



XIV | CONFERENCIA DE
MINISTROS DE DEFENSA DE
LAS AMÉRICAS 2019 · 2020

SANTIAGO · CHILE · 2020

SANTIAGO DECLARATION

DECEMBER 3, 2020

SANTIAGO, CHILE



The Defense and Security Ministers, or their equivalents, and the Delegation Chiefs participating in the 14th Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (XIV CDMA), meeting by videoconference on December 3, 2020:

Reaffirming our commitment to respect fully the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as the Inter-American Democratic Charter and its values, principles and procedures;

Guided by the principles of Williamsburg, approved at the 1st Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas in 1995 (CDMA);

Keeping in mind that the CDMA has as its fundamental purpose the promotion of mutual awareness, analysis, and a debate and an exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of defense and security;

Recalling its commitment to the Declaration on Security in the Americas of October 2003;

Acknowledging the importance of integrated and joint cooperation between member states to confront existing and emerging challenges in the fields of defense and security for our hemisphere;

Considering the declarations adopted during prior CDMA Conferences of Defense Ministers of the Americas, and specifically those of the XIII CDMA, which took place in Cancun, Mexico, from October 7 - 10, 2018;

Recalling that during the XIII CDMA, the Ministers of Defense decide upon the “Cancun Declaration,” thereby establishing three ad-hoc working groups for the 2019-2020 conference cycle to discuss fundamental issues for the hemisphere in the areas of defense and security;

Recognizing that this year 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security;



DECLARE:

1. Their firm commitment to promote and strengthen peace in the Hemisphere, with full respect for International Law, in particular the international humanitarian law and the international human rights law¹, the sovereignty of each State, and in accordance with the internal legislation of their respective countries.
2. Their willingness to continue participating in United Nations Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Aid Operations, through contingents and experts, such as Military Observers and members of General Staff, among others, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of United Nations.
3. Their intention to continue supporting the preservation of the environment and climate resilience, in accordance with the legal framework of their respective States and respecting their national sovereignties, promoting environmental awareness in the Defense and Security Forces, through the exchange of experiences of good practices applicable to the sector.
4. Their satisfaction with the progress made in State Parties² implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, as part of the confidence- and security-building measures.
5. Their willingness to adopt, implement and strengthen measures aimed at fostering mutual trust and security among Member States, with the goal of strengthening bilateral, sub-regional, regional and hemispheric relations-thus contributing to international cooperation, stability, peace, and security.
6. Their concern with the increasing threat of cyber intrusions and attacks, and the need for Member States to exchange information, policies, and best practices to protect nations' networks.
7. Their disposition to promote contention and mitigation measures regarding the impact that Covid-19 has had on the hemisphere and the need to prepare to respond collectively to global pandemics to minimize loss of lives and the consequent economic impacts, valuing the actions carried out by the Armed Forces and Security personnel of the Member States in the fight against this multidimensional disaster and that they contributed to saving thousands of our citizens.

¹ Canada, Chile, Colombia, United States, Paraguay and Uruguay note their concern with the humanitarian situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as reflected in the report approved by the United Nations Human Rights Council (A/HRC/45/33), https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/FFMV/A_HRC_45_33_AUV.pdf

² The Republic of Argentina registered its reservation to this point, stating that it should be understood as the progress of the "American State Parties".



8. Their effort to promote coordinate actions to avoid illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, wildlife poaching, and illegal mining and logging, in accordance with the internal legislation of their respective countries, to the international norms and agreements.
9. Their continued concern with the threat posed by Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCO), including small and light arms trafficking, requiring continued cooperation and coordination among states and Defense and Security forces throughout the hemisphere, as reflected in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.^{3 4 5}
10. In the context of the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council, recognize the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stress the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution.
11. Their support for the continued development of professional, civilian, and military capabilities in the various national bodies responsible for defense and security.
12. Their recognition of the important contribution made by the civil society and the academic sector to promote cooperation in matters of defense and security.
13. In accordance with Article 3, sub-paragraph of the CDMA Regulation, request that the OAS-through the Inter-American Defense Board and in accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly-carry out the following activities:⁶
 - i. Collect, share and maintain lessons learned from humanitarian assistance events in the region and provide them to Member States of the OAS and CDMA on an annual basis.
 - ii. Maintain up-to-date databases on points of contact on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR), and the Search and Rescue (SAR) Data Compendium for use by countries requesting assistance.
 - iii. Collect the contributions of all the topics discussed at the military specialized conferences (Conference of American Armies, Inter-American Naval Conference, Conference of Commanders of American Air Forces/System of Cooperation between the American Air Forces) to be shared at CDMA events.

³ https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a_res_55/res5525s.pdf

⁴ The Republic of Argentina registered its reservation to this paragraph, because it exceeds the attributions of the Ministry of Defense according to the current legislation.

⁵ The Republic of Peru registered its reservation to this paragraph, stating that it must be understood in accordance with the current national legislation of each Member State.

⁶ The Republic of Nicaragua registered its reservation to this paragraph, which establishes activities that overstep CDMA's character as a political forum with the exclusive purpose of promoting the exchange of ideas and experiences in defense and security. CDMA lacks the authority of establishing coordination and operational mechanisms.



- iv. In coordination with the CDMA Pro Tempore Secretariat, organize a yearly tabletop exercise in the area of HA/DR.
14. Take note of the conclusions and recommendations of the three Ad-Hoc Working Groups that met during the 2019-2020 CDMA cycle, and;
 - i. Endorse the concept of the Disaster Cooperation Mechanism of the Countries of the Conference of the Defense Ministers of the America (DICOME/CDMA) as way to facilitate current and reliable information regarding the existing disaster response capabilities in the region and ensuring the information is accessible on the OAS Inter-American Network for Disasters Mitigation Database on Natural Disasters for the benefit of all OAS Member States, disaster management partners and the natural disaster community.
 - ii. Reaffirm their support to promote a new generation of confidence-building measures, particularly those related to cyber defense and cyberspace, of Defense interest, celebrating Brazil's proposal to create a framework for hemispheric cooperation in these two areas, in line with the confidence and security building measures (CSBMs) approved by the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security (OEA/Ser.G CP/CSH-1953/20 rev. 1, 13 March, 2020).
15. Their recognitions and gratitude to the United States of America, the Republic of Panama and the Dominican Republic, for their hospitality and collaboration in the development of the Ad-Hoc Working Groups of this XIV CDMA.
16. Given the results of the Ad-Hoc Working Groups, decide upon the following activities for the XV CDMA cycle 2020-2021, as well as the particular proposals of the Member States:
 - i. Continue operation of the “Cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR)” Ad-Hoc Working Group as a permanent theme, and welcoming the offer of the United States to host this Working Group during the first semester. The Working Group is to place special emphasis on Member States’ defense institutions pandemic response to COVID-19 and discuss lessons learned, best practices, and maintaining the readiness of Members State’s forces.
 - ii. Continue operation of the “Inclusion of Gender Perspective as a cross-cutting issue in Defense and Security policies in the hemisphere” Ad-Hoc Working Group, approving its name change to "Women, Peace and Security", thanking Argentina for offering to sponsor it during the second semester of 2021.
 - iii. Establish a new Ad-hoc Working Group to address the "Cyber Defense and Cyberspace" issue, and welcoming the offer of Colombia to host virtually this Working Group during the second semester of 2021.



17. Their continued commitment to participate in the Ad-hoc Working Groups planned for the 2021-2022 cycle and establish arrangements allowing for greater cooperation and coordination amongst the Member States, in order to contribute to the success of the XV CDMA.
18. To announce with satisfaction, the designation of Brazil as the host nation for the XV CDMA during the 2021-2022 cycle, and welcome the offer of Bolivia to host the XVI CDMA during the 2023-2024 cycle.
19. Their recognitions and gratitude to the Government of Chile and in particular to its Ministry of National Defense, for the work in the development of this XIV CDMA, in a cycle significantly affected by the current health emergency caused by COVID-19.

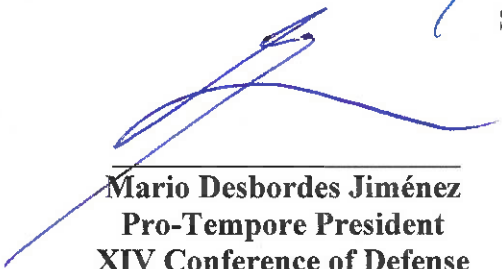
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The Pro-Tempore Presidency of the XIV Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, certifies hereby that the present Declaration of Santiago was approved by the unanimity of the countries that participated in the Ministers' Meeting of the XIV CMDA carried out, virtually, on Thursday, December 03, 2020.

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, the United States, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay participated in the Ministers' Meeting.


George Brown Mc Lean
Executive Secretary


Cristián de la Maza Riquelme
Secretary General


Mario Desbordes Jiménez
Pro-Tempore President
XIV Conference of Defense
Ministers of the Americas