



## 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; THE POSSIBILITY OF REGIONAL COOPERATION

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

##### SPEAKER : BRAZIL

Gentleman,

On behalf of His Excellency the Minister of Defense, I have the honor to address you on the theme our Country has been entitled to present during this V Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas, i.e., the “CONTRIBUTION OF THE MILITARY FORCES TO THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT”.

##### I PARTICIPATION OF THE AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Since the very beginning of mankind the military has been a devoted citizen, who comes from the core of the local society and – if necessary – sacrifices his life for the defense of his group and his Nation. The combating methods as well as the sophistication of armaments are gradually reducing man’s participation in battlefields. In this way, the modern soldier has to dedicate a great amount of his active life to training activities, or even the entirety of his active life if we project this to our Continent’s scenario.

Compelled by his gregarious and altruist spirit as well as favored by the circumstances, the military began to use his available time and skills obtained through his training activities for the benefit of the society, firstly by helping the victims of disasters, and then – in a more and organized way, with the deployment of better and more suitable equipments – these activities became an integrating part of his legal attributions, especially in those countries where the lack of proper means, such as material and human resources, has been a hindrance for civil organisms towards the satisfactory accomplishments of these demands.

This bivalence – characterized in a distinct and diverse way among the countries of the region, **by virtue of their local people’s ethnical and cultural heritages, economic possibilities and the level of threats against each Country’s sovereignty** – is stressed in the American Continent.



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With regard to the specific case of the United States of America, **its multi-scattered insertion in the world scenario** (by virtue of the **external threats against its national integrity** such as the ideological bipolarity in the past and the international terrorism and proliferation of mass destruction weapons in the present) along with (somada a) the **availability of governmental agencies and means that are suitable to provide help to the civil society** compel the American Armed Forces **to be at permanent readiness in order to exert an immediate opposition to these threats when and wherever they may occur.**

In Latin America, **several hindrances that are typical of the region shall be deemed as a priority.** They represent threats intrinsically related to the weaknesses of the recently-achieved democracies, the weakness of the economic-financial systems, educational deficiency, increasing levels of criminality, the corruption, and disordered internal migratory flows, among other.

**With regard to these threats, each country has its own perception.** This depends on the degree of its international projection, its interest and influence areas, geopolitical ambitions and also on the level of its political, economic and social development.

Considering the **different** geographic, political, socio-economic and cultural **realities** of South, Central and North Americas, there is a natural difficulty in identifying threats that reach uniformly the entire region.

In this way, considering that the region is undergoing a period of strengthening of relations with the search for the integration of the existing subregion blocks and the intensification bilateral relations, especially as regards defense issues, **conventional threats among States have low probability to occur.**

### II – CONSTITUTIONAL PURPOSE OF THE BRAZILIAN ARMED FORCES

Brazil is a country with a diversified profile – Amazonian, Platino and Atlantic – which, besides its 7,700 kilometers of coastline it has over 15 thousand kilometers of dry- borderline with most South-American countries (with the exception of Chile and Ecuador). Despite such strategical complexity, Brazil has not been involved in conflicts with its neighborhoods for over 130 years. Contrariwise, Brazil has been acting as a promoter for the regional integration.

Without refraining from its duties (atividade-fim) when so requested, such as occurred during the World War II, and more recently, at Peacekeeping Operations, the Brazilian Armed Forces have been a fundamental instrument for the Government towards the integration of all spaces of its immense territory. Through the development of complex and undaunted/daring programs, which occur since their establishment, and which are mingled with their own history, the Country's three Armed Forces play a paramount and equitable role in such challenge of behemoth dimension.



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Currently, the *Programa Calha Norte (PCN)*, the Hospital Assistance Ship – NASH (*Navio de Assistência Hospitalar*) and the Amazon Surveillance System – SIVAM (*Sistema de Vigilância da Amazônia*), which are modern versions of pioneer initiatives such as the Rondon Project and the National Air Mail, make way for Brazil to be in touch and provide support to its citizens living in remote regions that are mostly inaccessible to the traditional means of communication, thanks to the militaries' devotion.

In compliance with Article 142 of the Federal Constitution, **“the attributions of the Brazilian Armed Forces** (the Navy, the Army and the Air Force) are: **the Nation's defense, to guarantee the constituted powers(authorities) and the Law and the order”**.

The Complementary Law number 97, July 09<sup>th</sup>, 1999, establishes the cooperation with the national development and the civil defense, as determined by the President of the Republic, as a **general subsidiary attribution, without prejudice to the constitutional purposes**. Each force's attributions are:

### 1) NAVY

- to orient and control the Merchant Navy;
- to safeguard the navigation in waterways; and
- to contribute to the formulation and conduction of national policies concerning the sea.

### 2) AIR FORCE

- to orient, coordinate and control the activities related to the Civil Aviation;
- to safeguard air navigation safety;
- to contribute to the formulation and conduction of the National Aerospace Policy; and
- to establish, equip and operate, directly or through concession, the aerospace, aeronautic and airport infrastructures.

### 3) ARMY

Notwithstanding having no specific subsidiary attributions, the responsibility and participation of the Brazilian Army in the general subsidiary attribution, due to its greater efetivo and presence throughout the national territory, are wider than those of the other Forces.

## III – BRAZIL'S NATIONAL DEFENSE POLICY

The focus of the National Defense Policy – PDN (*Política de Defesa Nacional*) goes further the Nation's defense. Because it reflects the (wishes/needs) of the society as a whole, it involves both military and civil sectors.



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Based on the foundation, objectives and principles of the Federal Constitution, the PDN aims at the modernization of the autoprotection ability, **which is, however, based on a development model that strengthens democracy, reduces social inequalities and unbalances** as well as bring the priorities concerning the political, social and military sectors together with the needs related to defense and diplomatic action.

### IV STRATEGIC GUIDELINES OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE POLICY ADDRESSING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The **guidelines** established for the orientation of the Armed Forces' actions towards the achievement of basic national defense goals, **stress the importance of the integration of countries, of international peace and of human development, in a unquestionable display of good will and the interest in strengthening mutual trust measures among peoples**, from which we will mentioned the following:

- contributing actively to the construction of an international order, based on the state of right, that will propitiate **universal and regional peace** and the sustainable development of humankind;
- promoting the favorable position of Brazil to **global disarmament, conditioned to nuclear arsenals dismantling and of other massive destruction weapons**, as in a previously agreed process;
- participating in international peace-keeping operations, in accordance with national interests;
- contributing actively to the strengthening, **expansion and solidification of regional integration**;
- acting towards the maintenance of an **atmosphere of peace along national borders** and solidarity in Latin America and the South Atlantic region;
- maintaining the participation of the Armed Forces in subsidiary actions that aim to **national integration, civil defense and social-economic development of the Country, in a harmony with its constitutional purpose**;
- **protecting the Brazilian Amazon Region, with a total support of the society** and with the valorization of the military presence;
- strengthening the national transportation, power and communication systems;
- **promoting scientific knowledge of the Antarctic region and the active participation in the decision-making process of its destiny**; and
- making the public opinion aware, aiming at creating and maintaining a mentality of National Defense, by means of the incentive to civism and dedication to the Nation.

### V – MAIN SUBSIDIARY TASKS OF THE ARMED FORCES

In the early 1900s, Brazil was a country of incipient development spread along a narrow coast strip. This development was brought by sea commerce, favored by the large Atlantic border.



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The country's backlands, practically unoccupied, had small towns and large farms – isolated from the coast region – except in the Southeast region, where the states of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais made up the large development pole, driven by politics and chiefly by the coffee plantation.

The **inclusion of the Armed Forces in the history of the Country began at that time, for it was an essential instrument of its development and integration**, representing, not long ago, the single way of contacting and supporting the indigenous populations and the small villages that spattered the immense and empty interior.

### 1 – NAVY'S SUBSIDIARY ATTRIBUTIONS

A country's interests in the sea, result of its people's longings, necessities, possibilities and culture, are materialized in its Maritime Policy. For these goals to be achieved it is required a maritime strategy that prepares and employs properly the Maritime Power, comprising everything that relates with the sea: navigation, fishing, oil extraction, nautical sports, like-minded industries, its government's policies and, chief among them, the Nation's maritime vocation.

The **Naval Power**, the “armed branch” of the Maritime Power, **addresses the defense of the nation's interests in the sea, guarantying integrity and sovereignty**. Through this Power, the country has ensured its right to the economic and strategical use of the sea, as well as its inland waters.

As attributions deduced from its constitutional mission, the Navy carries out activities of socio-economic interest to the Country, such as **support to low-income population, environment protection, fishing surveillance, support to fighting against smuggling and drug trafficking** as well as other activities related to research and development carried out for the benefit of the society and the national industry.

The execution of these activities, **without prejudice to the Navy's primary focus contribute to the integration between the Armed Forces and the civil society**, increase of its prestige and strengthen the Nation's presence in large areas of the national territory.

### A – HYDROGRAPHY AND NAVIGATION BOARD (DHN)

It is of paramount importance the knowledge of the sea to its efficient use and to navigation safety, as well as of its coast. In this way, the Brazilian Navy, through the DHN, issues meteorological bulletins and charts, ensuring the provision and maintenance of nautical signals and navigation aids. Therefore, **it makes safe navigation possible in Brazilian waters**.

As regards the sea environment knowledge, researches are carried out along the entire Brazilian coast line, rivers and Antarctic waters, enriching the National Oceanographic Data Base, which, in its turn, contributes to the World Oceanographic Data System.



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### B – THE NAVY IN THE AMAZON REGION

**The Navy is continuously present in the Amazon Region since 1868**, constantly patrolling the 11000 km of waterways of the world's largest hydrographic basin, which contributes to the **preservation of national sovereignty and providing all sorts of support to local populations, strengthening the presence of the State in the region and also helping maintaining in the region the feeling of national identity.**

Jointly with the Ministry of Health, the Hospital Assistance Ships (known as the “Ships of Hope”) navigate the Amazon region's rivers with the purpose of providing **medical and social assistance to the riparian populations living practically isolated from the rest of the civilization.**

In addition, the actions carried out by the Navy are: ruling and controlling of fluvial navigation, naval inspection actions collaborating with other governmental agencies concerning activities aimed at **epidemics prevention and aid to natural phenomena victims.** It carries out navigation safety actions in that area as well.

### C – PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNIVERSITIES AND WITH THE NATIONAL INDUSTRY AIMING AT TECHNOLOGY AND PRODUCTION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships with acknowledged universities and the intensive utilization of the national industry have been a primordial factor to success, verified in the development of these sectors in Brazil, for which the Navy's participation was decisive.

The co-operation with the industry propitiated the project and production of materials, components, **equipments and cutting edge technology, side stepping the restrictions imposed by some developed countries as regards “sensitive technology transfers”, such as sonars, torpedoes, missiles and nuclear propulsion and electronic warfare products in general.**

The following Navy organizations have signed partnerships with universities, research institutions and national companies, improving the quality of guaranty systems, making it easier to obtain ISO-9000 Certification:

- Navy Research Institute (IPqM) – obtaining military systems, equipments, components, materials and techniques, especially in weaponry, electronics and chemistry areas;
- Naval Systems Analysis Center – CASNAV) – operational research, analysis, engineering, modeling and evaluation of naval systems;
- Navy's Technological Center of Sao Paulo (CMTSP) – projects in the propulsion and energy areas, **in special the nuclear program;** and
- Admiral Paulo Moreira Sea Studies Institute (IEAPM) – obtaining better and more efficient knowledge as regards the use of the sea and the prevention of sea pollution.





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### D – PARTICIPATION IN PROJECTS IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Navy of Brazil works in collaboration with the Government in the following areas:

- in the Parana-Paraguay Waterway Intergovernmental Committee, in the Legal Amazon National Council (CONAMAZ) and in the Brazilian Space Agency;
- in the integration of the Navy's Search and Rescue Service (SALVAMAR) into the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS);
- **jointly with the Brazilian naval construction industry;**
- as the Executive Secretariat of the Executive Group for the Modernization of Ports (SEGEMPO);
- elaboration of the project and construction of nuclear power plants, production of nuclear fuel, pressurized water control systems for nuclear facilities and setting up reactors.
- in the Military Satellite Communication System (SISCOMIS);
- in the harnessing of the national industry's capacity to nationalize small components of Navy's and Air Force's interest;
- **in researching towards the production of specific medicines that allow new treatment techniques** aiming at Civil-Military Aid Operations (ACISO) and strategic programs of the Ministry of Health and of the State and Local Secretariats of Health;
- in partnership with the Nuclear Industries of Brazil S.A. (INB) towards uranium isotopic enrichment and production of Nuclear Power Plants' fuel element;
- in Maritime Professional Teaching (EPM) dedicated to the civilian population;
- in the LIVING RESOURCES OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE'S SUSTAINABLE POTENTIAL EVALUATION PROGRAM; resulting from the commitment signed by Brazil, in 1988, in the United Nation's Convention on Rights to the Sea, in force since 1994;
- in the MINERAL RESOURCES OF BRAZILIAN JURIDICAL CONTINENTAL PLATFORM'S POTENTIAL EVALUATION PROGRAM;
- in the OCEANS GLOBAL OBSERVATION SYSTEM and the NATIONAL BUOY PROGRAM, allowing reliable forecasts of the ocean and atmosphere's condition and of the alterations of the global environment; and
- in the BRAZILIAN ANTARCTIC PROGRAM, aiming at the Brazilian research in the region.

### 2 – THE ARMY'S SUBSIDIARY ATTRIBUTIONS

The Mission of the Brazilian Army is based on its traditions and vocations, consolidated during the historic-cultural process of Brazil, characterized by the cult and respect to patriotism, to national symbols and heroes and to the historical moments of affirmation of Brazilian nationality.



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With its history been woven of belligerent, peace making, integrating and developmental actions, the Brazilian Army had in General of the Army Candido Rondon its most expressive example of the Armed Forces role in the national integration process.

Penetrating deep into the Brazilian backlands and forests, **General Rondon led progress and communication to the most distant places of this country**, introducing telegraph transmission cables and railroads that enabled to send medical aid to indian tribes, putting in practice a humanist spirit backed up by the essence of his philosophy of respect to those peoples: “ die if necessary, kill, never”. This way Brazil **set up better conditions to preserve its indigenous peoples, having nowadays one of the largest indigenous populations of the planet.**

Nowadays the Army continues faithful to those examples of the past through its border battalions and its engineering and construction organizations, and has as main activities those addressing the country’s socioeconomic development.

### A – ENGINEERING UNDERTAKINGS

Since Brazil is a country of relatively uninhabited interior, it undergoes serious difficulties in taking development to farthest regions, especially as regards heavy infrastructures that require high expenses in machinery, tools and deployment of personnel, turning the activity economically infeasible. **Not turning its back to the military purpose, the Brazilian Army has developed an engineering system capable of acting on those places.**

Among its assignments we can mention the construction of urban roads, highways, port and airport infrastructure, railroads, bridges, dams, schools in rural areas and *quilombos*, rural settlements, sewage stabilization and water supply systems, carrying out projects of environmental impact and of irrigation, hospital repairs, artesian wells drilling, etc.

### B – OTHER PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Aside from the above-mentioned activities, the Army also offers:

- training courses for undergraduate students of the health area in Military Health Organizations, mainly in Military Hospitals;
- **survey services for land demarcation, in order to settle rural workers;**
- medical and odontological assistance to isolated and indigenous peoples;
- professional training and social promotion activities in the poorest regions of the Country;
- co-operation with municipalities, mainly of the Amazon Region, so as to give teenagers leisure, professional training, gym and moral and civic education;
- **participation in forest fires prevention and control programs;**





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- support to **fauna, flora, water and mineral resources inspection** aiming to improve the standard of living of the peoples of the Amazon Region;
- distribution of food to the poor peoples in emergency situations, and potable water to urban and rural inhabitants victims of drought; and
- logistic support to the Health Offices of the states in combating the Dengue-transmitting mosquito.

### 3 – AIR FORCE SUBSIDIARY ACTIONS

In a country the size of Brazil the airplane has always been an important integration factor, contributing to national development, conveying information, saving lives, spreading hope. **In few countries around the world has aviation had such an important role in society as in Brazil.**

On June, 12, 1931, ten years before the Brazilian Air Force was created, the first aircraft to do a route of the National Air Mail Service, carrying a mailbag between Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo took off.

The Brazilian Air Force (FAB), the result of combining the Army's and the Navy's aviations, was born under the sign of national integration, comprising those young pilots of the Campo dos Afonsos Military Aviation School that, since then, dreamt of using the airplane to reach the virgin national territory, taking progress to the backlands of Brazil.

### A - SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS

In the areas of social, humanitarian and health assistance to poor and distant peoples, the following operations carried out by several government agencies deserve to be mentioned:

- the National Indian Agency, **removing intruders found illegal and clandestinely in indigenous lands;**
- the National Health Agency, transporting medicines and medical and paramedic teams for **clinic assistance and vaccination of poor peoples, especially in the Amazon Region** and other regions afar from the civilization;
- PROANTAR Operation, of the Interministerial Commission Secretariat, concerning Sea Resources;
- support to government projects in the Amazon Region, such as the **Calha Norte Project, missions of scientific aerial photography and devastated areas control;**
- seek and rescue missions throughout the national territory and the sea under the jurisdiction of the country; and
- support to **civic and social, mercy and humanitarian actions, in Brazil and abroad, assisting peoples victim of floods, earthquakes and other disasters**, both natural and provoked by man, transporting all types of aid (food, medicines, clothes).



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### B – SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FIELD

Overcoming the lack of resources and the restrictions imposed by first world countries, the Air Force Science and Technology sector, supported by one of the major excellency centers of the Country – the Air Force Technological Institute (ITA) – has been one of the most important stimulators of national development. It has turned into reality **projects that stimulated social progress in Brazil such as fostering the aerospace industry**, developing the alcohol powered car engine and satellites and its launching vectors, these major multipliers of investments and employment generators in all layers of the population.

### C – CIVIL AERONAUTICS SYSTEM

The Air Force has, in terms of civil aviation, raised Brazil to the highest levels of development and competition thanks to the presence of its airline companies in all continents, to its **airport modernity and efficiency and to high rates of flight safety**. This fact's clearest demonstration has been the election of a Brazilian Air Force officer to the rank of **Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization**.

Two other important sectors of the Civil Aviation System are the Brazilian air traffic control system and the airports infrastructure, areas of excellency dedicated to providing safety and comfort to Brazilian citizens, but that have become, furthermore, an abundant source of employment and progress to the places where they are established.

### D – AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

Brazilian aircraft industry started to arise at the early 30's. The Air Force gave its first steps with the manufacture of aircrafts in 1940 with the Galeao Factory, having built and assembled over 400 aircrafts and maintained all of the military airplane fleet with national technicians.

It was Colonel Casemiro Montenegro Filho, an aeronautics engineer majored at the Army Technical School, who inspired the **creation of the Aeronautics Technology Institute (ITA), which is dedicated to the training of professionals able of supporting aeronautic activities, which would, later on, sponsor the introduction of a aeronautic industry of its own**. The Aerospace Technical Center arose from that experience, being a technical-scientific institution addressing aerospace research and development.

Once its labor was highly skilled to manage and develop the industrial process, several international companies settled in the country, having Brazil ascended from the **condition of an agricultural country to that of exporter of aircrafts and its components**.



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EMBRAER was created in 1969, standing out as a military aircraft producer and, later on, entering the commercial airplane market with regional aviation due to the materialization of the Brazilian Air Force projects, having become currently **the largest company in the Brazilian exports scope.**

More important than the amount of foreign exchange that enters the country annually is the value added rates and the material technology that it exports and the **level of development that this industry brought to that region, translated in social and economic evolution and in the improvement of the standard of living of its inhabitants.**

### E – Amazon Surveillance System

Since the beginning of Brazilian aviation, the adventure of traveling, regardless of the distance, had a direct relation with the difficulty of navigation. Roads and railroads were the most reliable means to guide pilots between the point of departure and the destination of their flights.

Flying techniques brought to Brazil during the II World War were the milestone to the birth of an integrated air traffic control system, which would later become an **international reference of efficiency and rationality, and was the first in the world used to control both civil and military operations.**

The country was gradually covered by a high technology system, **operated by civil and military controllers, demonstrating once more the level of integration of the Armed Forces with society and its harnessing in benefit of national interests.**

Nevertheless there was still the Amazon Region. A huge territory that equals some 50 % of Eastern Europe or 30 American states, where the Armed Forces sought to play their role of State, through the Army spreading throughout thousands of dry border kilometers; the Navy sailing the rivers of the world's largest fluvial basin and taking medical aid and logistic support to the abandoned riparian peoples; the Brazilian Air Force exploring the immense forest and building landing fields and sending assistance where only the airplane would get.

Once more the Brazilian Government counted with the Air Force for such a high commitment, planning, introducing and operating a project able of **ensuring sustained development and defending the sovereignty of the planet's most strategic region,** comprising the Amazon Protection System – SIPAM and the Amazon Surveillance System – SIVAM.



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Dedicated to the integration, coordination, evaluation and diffusion of knowledge so as to allow for a global action of the government agencies in the region, Project SIVAM counts with the participation of over 10 Civil Ministries, and federal, state and local agencies.

SIVAM/SIPAM is beginning to provide information treatment such as geographic mapping, survey of water, geological and vegetation resources, agriculture production and clandestine landing fields, as well as fires and deforestation control and follow up in indigenous areas and of suspicious surface activities.

**These benefits may be extended to other countries of the Amazon Region considering, of course, each country's individual characteristics in terms of territory, strategy, economy, population and culture** among others, which will set the possible levels of integration as proposals for further discussion.

### VI – THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROJECTS ON THE BUDGET OF THE BRAZILIAN ARMED FORCES

Throughout the last decades, **the governments of South American countries have systematically reduced expenses in defense, which account for the lowest rates in relation with the Gross Domestic Product and with the military budgets**, resulting in a progressive disarmament of the region's countries. This attitude shows unequivocally the social interest areas as the primary focus, in spite of the insufficiency of resources.

In Brazil, this situation is clearly shown when the relation between the Gross Domestic Product and the military expenses are analyzed in its several ways, as we can see next:

EVENT	% MD BUDGET 2001	% MD BUDGET 2002	% GDP 2001	% GDP 2002
TOTAL BUDGET - MINISTRY OF DEFENSE	XXX	XXX	1.59 %	1.98 %
ORDINARY EXPENSES (PLUS) ACTIVE PERSONNEL (CIVILIAN AND MILITARY)	53.10 %	49.48 %	0.84 %	0.98 %
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENSES	22.42 %	19.28 %	0.36 %	0.38 %
ORDINARY EXPENSES (MINUS) SUBSIDIARY ACTIVITIES	17.97 %	15.08 %	0.29 %	0.39 %

**Alone, the lowest levels in military expenses accounted for the most important demonstration of mutual trust between neighbor countries.** Furthermore, security measures and trust incentive should arise from a **group of actions, agreements and mechanisms towards promoting dialogue, transparency and co-operation between States** in issues regarding security and defense.

**Governments in the American continent have sought to strengthen this process** through enhancing integration and co-operation mechanisms by ratifying treaties regarding several areas of **national power (MERCOSUL, NAFTA, Amazon Co-operation Treaty, Andean Pact)**, summit, bilateral and multilateral meetings (**Chiefs of State and Ministers of Defense meetings**), bilateral work groups, understanding and exchange documents.



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The Ministry of Defense of Brazil has registered, in the several international forums dealing with defense issues, its vision of South American as a continent that is essentially demilitarized, with reduced military expenses, especially if compared with other regions of the world, and one of the few without conflicts among neighbors.

Based on this premise, the conditions that characterize **conventional external threats are not likely to be triggered here**. On the contrary, the region is living tighter relations, seeking to unite the existing sub regional blocks and the enhancement of bilateral relations, especially in the area of defense.

Nevertheless, “**each State is free to determine its necessities in terms of defense, including missions, troops and defense forces that are necessary to ensure its sovereignty**” as stated in declarations and resolutions from several meetings in the inter-American scope, mainly the Manaus Statement.

Finally, the importance of this **sovereignty should be highlighted, to be fulfilled transparently**, towards a harmonious coexistence among American countries, **respecting commitments and the principles and laws of international rights**.