

X CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS

MINUTES OF THE OPENING SESSION

In Punta del Este, Department of Maldonado, Republic of Uruguay, this 8th day of October of 2012, at the Conrad Hotel Convention Center, the President of the X Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, Mr. Eleuterio Fernández Huidobro, National Defense Minister of the Republic of Uruguay, officially opened this ministerial meeting as per the following schedule:

The National Anthem of the Republic of Uruguay was sung.

The Members of the Board of Directors of the Meeting of the Conference were introduced: the Protempore President, Mr. Eleuterio Fernández Huidobro, National Defense Minister of the Republic of Uruguay, the Secretary General, Dr. Jorge Menéndez, Deputy Defense Secretary of the Republic of Uruguay, Ambassador Luis Almagro Lemes, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Uruguay, Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uruguay, Ambassador Ricardo González Arenas, Executive Secretary, Gerónimo Cardozo, Brigadier (R).

The President of the Republic of Uruguay, Mr. José Alberto Mujica Cordano, entered the meeting room.

Minister Eleuterio Fernández Huidobro delivered the Opening Address.

The Secretary General read the General Agenda.

The Republic of Peru was elected as the Host Country for the XI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, and the nomination of the Commonwealth of Jamaica as the Host Country for the XI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas was welcome.

The Deputy Minister for Defense Policies of the Republic of Peru, Admiral (R) Mario César Sánchez, assumed the Protempore Vice-Presidency of the Board of Directors.

Next, Mr. José Alberto Mujica Cordano, President of the Republic of Uruguay, addressed the meeting.

According to the Regulations of the Conference, the floor was given to the Defense Ministers or Government Representatives of the Delegations in the order established in the list of speakers: Republic of Argentina, Federative Republic of Brazil, United States of America, Republic of Peru, Canada, Antigua and Barbuda, Republic of Nicaragua, Republic of Ecuador, Republic of Paraguay, The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Republic of Colombia, Commonwealth of Jamaica, Barbados, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Republic of Suriname, Republic of Guatemala, United Mexican States, Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Republic of Costa Rica, Republic of Chile, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Republic of Uruguay, The Plurinational State of Bolivia.

On the basis of the flexibility approach, the Board of Directors invited the Meeting to give the floor to Mr. José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, in his capacity as observer.

There being no objection, the Secretary General took the floor.

The speeches delivered by the Defense Ministers or Government Representatives of the Delegations, and the speech delivered by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States were audio recorded and appear as Appendices I and II.

The Ministers and Government Representatives sign below four copies of this document in Spanish, French, English and Portuguese.

Eleuterio Fernández Huidobro
PRESIDENT OF THE X CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE
AMERICAS, DEFENSE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY