

**A Comparative Atlas
of Defence
in Latin America
and Caribbean**

2016 Edition



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Foreword

As Minister of National Security of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and President of the XII Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas, I am honoured to have the opportunity to contribute to the Foreword of RESDAL's 2016 Comparative Atlas. CDMA Member States subscribe to the principle of increased transparency in defence matters through exchanges of information, reporting on defence expenditures and by greater civil-military dialogue – the very result that RESDAL seeks to achieve via the Comparative Atlas. It is indeed a Herculean task to compile this important tool for research, planning and decision-making on defence institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The launch of the 2016 Comparative Atlas at the XII CDMA aligns with the meeting's purpose, to foster the mutual knowledge and exchange of ideas and experiences on defence and security in the Americas.

The theme of the XII CDMA is **“Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation in**

the Hemisphere in an Increasingly Volatile Global Environment”. It is the first time that the meeting is being convened in the Caribbean.

Our region is not a homogeneous one, particularly in terms of how defence and security are organised. Trinidad and Tobago, like other states in the region, does not possess a Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of National Security oversees all matters related to security and defence. As a small island state, Trinidad and Tobago knows too well the destabilising effect of crime and violence and transnational organised crime. We take seriously our responsibility for security matters in CARICOM, and we continue to take pride in our Defence Force in the execution of its traditional roles, and in its response to the changing international environment. This requires an expansion of these roles to support civil authorities and the adoption of a more collaborative approach with regional partners, notably, joint interdiction patrols with the police, responding in the

aftermath of natural disasters, and the prevention of illicit trafficking. This convergence of defence and security was highlighted in the 2014 Comparative Atlas.

Notwithstanding the Hemisphere's advancements in defence and security, the Americas is the only region in the world that does not have a Hemispheric defence and security policy. This has not prevented security and defence forces in the Americas from recognising that cooperation is the only way to address the common threats facing our countries, which are unhindered by national borders. Mechanisms such as the OECS Regional Security System and the South American Defence Council, provide pockets of collective response to threats within the Hemisphere. The design of the respective security and defence architecture for the Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean (2007) and the Rio Olympic Games (2016), were premised on the recognition of a collaborative approach to securing major events.

International peace keeping missions such as MINUSTAH, training exercises such as FAHUM, and the specialised conferences of military institutions in the Americas, provide additional layers of cooperation among the armed forces in the Americas. Collaborative responses in the aftermath of natural disasters in our region, namely, Haiti (2010) following the earthquake, Grenada (Hurricane Ivan 2004), the recent earthquake in Ecuador, and many others, have operated without the cover of a formal coordinating mechanism.

It is with this in mind, that the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago advocates for the development of a Hemispheric security and defence cooperation policy, beginning with a collective disaster response mechanism to provide humanitarian emergency assistance. This will improve disaster response across the Americas and provide the basis for a more overarching policy. The XII CDMA is timely in providing a forum for such discussions to take place at the political level, which is necessary to legitimise this process.

The Comparative Atlas is also timely, as it will be a useful resource in the development of the cooperation policy. Its value in providing an overall picture of defence and security in the Hemisphere, and in identifying strengths and linkages in current arrangements, will redound to tangible advancements in the Hemispheric defence and security architecture.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago commends RESDAL's commitment towards greater collaboration and cooperation in the Hemisphere. I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the contributions of RESDAL to hemispheric defence and security and look forward to a successful XII CDMA

*Major General (ret'd) the Honourable Edmund Dillon
Minister of National Security
of Trinidad and Tobago
President of the XII CDMA*

Preface

In 2015, the Comparative Atlas of Defence celebrated its 10 years of existence. Today, one year later, it is a pleasure for us to present the seventh edition of this publication, which has become the main source of data on defence matters in the region. Over 19,000 people downloaded the 2014 edition within the first week of publication, and there were more than half a million hits recorded on its pages in the first two months.

The publication was required in print format by the media, academia, ministries, armed forces, congresses, embassies, universities and think tanks, both at regional and international level. In 2015, the publication was taken as a model for replication by institutions in the Middle East, and an additional request for assistance was also made from Africa.

Such demand shows the legitimacy of the

source as well as a noteworthy fact: the interest in defence and relations in the region is still high, and what this publication has achieved in the region is admired by the rest of the world.

RESDAL is aware of such interest and of what the Comparative Atlas entails; as a result, it made the decision to undertake a new edition of this laborious endeavor, which has benefitted from the collaboration of many of you. We especially thank the Ministry of National Security of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial support that made it possible for this edition to be available today, as well as for presenting it at the XII Conference of Ministers of Defence of the Americas hosted by such country.

This cooperation between governments and civil society, which gave way to the Compar-

ative Atlas in two languages, has become a relevant feature in the hemispheric development and deserves to be understood in its full dimension. The government of Trinidad and Tobago has taken an important step in this regard: the Comparative Atlas, which used to be funded by private donors, is now an enterprise funded by a government and RESDAL, supporting this cooperation and showing to other regions of the world how these two sectors -government and civil society- can attain great results when they work together.

The same applies to the collaboration of ministries and the armed forces in providing data. Beyond our gratitude, it is worth mentioning that this feature of the Comparative Atlas attracts the international attention and underscores the progress made in defence and the region in the areas of transparency, confidence-building and the development of tools that may offer an answer to common issues.

The topics covered in this edition also reflect the contexts in which the defence system operates, with a focus on the region and its place in the world. These include the size of operations in support of the community, cooperation in the domestic arena, and assistance provided in the event of natural or man-made disasters, increasingly more relevant.

Matters related to the future make-up of the military institutions have also been addressed, including the interest in the military career and the incorporation of women into

the armed forces. The latter is a subject RESDAL has paid special attention to from the first edition of the Comparative Atlas in 2005. Subsequent editions added more information. The first regional diagnosis on “Women in the armed forces and police institutions” was published in 2009; in 2013, a study was undertaken on the role of women in peacekeeping missions and in 2015, RESDAL was asked to submit to the UN High Independent Panel on Peace Operations -HIPPO- the conclusions from the study carried out on MINUSTAH, MONUSCO and UNIFIL operations; its summary can be found in “The Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Year of its Review: Integrating Resolution 1325 into the Military and Police”.

All this work was carried out with the purpose of strengthening international operations through the development of the gender-based perspective in post-conflict societies, with an emphasis on sharing experiences and lessons learnt. This edition of the Atlas presents true data that enable to appreciate the countries’ progress made on this subject.

RESDAL considers that this edition is a way of contributing to a cooperative, democratic, secure and peaceful environment. We hope to have attained such goal.

Marcela Donadio
Executive Secretary
RESDAL