

## **CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS WORKING GROUP**

### **FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT**

During the VIII Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas (CDMA), there was considerable focus on the future of CDMA and methods of strengthening the institutional memory of the Conference. Through the Declaration of Banff, Ministers agreed to consider the offer by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) to host the institutional memory of the Conference. In paragraph 27 of the Declaration, Ministers agreed to create a Working Group “to assess by December 2008 the modalities of cooperation with the OAS, including the Inter-American Defence Board (IADB).”

The inaugural meeting of the CDMA Working Group took place on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC. The Working Group is chaired by Major-General Michael Ward, Director General International Security Policy for the Canadian Forces, and Mr. Marco Antonio Valverde Carrasco of Bolivia was unanimously named as the Vice-Chair of the Working Group. The objectives of the meeting were to gain consensus on the methodology of the Working Group and build support for an inter-sessional process for which there is no precedent or regulation. Attendees agreed that it is time to move forward and make real progress on the mandate given to the Working Group by Ministers at VIII CDMA, to ultimately enhance the institutional memory of the CDMA.

During the second meeting of the Working Group, scheduled for Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Chairman will propose that the Working Group consider five key issues that will come to define the relationship between the CDMA and the organization that will host its institutional memory. These five key issues will form the basis of the draft report which will be considered at the final meeting of the Working Group and, once approved by consensus, submitted to Ministers for consideration and implementation.

These key issues include:

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CDMA SECRETARIAT**

The CDMA Working Group should identify the basic responsibilities of the Executive Secretariat and the Executive Secretary, as set out in the CDMA Regulations. Particular attention should be paid to Articles 22 through 26, with a view to considering which responsibilities could be transferred to a partner organization such as the OAS, and which responsibilities would have to remain within the purview of the host government.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

The CDMA Working Group should consider the implications of proposed changes on the command and control of the CDMA and its meetings; for example, the Working Group should consider which office or group would have the authority to direct the activities of those partner

entities undertaking work previously done by the host country. In addition, the Working Group should consider what level of authorities or approvals would be required to direct such activities.

### **FUNDING**

The Working Group should review how funds are spent on CDMA activities and by whom, and consider whether some functions could be funded through current assessed contributions to the OAS, through another collective means such as a trust fund, or a standardized framework agreement that outlines cost-sharing between the host country and partner organizations. In addition, the Working Group should explore whether transferring responsibility for certain discrete functions would be likely to create incremental costs (e.g. as a result of the greater cost of personnel in Washington or the OAS system than in the host country).

### **DECISION-MAKING**

The Working Group should examine the question of inter-sessional coordination and decision-making, which are key to institutional continuity and more broadly to reflecting the evolution of views at the Ministerial level in between CDMA formal meetings (due, for example, to current events or to changes of government).

### **TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Working Group should identify specific changes needed to CDMA Regulations, the content of an eventual OAS Resolution, and the Memoranda of Understanding or other technical arrangements that may be necessary to implement the will of CDMA Ministers.

This Framework Document will guide the development of the draft report of the Working Group, as each of these key issues will be considered in turn at the meeting on October 24, 2008. The meeting will focus on developing a consensus on a way forward and encouraging substantive discussion. The results of the meeting will be included in the draft report, which will be circulated to participants in advance of the final meeting.

The second meeting of the Working Group will take place on Friday, October 24, 2008 in the Guerrero Room at the Organization of American States in Washington.