



*Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting on
Cooperation in Regional Search and Rescue*

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
4 August 2015

Whereas the Ministers of Defense and Heads of Delegation of the participating countries at the Eleventh Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas (XI CDMA) expressed in the *Declaration of Arequipa*:

Their interest in adopting measures that permit strengthening of the level of cooperation for regional search and rescue capabilities, under the competent authorities of each country as a way of preserving life, and for humanitarian assistance in the event of accidents and disasters that may occur both in the sea or land of the Americas;

Their willingness to support the working group that will articulate the cooperation in regional search and rescue, promoting specific actions to improve the capabilities of search and rescue. This open and voluntary Ad Hoc working group will be comprised of the host country of the XII CDMA and by other voluntary collaborators during the first half of 2015;

And Whereas:

A meeting of an open and voluntary Ad Hoc working group was convened on August 4, 2015 in Port of Spain, by the host country of the XII CDMA – Trinidad and Tobago, and was attended by other voluntary collaborators – Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and the United States, as well as the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), and the Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (The Perry Center); and,

The Pro Tempore Secretariat for the XII CDMA, pursuant to the decisions agreed to by the participants at the Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting held on August 4, 2015, and in accordance with its responsibilities as the Executive Secretariat as provided for in Article 22 of the CDMA Regulations, has undertaken to circulate the following Draft Recommendationsⁱ seeking to articulate *'Measures to Strengthen the Level of Cooperation for Regional Search and Rescue (SAR) – A Framework for Action'*;



1. 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 cooperation on SAR, and which allow for (which facilitate) capacity building and the establishment of centres and activation systems dedicated to SAR cooperation.
2. Implement the measures adopted by CDMA Member States in OAS General Assembly Resolution: AG/RES. 2750 (XLII-O/12) – *Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance Among Member States* – particularly where such measures strengthen the level of cooperation for regional search and rescue, and promote specific actions for the preservation of life and provision of humanitarian assistance in the event of accidents and disasters that may occur both in the sea or land of the Americas.
3. Promote the completion of Regional/Sub-Regional SAR capability evaluations, utilizing appropriate technical and military support, including the work of the Specialized Conferences already undertaken on the issue of SAR.
4. Invite the Specialized Conferences to brief the CDMA on existing SAR MOUs/ Cooperation Agreements in the Hemisphere.
5. Engage 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). (pending)

¹ Nicaragua registered its reservations in respect of the recommendations.