Press Release

Tenth Edition of the OPANAL Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Course

Guatemala City, Guatemala, 12-14 August 2024

The 10th edition of the OPANAL Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Course took place in Guatemala City, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala and the Antonio José de Irisarri Diplomatic Academy, from August 12 to 14, 2024.

Government officials from various departments who participated in the course had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The course addressed several key topics including the origin of nuclear weapons, the history of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the non-proliferation regime established by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the current challenges facing the international community in this field. Multilateral efforts to ban nuclear weapons, and the humanitarian consequences of their use were also discussed. Further, the legal aspects of nuclear threats within the framework of International Humanitarian Law, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The opening event of the course was attended by Ambassador María Luisa Ramírez Coronado, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, who highlighted the relevance of this course in light of the country's current policy on disarmament and international security. She also emphasized Guatemala's commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region and its key role in defending disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Participants also heard welcoming words from OPANAL's Secretary-General, Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini, who expressed his gratitude for Guatemala's commitment to regional security and its support for global efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. The Secretary-General also took the opportunity to thank the Government of Guatemala for its collaboration in organizing this important course for the third consecutive year, highlighting the significance of these initiatives in advancing towards a world without nuclear weapons. In this context, OPANAL's course contributes to the training of Guatemalan diplomats in their role as promoters of disarmament and defenders of peace at the international level.

The course's opening ceremony was also attended by Dr. Marco Vinicio Quan Ramírez, Director of the Antonio José de Irisarri Diplomatic Academy, and Ambassador Ana Isabel Carrillo Fabián, Director General of Multilateral and Economic International Relations of the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry.

OPANAL staff also visited the Rafael Landívar University and the University of San Carlos, where they presented a lecture titled "The Treaty of Tlatelolco in the Current International Security Context". The lecture sought to provide university students with an overview of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and the role of the OPANAL and Latin American and Caribbean countries in promoting international security.

The OPANAL continues to carry out its mission of promoting education for disarmament and non-proliferation through the training of specialised professionals in this field in Latin America and Caribbean in fulfillment of Resolution CG/Res.07/2023 adopted by the XXVIII Extraordinary Session of the OPANAL's General Conference, which is in line with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution entitled "*United Nations Study on Education for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation*".

Guatemala signed the Treaty of Tlatelolco on 14 February 1967, and ratified it on 6 February 1970, the same day it presented its declaration of exemption from the stipulations contained in Article 29, paragraph 2, of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.