

THEMATIC AGENDA

X CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS

PUNTA DEL ESTE – REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

OCTOBER 8-10, 2012

Thematic Axis I: Natural Disasters, Environmental Protection and Biodiversity

As a follow-up to the Declaration arising from the IX Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in November 2010, the Conference on "Strengthening Associations to support Humanitarian Assistance and Aid in case of Natural Disasters" took place in San José de Costa Rica on August 29-30, 2011. In light of the results of that meeting and pursuant to the resolutions adopted by the ministers gathered in Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the contributions received from the various CDMA member countries, analysis of this topic will continue.

Specifically, in accordance with the commitment undertaken in Costa Rica, and bearing in mind that natural or anthropic disasters as well as changes to the environment and biodiversity may impact fundamental issues related to the security and defense of the States and their societies, it is hoped that the necessary consensus will be reached at this Conference to meet cooperation needs according to the capacities of the Defense sector of the countries in the hemisphere.

For this purpose, in view of the different realities and national institutional structures, and taking into consideration the corresponding international, regional and subregional coordination mechanisms, hemispheric cooperation will be promoted together with the civil authorities, whose mission is to prevent and/or respond to catastrophes or natural disasters in each country.

Thematic Axis II: Peacekeeping Operations

In this area, it will be sought to strengthen analysis of the evolution of Peacekeeping Operations, stressing the role of the Americas in peacekeeping operations at a global level, with special focus on MINUSTAH and the prospects of such operations in the light of the new conceptual developments as regards the response required from Peacekeeping Operations by an ever-demanding world. To this end, there will be discussions on the extent of the operations, gender issues, intercultural issues, and the specialized participation of civilians.

Thematic Axis III: Security and Defense, and Future of the mission and functions of the instruments and components of the Inter-American Defense System.

Sub-Theme 1. Security and Defense. It was resolved at the IX Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra that the concepts of Security and Defense, should be analyzed further at this Meeting, with a broad and comprehensive approach.

To that end, contributions will be made by participating countries, in order to exchange views and undertake far-reaching discussion on Defense and Security issues, with the purpose of setting the framework for this Conference.

Sub-Theme 2. Future of the mission and functions of the instruments and components of the Inter-American Defense System.

As agreed at the Ministers' meeting in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Item 6 - Declaration), and with the purpose of contributing to the debate on this subject, which will be promoted within the framework of OAS, the CMDA will carry out an analysis of the matter in this thematic axis.