



## V CONFERENCIA DE MINISTROS DE DEFENSA DE LAS AMERICAS

SANTIAGO DE CHILE 18 AL 22 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2002

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### THEMATIC LINE 1: REGIONAL SECURITY AT THE ONSET OF THE 21ST CENTURY

#### CONCLUSIONS

MODERATOR: URUGUAY

#### SUBTHEME 1A: NEW THREATS TO REGIONAL SECURITY

SPEAKER: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### CONSIDERATIONS

The following considerations were made in regard to the presentation of the United States of America:

- 1.- The Hemisphere is facing threats to the security of people and of States, such as terrorism, narcotics trafficking and related criminal activities, organized crime, illegal arms, ammunitions and explosives trafficking. Also, cyber crime and money laundering, among others, make up the new challenges that in addition to the former ones affect the stability of States and the Inter-American System as a whole. These threats' potential increases when they are linked to conditions of serious economic and social underdevelopment, natural disasters and environmental degradation.
- 2.- In an international context characterized by change and uncertainty, flexible and creative approaches are necessary. The efforts undertaken by the hemispheric community to dissuade and eliminate real or potential threats shall be successful in the extent that there is political will, trust and international cooperation.
- 3.- The *strengthening and adaptability* of security and defense hemispheric institutions are understood to be a priority as appropriate instruments to face the challenges and threats to democracy and the development of societies.
- 4.- Among other forms of possible cooperation, ideas were presented to carry out combined maritime operations and for "cooperative participation" in Peacekeeping Operations. Both initial ideas require detailed studies at States' appropriate levels .

The next Special Conference on Hemispheric Security (Mexico 2003) offers a suitable forum to advance in the consideration of these ideas, which should be founded, on *existing international cooperation and security mechanisms and in each Country's juridical order*.



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### **SUBTHEME 1B : STRUCTURES AND MECHANISMS TO FACE THE NEW THREATS**

SPEAKER : CHILE

#### **CONSIDERATIONS**

The changes that have taken place in the international security agenda and the appearance of new threats have determined the urgent need for countries in the Hemisphere to re-define and re-vitalize the basic and comprehensive conceptual framework on security institutions. Said framework would be based on the flexible security and defense architecture that the countries of the Americas have developed in the past years, which includes both the Inter-American System and a rich and diverse network of cooperative security institutions, developed at global, hemispheric, regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels.

This renewed Hemispheric perspective with regard to security concepts and institutions could be reflected in a document containing the principles that have already been established in the Inter-American System, incorporating new ones to reflect the Hemisphere's advances in recent years. This set of principles translated in a political declaration that the region's countries could adhere to would articulate the specific instruments or international agreements developed or to be developed in order to make them operational.

It is understood that the coming Special Conference on Hemispheric Security to be held next May in Mexico City would be the appropriate forum to discuss this institutional renewal proposal.



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### **SUBTHEME 1C : BORDER COOPERATION IN THE PREVENTION AND CONTAINMENT OF CONFLICTS**

**SPEAKER: ECUADOR**

1. Based on a Hemispheric Security system, the design of sub-regional security sub-systems should be considered with a view to complement and strengthen prevailing inter-state relational and association mechanisms, on the basis of a multilateral cooperative and solidary approach.
2. The above is based both on the desire to comply with a country's need to be free from the culture of violence and the good offices proposed by the Hemispheric Security Commission.

Crystallizing this aspiration means that the region would take pragmatic steps vis-à-vis a potential crisis and that the continent would consolidate the changes required to re-direct Hemispheric Security and Reciprocal Assistance, which have supposedly been surpassed by the new state demands.

3. The need to deepen national and international inter-institutional border cooperation for the prevention and containment of conflicts is envisaged.