

**REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE XII CONFERENCE OF
DEFENCE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS
APRIL 12-13, 2016**

The Preparatory Meeting commenced at 09:00 hrs on April 12, 2016, with welcome remarks by the Major General (ret'd) the Honourable Edmund Dillon, Minister of National Security of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and Chairman of the Twelfth Conference of Ministers of Defence of the Americas (XII CDMA).

Following the opening ceremony, the Secretary General submitted the meeting agenda for approval. The delegation of Nicaragua put forward a proposal to discuss the Draft Declaration of Port of Spain as the first item on the agenda. The Secretary General, guided by the Regulations of the CDMA, indicated that the proposed conference Thematic Agenda, including a Theme and Thematic Axes, first be discussed since the draft declaration would have emerged from these discussions. The preparatory meeting agenda was subsequently approved, as presented.

A) PRESENTATION ON OUTCOMES OF AD HOC WORKING GROUPS

In the first working session of the meeting, Mr Carl Francis, Secretary General of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, presented, for the consideration of the delegates, the outcomes of the two Ad Hoc Working Groups that were convened in Port of Spain from 3 - 4 August 2015, pursuant to the Declaration of Arequipa. These Ad Hoc Working Groups were as follows:

- (i) Ad-Hoc Working Group to develop '*A proposal of alternatives for coordination between the Conferences of Defense Ministers of the Americas and the specialised conferences of the Armed Forces*'

Delegates took into consideration the outcome document of this Working Group, and member states expressed their general agreement with the outcomes listed in this document. Jamaica raised some questions on the text of the outcome document, which the Secretary General clarified. The Delegation of Jamaica thereafter proposed and received approval for an amendment to the outcome document from all Member States with the exceptions of Nicaragua and Bolivia, who expressed their reservations with the outcomes of this Working Group. Based on the approval given by the majority of Member States, the Secretary General indicated that the reports will be submitted to the Ministers, with the reservations reflected accordingly.

- (ii) Ad-Hoc Working Group Meeting to develop '*Measures to Strengthen the Level of Cooperation for Regional Search and Rescue (SAR) – A Framework for Action*'

Delegates took into consideration the outcome document of this Working Group. Nicaragua expressed its reservations with the outcome of this Working Group noting the importance of making a distinction between SAR and humanitarian emergency assistance. The motion to carry forward this outcome document to the ministerial meeting in October was then approved, and the Secretary General indicated that the reservation of Nicaragua will be reflected in the report to the Ministers at the XII CDMA.

B. DISCUSSION ON THE THEMATIC AGENDA AND THEMATIC AXES

The Secretary General presented the overarching theme for the XII CDMA: "*Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation in the Hemisphere in an Increasingly Volatile Global Environment*". The theme was approved by delegates.

Presentations were subsequently made on the three Thematic Axes of the Conference:

Thematic Axis I: The Changing International Defence and Security Environment: The Evolving Role of the Military

The objectives of this thematic axis are to discuss the evolving role of the military in:

- providing humanitarian assistance and disaster response;
- providing major event security;
- providing critical infrastructure protection;
- countering transnational organised crime;
- addressing emerging technologies (cyber threats)

There was general agreement that the changing defence and security climate requires states to adapt in order to effectively address new and emerging threats. Some delegations indicated that their countries have already implemented national policy and legislative changes to address evolving threats such as transnational organised crime. Nicaragua however, indicated its reservations as it was felt that the meeting was of a political nature with the mandate to exchange ideas, not to make decisions which can infringe on the sovereignty of states since each state is responsible for determining the role and function of its armed forces. The Secretary General, supported by other delegations, reiterated the fact that the CDMA is a multilateral and political forum which was established, inter alia, on the principle of respect for the sovereignty of each member country.

Mexico recommended changing the title of this axis to “Updating Security and Defence in a Dynamic International Environment: The Evolving Role of the Armed Forces”. The meeting ultimately agreed to the title as “Security and Defence of the Americas in a Changing International Environment: The Evolving Role of the Armed Forces”.

The working committee that will address this Thematic Axis comprises:

MODERATOR: PARAGUAY

RAPPORTEUR: COLOMBIA

CO-RAPPORTEURS: ARGENTINA, BARBADOS, EL SALVADOR, AND
MEXICO

Thematic Axis II: Environmental Protection and Resilience

The objectives of this Thematic Axis are:

- To consider the role of the military in the protection and resilience of the environment;
- To consider how actions of the military impact on the environment;
- To outline how the military might be affected by environmental and energy factors

Delegations expressed support for this axis, noting the need for mechanisms to enhance regional collaboration. Chile in particular, recalled its experiences with natural disasters and indicated that they have a policy in respect of the protection of the environment. Other delegations such as Bolivia and Nicaragua shared their experience in utilising the military in response to environmental emergencies.

Mexico proposed that the title of this Thematic Axis be changed to “Actions and Tasks in Environmental Protection and Resilience”. However, the Meeting agreed to the original title as proposed.

The working committee that will address the second Thematic Axis comprises:

MODERATOR: CANADA

RAPPORTEUR: USA

CO-RAPPORTEURS: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, BOLIVIA AND CHILE

Thematic Axis III: Hemispheric Security and Defence Cooperation Policy: A Case for Strengthened Humanitarian Emergency Assistance

The objective of this Thematic Axis is to initiate dialogue towards the development of a Hemispheric Security and Defence Cooperation Policy beginning measures to strengthen the provision of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance.

There was general consensus on this Axis. It was noted that given the importance of this issue, it be recommended to Ministers that a working group be established to commence the discussion on the subject of humanitarian emergency assistance.

The working committee that will address this theme comprises:

MODERATOR: MEXICO

RAPPORTEUR: CHILE

CO-RAPPORTEURS: ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, AND JAMAICA

The three (3) Thematic Axes for the XII CDMA were approved by consensus.

C. DISCUSSIONS ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF PORT OF SPAIN

A significant amount of time was dedicated to reviewing and discussing the Draft Declaration. One delegation raised the issue of sovereignty. However, delegates reiterated that the sovereignty of individual Member States continues to be a basis for collaboration throughout the CDMA process. The role of the Inter American Defense Board (IADB) was also a main topic of discussion, with many delegations stating that this organisation has a clearly defined role and has earned its place within the CDMA process. As such, the IADB can provide support in information sharing between the CDMA and specialised conferences. There was general agreement that host countries

should be able to avail themselves of the technical support of the IADB.

The draft declaration was revised, taking into account the recommendations of Member States present. The delegate from Nicaragua read out a statement and requested that this statement be captured in the report of the meeting. He also expressed Nicaragua's reservations with the entire Draft Declaration and presented language to this effect to be included as a footnote in the Draft Declaration. The Secretary General indicated that the request will be accommodated. (See Appendix I)

D. APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF OBSERVERS TO THE XII CDMA

A list of proposed Observers to the XII CDMA was presented to the delegates. The Secretary General proposed that Observers that have expressed interest in attending the Conference be asked to cover the costs of accommodation to facilitate their participation, notwithstanding the current CDMA regulations which provide for the host country to cover such costs. There was a general agreement on this issue. The proposal was also put forward that the CDMA Regulations be amended to reflect this change for future CDMA Ministerial meetings as well. This matter will be explored at the XII Conference in October, 2016.

Member states proposed additions to this list, which would remain open for amendment and suggestions until June 30, 2016. The Secretary General also assured delegates that as per CDMA Regulations, a round of voting, requiring a three-fifths majority, will take place among Member States, in order to finalise this list.

E. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STYLE COMMITTEE

The meeting agreed that the Style Committee will comprise Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago.

F. CONSIDERATION OF THE CANDIDATURES FOR THE HOST COUNTRY OF THE XIII CDMA

The following candidates have expressed their desire to host the XIII CDMA 2018:

- (i) Panama
- (ii) Mexico

In underscoring the importance of having a Host country for XIII CDMA selected before the Ministers meeting in October 2016, the Secretary General proposed that Panama and Mexico engage in dialogue, in order to arrive at a resolution. The Secretary General set a deadline of June 30, 2016 for both countries to report on the outcome of this dialogue. Both Panama and Mexico expressed their willingness to enter into dialogue as per the suggestion of the Secretary General, and committed to reporting back to the Pro Tempore Secretariat by the given deadline. The meeting noted that the Pro Tempore Secretariat intended to apply the regulations of the CDMA to resolve the matter, should the countries be not able to resolve the issue by end of June 2016.

G. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE CDMA

The Pro Tempore Secretariat presented two documents to the delegates outlining proposed amendments to the CDMA Regulations, as submitted by the Pro Tempore Secretariat and Brazil respectively, for their consideration. Guided by Article 75 of the CDMA Regulations, the Secretary General proposed that delegates use the inter-sessional period to consider the proposals made in both documents, with a view to having the proposed amendments to the CDMA Regulations discussed at the Ministerial Meeting in October 2016. The Ministers will determine the manner in which the suggested amendments will be treated subsequent to their presentation at the XII CDMA.

H. ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEFING

The Pro Tempore Secretariat presented the administrative instructions for the XII CDMA, which will be convened over the period October 10-12, 2016 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Member States must notify the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the composition of their delegations by September 10, 2016.

I. CLOSING SESSION

Participating delegations expressed their appreciation and commended the excellent work done by the Pro Tempore Secretariat in the hosting of the Preparatory Meeting of the XII CDMA and realization of its objectives.

PRO TEMPORE SECRETARIAT

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA

BAHAMAS

BARBADOS

BELIZE

PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

CANADA

REPUBLIC OF CHILE

REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

REPUBLIC OF GRENADA

REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

REPUBLIC OF HAITI

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

JAMAICA

UNITED STATES OF MEXICO

REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY

REPUBLIC OF PERU

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

SAINT LUCIA

REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA



Nicaragua's Reservation on the Draft Declaration of the XII CDMA "Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation in the Hemisphere in an Increasingly Volatile Global Environment"

The Government of Nicaragua affirms its commitment to all cooperation processes and those aimed at strengthening peace and security. It is firm in its decision to continue contributing to these processes within the framework of the Political Constitution of Nicaragua, existing laws and the relevant international conventions. Nicaragua does not agree to this Draft Declaration, as it considers that the proposal of alternatives for coordination among the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas and the Specialised Hemispheric Conferences of the Armed Forces, goes beyond the nature and functions that our Member States have given to the CDMA, which is to exclusively be a forum for dialogue, debate and exchange of ideas in areas of common interest in the field of defence and security. The CDMA was not created to coordinate the Specialised Hemispheric Conferences of the Armed Forces, nor to make them subordinate entities. The CDMA is essentially a political, multilateral body, which must take into account principles of diversity and flexibility, and not an elaboration of doctrines that make it difficult to achieve consensus.

Nicaragua considers that the Draft Declaration converts the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas into a body which coordinates and develops policies, strategies and doctrines, and breaks with the constitutional order, as it subordinates the Specialised Hemispheric Military Conferences and the legitimate authorities of the countries represented at these Conferences, to the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas.

With respect to the participation of the Inter-American Defense Board in the CDMA, a request for their provision of technical support to the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the XII CDMA, with the objective of facilitating coordination, cooperation and collaboration between the above-mentioned Conferences and the CDMA, overlooks the fact that the IADB is an entity associated with the Organization of American States, and therefore requires prior authorisation from States and Governments to participate or be linked with other bodies.

Having regard to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the proposal to strengthen Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities, the implementation of OAS General Assembly Resolution No. 2750 (XLII-O/12) incorporates the issue of humanitarian assistance,

Appendix I

confusing two themes of a different nature and going beyond the Arequipa mandate in respect of strengthening SAR capabilities. Nicaragua welcomes the working processes which consider the strengthening of areas of humanitarian assistance, within the framework of agreements and previously accepted procedures.

Port of Spain, April 13, 2016.