



## **V CONFERENCIA DE MINISTROS DE DEFENSA DE LAS AMERICAS**

**SANTIAGO DE CHILE 18 AL 22 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2002**

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### **THEMATIC LINE 3: DEFENSE AND SOCIETY; POSSIBILITIES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION**

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

**MODERATOR : DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

#### **SUB-THEME 3A : “EXPERIENCES IN DEMINING PROCESSES.”**

**SPEAKER : NICARAGUA**

1. The Sub-Committee agreed to raise at the Plenary Session the need of including the following paragraph in the final declaration of the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas:

“We support the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Organization and the Organization of American States aimed at the elimination of the threat of anti-personnel land mines that affects civilian population, and express our satisfaction for the progress made by countries in the region that have signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Land Mines and on their Destruction, or United Nations Convention of 1980 on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW)”.

2. The demining process, regardless of its geographical location, concerns not only the affected country but also the international community as a whole, including humanitarian assistance to all affected individuals.
3. The demining process is a responsibility not only of the Armed Forces in general but also involves governmental and non-governmental organizations.



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### **SUB-THEME 3B : CONTRIBUTION OF THE ARMED FORCES TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

RAPPORTEUR : BRAZIL

Countries participating in the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Defense recognize the important support provided by the Armed Forces to social development in their respective countries in accordance with local realities and legislation.



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### **SUB-THEME 3C: SUPPORT OF MILITARY FORCES IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTERS.**

RAPPORTEUR : EL SALVADOR

1. Natural disasters are variables beyond man's control that seriously affect civilian population and their economic resources; therefore, we support all bilateral and multilateral programs, mechanisms and efforts aimed at preparing the region's response to natural disasters.
2. Damages caused by natural phenomena usually exceed governmental organizations' reaction capacity to solve the problems arising therefrom, and are therefore an incentive for regional cooperation. Increased exchange of experiences, preparation, training and technological transfers among the countries in the Region via Defense Institutions and civil protection agencies would somehow mitigate these damages, thereby facilitating a prompt and efficient response.

NOTE: According to the Heads of the Delegations of Canada and Haiti, the final text should name the military and civil organizations that usually provide their support in cases of natural disasters.