Mexico and Peru, accredited to the French Government, met at Quai d’Orsay with Mr. Zacharie Gross, Deputy Director of Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. At said meeting, the Representatives of the Council presented to the French MFA Document C/31/2016, which contains the memorandum and proposal of adjustment to the paragraph of the French interpretative declaration that constitute a reservation in reference to the recognition of the Zone of Application of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The French diplomat emphasized the commitment of the French Government to nuclear disarmament, in keeping with Article VI of the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Mr Gross, however, confirmed that France cannot renounce its nuclear deterrence power and that Latin America and the Caribbean are safe, while France is in a Europe subject to internal and external threats, deriving from different regions of the world, in particular from the Middle East, Africa and Asia

The French diplomat recalled that out of respect for the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Paris has not utilised nor stored nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, including the French overseas departments in the region; he further stated that France has no intention of doing so.

Mr Gross noted that proposals that tend to introduce restrictions to navigation on the high seas in the region are not normal to this type of commitment since they are not in keeping with the rules of international law. He further mentioned that such restrictions would also compromise the French nuclear deterrence strategy.

The French diplomat informed that the Memorandum and Proposal of Adjustment of OPANAL would be forwarded to higher authorities of the French Foreign Ministry and promised a quick response to the démarche.

As informed at the 308<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2017, while attending the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) (2-12 May 2017) in Vienna, the Secretary-General of OPANAL met with Ambassador Alice Guitton, Permanent Representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament. At said meeting Ambassador Guitton commented that the Memorandum and Proposal of Adjustment are under consideration by the *Quai d'Orsay*.

At the 309<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council held on 23 August 2017, the Secretary-General informed that OPANAL had not yet received a reply neither from France nor from Russia to the démarches undertaken by the Council in Paris and Moscow eight months ago. In this respect, the Secretary-General submitted to the Members of the Council for consideration the proposal to undertake new démarches with Russia and France, through a joint letter from the Ambassadors of the Members of the Council accredited in Moscow and Paris, enquiring whether these Ministries of Foreign Affairs have a reply to the documents submitted by OPANAL. The Council approved the proposal of the Secretary-General concerning the preparation of a draft joint letter from the Members of the Council to the French and Russian MFAs.

At the 301<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council, the Secretariat presented the joint letter proposals of the Members of the Council requesting a reply from the MFAs. Of France and Russia.

## **Démarches with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Following an analogous procedure to the one undertaken in France and Russia, the Council prepared, with the support of the Secretariat, memoranda and proposals of Adjustments addressed to the United States of America and the United Kingdom concerning specific paragraphs of their interpretative declarations made upon signing and ratifying additional Protocols I and II that constitute reservations.

Through letters dated 9 March 2017, the Secretariat submitted to Member States Document C/04/2017, which contains the memoranda and proposals of adjustment addressed to United States of America and the United Kingdom.

Mexico (note number DNU2384, dated 4 April) made some editorial observations that were be included immediately by the Secretariat.

Cuba (note number 39/17, dated 18 April 2017) submitted proposals of amendment to the Proposals of Adjustment. The proposals of Cuba were discussed at the technical meeting open to all Member States held on 8 June 2017. At said meeting, the Secretariat presented editorial observations to the proposals of Cuba. The observations of the Secretariat were accepted by Cuba at the 308<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2017.

On 26 July 2017, Nicaragua (note number EDNIC/EMB/242/2017) transmitted to the Secretariat some proposals of amendment to Articles 1, paragraph C, and Articles 3 of both proposals of Adjustment (identical proposals of amendment for both proposals of Adjustment). Through notes S-562/2017 (dated 26 July 2017) and S-626/2017 (dated 9 August 2017), the Secretariat requested that Nicaragua clarified the sentence “*cualquiera de los usos*” (any of the uses) contained in its proposal of amendment to Article 1, C to both proposals of Adjustment. The Secretariat did not received a reply from Nicaragua to the aforementioned clarification request.

At the 309<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council held on 23 August 2017, the Council discussed the amendment of Nicaragua to Article 3 of both proposals of Adjustment. However, considering that Nicaragua did not reply to the request of the Secretariat concerning the proposal of amendment of Nicaragua to Article 1, C, of both proposals of Adjustment; through note number S-658/2017 (dated 24 August 2017), the Secretariat submitted to Member States the amendment of Nicaragua to Article 3 of both proposals of Adjustment subject to a silence procedure expiring on 30 August 2017, at 17:00 hours (UTC-6) and excluded the proposal of amendment of Nicaragua to Article 1, C of both Proposals of Adjustment. As no comments from Member States were submitted on the latter, the Council did not take them into consideration. The Council therefore decided the final version of the memoranda and proposals of Adjustment addressed to the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

At the 310 Meeting of the Council held on 12 September 2017, the Secretary-General informed that once the final version of the memoranda and the proposal of Adjustment addressed to the United States of America and the United Kingdom are ready, he would send letters to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Members of the Council requesting that instructions be given to their Representatives in Washington and London to commence the respective *démarches*, following the procedure undertaken with France and Russia.

Also at the 310<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council, Mexico expressed to be convinced of the importance of undertaking these *démarches* with the United States of America and the United Kingdom, as these are as important as those undertaken with France and Russia. Nevertheless, Mexico asked the Council if it was pertinent to undertake these *démarches* considering the current global crossroads of nuclear weapons, such as the case of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the recent adoption of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to which the nuclear-weapon States have opposed. Mexico asked the Council whether it would be convenient to postpone the *démarches* with Washington and London, and also the new *démarches* with France and Russia. Mexico further enquired whether undertaking these *démarches* now would be inappropriate for the purpose of OPANAL concerning the review of the interpretative declarations.

In response to the enquiry of Mexico, Brazil and Peru commented that they agreed to postpone both *démarches*, in Washington and London, as long as it did not involve a long period of time. In this respect, Brazil and Peru also expressed that if *démarches* with Washington and London were to be postponed, the new *démarches* with Paris in Moscow should be also postponed. The Council therefore decided to postpone all *démarches* and reconsider the matter in two months' time.

#### **4. Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education**

At its different meetings, the Council was informed about the different academic activities in which the Secretary-General took part, such as lectures at different universities and TV interviews.

In compliance with the decisions of the General Conference contained in Resolution CG/Res.01/2015, the mandates of which continue to be implemented after the agreement reached by the General Conference at its XXIV Special Session held on 10 November 2016, The Council was kept informed of the Course of OPANAL, the Summer School organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, and the OPANAL Internship Programme.

##### **4.1 OPANAL Course**

The Council learnt that the proposal to implement the OPANAL Course on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation will take place for the first time in Montevideo on 11-15 December 2015. The Course will be delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, former UN Under-Secretary-General and High-Representative for Disarmament Affairs and current President of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs.

#### **4.2 Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**

Like the previous three years, OPANAL co-sponsored the fourth edition of the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico that took place on 10-14 July 2017. On 12 July 2017, the Secretary-General delivered a lecture on the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the negotiation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

#### **4.3 Internship Programme**

At its different meetings, the Council was informed about the nominations to participate in the Internship Programme of the Agency. Concerning the Internship Programme without financial support, although nominations were submitted, no interns participate in the programme. Concerning the Programme earmarked for candidates from the Member States of the Caribbean with the sponsorship of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Secretariat welcomed an intern from Saint Lucia for the first half of 2017, Mr Carlton Henry; and an intern from Haiti for the second half of 2017, Mr Jeff Desir. The Secretariat is yet to receive confirmation from the Netherlands regarding the continuation of the Internship Programme earmarked for the Member States of the Caribbean in 2018. This project is included in the measures taken to promote the participation of Member States from the Caribbean in the activities of the Agency.

### **5. XXV Special Session of the General Conference of OPANAL**

The Council and the Secretariat worked on the provisional agenda, documents and resolutions for the XXV Special Session of the General Conference. At the 308<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council, it was agreed to convene this Session on 28 September 2017, as suggested by the Secretary-General at the beginning of the year. At the 309<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council, the provisional agenda was approved (Doc. CG/E/01/2017) and was submitted to Member States by the Secretary-General together with the note convening the Session and the List of documents and draft resolutions (Note number S-718/2017, dated 7 September 2017).

On 22 September 2017, through note number S-796/2017, the Secretariat submitted to Member States for consideration a second set of Documents and draft resolutions of the XXV Special Session of the General Conference.

#### **5.1 Elections for the Council**

At the 307<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council, the Secretariat distributed document **C/06/2017** on the election of 2 Member States to the Council for the 2018-2021 term. This document stated that in December 2017, Mexico and Paraguay will end the 4-year term as members of the Council, for which it is necessary to elect two new members of the Council. Document C/06/2017 includes a descriptive chart of the historical participation of States as Members of the Council.

At the 308<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council, the invitation was extended again to all Member States to present nominations for the Council. At the same Meeting Uruguay put itself forward as a candidate for the Council for the 2018-2021 term. Uruguay made official its nomination through note number E.15/017-094, dated 3 July 2017, this was communicated to Member States through note number S-528/2017, dated 10 July 2017.

On 29 August 2017, the Secretariat sent note number S-685/2017 informing on the nomination of the Government of the Argentine Republic for the Council. This was informed by the Argentine Embassy in Mexico through note number EMEXI 5049/2017, dated 29 August 2017.

This information is registered in Document “Nominations of Member States for the Council for the 2018-2021 term” (Doc. CG/E/04/2017). Draft Resolution CG/E/L.01/2017 has been prepared and will be submitted to the General Conference for adoption. If no further nominations were received, and assuming that vote was unnecessary, Argentina and Uruguay would be elected Members of the Council for the 2018-2021 term.

## **6. Administrative and Budgetary matters.**

### **6.1 Status of Collection of Assessed Contributions**

At each one of its Meetings, the Council was informed of the status of collection of assessed contributions in the order in which they were credited into the bank accounts of the Agency. All payments are registered in Document Inf.02/2017Rev.11, “Status of Collection of Member States’ Assessed Contributions” (Annex II).

By the end of the third trimester of 2017, the status of collection of member states’ assessed contributions amounted to US\$ 144,120.03; which represents 34.56% of the FY2017 Budget (US\$ 416,989.00).

Ten Member States, those being Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Mexico, Saint Lucia and Uruguay are up-to-date with their 2017 financial obligations to the Agency. Moreover, seven Member States, those being Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru have partially paid their assessed contributions for 2017.

Thus, sixteen Member States have not yet paid their assessed contributions for 2017, which amount to US\$ 265,487.97.00, equivalent to 63.67% of the FY2017 Budget.



### **6.1.2 Proposal of Payment plans**

At its XXIV Special Session (10 November 2016), through Resolution CG/E/Res.06/2016, the General Conference decided to renew and update the discount payment programme adopted at its XXIV Session (26 November 2015) through Resolution CG/Res.12/2015 for four Member States, those being El Salvador, Haiti, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

On 24 January 2017, the Secretariat received a payment from the Government of Saint Lucia amounting to US\$ 17,469.99. Saint Lucia therefore complied with the payment plan proposed in Resolution CG/E/Res.06/2016, which amounted to US\$ 11,493.62. Moreover, Saint Lucia paid its assessed contributions for 2016 and 2017 (US\$ 1,543.00 each). The remaining US\$ 2,890.37 will be credited against assessed contributions of Saint Lucia in future financial years.

After the payment of Saint Lucia, only 3 out of 7 States in long-term arrears remain, those being El Salvador, Haiti and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, they have neither replied to the plans proposed nor made any payments.

For these three Member States, the CCAAP and the Council analysed the possibility to present again a payment plan. This proposal is described in Document CCAAP/23/2017Rev. and includes the following: Haiti shall pay its arrears up to 2017 with an 80% discount; El Salvador and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines shall pay their arrears up to 2017 with a 50% discount. Moreover, these will be subject to acceptance and/or observations, which, in either case, should be transmitted in writing before 31 January 2018. In addition, the CCAAP and the Council approved to recommend that the General Conference instructs the Secretary-General to undertake démarches with the Embassies El Salvador and Haiti in Mexico. The Secretary-General met with the Ambassadors of El Salvador (11 September) and Haiti (18 September) in Mexico for the purpose to present the proposal prior the convening of the XXV Special Session of the General Conference.

In no response is given by 1 February 2018, the Secretary-General would be instructed to visit the capitals of these three States (San Salvador, Port-au-Prince, and Kingstown) and conduct the respective démarches in order to receive a reply concerning the payment plans proposed to these three States for the third consecutive year.

## **6.2 Financial Statements and External Auditor's Report as of 31 December 2016 (CCAAP/21/2017)**

The audit firm “Mazars” was appointed by the General Conference for a 4-year term, pursuant to Resolution CG/Res.562 adopted at its XXIII Session held in 2013.

At its 308<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Secretariat informed the Council that it submitted all financial documents to the External Auditor, under established practice, before the end of April. The audit of the Agency's financial statements as of 31 December 2016 started in May this year and the Committee on Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary matters follow the process.

Afterwards, the Secretary-General informed that due to procedural issues the report of the External Auditor would not be ready one month prior to the XXV Special Session of the General Conference. The SG therefore requested that the CCAAP and the Council made an exception, on this occasion, concerning the period established in Article 9.05 of the Financial Regulations for the sanction of the financial statements. Both, the CCAAP and the Council, agreed to make this exception.

## **6.3 Appointment of the External Auditor**

The appointment term of *Mazars Auditores* as External Auditor of the Agency (CG/Res.562) will end in 2017. At its 131<sup>st</sup> Meeting, the CCAAP addressed this matter and assessed the possibility of appointing a new external auditor. The Secretary-General suggested that the firm “*Munir Hayeck*” be considered. “*Munir Hayeck*” serves as the external auditor of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, this firm therefore understands the financial nature of an international agency.

On 14 September 2017, the “*Mazars Auditores*” representative that is responsible for the report on the Financial Statements of OPANAL, Ms Olga Macias, communicated unofficially to the Secretary General that the firm “*Mazars Auditores*” had no intention to continue to serve as External Auditor for OPANAL.

Pursuant to Article 13 of the Financial Regulations, the CCAAP transmitted at the 309<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council its decision to suggest that the General Conference appoint the firm “*Munir Hayeck*” as External Auditor for the 2018-2021 term, at its XXV Special Session.

## **6.4 Draft Budget for FY2018**

On 27 June 2017, at the 129<sup>th</sup> Meeting of CCAAP, the Secretariat presented to the CCAAP the FY2018 Draft Budget and Scale of Assessments (Doc. CCAAP/16/2017) within the timeframe established in Article 2.03 of the Financial Regulations - first half of the year. This Draft Budget was prepared using the exchange rate MXN 17.00 to USD 1.00. The Draft Budget was approved by the CCAAP at its 130<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Subsequently, through note number S-640/2017, dated 16 August 2017, the Secretariat submitted the revised version of the Draft Budget and Scale of Assessments (Doc. CCAAP/16/2017Rev.) together with an informative note stating that the exchange rate used in Document CCAAP/16/2017Rev. is, for reasons of caution, MXN 16.5 to USD 1.00.

In accordance with the procedure established in the Financial Regulations for the adoption of the Budget, Article 2, sections 2.03.4 and 2.03.05, at its 131<sup>st</sup> Meeting, the CCAAP agreed to recommend that the Council submit to the General Conference the Draft Budget for adoption at its XXV Special Session. Following the recommendation of the CCAAP, the Council approved the presentation of the Draft Budget at its 309<sup>th</sup> Meeting through the adoption of the Council Resolution “Draft Budget and Scale of Assessments for the Financial Year 2018” (Doc. C/18/2017). On 29 August 2017, document “Draft Budget and Scale of Assessments for the Financial Year 2018” (CCAAP/16/2017Rev.) was sent to Member States together with the note convening the XXV Special Session of the General Conference.

### **6.5 OPANAL Headquarters – Lease contract.**

The 2-year lease contract of the property located at *Calle Milton 61, Colonia Anzures, Delegación Miguel Hidalgo, in Mexico City*, was signed in 2015 and expired on 14 May 2017.

The Secretary-General informed the CCAAP and the Council that on 18 June 2017, the property-owner, Mr Federico Mendoza Mirassou and the leaseholder, Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, in his capacity as legal representative of the Agency, signed an Amending Agreement (Doc. S-542/2017) to the lease contract dated 15 April 2015.

The aforementioned Amending Agreement extends the validity of the lease contract for 48 months. Moreover, the Amending Agreement provides for a monthly rent increase, stating that the monthly rent amounts to MXN 80,000.00 as of July 2017. All clauses that were not amended by the Amending Agreement are still valid.

It remains more that desirable that OPANAL be granted permanent headquarters in order to end the situation of insecurity that the Agency faces with respect to its facilities.

### **6.6 Composition of the Secretariat**

According to the Standards to Govern the Operations of the Secretariat (Doc. CG/E/666) – Article 37, “Register of Staff members”, reads as follows:

“The Secretariat shall periodically distribute to the member states a register of the staff members, indicating name, type of employment, functions, nationality and date of entry into the Secretariat.”

The information below, which is also contained in Document “Register of Staff members”, (CCAAP/12/2017Rev.) lists the officers that are currently working at the Secretariat of OPANAL:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Functions</b>	<b>Form of employment</b>	<b>Date of entry on duty</b>	<b>Extensions of contracts</b>	<b>Nationality</b>
Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares	Secretary-General	International Officer. Elected by the General Conference for the 2014-2017 term through Resolution CG/Res.566, dated 7 November 2013.	1 January 2014	Re-elected for a 4-year term (2018- 2021) through Resolution CG/Res.01/2017, dated 14 February 2017.	Brazilian
Noemí Rodríguez Velázquez	Translations and Publications Officer	Local employee	12 Sept 2011	1 January 2012 1 January 2013 1 January 2014 1 January 2015 1 January 2016 1 January 2017	Mexican
Jorge Alberto López Lechuga	Research and Communications Officer	Local employee	1 January 2013	1 April 2013 1 April 2014 1 April 2015 1 April 2016 1 April 2017	Mexican
Fabiola Gil Rodríguez	International Relations Officer	Local employee	1 January 2013	1 April 2013 1 July 2013 1 July 2014 1 July 2015 1 July 2016	Costa Rican and Mexican
Renato de Almeida Arão Galhardi	Programmes Officer	Local employee	1 June 2016	1 June 2017	Brazilian
Elizabeth Lemus Avilés	Programmes Officer	Local employee	1 August 2016	1 August 2017	Mexican
Israel David Ramírez Flores	General Services	Local employee	18 October 2010	19 January 2011 19 January 2012 19 January 2013 19 January 2014 19 January 2015 19 January 2016 19 January 2017	Mexican

### III. Control System

The principal elements of the Treaty of Tlatelolco are the Obligations established in Article 1:

- “1. The Contracting Parties hereby undertake to use exclusively for peaceful purposes the nuclear material and facilities which are under their jurisdiction, and to prohibit and prevent in their respective territories:
- a. The testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons, by the Parties themselves, directly or indirectly, on behalf of anyone else or in any other way, and
  - b. The receipt, storage, installation, deployment and any form of possession of any nuclear weapons, directly or indirectly, by the Parties themselves, by anyone on their behalf or in any other way.
2. The Contracting Parties also undertake to refrain from engaging in, encouraging or authorizing, directly or indirectly, or in any way participating in the testing, use, manufacture, production, possession or control of any nuclear weapon.”

To guarantee compliance, the Treaty establishes a Control System in Articles 12 to 18. Moreover, through Article 10, section 5, the Treaty delegates responsibilities for ensuring appropriate functioning of the Control System:

“In addition to the functions conferred upon it by this Treaty and to those which may be assigned to it by the General Conference, the Council shall, through the Secretary General, ensure the proper operation of the Control System in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty and with the decisions adopted by the General Conference.”

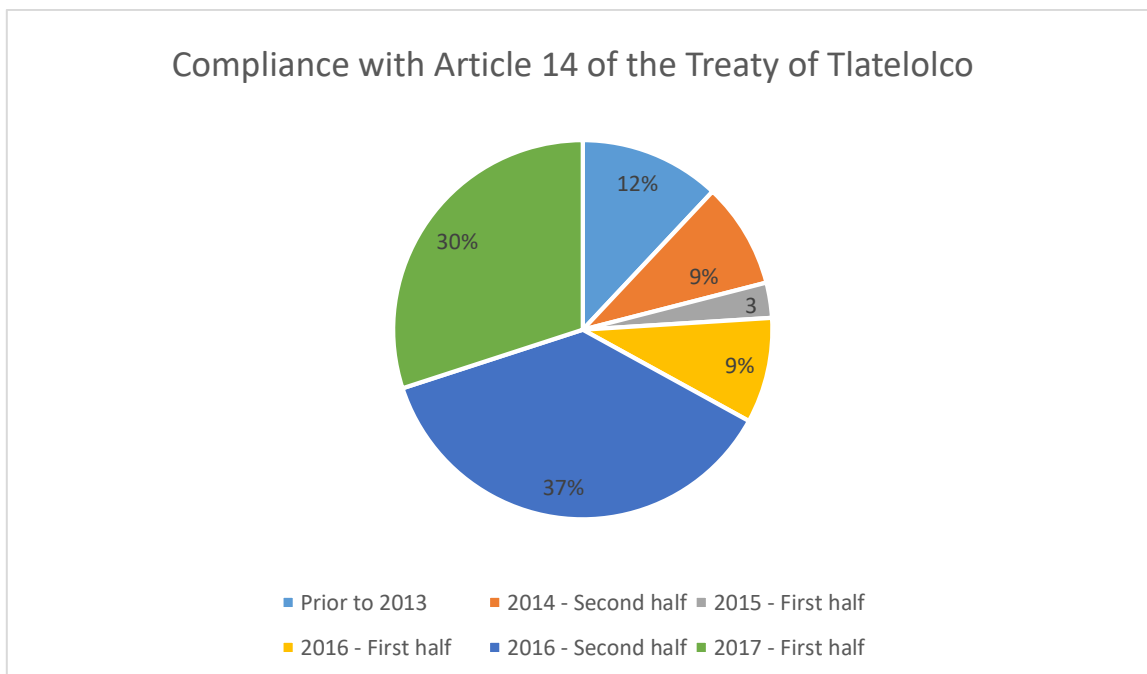
At all Council meetings, the Secretary-General constantly reiterated the call on Member States about the relevance of complying with this Article of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which is not an optional action, but a fundamental legal obligation. Through reminder letters sent to Member States in August and 2016 and January 2017, the Secretariat insisted on the importance of fully complying with this obligation in the light of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in order for all 33 Member States to be up-to-date with their reports.

Subsequently, in July 2017, the Secretary-General sent again reminder notes to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States that have not fully complied with this obligation, requesting the submission of the reports covering up to 30 June 2017.

As of 26 September 2017, after submitting their reports for the first half of 2017, 10 Member States (30%) are up-to-date with this obligation, as stated in Draft Resolution “Control System of the Treaty of Tlatelolco” (Doc. CG/E/L.03/2017). 12 Member States (36%) have submitted their reports covering up to the second half of 2016; and 3 Member States (9%) have submitted their reports covering up to the first half of 2016.

One Member State submitted its report covering up to the first half of 2015 and seven Member States have not complied with this obligation over the last four semesters or more (Annex 1).

<b>Compliance with Article 14</b>					
<b>Prior to 2013</b>	<b>Second half of 2014</b>	<b>First half of 2015</b>	<b>First half of 2016</b>	<b>Second half of 2016</b>	<b>First half 2017</b>
Bahamas Barbados Saint Lucia Trinidad and Tobago	Antigua and Barbuda El Salvador Guyana	Dominican Republic	Honduras Grenada St Vincent and the Grenadines	Belize Bolivia Chile Costa Rica Ecuador Guatemala Haiti Jamaica Panama Peru Suriname Venezuela	Argentina Brazil Colombia Cuba Dominica Mexico Nicaragua Paraguay St Kitts and Nevis Uruguay
4	3	1	3	12	10
12.12%	9.09%	3.03	9.09%	36.36%	30.03



Although Article 24 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco is not part of the Control System, it does imply that the States Party are required to inform the Secretariat:

“Once this Treaty has entered into force, the Secretariat shall be notified immediately of any international agreement concluded by any of the Contracting Parties on matters with which this Treaty is concerned; the Secretariat shall register it and notify the other Contracting Parties.”

Compliance with this Article is not limited to a specific timeframe, however, between 1 January and 26 September 2017 six States (Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Uruguay, Venezuela and Mexico) reported to the Secretariat the signing of relevant agreements, and in some instances, they have reported not signing any agreements on matters concerning the Treaty after their last report to the Secretariat.

Three Member States have never submitted a report on this matter (Belize, Costa Rica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines). The Secretary-General sent letters to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of these three Member States requesting that information on the matter be submitted to the Agency.

Annex I  
Status of compliance with Articles 14 and 24 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco

MEMBER STATES	Article 14	Article 24
	Last report submitted on	Last report submitted on
Antigua and Barbuda	31-Jan2015	3-Feb-2015
Argentina	30-Jun2017	16-Nov-2016
Bahamas	30-Jun.-2010	10-May-2007
Barbados	31-Dec-1984	10-Apr-1984
Belize	31-Dec-2016	
Bolivia	30-Dec-2016	31-March-2016
Brazil	30-Jun-2017	26-Nov-2015
Chile	30-Dec-2016	25-Feb-2005
Colombia	30-Jun-2017	2-Apr-2014
Costa Rica	31-Dec-2016	
Cuba	30-Jun-2017	31-Dec-2016
Dominica	30-Jun-2017	12-Sep-2012
Dominican Republic	30-Jun-2015	7-Aug-1987
Ecuador	31-Dec-2016	25-Aug-2014
El Salvador	31-Dec-2014	22-Sep-2010
Grenada	30-Jun-2016	13-Sep-1980
Guatemala	31-Dec-2016	2-Dec-2010
Guyana	15-Dec-2014	16-Sep-2010
Haiti	31-Dec-2016	31-Jul-1973
Honduras	30-Jun-2016	8-Nov-2010
Jamaica	31-Dec-2016	5-Apr-2016
Mexico	30-Jun-2017	30-Jun-2017
Nicaragua	30-Jun-2017	30-Jun-2016
Panama	31-Dec-2016	4-Feb-1986
Paraguay	30-Jun-2017	1-Jul-2015
Peru	31-Dec-2016	30-Jun-2016
Saint Lucia	25-Jul-2013	25-Jul-2013
Saint Christopher and Nevis	30-Jun-2017	6-Jun-2014
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	30-Jun-2016	
Suriname	31-Dec-2016	16-Sep-2010
Trinidad and Tobago	24-Jul-2013	25-Jul-2013
Uruguay	30-Jun-2017	4-Jan-2017
Venezuela	31-Dec-2016	14-Jan-2014