

DRAFT
DECLARATION OF BANFF
(as of 231200 May 2008)

The Ministers of Defence and Heads of Delegation participating in the VIII Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas (CDMA), meeting in Banff, Canada, 2-6 September 2008,

Reaffirming their commitment to the full observance of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) as well as the Inter-American Democratic Charter and its values, principles and mechanisms,

Bearing in mind their determination to give impetus to the theme of the VIII Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas, “Hemispheric, Regional and Sub-regional Defence and Security Enhancement: Confidence Building Through Cooperation and Collaboration,”

Inspired by the principles of the Summits of the Americas, the Declaration on Security in the Americas and the principles and agreements contained in the Consensus of the Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas ratified in Managua, Nicaragua in 2006,

Recognizing the importance of differentiating the realities of defence and security, reaffirming the principles established at the successive Conferences of Defence Ministers of the Americas, and recognizing that regional diversity in defence and security means accepting the existence of different realities in each country, as regards

the approaches, legal standards and instruments used by the various States of the region in coping with their challenges; therefore, for some Member States, particular issues represent problems of national defence, while for others, those same issues are considered realities to be dealt with by security instruments and forces:

DECLARE:

1. Their firm desire to place the Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas and its principles and themes, as a key element in the inter-American system through the provision of the final Declaration of the Conferences of Defence Ministers of the Americas, by the host Member State, to the Heads of State and Government of the Americas at each Summit of the Americas, and also to the General Assembly or the Permanent Council of the OAS.
2. Their decision to instruct the Executive Secretariat of the Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas to take note of the work of the Inter-American Naval Conference (IANC), the Conference of the Armies of the Americas (CAA), the Conference of the Air Forces of the Americas (SICOFAA), the Conference of Armed Forces of Central America (CFAC), the Standing Committee of CARICOM Military Chiefs and the Regional Security System (RSS).
3. The importance of adopting, implementing and strengthening confidence and security-building

measures identified *inter alia* in the Declarations of Santiago and San Salvador, and the Miami Consensus to foster confidence and security amongst Member States in order to enhance bilateral, sub-regional, regional, and hemispheric relations contributing to international stability, peace, co-operation and security.

4. Their support for measures that strengthen defence and security co-operation among the smaller Member States in the Americas, whose level of vulnerability is greater in the face of traditional and non-traditional threats, and new trans-national threats, concerns and challenges.
5. Their support for increased co-operation among Member States in disaster relief and humanitarian operations and their recognition of the importance of effective co-ordination among civilian organizations and armed forces in responding to natural disasters, consistent with the Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief (Oslo Guidelines) and national legislation.
6. Their support for OAS efforts to further hemispheric co-operation to respond to natural disasters, and reaffirm the role of the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs in co-ordinating the offers by CDMA Member States of military and civil defence assets placed at its disposal by Member States to respond to natural disasters.

7. Their recognition of the participation and contribution of armed forces and security forces during nationally and regionally hosted events within the framework of national constitutions and legislation.
8. Their continued recognition of the outstanding work carried out by the Member States of this Conference participating in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), their sustained commitment to the Mission which is in Haiti at the request of the Government of Haiti and their ongoing support for the stabilization and reconstruction efforts taking place, and expressing their appreciation for the valuable political concordance made by Latin American countries on Haiti as well as those made by the Friends of Haiti, and stressing the importance of the active and voluntary participation in peace operations of the countries in the hemisphere, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and constitutional provisions of the Member States.
9. Their intention to mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, as stated in Resolution No. 1325 (2000) of the United Nations Security Council, and their support for the development of gender policies and actions aimed at ensuring conditions of equity and equality of opportunity for the men and women within defence and security institutions.

10. Their support for education and training programmes based on international best practices and regional co-operation through such initiatives as the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC), the newly formed Latin American Association of Training Centres for Peace Operations (ALCOPAZ), and other arrangements with similar objectives.
11. Their firm support for the development of programmes within the Ministries of Defence and Security to promote broader and more effective management of matters relative to national defence and security.
12. Their recognition of the invaluable contribution made by civil society and academia to promote defence and security cooperation among the Member States of this Conference.
13. Their recognition of the progress made in adopting and implementing policies that fully guarantee the human rights perspective, especially the promotion of an institutional culture of respect for human rights, by means of activities of awareness-building and dissemination of information, and their incorporation into educational curricula and operational practice.
14. Their condemnation of all forms of terrorism and

trans-national organized crime, including drug and precursor trafficking, trafficking in human beings, corruption, money laundering and other related crimes, and the determination of Member States to confront these threats in a co-operative, decisive and comprehensive manner, pursuant to all related international instruments including UN and OAS legal instruments, and in accordance with each Member State's constitutional order and national legislation.

15. Their determination that the Member States prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trafficking in, the illegal use of, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and their lethal effects consistent with aims of the United Nations Program of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunitions, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), as well as the guidelines recommended by the OAS for the control and security of the Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS), according to national legislation and international instruments currently in force.

16. Their continued determination to promote and strengthen the institutional memory of the Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas.

17. Their intent to consider the proposals, initiatives,

exchanges of experiences and conclusions reached during the thematic discussions of this Conference.

18. Their satisfaction at the designation of Bolivia as the Host Country for the IX Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas in 2010.

19. Their gratitude to the Government and people of Canada, through the Department of National Defence, for their hospitality over the course of this Ministerial Conference.

Proposed New Paragraphs (presented but not discussed at the Preparatory Meeting)

1. Proposed new paragraph (USA):

Reiterating the region's commitment to comply with the different resolutions of the United Nations Security Council to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and to convey to their respective governments the possibility of supporting the Proliferation Security Initiative.

2. Proposed new paragraph (Paraguay):

All the Member States are encouraged, pursuant to their national procedures, to adopt and apply appropriate and effective laws to prohibit all non-state actors from making,

acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their vector systems, particularly for the purposes of terrorism, as well as efforts to carry out any of the aforementioned activities, to participate in them as accessories, to support or finance them.