



Twelfth Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas

Preparatory Meeting

*Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
April 12-13, 2016*

**“Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation in the Hemisphere
in an Increasingly Volatile Global Environment”**

DRAFT DECLARATION

We, the Ministers of Defence and Heads of Delegation participating in the Twelfth Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (XII CDMA) assembled in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, during the period October 10-12, 2016:

COMMITTED to respect for principles established in the Charter of the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

COMMITTED ALSO to the Declaration on Security in the Americas, in which Member States affirm, inter alia, that:

- (i) The concept of security in the Hemisphere is multidimensional in scope, includes traditional and new threats, concerns, and other challenges to the security of the states of the Hemisphere, incorporates the priorities of each state, contributes to the consolidation of peace, integral development and social justice, and is based on democratic values, respect for and promotion and defence of human rights, solidarity, cooperation, and respect for national sovereignty;
- (ii) The Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas and other existing fora for consultation on defence matters in the Hemisphere have become appropriate fora for promoting mutual understanding and confidence, dialogue, and transparency in the area of defence;
- (iii) Solidarity among the American states expressed, inter alia, through their security and defence cooperation, contributes to the stability and security of the states, and the hemisphere as a whole;
- (iv) Bilateral and sub-regional agreements and cooperation mechanisms in the area of security and defence are essential to strengthening security in the Hemisphere;
- (v) Natural and man-made disasters afflict states of the Hemisphere and cause greater devastation in the most vulnerable states that have not yet developed adequate prevention and mitigation capabilities;
- (vi) New cooperation mechanisms are required to improve and broaden the region's response capability in preventing and mitigating the effects of these disasters;

RECALLING that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, Member States acknowledge the evolving role of the military in the changing international defence and security environment, with particular reference to transnational organised crime, including drug trafficking and drug interdiction; man-made and natural disasters; border control; cybersecurity and cyber defence; major events security; critical infrastructure protection; environmental protection and resilience and climate change adaptation; and other related issues.

RECALLING ALSO:

The Declarations of the Summits of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas and the democratic principles that inspired the creation of the CDMA;

RECALLING FURTHER:

The principles and purpose of the CDMA as articulated in the Regulations of the Conference and the principles and commitments established at previous CDMAs;

COGNISANT THAT:

The sole purpose of the CDMA is to foster mutual knowledge, analysis, debate and exchange of ideas and experiences on defence and security matters, and any other mechanism of interaction that enables its achievement and that the expected results are to increase cooperation and integration and to contribute, from a defence and security planning perspective, to the development of Member States;

RECOGNISING:

The aims and aspirations of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) which call on all states and relevant actors to contribute to national development in a manner that would ensure long-term sustainability, their applicability to the principles and purpose of the CDMA, and the evolving role of military and defence institutions in this regard;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The impacts of climate change, which may increase the frequency, scale, and complexity of future military missions, including defence support to civil authorities. These impacts may at the same time undermine the sustainability of critical infrastructure, installations and assets that support military activities;

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER:

The contributions of CDMA Member States to peacekeeping operations internationally and in the Hemisphere, in particular, their support to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH);

DECLARE THAT:

1. The hemisphere faces an increasingly diverse, complex and emerging set of threats and challenges, many of which are transnational and affect states in different ways;
2. These threats call for an integrated, coordinated, multi-dimensional approach with full respect for the diversity and sovereignty of states;
3. The evolving role of the military and defence institutions is pivotal in confronting current transnational and multidimensional threats and calls for new and creative approaches to strengthen hemispheric security and defence cooperation;
4. We are committed to strengthening inter-institutional and inter-governmental coordination and the security and defence regimes across the Americas for the protection of populations and the preservation of peace and stability;
5. We adopt the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group established pursuant to the Declaration of Arequipa of the XI CDMA pertaining to alternatives for Coordination between the CDMA and the Specialised Conferences outlined hereunder:

- i. The Host Country of the next CDMA should meet with representatives from each specialised conference (CAA, CNI, SICOFAA), to receive their input on the development of the thematic agenda for the CDMA;
 - ii. The Pro Tempore Presidency of each specialised conference should be invited to deliver a report on the outcome of its conference proceedings to the CDMA and to provide insight on future work programmes;
 - iii. The Pro Tempore Presidency of each specialised conference should be invited to take into account the outcome documents of the CDMA and comment as required;
 - iv. Representatives of the Pro Tempore Presidency of the CDMA and of each specialised conference should be invited to attend the meetings of each Conference;
 - v. The Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) could be requested to provide technical support to the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the CDMA in order to facilitate coordination, cooperation and collaboration between the specialised conferences and the CDMA; and
 - vi. Member Countries should establish a network of points of contact to liaise with the Pro Tempore Secretariat with the aim of enhancing the coordination between the specialised conferences of the Armed Forces and the CDMA and provide the necessary reports.
6. We adopt the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Search and Rescue established pursuant to Article 7 of the Declaration of Arequipa; as outlined hereunder:
- i. Recognise 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 search and rescue (SAR) , and which facilitate capacity building and the establishment of centres and activation systems dedicated to SAR cooperation;
 - ii. 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 SAR, 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 and land of the Americas;

- iii. Promote the completion of Regional/Sub-Regional SAR capability evaluations, utilising appropriate technical and military support, including the work of the Specialised Conferences already undertaken on the issue of SAR;
 - iv. Invite the Specialised Conferences to brief the CDMA on existing SAR MOUs/ Cooperation Agreements in the Hemisphere; and
 - v. 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).
7. We would continue to enhance cooperation and develop coordinating mechanisms to counter new and emerging threats and transnational concerns, such as terrorism and the impact of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), through, inter alia, increased surveillance and information sharing;
 8. We would strengthen collaboration among CDMA Member States in accordance with cooperation policy and strategy that guides civil-military coordination in the areas that include transnational organised crime, including drug trafficking and drug interdiction, man-made and natural disasters, border control, cybersecurity and cyber defence, major events security, critical infrastructure protection, environmental protection and resilience, and climate change adaptation;
 9. We commit to strengthening the mechanisms for the provision of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance with a focus on civil-military collaboration for the use of foreign military and civil defence assets in disaster relief (Oslo guidelines), in accordance with the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, international humanitarian law and domestic legislation;

10. We commit further to strengthening the dissemination of international humanitarian law and international human rights law by their integration into the doctrine, education, training, and operational procedures of the armed forces or security forces, as appropriate, so that they have the necessary means and mechanisms for its effective application;
11. We establish a Special Committee, in accordance with Article 45 of the CDMA Regulations, to facilitate dialogue on the development of a framework for a Hemispheric Defense and Security Cooperation Policy; this Committee would be constituted by the host country of the current conference, the host country of the XIII CDMA and other voluntary collaborators and will host its first meeting in the first half of 2017;
12. We renew our determination that Member States should prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trafficking in, the illegal use of, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons consistent with the aims of the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunitions, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT);
13. We commit to actions to increase energy and water security, including investments in areas such as energy efficiency, new technologies, and renewable energy sources which will increase the resiliency of military installations and help mitigate these effects;
14. The military and civil defence assets could be utilised in environmental protection and resilience, and that strategic interventions are necessary to increase the capacity of military installations, to mitigate or adapt to environmental effects on defence institutions and operations, thereby developing and sustaining their capabilities in this regard;
15. We support the continued participation of the defence sector in United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance operations to strengthen the role of military and civil defence assets of Member States in respect of the expanding

range of missions that the military may be required to perform, consistent with the increasingly valuable contribution of the defence sector to the MINUSTAH and other humanitarian emergency assistance missions;

16. In keeping with Goal 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 of 2000 on Women, Peace and Security, we reiterate our willingness to continue the process of the greater participation of women in the armed forces of the Hemisphere;
17. We welcome the appointment of as the host country for the XIII CDMA to be held in 2018 and the offer of the Government of to host the XIV CDMA in 2020; and
18. We express our sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for their hospitality over the course of this Ministerial meeting.