

REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY
ON THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMITTEE DURING THE PERIOD
AUGUST 2004 TO MAY 2005

I. BACKGROUND

I.A. Installation and mandates

The Committee on Hemispheric Security was installed by the Permanent Council on July 22, 2004, to address the issues in its area of competence contained in the corresponding General Assembly resolutions adopted at its thirty-fourth regular session.

In the document “Distribution of Mandates 2004-2005 (Adopted by the Permanent Council on August 5, 2004), document CP/doc.3914/04 rev. 2, the Permanent Council assigned the following resolutions to the Committee on Hemispheric Security under three broad subheadings:

A. Security in the Americas

1. AG/RES. 1996 (XXXIV-O/04), “Transparency and Confidence- and Security-Building in the Americas”
2. AG/RES. 1998 (XXXIV-O/04), “Follow-up to the Special Conference on Security”
3. AG/RES. 2001 (XXXIV-O/04), “Limitation of Military Spending”
4. AG/RES. 2004 (XXXIV-O/04), “Development of a Comprehensive Inter-American Strategy to Combat Threats to Cybersecurity: A Multidimensional and Multidisciplinary Approach to Creating a Culture of Cybersecurity”
5. AG/RES. 2005 (XXXIV-O/04), “Addressing Extreme Poverty, Inequality, and Social Exclusion as a Means of Strengthening Hemispheric Security”
6. AG/RES. 2006 (XXXIV-O/04), “Special Security Concerns of the Small Island States of the Caribbean”
7. AG/RES. 2024 (XXXIV-O/04), “Natural Disaster Reduction”
8. AG/RES. 2026 (XXXIV/O/04), “Fighting Transnational Organized Crime in the Hemisphere”
9. AG/RES. 2053 (XXXIV-O/04), “Central American Democratic Security Model”^{1/}
10. AG/RES. 2054 (XXXIV-O/04), “The Americas as a Zone of Peace and Cooperation”

B. Action against antipersonnel mines

11. AG/RES. 1995 (XXXIV-O/04), “Support for the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Central America”^{2/}

1. This resolution does not contain specific mandates for the Permanent Council but has been assigned to the Committee on Hemispheric Security because the topic has traditionally been part of its agenda.

2. *Idem.*

12. AG/RES. 2002 (XXXIV-O/04), "Support for Action against Mines in Peru and Ecuador"
13. AG/RES. 2003 (XXXIV-O/04), "The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone"

C. Treaties, conventions, and topics related to disarmament and nonproliferation

14. AG/RES. 1997 (XXXIV-O/04), "Proliferation of and Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons"
15. AG/RES. 1999 (XXXIV-O/04), "Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials"
16. AG/RES. 2000 (XXXIV-O/04), "The Americas as a Biological- and Chemical-Weapons-Free Region"
17. AG/RES. 2007 (XXXIV-O/04), "Disarmament and Nonproliferation Education"^{3/}
18. AG/RES. 2008 (XXXIV-O/04), "Inter-American Support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty"
19. AG/RES. 2009 (XXXIV-O/04), "Consolidation of the Regime Established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)"

I.B. Officers

Also on July 22nd, the Permanent Council elected Ambassador Carmen Marina Gutiérrez Salazar, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the OAS, to serve as the Chair of the Committee.

At its first meeting, held on September 20, 2004, the Committee elected the Permanent Representative of Bolivia, Ambassador Maria Tamayo to the position of First Vice-Chair; the Permanent Representative of Grenada, Ambassador Denis G. Antoine as Second Vice-Chair; and Alternate Representative of the United States, Mr. Giovanni Snidle, as Third Vice-Chair.

II. PROCEEDINGS

II.A. Meetings

The Committee held a total of 24 meetings, from September 20, 2004 to May 23, 2005.

II.B. Working Groups

As one of its first acts on September 20, 2004, the Committee installed a Working Group to conclude the analysis of the juridical and institutional link between the OAS and the Inter-American Defense Board, in furtherance of the mandate set out in operative paragraph 6 of resolution AG/RES. 1998 (XXXIV-O/04). The Committee proceeded to appoint as Chair and Vice-Chair of that

3. *Idem.*

Working Group, the Chair and First Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ambassador Gutiérrez and Ambassador Tamayo, respectively.

During its deliberations on natural disaster reduction, on October 27, 2004, the Committee also set up the following Working Groups to address specific aspects of this issue:

- i. The Working Group on the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance, the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM), and the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR).

The Committee elected by acclamation, Ambassador Denis G. Antoine, as Chair of this Working Group.

- ii. The *Ad Hoc* Working Group to Prepare Recommendations to the Organization and Its Subsidiaries on Natural Disaster Reduction.

The Committee elected, by acclamation, Ambassador Gordon V. Shirley, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to chair this Ad Hoc Working Group.

II.C. Work Plan 2004-2005

At the meeting held on September 20, 2004, the Committee considered and approved, with amendments, the Work Plan for the period 2004-2005, presented by the Chair (CP/CSH-647/04 rev. 1).

During that discussion, the Delegation of Bolivia requested that this Report include mention of its proposal to the effect that in the section of the Work Plan related to activities by the Secretariat on the resolution "Follow-up to the Special Conference on Security", in particular operative paragraph 8, that the Secretariat consult with Member States and take into consideration their positions.

There was no consensus on the Bolivian proposal and it was not included in the approved version of the Work Plan.

II. D. Compliance with mandates

1. Antipersonnel land mines

At its first meeting to address topics, which was held on September 28, 2004, the Committee considered "antipersonnel land mines", taking into account the following three General Assembly resolutions: "Support for the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Central America" [AG/RES. 1995 (XXXIV-O/04)]; "Support for Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru" [AG/RES. 2002 (XXXIV-O/04)]; and "The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone"[AG/RES. 2003 (XXXIV-O/04)].

On this occasion, the Committee focused on the preparations for the "Nairobi Summit for a Mine Free World: First Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention", slated for November 29 to December 3, 2004 in Kenya. The Committee received the following presentations:

- i. “Strengthening the Nicaraguan commitment to humanitarian action against antipersonnel mines: The road to the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World” -presentation by the Minister of Defense of Nicaragua, Dr. José Adán Guerra;
- ii. “The Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World – Objectives and preparations” - presentation by the Ambassador of Kenya to the United States, Colombia, and Mexico, His Excellency Leonard Ngaiithe;
- iii. “Results of the Regional Conference: One more step toward an antipersonnel-mine-free world” - presentation by the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the OAS, His Excellency Ambassador Marcelo Hervás;
- iv. “The road to Nairobi: Goals and challenges for the Americas” - presentation by Ms. Melanie Regimbal, Coordinator for the Americas, Mine Action Team, Department of Foreign Affairs of Canada; and
- v. “Comments of the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Landmines (AICMA)” - presentation by the AICMA Coordinator, Mr. William A. McDonough.

The Committee took note of the information submitted and comments by the delegations on this topic which dealt with their respective countries' demining actions, involvement in demining in other countries, and progress made.

On February 4, 2005, the Committee again addressed the demining issue, this time focusing on mine action in the Americas in the context of the implementation of the OAS Mine Action Program (AICMA) in OAS Member States, specifically Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, and Suriname. The Committee was also apprised of the results of the Nairobi Summit.

On May 3, 2005, the Committee took note of the Report of the General Secretariat on Implementation of resolutions AG/RES. 1995 (XXXIV-O/04) “Support for the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Central America,” AG/RES. 2002 (XXXIV-O/04) “Support for Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru,” and AG/RES. 2003 (XXXIV-O/04) “The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone” (CP/doc.3990/05).

2. Natural disaster reduction and risk management

The Committee paid special attention to the issue of natural disaster reduction in light of the extreme devastation caused by the 2004 hurricane season. The Chairs of the two aforementioned working groups, reported to the Committee and submitted recommendations which were duly incorporated into the draft resolution entitled "Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management".

In his report, the Chair of the Working Group on the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance, the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM), and the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR highlighted the need for harmonization of the work done by the different bodies within the OAS.

The report of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group focused on practical and effective measures that can be developed and implemented with the aid of the OAS and its subsidiaries to reduce disasters and manage risk.

It bears noting that the Committee received reports from experts on the various aspects of the work being done by the OAS through the General Secretariat and its organs, agencies, and entities, including the Office of Sustainable Development and the Environment, Department of Legal Affairs and Services, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary General. The Committee also heard from the Liaison Officer for the United Nations Development Programme in Grenada, involved in the post-Hurricane Ivan reconstruction efforts. Their inputs were taken into consideration in the development of the recommendations on this issue.

3. Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures

The Committee held the First Meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures on April 25 and 26, 2005, pursuant to the General Assembly mandate set out in resolution AG/RES. 1996. Ambassador Gutiérrez was elected to chair this First Meeting, and Mr. Snidle was elected as vice-chair. The proceedings of that Meeting are contained in the Rapporteur's Report (document CSH/FORO-I/doc.10/05) and the Chair's conclusions can be found in a separate document (CSH/FORO-I/doc.1105).

4. Meeting of Experts in Transnational Organized Crime

The Committee on Hemispheric Security convened the Meeting of Government Experts to Consider the Advisability of Developing a Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, for April 18 and 19, 2005, at the Organization's headquarters, in Washington, D.C.^{4/}

On the basis of inputs from the diverse OAS bodies working in this area, the Committee prepared for the Experts' consideration a document entitled "Proposed Components of a Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime" (REGDOT/doc.3/05).

This Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Gutiérrez, and Ambassador Miguel Ángel González Felix, Head of Delegation of Mexico, was elected as Vice-Chair.

The Experts decided that it was advisable to develop a hemispheric plan of action against transnational organized crime for possible adoption by the General Assembly in 2006, and proposed the focus, objective, components and frame of reference for such a plan. The detailed Conclusions and Recommendations of the Experts are set out in document REGDOT/doc.6/05, and have been taken into consideration in the Committee's recommendations to the Permanent Council on the subject, included in the corresponding draft resolution.

4. For the Chair's Report on the meeting, see document REGDOT/doc.11/05.

5. Recommendations on the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA)

In its resolution AG/RES. 1999 the General Assembly requested that the Secretariat Pro Tempore of the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) report periodically to the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security on the implementation of the Declaration of Bogotá, adopted by the States Party to that Convention at their First Conference.

The General Assembly also instructed the Permanent Council to consider the proposal, put forward by the Consultative Committee, through the Secretariat Pro Tempore, of a methodology for the development of model legislation on the subjects mentioned in paragraph 6.a of the above-mentioned Declaration of Bogotá. In this context, the General Assembly also instructed the Council to convene a group of experts for CIFTA-CICAD in order to make progress toward the preparation of model legislation on those areas covered by the CIFTA that are not encompassed in the CICAD Model Regulations.

Accordingly, the Committee on Hemispheric Security received a report from the Secretariat Pro Tempore on May 3, 2005, and based on same, recommended to the Permanent Council, on May 18, 2005, the approval of the model legislation and the formation and convening of the said group of experts (CP/doc.4036/05). The Council accepted those recommendations. At that time, the Committee also presented a draft resolution in follow-up to AG/RES. 1999, which the Council also accepted and agreed to forward to the General Assembly for its consideration in June 2005.

6. Sixth Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas

The Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas has always been considered as one of the contributors to the confidence and exchange of points of view on defense and security matters among Member States, and in keeping with tradition, the Committee received a report from the host country, Ecuador, on the holding and outcome of the Sixth Conference. On December 7, 2004, Ambassador Marcelo Hervas, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the OAS, briefed the Committee on the content of the Declaration of Quito adopted at the Conference, underscoring that the Ministers took into account the commitments of the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Americas; the political importance of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, the special security concerns of the small island states of the region, the need for confidence and transparency, and the recognition of the Committee on Hemispheric Security as the Forum for Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. It was pointed out that the Conference addressed the various aspects of security and which are covered by the Committee's agenda.

Several delegations intervened on this topic and it was noted that there is a growing approximation between the agreements reached in the Declaration of Quito and the Declaration on Security which reflects an increasing bridging of the gap and strengthening of the relationship between the civilian and military sectors.

