

2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Distr.: General
15 November 2021

Original: English

New York, 4–28 January 2022

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

Addendum

1. Pursuant to the decisions on background documentation adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, on 4 February 2020 the Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) presented a memorandum regarding the Agency's activities related to the Treaty that have taken place since the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. Owing to the postponement of the tenth Review Conference to 4–28 January 2022, the Secretary-General of OPANAL submits an addendum to the memorandum, which contains a compilation of the Agency's activities in 2020–2021.

Control System of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and regional and external activities of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean

Compliance with obligations established by the control system of the Treaty of Tlatelolco

2. In accordance with article 14 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, each State party submits to the Agency semi-annual reports stating that no activity prohibited under the Treaty has taken place in its territory. The dates of the latest reports submitted by OPANAL member States are shown in annex I.

3. Article 24 contains another important obligation of States parties, under which States are required to inform the Agency of any international agreement concluded by them on matters with which the Treaty is concerned. Unlike article 14, article 24 does not establish a specific periodicity for States to submit their reports in this regard (see annex II).



External relations of the Agency

4. The Secretary-General of OPANAL participated in the thematic debate on pillar II of the Non-Proliferation Treaty at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in March 2020.

5. OPANAL has continued its close cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and participated in the general debate of the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth IAEA general conferences, in 2020 and 2021, through the Mission of Peru to IAEA, which coordinates for OPANAL in Vienna.

6. The Secretary-General of OPANAL delivered a statement during the high-level event on International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September 2020), with the participation of Heads of State, Heads of Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs of more than 80 countries, on 2 October 2020.

7. In the margins of the seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of OPANAL participated in the general debates and the high-level thematic debates of the First Committee.

8. In order to strengthen the cooperation between the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, OPANAL held several bilateral meetings with the representatives of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (African Commission on Nuclear Energy), the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat), the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and the Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone (Embassy of Kazakhstan in Mexico).

9. The Secretary-General of OPANAL participated in the first Meeting of the States parties to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) on 15 December 2020, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening for signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) on 12 April 2020, the twelfth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba on 15 July 2021 and the fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba on 21 and 22 October 2021.

10. On the occasion of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, on 22 January 2021, the Secretary-General of OPANAL, Flávio Roberto Bonzanini, and the Executive Secretary of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, Messaoud Baaliouamer, issued a joint communiqué, in which they recognized the importance of this landmark instrument and reaffirmed their commitment to achieve and preserve a world free of nuclear weapons.

11. In January 2021, OPANAL submitted a contribution to the United Nations Disarmament Yearbook (Office of Disarmament Affairs), with factual reports on the most relevant activities carried out by OPANAL member States. Furthermore, in June 2021, OPANAL sent its contribution to the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on oceans and the law of the sea.

12. The secretariat of OPANAL continues its close cooperation with the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials in the framework of its cooperation agreement on verification of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and on 19 July 2021 participated in the thirtieth anniversary of the Agency, at which the Secretary-General of OPANAL delivered a statement virtually.

Education for disarmament and non-proliferation

13. On 31 August 2020, the OPANAL secretariat submitted a report on the activities carried out by the secretariat of OPANAL in education for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons during the period January–August 2020

([Inf.29/2020](#)) as a contribution to the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

14. In 2020 and 2021, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and the Matías Romero Institute, OPANAL organized the sixth and seventh editions of the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation for diplomats from the region, held virtually owing to the conditions imposed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

15. The general conference of OPANAL, at its twenty-seventh session held on 30 September 2021, resolved to support interns with a monthly allowance as an incentive and in recognition of their constant work during their time at OPANAL ([CG/Res.03/2021](#)).

16. In 2021, the secretariat of OPANAL welcomed two young professionals, from Barbados and Belize, as part of the internship programme earmarked for Caribbean member States, with financial support from the Netherlands.

Fifty-third and fifty-fourth anniversaries of the conclusion of the Treaty of Tlatelolco

17. The Congress of Mexico City, the Government of Mexico City, the Office of the Mayor of Cuauhtémoc (Mexico City), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Matías Romero Institute and OPANAL jointly organized, between 11 and 16 February 2020, a series of activities with the aim of commemorating the fifty-third anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, including panel discussions, a solemn act of commemoration, film exhibitions and a radio programme. As in every year, OPANAL member States issued a joint communiqué in which, among other matters, they highlighted the importance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco ([Inf.02/2020Rev.7](#)).

18. The event to commemorate the fifty-fourth anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Tlatelolco was organized virtually by the OPANAL secretariat, taking into account the conditions generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was chaired by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Argentina, Carlos Alfonso Tomada, in his capacity as President of the Council in turn. The commemoration included recorded video messages from: the Secretary-General of OPANAL, Flávio Roberto Bonzanini; the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations, Izumi Nakamitsu; the Director General of IAEA, Rafael Mariano Grossi; the Executive Secretary of the African Nuclear Energy Commission, Messaoud Baaliouamer; the President-designate of the tenth Review Conference, Gustavo Zlauvinen; the Secretary of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials, Elena Maceiras; and the Director General for the United Nations Organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Eduardo Jaramillo Navarrete. As in every year, the OPANAL member States issued a joint communiqué ([Inf.01/2021Rev.5](#)).

Gender, non-proliferation and disarmament

19. In April 2020, the OPANAL secretariat submitted the contribution of OPANAL to the report of the Secretary-General on General Assembly resolution [73/46](#) on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control ([Inf.15/2020](#)).

20. The general conference of OPANAL, at its twenty-seventh session held on 30 September 2021, adopted for the first time a resolution entitled “Gender, non-proliferation and disarmament” ([CG/Res.05/2021](#)), in which it recognized the valuable contribution of women in the region in the promotion of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and called upon member States to promote the effective participation of women in disarmament issues.

Views, positions and resolutions of the Agency concerning matters related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, with special reference to actions contained in the section entitled “Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions” (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I))

Nuclear disarmament

Actions 3–6: qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons

21. OPANAL member States, in their declarations of 26 September, urged the nuclear-weapon States “to cease the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and development of new types of these weapons” ([Inf.23/2020.Rev8](#), para. 6; and [Inf.29/2021.Rev6](#), para. 6).

Actions 3–7: legally binding instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons

22. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has been signed by 27 OPANAL member States and ratified by 22 of them.

23. In the communiqué of the OPANAL member States on the fifty-fourth anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, on 14 February 2021, OPANAL member States recalled their participation in the adoption and entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and considered that the Treaty “joins the path towards the elimination of those weapons of mass destruction that have marked the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons” ([Inf.02/2020Rev.7](#), paras. 10–11; and [Inf.01/2021Rev.5](#), paras. 11–12).

24. The same joint position is repeated in the OPANAL declaration of 26 September 2021 ([Inf.29/2021Rev.6](#), paras. 8–10).

Action 5: article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

25. In their declarations of 26 September, OPANAL member States reaffirmed the importance of negotiating effective measures related to disarmament and urged the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their commitments in accordance with article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty ([Inf.23/2020Rev.8](#), preamble, para. 16; and [Inf.29/2021Rev.6](#), preamble, para. 19).

26. In the 2021 joint communiqué of OPANAL member States on the fifty-fourth anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, OPANAL member States recalled “the obligation derived from article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons” ([Inf.02/2020Rev.7](#), para. 15; and [Inf.01/2021Rev.5](#), para. 17).

Actions 7–8: threat or use of nuclear weapons

27. In the 2020 and 2021 joint communiqués on the occasion of the anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, OPANAL member States reaffirmed “the supremacy of verifiable, irreversible, transparent and complete disarmament” and reiterated that “the only effective guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination” ([Inf.02/2020Rev.7](#), para. 6; and [Inf.01/2021Rev.5](#), para. 6).

28. The same joint position is repeated in the 2020 and 2021 declarations of 26 September of OPANAL member States ([Inf.23/2020Rev.8](#), preamble; and [INF.29/2021.Rev6](#), preamble).

Action 9: negative security assurances

29. OPANAL member States, through their declarations of 26 September, urged States parties to the Additional Protocols to the Treaty to give unequivocal, legally binding guarantees to the States of the region not to use or threaten to use such weapons against them ([Inf.23/2020Rev.8](#), para. 14; and [Inf.29/2021Rev.6](#), para. 17).

Action 9: interpretative declarations of nuclear-weapon States to additional protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco

30. During its twenty-seventh regular session, held in Mexico City on 30 September 2021, the OPANAL general conference adopted resolution [CG/Res.01/2021](#) on interpretative declarations made by States parties to Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in which it resolved to “reactivate the démarches of the Council member States before the Governments of the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the French Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reiterating the interest of engaging in a constructive dialogue regarding the memoranda and the proposals of adjustment on interpretative” (para. 4).

Action 10: Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

31. In the 2020 and 2021 declarations of 26 September, OPANAL member States called upon “all States to refrain from carrying out nuclear weapon test explosions, or any other non-explosive experiment, including subcritical experiments for the improvement of nuclear weapons”, and urged the States included in annex II to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty “that have not ratified it to take the necessary measures to do so without further delay” ([Inf.23/2020Rev.8](#), paras. 12–13; and [Inf.29/2021Rev.6](#), paras. 15–16).

Annex I**Status of compliance with article 14 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco**

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Reports received by 13 October 2021</i>
Antigua and Barbuda	30 June 2020
Argentina	30 June 2021
Bahamas	30 June 2010
Barbados	31 December 1984
Belize	31 December 2017
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	30 June 2021
Brazil	30 June 2021
Chile	30 June 2021
Colombia	30 June 2021
Costa Rica	30 June 2020
Cuba	30 June 2021
Dominica	30 June 2017
Dominican Republic	30 June 2015
Ecuador	31 December 2020
El Salvador	30 June 2014
Grenada	30 June 2016
Guatemala	30 June 2021
Guyana	30 June 2020
Haiti	31 December 2020
Honduras	30 June 2020
Jamaica	31 December 2020
Mexico	30 June 2021
Nicaragua	30 June 2021
Panama	30 June 2020
Paraguay	30 June 2021
Peru	30 July 2020
Saint Kitts and Nevis	30 June 2021
Saint Lucia	31 December 2020
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	30 June 2020

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Reports received by 13 October 2021</i>
Suriname	31 December 2016
Trinidad and Tobago	30 June 2013
Uruguay	30 June 2021
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	5 June 2019

Annex II**Status of compliance with article 24 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco**

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Reports received by 13 October 2021</i>
Antigua and Barbuda	3 February 2015
Argentina	19 June 2019
Bahamas	10 May 2007
Barbados	10 April 1984
Belize	5 February 2018
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	25 February 2020
Brazil	19 June 2019
Chile	30 June 2021
Colombia	6 April 2017
Costa Rica ^a	
Cuba	5 February 2021
Dominica	12 September 2012
Dominican Republic	7 August 1987
Ecuador	26 June 2019
El Salvador	22 September 2010
Grenada	13 September 1980
Guatemala	2 December 2010
Guyana	16 September 2010
Haiti	31 July 1973
Honduras	8 November 2010
Jamaica	5 April 2016
Mexico	1 July 2021
Nicaragua	30 June 2016
Panama	4 February 1986
Paraguay	1 July 2015
Peru	30 June 2016
Saint Kitts and Nevis	6 June 2014
Saint Lucia	25 July 2013
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ^a	

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Reports received by 13 October 2021</i>
Suriname	16 September 2010
Trinidad and Tobago	25 July 2013
Uruguay	26 October 2019
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	3 October 2017

^a Costa Rica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have never reported on the signing of agreements on the matters referred to in the Treaty of Tlatelolco.