Contribution of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Resolution 77/52 “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”

The present report describes the activities carried out by OPANAL in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation education since April 27, 2020, the date of OPANAL's last contribution to the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the resolution “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.”

OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is one of the Agency's initiatives to train diplomats in the region in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Taught by the OPANAL Secretariat and available to all Member States, the course has been hosted by seven OPANAL member states over its nine editions.

The fifth and sixth editions of the course were hosted by the Government of Guatemala through its Diplomatic Academy from November 8 to 10, 2022, and from July 24 to 26, 2023, respectively. The seventh edition was held at the Diplomatic Academy “Galo Plaza Lasso” of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador from December 15 to 17, 2023. The eighth edition, held virtually from January 15 to 25, 2024, was hosted by the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico through the Matías Romero Institute (IMR), the Mexican diplomatic academy. The ninth edition took place from May 27 to 29, 2024, at the Augusto Ramírez Ocampo Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.

Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean

The Summer School is an educational initiative resulting from the close collaboration between OPANAL, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, its diplomatic academy, and the James Martin
Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS). Its objective is to train diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The sixth and seventh editions of the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean were held virtually from July 6 to 17, 2020, and from June 29 to July 9, 2021. The following two editions took place in person in Mexico City from July 11 to 15, 2022, and from July 10 to 15, 2023, respectively. The ninth edition saw record participation from represented countries in the region and a significant participation of women, comprising 68% of the overall participants.

The XXVIII General Conference, held in 2023, adopted for the first time a resolution (CG/Res.08/2023), expressing the continuous support of the Member States for this initiative. The resolution also encouraged the Member States to present candidates for the tenth edition, which will take place in July 2024,

### Internship Programs at the OPANAL Secretariat

#### Internship Program open to all nationalities

Since April 27, 2020, the OPANAL Secretariat has welcomed a total of eighteen interns from Mexico, Brazil, The Netherlands, France, Spain, Peru, and South Korea, as part of its framework of its Internship Program open to all nationalities.

Additionally, as of 2022, and in accordance with the resolution CG/Res.03/2021 adopted by the XXVII Session of the General Conference, interns have been receiving a monthly stipend of MXN 1000, “as incentive and recognition of their constant work during their period working at OPANAL”.

#### Internship Program earmarked for Member States of OPANAL which are also members of the Caribbean Community – CARICOM

As for this modality of the Internship Program offered by the OPANAL, five interns, from Belize, Barbados, Guyana, and Haiti, have been welcomed since April 27, 2020.

This program also offers financial support to the intern by providing a monthly stipend of USD 1000, as well as covering the cost of a round trip from the intern’s country to Mexico City. This program was sponsored by The Kingdom of the Netherlands until 2022. Since 2023, the Internship Program
 earmarked for Member States which are also members of the Caribbean Community has been financed exclusively by OPANAL.

### Dissemination and Raising Awareness

**Cooperation with academia**

OPANAL has engaged in a variety of activities in close collaboration with universities, non-governmental organizations, and other educational entities. These activities include participating in guest lectures and panels, giving presentations, and conducting discussions. The aim is to inform and educate students, civil society, and diplomatic personnel on the impact of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, global nuclear disarmament efforts, and other matters related to international peace and security.

### International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Campaign

On 13 December 2022, the General Assembly adopted the resolution A/RES/77/51, establishing the International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness, which aims to raise awareness and understanding of disarmament issues among the public, especially young people. Since then, the OPANAL Secretariat has participated to both editions, as it aligns perfectly with the Agency’s strategy of promoting education on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as a way of effectively consolidating international peace and security.

For the first edition on March 5, 2023, OPANAL released a video on Instagram detailing the history and significance of the Tlatelolco Treaty and published a poster with quotes on nuclear disarmament from the Secretary-General and OPANAL officials.

For the second edition on March 5, 2024, OPANAL shared a video with key facts about nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, along with an infographic for a deeper understanding of these topics.

### Declarations and Communiqués of the OPANAL Member States

OPANAL Member States reaffirm their commitment to promoting nuclear disarmament through joint declarations issued twice a year: on February 14, commemorating the opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and on September 26, the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Each year, the issued communiqués emphasize the importance of implementing education programs on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as a means to effectively contribute to the
consolidation of international peace and security, highlighting the significance of the "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education".

**Resolutions of OPANAL**

Since 2020, the OPANAL General Conference has adopted resolutions regarding OPANAL educational activities. These include CG/Res.04/2021 on September 30, 2021; CG/E/Res.01/2022 on November 17, 2022, as well as resolutions CG/Res.07/2023 and CG/Res.08/2023 both adopted on 3 November 2023. These resolutions pertain to initiatives such as the OPANAL Course on Disarmament and Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean. They invite all Member States to support and promote these initiatives, ensuring gender parity among all teaching staff and participants.

Notably, the fourth operative paragraph of resolution CG/Res.07/2023 invites all Member States to contribute, along with the Secretariat, to the report on the implementation of the biennial United Nations General Assembly resolution "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education."

Additionally, the OPANAL General Conference has adopted resolutions CG/Res.03/2021 on September 30, 2021; CG/E/Res.02/2022 on November 17, 2022; and CG/Res.09/2023 on November 3, 2023, concerning the Internship Programs at the OPANAL Secretariat. These resolutions emphasize the importance of obtaining new sources of financing to ensure the continuity of the Internship Program for OPANAL Member States that are also members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). They also express gratitude to the Kingdom of the Netherlands for its financial support of this program from 2016 to 2022.