IX CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS



Minutes of Conclusions and Recommendations
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 22-25 November 2010

MINUTES OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thematic Line A CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE, CONFIDENCE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE AMERICAS

Subtheme I Developing Mechanisms to Strengthen Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Hemisphere

Rapporteur Country: Ecuador

Co-Rapporteur Country: Colombia and Peru

Moderator Country: Chile

I. Conclusions

- 1. We are living in times of new threats and situations which, in turn, give rise to new challenges.
- 2. Existing mechanisms should recognize these new realities in order to be strengthened rather than replaced.
- 3. We need crisis management and early warning mechanisms that facilitate conflict prevention.
- 4. Confidence-building measures are the basis for guaranteeing the future of our countries by creating an environment where the perception of confidence is the final objective, under the principle of reciprocity.
- 5. Sub-regional security and defense organizations and initiatives are important for generating confidence that produces an architecture of security and peace in the Americas.
- 6. Mutual confidence building-measures should operate under a principal of complimentarity.



MINUTES OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thematic Line A CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE, CONFIDENCE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE AMERICAS

Subtheme II Transparency in Defense Budget, Spending and Arms Acquisition

Rapporteur Country: Argentina

Co-Rapporteur Country: Colombia and Peru

Moderator Country: Chile

I. Conclusions

- 1. Although transparency in defense spending has been a long-term aspiration in Latin America, it has not yet been completely achieved and should remain as an essential part of our future agenda.
- 2. Transparency in defense spending is a vital component of measures aimed at building mutual confidence between our countries.
- 3. Although different mechanisms already exist for measuring defense spending, the Hemisphere does not yet have one single mechanism that is universally applied.

II. Recommendations

- 1. Encourage the participation of every country of the Americas in the United Nations Standardized Reporting Instrument for Military Expenditures.
- 2. Suggest that the Organization of American States study the possible implementation of an Inter-American defense spending register.



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3. Once the methodology for measuring defense spending is approved by UNASUR defense ministers, submit this proposal to the Tenth Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas to analyze its extension to all the other countries of the American continent.



MINUTES OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thematic Line B DEMOCRACY, ARMED FORCES, SECURITY AND SOCIETY

Subtheme I Women's Participation and Gender Equality in the Armed Forces and Defense Institutions

Rapporteur Country: Venezuela

Co- Rapporteur Country: Surinam and Trinidad & Tobago

Moderator Country: Canada

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Armed forces and defense institutions benefit from increased women's participation.

- 2. Select women for training and promotion based on merit within the context of equal opportunities.
- 3. Initiatives to increase recruitment and advancement of women in the armed forces and defense institutions are worthwhile and should be encouraged.
- 4. CDMA member states are encouraged to share statistics, analyses, and best practices on the participation of women in the armed forces and defense institutions.
- 5. CDMA member states are encouraged to offer training opportunities to women from other CDMA member states.

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Thematic Line B DEMOCRACY, ARMED FORCES, SECURITY AND SOCIETY

Subtheme II Modernization, Interculturality, Education in Defense and Democracy

Rapporteur Country: Bolivia
Co- Rapporteur Country: Guatemala
Moderator Country: Canada

Conclusions

- 1. In recent decades, the concept of interculturalism has emerged and evolved in many nations of the Americas, which has had an impact on armed forces and defense institutions.
- 2. There should be no distinction between ethnic groups within armed forces and defense institutions and there should be equal opportunities for all.
- 3. While similarities exist, there are distinct differences within the countries of the Americas, be they demographic and/or social among others, including within the armed forces and defense institutions.
- 4. It is important that the concepts of equal rights and opportunity and the benefits of diversity be reflected in civil and military education within the armed forces and defense institutions.
- 5. Social inclusion and interculturality in the armed forces and defense institutions should be reflected in the political will of the countries of the Americas.



MINUTES OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thematic Line C REGIONAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS, STRENGTHENING HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION

Subtheme I

Regional capacity to respond to natural disasters: Risk management and inventory of response capacities; coordination and cooperation protocols

Rapporteur Country: United States

Co- Rapporteur Countries: Mexico and Peru

Moderator Country: Dominican Republic

Conclusions

The delegations present at this IX CDMA express their support for the initiative to create a hemispheric Center for Military Assistance and Collaboration, as proposed by Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Trinidad & Tobago, United States of America, aimed at strengthening the information exchange and coordination between the armed forces acting in response to a request from a country affected by a natural disaster, working alongside already existing or future regional and sub-regional initiatives.

Recommendations

The delegations present at this IX CDMA decided to analyze and form working groups that will meet to development this proposal.



MINUTES OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thematic Line C REGIONAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS, STRENGTHENING HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION

Subtheme II

Brazilian experiences and lessons learned in prevention, response and reconstruction in the Haitian earthquake

Chilean experiences and lessons learned in prevention, response and reconstruction in natural disasters

Rapporteur Country: Brazil and Chile

Co- Rapporteur Countries: Haiti and Peru

Moderator Country: Dominican Republic

Conclusions

- 1. The delegations present at the IX CDMA express their solidarity with the peoples of Haiti and Chile, affected by devastating earthquakes at the beginning of 2010, and acknowledge the important contribution made by other countries from the hemisphere and international organizations that have demonstrated their solidarity through humanitarian aid operations.
- 2. The delegations present at the IX CDMA reiterate their commitment to continue assisting the people of Haiti in order to complete their reconstruction process, inasmuch as this is requested by the Haitian Government and according to each country's possibilities.