

4. Hemispheric Security

→ MANDATE

The Third Summit of the Americas approved a series of mandates in hemispheric security including the following: to hold a Special Conference on Security in order to develop common approaches to international security; to continue activities on conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of disputes; support the efforts of Small Island States to address their special security concerns; to improve transparency and accountability of defense and security institutions; to continue promoting greater degrees of confidence and security in the Hemisphere; to encourage the signing, ratifying or acceding to the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Landmines, the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, and the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other related materials; to support the efforts of the OAS to pursue the goal of the conversion of the Western Hemisphere into an anti-personnel landmine-free zone; to call for an experts meeting on CSBMs; to promote financial support to the OAS Fund for Peace; and to support the preparatory work for the Fifth Meeting of Defense Ministers of the Americas.

STRENGTHENING MUTUAL CONFIDENCE

The concept of hemispheric security in the Americas has evolved and now includes multidimensional aspects reflecting the different security interests of national governments and regional groupings. Today, the region faces acute threats from new and existing conditions and challenges. These range from the trafficking of drugs, weapons

and small arms; money laundering and transnational organized crime to lingering, century-old, boundary disputes; terrorism; insurgent groups; poverty; and social exclusion. In effect, with instability and civil unrest plaguing various countries of the region, natural disasters harming others, and economic woes rising, the concept of security now incorporates social, economic and political, as well as military, dimensions.

Many of the hemispheric security mandates received from the Summit refer to holding conferences related to the different components of security. The table below illustrates the progress on some of the Summit mandates.

The OAS has had great success in its efforts to convert the Western Hemisphere into an anti-personal landmine-free zone. The OAS Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) Mine Action Program has developed three activities under the area of mine action: humanitarian demining, destruction of stockpiles, and personal security of the population in mine-affected countries. The Mine Action Program has

helped clear more than 1,400,000 square meters of land in Central America and more than 22,000 antipersonnel landmines. Moreover, in recent months, this program help police deminers in Peru destroy more than 20,000 antipersonnel mines located around electric towers.

Additionally, with the assistance of the OAS Mine Action Program and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), in the past two years, 650,000 stockpiled mines have been destroyed in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru. This program has further contributed to the strengthening of confidence building measures by facilitating, and thereby increasing,

QUEBEC CITY PLAN OF ACTION
PROGRESS ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY MANDATES

MANDATE	ACTION
Hold the Special Conference on Security	<i>The Special Conference on Security was held in Mexico City, Mexico (October 27-28, 2003). Governments adopted the Declaration of the Special Conference on Security. (http://www.oas.org/csh/spanish/default.asp)</i>
Support the efforts of Small Island Developing States to address their special security concerns	<i>OAS General Assembly held in Bridgetown, Barbados (2002). The theme was the multidimensional approach to hemispheric security: Bridgetown Declaration A High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States was held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, January 8-10, 2003. Governments signed the Declaration of Kingston on Security of Small Island States and Security Management model for Small Island States and CSBMs to enhance security of Small Island States. (http://www.oas.org/csh/spanish/peizreun.asp)</i>
Call for an experts meeting as a follow-up to the regional conferences of Santiago and San Salvador on CSBMs	<i>Meeting of Experts on Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs) was held in Miami, Florida (February 2-4, 2003). Countries adopted the Miami Consensus and an Illustrative List on Confidence and Security-Building Measures. (http://int.csh.oas.org/spanish/mfcre.asp)</i>
Promote and consider the adoption and ratification of international conventions	<i>8 additional countries ratified the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking of Firearms, Ammunitions, Explosives and other Related Material (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Grenada, Guatemala, Paraguay and Venezuela)</i>
Promote financial support for the OAS Fund for Peace	<i>Since the Fund for Peace was established in 2000, it has received a total of \$2,450,000 in financial contributions from the following member and observer states, a number of which have made more than one contribution: Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Guatemala, the Holy See, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.</i>
Support the work leading up to the Fifth Meeting of Defense Ministers of the Americas	<i>Fifth Meeting of the Defense Ministers of the Americas was held in Santiago, Chile (November 18 - 22, 2002). - Santiago Declaration (http://int.csh.oas.org/spanish/docminist.asp)</i>

the exchange of information regarding stockpiled mines by national military forces of member countries and the OAS. The Mine Action Program strengthens the security of the individual through mine-risk education, victim rehabilitation and job training, and land rehabilitation.

Another important area where much has been accomplished is in international conflict resolution and the peaceful settlement of territorial disputes. Since the Quebec City Summit, the OAS has been actively helping a number of Central American governments implement confidence-building measures to reduce tensions caused by resurfacing border or territorial disputes. OAS civilian verification missions were sent to the Honduras-Nicaragua border in the summer and fall of 2001 to reduce tensions caused by claims, counterclaims, and military build-up along the border, which resulted from the two countries' maritime boundary dispute in the Caribbean Sea. The OAS has been assisting the governments of Belize and Guatemala to peacefully resolve their longstanding territorial differences, both through the effective implementation of confidence-building measures and through high-level diplomatic talks. In the summer of 2003, the OAS opened a field-office in the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala to verify inci-

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On the 10th of December, 2002, Costa Rica became the first country assisted through the Program to declare itself free of anti-personnel landmines, having located and destroyed 338 mines and cleared 130,000 square meters of land. With the completion of its mine clearance operations, Costa Rica complied with the Ottawa Convention well before the deadline.

Source: UPD/OAS

dents, implement confidence-building measures, and ensure respect for human rights of the local inhabitants. The OAS is also engaged in helping the governments of El Salvador and Honduras permanently and definitively demarcate the border over which the two governments fought a brief but intense war in 1969.

All of the work described above is made possible through voluntary contributions by Member and Observer States to the Fund for Peace: Peaceful Resolution of Territorial Dispute. The Fund has received almost \$2.5 million in voluntary contributions since its inception; most resources were pledged fol-



Costa Rica is the first country in Latin America free of landmines

Source: UPD/OAS
Mine Action Program

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“Our new concept of security in the Hemisphere is multidimensional in scope, includes traditional and new threats, concerns, and other challenges to the security of the states of the Hemisphere, incorporates the priorities of each state, contributes to the consolidation of peace, integral development, and social justice, and is based on democratic values, respect for and promotion and defense of human rights, solidarity, cooperation, and respect for national sovereignty”.
Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted in Mexico City, October 28, 2003

lowing an appeal by the Heads of State and Governments at the Quebec City Summit.

Perhaps the most important accomplishment in terms of Summit implementation was the Special Conference on Security, which was held in Mexico City, October 27–28, 2003. The Conference marked a milestone in the evolution of the concept of security in the Americas. The countries agreed on a new security concept for the region, based on a multidimensional approach that includes new threats, concerns, and challenges to security. They established commitments and cooperation

measures on a wide range of issues. Countries also recognized the need for institutional support in this area and the important role of the OAS in order to achieve the application, evaluation, and follow-up of the Declaration on Security in the Americas

In addition to signing the Declaration on Security in the Americas, countries adopted a Declaration on the Situation in Colombia, expressing solidarity with the government and people of Colombia “in their fight against terrorism and other destabilizing threats, as they defend democratic institutions.” They also adopted a declaration acknowledging the important contribution to security made by the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America.

CHALLENGES

Despite some successes, many challenges remain ahead. A concrete strategy needs to be defined and developed to address the many security concerns, threats and challenges of the countries in this Hemisphere. Additionally, some crucial issues—such as the role and institutional relationship of the Inter-American Defense Board and the OAS—need to be clarified. Also, some hemispheric security treaties, instruments, and cooperation mechanisms need to be revitalized and strengthened according to the new realities and concepts in the Hemisphere: in particular the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty) and the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement (Pact of Bogotá).



The Fight Against Terrorism

→ MANDATE

The Summits of the Americas have supported the effort to establish a unified political and operational response to terrorism. The Summits support efforts to combat this threat to the region, particularly through the work of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE), which was created in 1998 as a result of the Commitment of Mar del Plata. This latter instrument was strengthened in order to promote hemispheric cooperation in preventing, combating, and eliminating all forms of terrorism in the Americas.

Terrorism is one of the main threats to peace and security in the Hemisphere. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, against the United States brought renewed attention to inter-American efforts in confronting this new scourge. The February 7, 2003, attack on the Club el Nogal in Bogotá, Colombia, caused the Colombian government to launch an offensive against this

threat. In response to this most recent incident, on March 11, 2003, the Foreign Ministers and Ministers of Defense of Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil and Panama—together with delegates from the United States and Brazil—signed the Declaration of Panama in an effort to strengthen the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking, and arms smuggling.

The Inter-American Convention against Terrorism is a clear example of a collective effort to combat terrorism in the region.



Inter-American Committee
against Terrorism

CICTE currently has active programs in 11 countries of the Hemisphere and has participated with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) in the creation of draft model regulations for countries in the region. It has also designed and deployed an electronic database. Furthermore, CICTE has taken part in a number of meetings with the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) and the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). It established an inter-American virtual network of experts, which will be used by member States to exchange information and best-practices. CICTE is also concentrating on improving port security. To this end, it is working with the Inter-American Committee on Ports and the US Maritime Administration to strengthen safety and security in inter-American maritime traffic and to develop a common security strategy. Finally, CICTE has established National Focal Points designed to facilitate the communication and the exchange of information among official experts in the fight against terrorism.

In January 2003 in El Salvador, CICTE recommended that countries adopt a series of measures to strengthen border security, reinforce customs procedures, and improve the quality of identification and travel documents. Other recommendations included financial controls to prevent money laundering and the financing of terrorist activi-

ties. CICTE has also played an important over-arching role within the region. For example, in October 2003 it hosted a meeting at OAS headquarters to determine how regional and international organizations could help in the overall efforts to combat terrorism. The meeting, which was held in collaboration with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), included participants from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Commission and the African Union, as well as delegates from more than 50 international organizations.

In addition, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism is a clear example of a collective effort to combat terrorism in the region. This convention was negotiated in less than nine months, and has already been signed by 33 of the 34 OAS member states. In only one year, it received the necessary number of ratifications to enter into effect in 2003. This international instrument commits OAS member States to increase cooperation and exchange intelligence information. The convention includes provisions to intensify border controls, confiscate the funds and other property of terrorist groups, take measures against the financing of terrorist activities, provide mutual legal assistance and cooperation, and ensure respect for human rights. This Inter-American Convention, along with UN Resolution 1373 and the principles contained in the Declaration of Lima to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism, constitutes an important instrument in the fight against terrorism.

One fundamental aspect of the fight against terrorism is ensuring respect for human rights. Indeed, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism stipulates that the fight against terrorism should be waged "with full respect for the state of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms." The OAS, through the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, established the minimum standards for protecting human rights in cases of terrorism.

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Among the initiatives taken by countries to strengthen their borders, is the Puebla Process Pilot Initiative—a training program on border control measures, with joint sponsorship by the United States, Mexico and Canada. According to Canada's National Report on the implementation of Summits of the Americas mandates for the period of November 2002 to June 2003, this exercise was carried out in nine countries, involved 15 trainers, and provided training to more than 400 border control police and immigration officers.



The international community joined forces in the fight against terrorism after September 11, 2001, but the threat still remains.

Similarly, cyber-crime is considered to be a new threat. For this reason, the CICTE, the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) and the Government Expert Group on Cyber-crime of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) are working with the governments of Argentina and the United States to develop a hemispheric strategy to safeguard telecommunications and computer networks. Their first step was to hold a meeting on cyber-crime in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 28-29, 2003.

CHALLENGES

The international community joined forces in the fight against terrorism after September 11, 2001, but the threat still remains. The main challenges concern the

effective exchange of information that will lead to concrete actions designed to prevent terrorist activities. Furthermore, ongoing training and technical assistance must be provided to allow public servants and private authorities to monitor, detect and control asset laundering operations or other activities aimed at financing terrorism. Similarly, the CICTE must continue to develop the inter-American network for the collection and dissemination of data, to formulate and put into practice technical assistance programs for governments that request them, and to design and implement mechanisms for cooperation.