



**XII** TWELFTH CONFERENCE  
OF DEFENSE MINISTERS  
OF THE AMERICAS

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, OCTOBER 10-12 2016

**PRO TEMPORE SECRETARIAT  
SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND  
OUTCOMES OF THE XII CDMA**

## **I. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES**

The Twelfth Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (XII CDMA) sought to advance the progress made since the Eleventh CDMA (XI CDMA) held in Arequipa, Peru in October 2014. The dialogue was robust and reflected common acknowledgement of the evolution of the theatres of war and the volatility of the international environment. The Conference allowed for the exchange of information and experiences on defence and security matters with a view to more effectively confronting traditional and non-traditional threats. The shared commitment to enhancement of cooperation and collaboration to effectively respond to the new reality was evident and resulted in tangible and actionable outcomes of the Conference.

2. From the inception of the preparation process, Trinidad and Tobago was committed to delivering a Conference with a difference, one which would underscore the integral contribution of the Caribbean to the CDMA as well as produce tangible outcomes for the hemisphere through mechanisms for enhanced collaboration and strengthening of the hemispheric defence and security architecture.

3. In this regard, the Declaration of Port of Spain established Ad Hoc Working Groups to undertake work in the following key areas: search and rescue; the evolving role of the armed forces in defence and security; a framework for a Hemispheric Defence and Security Cooperation Policy; the role of defence and security forces with regard to environmental protection and climate resilience; and the integration of gender issues into security and defence policy making in CDMA Member States.

4. The XII CDMA also reviewed and amended the Conference Regulations. This exercise sought to remove ambiguities and to strengthen the fabric of the CDMA process. Accordingly, in order to promote continuity in the preparation for and effecting of the CDMA, a troika comprising the senior representatives of the most recent, current and next Chair of the Conference was established. The XIII CDMA Troika (2016-2018) will comprise Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico and Guatemala and is to be presided over by the Chair of the XIII CDMA.

5. Specific issues to be noted in respect of achievements and outcomes are indicated below:
- The XIII CDMA facilitated expansion of the defence and security discourse in the hemisphere to include more centrally the special security concerns of small island developing states and other developing states in the hemisphere.
  - Commitment to enhanced cooperation between military and civilian entities in recognition of the evolving role of the military in securing and defending states was expressed.

- There was robust dialogue and suggestions on avenues for strengthened collaboration with hemispheric partners to address new and emerging transnational threats.
- Commencement of dialogue towards the development of a ‘Hemispheric Security and Defence Cooperation Policy’ with an initial focus on *Humanitarian Emergency Assistance*.
- The CDMA Regulations were reviewed and amended to make them more congruent, free of ambiguity and to facilitate ease of implementation.
- There was commitment to exploring avenues for utilising the military in support of civil authorities in an effort to counter the growing incidents of transnational organised crime, including the illicit trade in small arms, drugs, humans and all other forms of trafficking.
- There was commitment to utilisation of the military of the Member States to assist in man-made and natural disasters, border control, cyber security and cyber defence, major event security, critical infrastructure protection, environmental protection and resilience and climate change adaptation.
- The importance of cooperation and collaboration among Member States and health research institutions in order to mitigate any impacts of insect vector borne diseases on defence and security personnel; as well as training programmes for the military to mitigate the overall impact of the environment on force capability and health was underscored.
- The requirement that the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the CDMA should meet with representatives from each Specialized Conference (Conference of American Armies (CAA), Inter-American Naval Conference (CNI), System of Co-operation Among the American armed forces (SICOFAA/CONJEFARMER), to receive input on the development of the thematic agenda of the CDMA.
- The Pro Tempore Presidency of each Specialized Conference should be invited to deliver a report on the outcome of the Conference proceedings to the CDMA and provide insight on future work programmes.
- The Pro Tempore Presidency of each Specialized Conference should be invited to take into account the outcome documents of the CDMA and that representatives

of the Pro Tempore Presidency of the CDMA and of each Specialized Conference should be invited to attend the meetings of each Conference.

- The Specialized Conferences should nominate points of contact with the Pro Tempore Secretariat with the aim of enhancing the coordination between the Specialized Conferences and the CDMA and provide the necessary reports.
- The Inter-American Defence Board (IADB) of the Organization of American States, will have the responsibility to host the institutional memory of the CDMA.
- The IADB could also be requested to provide technical support to the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the CDMA in order to facilitate coordination, cooperation and collaboration between the Specialized Conferences and the CDMA.
- Strengthening of bilateral relationships in the hemisphere through bilateral meetings held on the margins of the Conference.
- A Troika of countries comprising the most recent, current and future host countries would assist the Pro Tempore Secretariat with arrangements for the Conference.
- Recognize and recommend for ratification by CDMA Member States that are yet to do so, all necessary existing international agreements that permit strengthening of the levels of co-operation on search and rescue (SAR, and which facilitate capacity building and the establishment of centres and activation systems dedicated to SAR cooperation.
- Promote the completion of Regional/Sub-Regional SAR capability evaluations, utilizing appropriate technical and military support, including the work of the Specialized Conference already undertaken on the issue of SAR.
- Request the assistance of relevant hemispheric institutions to conduct the evaluation of SAR capabilities/resources (i.e. information sharing, communication and coordination centres and existing bilateral agreements.
- The formalisation of Mexico as the host country of the XIII CDMA, and offer by Guatemala to host the XIV CDMA.

## II. The Way Forward

6. In the resulting Declaration of Port of Spain, Member States committed themselves to action in a number of areas in the inter-sessional period. These commitments, as well as follow-up to the amendment of the CDMA Regulations, are summarised as indicated below:

PARA	ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	PURPOSE	PARTICIPANTS
<b>DECLARATION OF PORT OF SPAIN</b>				
8.	<b>Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Search and Rescue</b>	2016-2018	To develop cooperation and coordination mechanisms in the field of search and rescue.	Not specified
13	<b>Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on the Evolving Role of the Armed Forces in Defence and Security</b>	First half of 2017	To examine and exchange experiences on the evolving role of the Armed Forces in defence and security, the result of which will be reported to the XIII CDMA in 2018.	To be constituted by the host country of the current Conference and the host country of the XIII CDMA and any other interested Member States.
16	<b>Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group to consider a Hemispheric Defence and Security Cooperation Policy</b>	The first meeting will be held during the first half of 2017, and will report to the XIII CDMA to be held in 2018	To facilitate dialogue on the development of a framework for a Hemispheric Defence and Security Cooperation Policy, commencing with Humanitarian Emergency Assistance focused on Integrated Risk Management and Prevention. This Group will analyse: the proposals put forward by Chile in respect of the possible establishment of an Inter-American System of Military Cooperation in matters of Defence for Disasters and Catastrophes; the proposal of the United Mexican States to offer training in the area of Civilian Protection; the action protocols and lessons learnt during recent Humanitarian	This working group would be led by the host country of the XIII CDMA, with participation of other voluntary members and competent institutions.

PARA	ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	PURPOSE	PARTICIPANTS
			Assistance operations carried out in the Hemisphere; activities and existing agreements on the subject in various fora of the OAS; and, other existing mechanisms in the Hemisphere.	
26	<b>Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on the role of the defence and security forces with regard to environmental protection and climate resilience</b>	By the second half of 2017	To share the best practices to reduce defence and security forces' impact on the climate and the environment, and to reduce the impact of climate change on the defence and security forces.	To be constituted by the host country of the current Conference and the host country of the XIII CDMA and any other interested Member States.
27	<b>Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group to consider the integration of gender issues in defence and security policies</b>	By the second half of 2017	To consider how to promote integrating gender issues in the development of defence and security policy in CDMA Member States.	To be constituted by the host country of the current Conference and the host country of the XIII CDMA and any other interested Member States.
<b>CDMA REGULATIONS (AS AMENDED BY XII CDMA, PORT OF SPAIN, 2016)</b>				
Art.2 8	<b>Establishment of the XIII CDMA Troika</b>	To be determined by Chair of the XIII CDMA	To assist the Pro Tempore Secretariat with arrangements for the Conference.	Senior level officials of the countries comprising the most recent, current and future host countries.