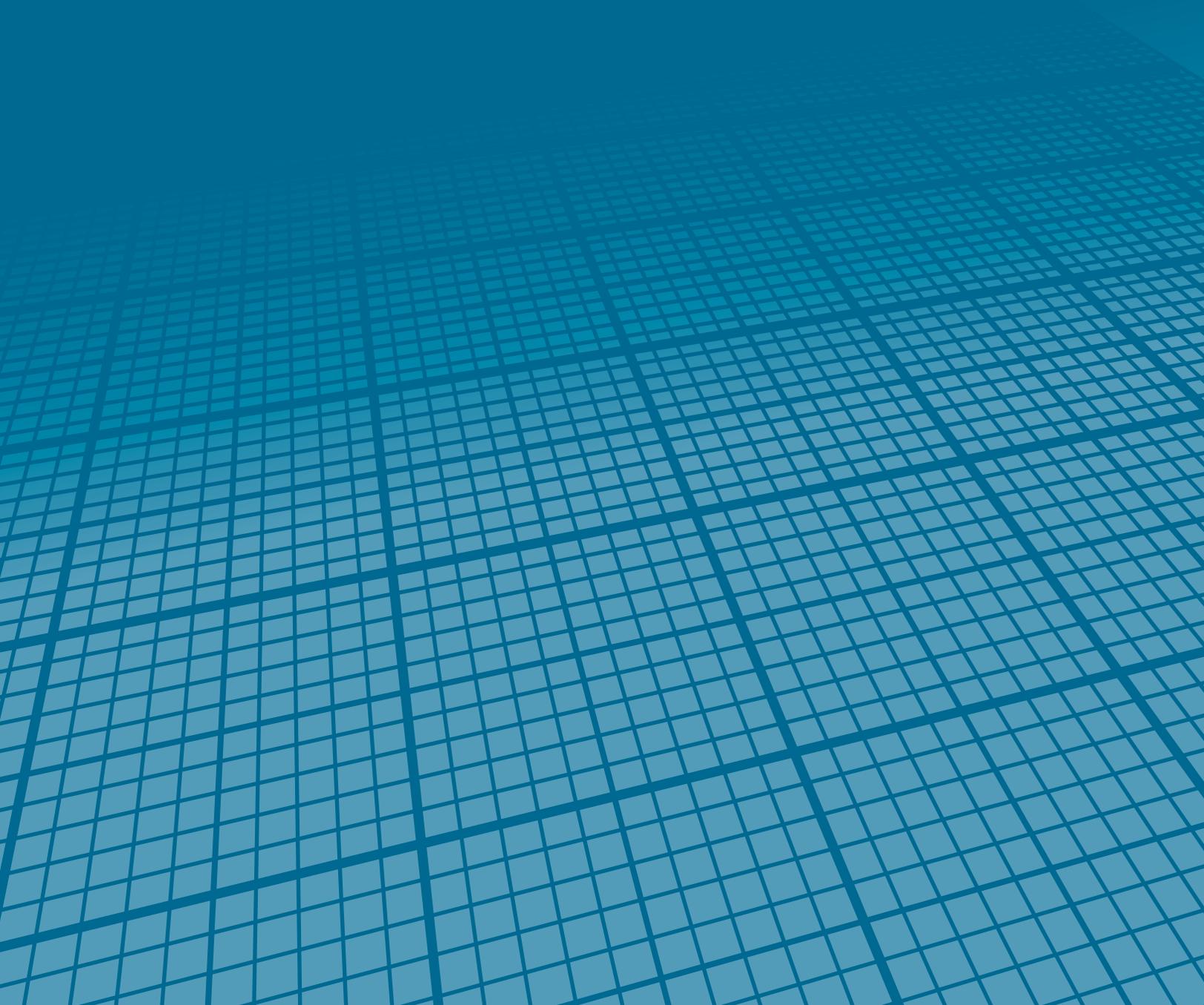


Chapter 4:

Political Definitions



Defence Concepts

Argentina	<i>Ley de defensa nacional, N° 23554 - 1988/05/05, Sec. 2</i>
National defence is the integration and coordinated action of all the Nation's forces to solve conflicts requiring the use of the Armed Forces in a deterrent or active way in order to face external aggression. Its purpose is to guarantee the sovereignty and independence of the Argentine Nation on a permanent basis, as well as its territorial integrity and capacity for self-determination, and to protect the life and freedom of its inhabitants.	
Bolivia	<i>Bases para la Discusión de la Doctrina de Seguridad y Defensa del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, 2010</i>
The concept of defence encompasses the combined set of measures that the State employs to counter any external or internal aggression in order to attain adequate security conditions, on the conviction that this covers all of the country's activities and, therefore, is not the exclusive task and responsibility of the Armed Forces but instead of all organizations, legal entities, and persons.	
Brazil	<i>Política Nacional de Defesa, 2012; Estratégia Nacional de Defesa, 2012</i>
National defence is the set of measures and actions employed by the State, with emphasis on the military sphere, aimed at the defence of the territory, sovereignty and national interests against mainly external threats. These may be either potential or actual in nature. The national defence strategy is inseparable from the national development strategy. It is the linkage between the concept and policy of national independence, on one hand, and the protection of that independence by the Armed Forces on the other. The foundation of national defence is the identification of the Nation with the Armed Forces and vice versa.	
Chile	<i>Libro de la Defensa Nacional de Chile, 2010</i>
National defence is the set of material, human and moral resources available to a nation to counteract the threat of an adversary to disrupt its national interests, in particular its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Its purpose is to attain an external security condition that enables the country to reach its objectives free from any external interference. Defence is an a non-transferable function of the State. It contributes to the nation's security through the legitimate use of force, deterrence and international cooperation.	
Colombia	<i>Política Integral de Seguridad y Defensa para la Prosperidad, 2011</i>
Consolidating peace means to guarantee the prevalence of the Rule of Law, security, full observance of human rights, and the efficient operation of justice all over the national territory. It defines as principal risk factors: armed groups operating at the margin of the law, crimes against citizens, external threats and natural disasters. It sets forth the following strategic objectives: reduce the national drug production to its historical minimum; armed groups operating at the margin of the law; create the security conditions necessary for the peaceful coexistence of the citizenry; advances towards a system of credible, integrated and interoperable deterrence capacities; contribute to a timely response to natural disasters and catastrophes; and strengthen the institutionalization and welfare of the national security and defence sector.	
Costa Rica	<i>Decreto Ejecutivo 15832 - 1984/11/14</i>
Since abolishing its Armed Forces, Costa Rica has placed trust for its external security in the norms and mechanisms of international law, especially those stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, all of which are compatible with its unilateral demilitarization and disarmament.	
Cuba	<i>Ley de defensa nacional, N° 75 – 1994/12/21, Preamble and Sec. 3</i>
Cuban military doctrine is the set of ideas and concepts adopted by the State with regard to the essence, objectives, character, particularities, and consequences of war; the country's preparation for the successful conduct of war, and through these attempts to avert it; and the methods for its execution in the face of military aggression. This doctrine has at its fundamental basis the concept of a War of All the People, a defensive strategic concept that summarizes the historical experience accumulated by the nation. It is based on the deployment of the territorial defensive system as a support to its military power, and in the wider use of all of the forces and resources belonging to society and the State.	
Dominican Republic	<i>Directiva de seguridad y defensa nacional, Decree N° 189-07 - 2007/04/03, Sec. 3</i>
For the development of security and defence policy at the national level the following directives have been established: - Definition and identification of national objectives. - Approval of a National Security Act. - Modification of the Organic Law of the Armed Forces. - Publication of the White Book of Defence and the Manual of the Joint Doctrine of the Armed Forces. - Creation of a National Intelligence System. - Strengthening of the Permanent Committee of Reform and Modernization of the Armed Forces. - Definition of the Armed Forces model. - Foster transformation of the Armed Forces. - Develop a new model of institutionalization and professionalization. - Reform of the military career. - Improve equipment. - Foster research, development and innovation.	

Ecuador	<i>Agenda Política de la Defensa 2014-2017</i>
Defence is an inalienable and permanent duty of the State. It is one of the components of a comprehensive security and guarantees sovereignty and territorial integrity. It protects the rights, guarantees and freedom of all citizens, and actively participates in regional integration. It is a public good. It's a competence of the State and also a right and duty of citizens. Leadership of defence is exclusively a civilian responsibility. It is oriented towards contributing to citizens' well-being.	
El Salvador	<i>Ley de defensa nacional, DL N° 948, 2002/10/03, Sec. 4</i>
National defence: the set of resources and activities that the State develops on a permanent and coordinated basis across all fields of action in order to confront threats to national sovereignty and territorial integrity.	
Guatemala	<i>Ley marco del sistema nacional de seguridad, N° 18-2008, 2008/04/15, Sec. 20</i>
External security refers to the defence of national independence and sovereignty, territorial integrity and peace, as well as the maintenance and strengthening of international relations. It acts under the responsibility of the President through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. The content of international treaties and agreements to which Guatemala belongs shall be considered during the functioning and coordination of the field of external security. Regarding foreign policy, its aim is to prevent and counteract threats and risks produced by external factors that affect the country politically. With regard to national defence, it develops the Nation's defence policy and guarantees the convening and mobilization of civil defence.	
Haiti	<i>Plan de Acción 2013-2016, 2013</i>
In the context of the new vision of defence, the focus based in civil defence (ABDC) consists of establishing a set of strategic devices, and of defining projects for the survival and protection of the population, or of the territory in the case of disasters. Two large fields are defined:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Security in general, which considers threats to national sovereignty and the continuity of the State. It mainly deals with cases of serious disorder within the country, with or without external intervention (riots, terrorism). - Civil security, which refers to the risks related to the effective protection of the population, providing emergency assistance. 	
Honduras	<i>Libro de la Defensa Nacional, 2005</i>
Defence is defined as the combined set of actions and capacities aimed at guaranteeing the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of the country. National defence is focused principally on preventing and neutralizing external threats that jeopardize national interests. The essential instrument of national defence are the Armed Forces, whose existence and performance are specified in the constitutional framework that determines and conditions them, and which serves to support the formulation of a defence policy with the following characteristics: state, public, consensual and long term. Defence is a public good. Its purpose is to achieve the security situation necessary for the country to achieve its national objectives free from any interference.	
Mexico	<i>Programa para la Seguridad Nacional, 2014-2018. Una política multidimensional para México en el siglo XXI.</i>
In accordance with the provisions laid out in Article 3 of the National Security Act, national security is understood as the immediate and direct actions destined to maintain the integrity, stability and permanence of the Mexican State, involving:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Protection of the Mexican nation in the face of the threats and risks confronting our country. II. Preservation of national sovereignty and independence, and defence of the national territorial. III. Maintenance of constitutional order and strengthening of the government's democratic institutions. IV. Maintenance of the unity of the integral components of the Federation, referred to in article 43 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States. V. The legitimate defence of the Mexican State with respect to other States or subjects of International Law. VI. Preservation of democracy, based on the economic, social and political development of the country and its people. 	
Nicaragua	<i>Ley de la defensa nacional de la República de Nicaragua, N° 748 - 2010/12/22, Sec. 3</i>
Security is a condition to be achieved, and defence is a means to attain it. Security therefore entails defence, since the latter covers all diplomatic, economic, legal, political, military, environmental and social scopes and fields of action. National defence is the means the Nicaraguan nation has to guarantee its sovereignty, national self-determination and independence, and the inviolability of its territorial integrity, through the implementation of a set of measures and actions intended to prevent and overcome threats, risks or aggressions.	

Paraguay	<i>Ley de defensa nacional y de seguridad interna, N° 1337 - 1999/04/14, Sec. 2</i>
National defence is the system of policies, procedures and actions exclusively developed by the State in order to fight any form of external aggression that jeopardizes the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic or its democratic constitutional order.	
Panama	<i>Constitución Política de la República de Panamá</i>
All Panamanians are obliged to take up arms to defend national independence and the territorial integrity of the State. Special police services may be organized temporarily for the protection of the Republic's borders and territory in the face of a risk of foreign aggression. Panama declares the neutrality of the canal so that, in times of peace as in times of war, it shall remain secure and open to the peaceful transit of vessels of all nations on terms of entire equality.	
Peru	<i>Ley del sistema de seguridad y defensa nacional, N° 28478 - 2005/03/27, Sec. 3; Libro Blanco de la Defensa Nacional, 2005</i>
The national defence and security system is the inter-related set of State bodies whose functions are aimed at guaranteeing national security by means of the conceptualization, planning, management, preparation, execution and oversight of national defence. National defence is the set of measures, provisions and actions generated, adopted and executed by the State on a comprehensive and permanent basis, both internally and externally.	
Uruguay	<i>Ley marco de defensa nacional, N°18650 - 2010/03/08, Sec. 1 and 2</i>
National defence refers to the set of civil and military activities aimed at preserving our country's sovereignty and independence and protecting its territorial integrity and strategic resources, as well as the peace of the Republic, within the framework of the Constitution and laws; contributing to create the conditions necessary for the present and future social well-being of the population. National defence constitutes both a right and an obligation of the citizenry. It is a public good, and thus an essential, permanent, non-transferable and comprehensive responsibility of the State.	
Venezuela	<i>Ley orgánica de seguridad de la Nación, GO N° 37594 - 2002/12/18, Sec. 3</i>
Comprehensive defence: the set of defence systems, methods, measures and actions, whatever their nature and intensity, that are actively formulated, coordinated and executed by the State with the participation of public and private institutions and natural and legal persons, national or foreign, in order to protect the independence, freedom, democracy, sovereignty, territorial integrity and integral development of the Nation.	

Source: Compilation based on the legislation and documents mentioned above.

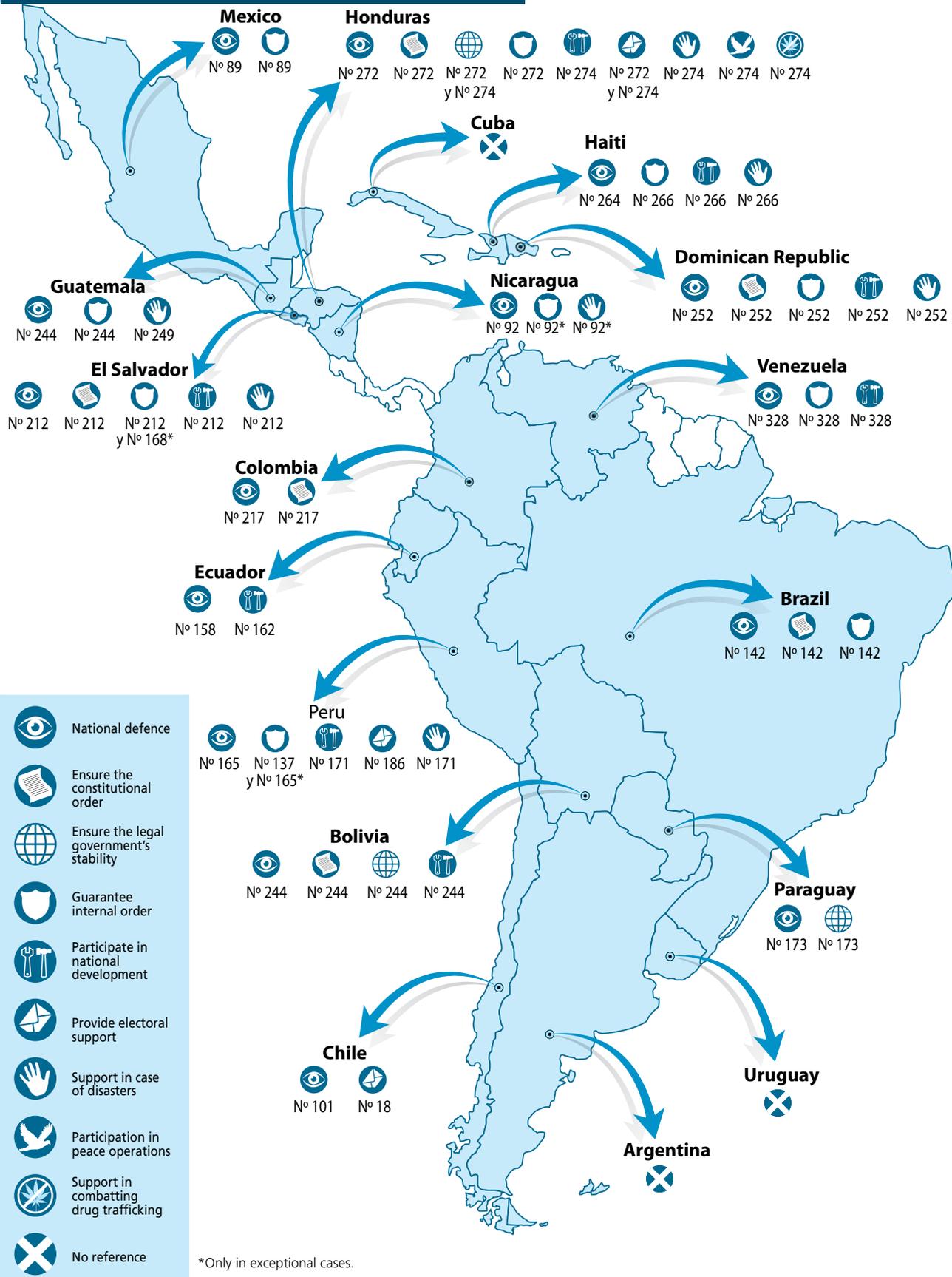
Officials on Defence / National Security Councils – in percentage

Countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela			
President	Vice-president	Defence Minister	Interior / Public Security Minister
93%	53%	87%	87%
Minister of Foreign Relations	Other Ministers	Congressional Representative(s)	Chief of Staff / General Command of the Armed Forces
87%	74%	33%	40%
Chiefs of the Armed Forces	Chief(s) of Police	Representatives of Intelligence Bodies	Other members
27%	27%	47%	53%

Notes: Although Sec. 287 of the Constitution of Honduras indicates the "Creation of the National Defence and Security Council, a special law shall regulate its organization and operation", this has yet to be created. In the Dominican Republic, Sec. 258 of the Constitution provides for the creation of a National Security and Defence Council, but at the close of this publication the regulation of its composition and functioning was pending.

Sources: *Ley de defensa nacional* (N° 23554 - 1988/05/05) and *Libro blanco de la defensa nacional* (1999/03/01) of Argentina; *Ley de organización del Poder Ejecutivo* (N° 2446 - 2003/03/19) of Bolivia; Sec.91 of the *Constituição da República Federativa do Brasil* (Last amendment 2010/02/04) and *Ley sobre la organización y funcionamiento del consejo de defensa nacional* (N° 8183 - 1991/04/11. Last amendment: 2001/08/31) of Brazil; Sec. N° 106 of the *Constitución Política de la República de Chile* (Last amendment 2005/09/22) and *Libro de la defensa nacional* (2010) of Chile; *Decreto por el cual se fusionan el Consejo Nacional de Seguridad, el Consejo Superior de la Defensa Nacional y la Comisión creada por el Decreto 813 de 1989* (N° 2134 - 1992/12/30. Last amendment: Decree N° 4748 - 2010/12/23) of Colombia; *Ley de la defensa nacional* (N° 75 - 1994/12/21) of Cuba; *Ley de seguridad pública y del Estado* (N° 35 - 2009/09/28. Last amendment: N° 263 - 2014/06/09) of Ecuador; *Decreto de creación del consejo de seguridad nacional* (N° 168 - 1992/09/11. Last amendment: DE N° 1 - 2005/01/12) of El Salvador; *Ley marco del sistema nacional de seguridad* (DL N° 18-2008- 2008/04/15) of Guatemala; *Ley de seguridad nacional* (DOF 2005/01/31. Last amendment: DOF 2005/12/26) of Mexico; *Ley de organización, competencia y procedimientos del Poder Ejecutivo* (N° 290 - 1998/06/03. Last amendment: Law N° 864 - 2014/05/20) of Nicaragua; *Ley de defensa nacional y de seguridad interna* (N° 1337 - 1999/04/14. Last amendment: Law N° 5036 - 2013/08/22) of Paraguay; *Ley del sistema de seguridad y defensa nacional* (N° 28478- 2005/03/23) of Peru; *Ley marco de defensa nacional* (N° 18650 - 2010/03/08) of Uruguay; Sec.323 of the *Constitución de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela* (Last amendment 2009/02/19) and *Ley orgánica de seguridad de la Nación* (GO N° 37594 - 2002/12/18) of Venezuela.

Constitutional Missions of the Armed Forces



Source: Compilation based on each country's Constitution. There are other national supplementary regulations in addition to those presented in the map with respect to the missions of the Armed Forces. For further information, refer to the "Countries" section of this publication. The cases of Costa Rica and Panama are not included as the table refers specifically to the Armed Forces.

42 Additional References - Legislation*

Country	Guarantee constitutional order/ stability of legal government	Cooperation with internal order/ security**	National development/ environment	Electoral support	Support in the event of disaster	Participation in peace operations
Argentina						
Bolivia						
Brazil						
Chile					****	
Colombia						
Cuba						
Dom. Republic						
Ecuador					****	
El Salvador						
Guatemala						
Haiti					****	
Honduras						
Mexico						
Nicaragua						
Paraguay						
Peru						
Uruguay			***	***	***	
Venezuela						

* In addition to the defence of sovereignty.

** Argentina and Dominican Republic only under state of exception.

*** In times of peace and with the explicit authorization of the National Defence Ministry, they may render services or cooperate with activities required on account of their specialization, social relevance or public convenience and without this being to the detriment of their fundamental mission (*Ley marco de defensa nacional*, Sec. 20).

**** Under state of emergency or disaster.

The cases of Costa Rica and Panama are not included as the table refers specifically to the Armed Forces.

Ensure the constitutional order / the legal government's stability:

- Guarantee the institutional order at the Republic (*Ley orgánica constitucional de las Fuerzas Armadas*, Sec. 1 – Chile).
- Guarantee the legal and democratic order of the social rule of law (*Ley orgánica de defensa nacional*, Sec. 2 – Ecuador).
- Cooperate in the maintenance of the State's constitutional order (*Ley orgánica de la Armada de México*, Sec. 2 – Mexico).
- Defend the legally instituted authorities (*Ley de organización general de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación*, Sec. 6 – Paraguay).
- Guarantee the Rule of Law, constitutional order and democratic form of government consecrated in the Political Constitution (*Ley de la defensa nacional*, Sec. 5 and 16 – Nicaragua).

Cooperation with internal order/security:

- Cooperate, if necessary, in the maintenance of public order, upon request of the Executive Branch and according to the Political Constitution of the State (*Ley orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas*, Sec. 6. G – Bolivia).
- Military Assistance when the National Police cannot, on its own, contain severe disorders or face a disaster or public calamity (Decree 1512, Sec. 79 – Colombia).
- The President of the State Council may decide the use of the Armed Forces to maintain internal order and protect the citizenry, even though a state of emergency has not been declared (*Ley de la defensa nacional*, Sec. 35 – Cuba).
- In order to safeguard internal protection, the maintenance and control of public order and security, the Armed Forces could support operations in a complementary manner to what in this case is the competence of the National Police (*Ley de seguridad pública y del Estado*, Sec. 11 – Ecuador).
- Assist in maintaining peace and order of the nation in cases of extreme necessity (*Código de organización, jurisdicción y previsión social militar*, Sec. 2, sub. 2 and 6 – Nicaragua).

Participation in national development / environment protection:

- Cooperate with national development as subsidiary function (*Lei complementar 136*, Sec. 16 – Brazil).
- Take care over the whole national territory of the protection and defence of the environment and renewable natural resources (*Ley por la cual se organiza el Sistema Nacional Ambiental*, Sec. 103 – Colombia).
- Possessing a structure that allows the use of its members in activities contributing to the country's economic and social development and environmental protection (*Ley de la defensa nacional*, Sec. 34 – Cuba).
- Perform civil actions and social work fostering the country's development (*Ley orgánica del Ejército y Fuerza Aérea*, Sec. 1 – Mexico).
- Contribute to the country's development and support its health plans, education, environmental preservation and renewal of its natural resources, including the required environmental balance (*Ley de la defensa nacional*, Sec. 16 – Nicaragua).

Support to elections:

- Support the Supreme Electoral Council in the electoral process (*Código de organización, jurisdicción y previsión social militar*, Sec. 2, sub. 13 – Nicaragua).

- Form part of the Electoral Military Police during national elections under the control of the Central Electoral Board (*Ley orgánica de las Fuerzas Armadas*, Sec. 5 – Dominican Republic).

- Contribute, support, take care and supervise the Election Power facilities and assets (*Ley orgánica de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana*, Sec. 42, sub. 6 – Venezuela).

Support in the event of disaster:

- Operations supporting the national community or friendly countries (*Ley de reestructuración de las Fuerzas Armadas*, Sec. 6 – Argentina).
- Cooperate with civil defence (*Ley complementar 136*, Sec. 16 – Brazil).
- The President of the State Council may decide the use of the armed institutions to face and remove the consequences of natural disasters or other types of disasters (*Ley de la defensa nacional*, Sec. 35 – Cuba).
- Assist the population in cases and zones of disaster or emergency (*Ley orgánica de la Armada*, Sec. 2, sub. VII). In the event of disaster, help in the maintenance of public order, protection to people and their property and reconstruction of areas affected (*Ley orgánica del Ejército y Fuerza Aérea*, Sec. 1 – Mexico).
- Contribute to strengthening the risk management policy, based on the prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters (*Ley de la defensa nacional*, Sec. 16 – Nicaragua).
- Cooperate in civil defence (*Ley de organización general de las Fuerzas Armadas*, Sec. 7, sub. D – Paraguay).
- Participate in civil protection operations in disaster situations. Support communities in case of disaster, public calamities and similar events (*Ley orgánica de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana*, Sec. 4, sub. 6 and 15; Sec. 42, sub. 6 – Venezuela).

Participation in peace operations:

- Operations sponsored by the United Nations (*Ley de reestructuración de las Fuerzas Armadas*, Sec. 6 – Argentina).
- The employment of the Armed Forces in peace operations is a responsibility of the President (*Ley complementar 136*, Sec. 15 – Brazil).
- Departure of national troops from the territory of the Republic in order to participate in peace operations organized under the Charter of the United Nations (*Ley que establece normas para la participación de tropas chilenas en operaciones de paz*, Sec. 7 – Chile).
- They may participate in peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance operations according to the country's foreign policy and United Nations' requirements (*Ley orgánica de defensa nacional*, Sec. 16, sub. O – Ecuador).
- Take part in international peacekeeping and humanitarian aid operations, in accordance with the UN Charter (*Ley de la defensa nacional*, Sec. 16 – Nicaragua).
- Paraguay may participate with its military institutions in peace missions promoted by international organizations of which it is member (*Ley de defensa nacional y seguridad interna*, Sec. 35 – Paraguay).
- Missions abroad that are not directly related to the Republic's defence shall be promoted by international organizations which the State is part of (*Ley marco de defensa nacional*, Sec. 21 and 22 – Uruguay).
- Participate in peace missions (*Ley orgánica de la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana*, Sec. 4, sub. 5 – Venezuela).

Source: Compilation based on the legislation mentioned. Reference is made to the missions specifically mentioned in the legislation regardless of those referring to subjects referred to in constitutional mandates; this description does not purport to be complete or to encompass the whole set of the missions they are supposed to have.

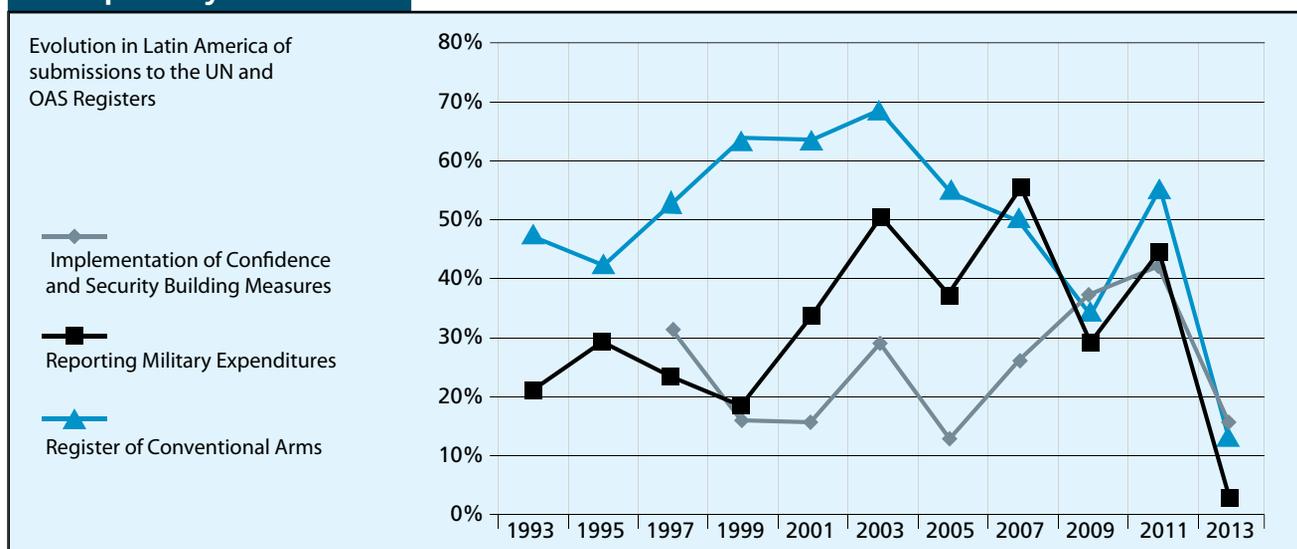
Annual Reports on Ministerial Management

Country	Name	Published by
Argentina	<i>Memoria detallada del estado de la Nación</i>	Ministers' Chief of Staff.
Bolivia	<i>Memoria Institucional</i>	Ministry of Defence
Brazil	<i>Relatório de Avaliação</i>	Ministry of Defence
Chile	<i>Cuenta Pública</i>	Government of Chile
Colombia	<i>Memorias al Congreso de la República Logros de la Política Integral de Seguridad y Defensa para la Prosperidad - PISDP</i>	Ministry of National Defence
Costa Rica	<i>Memoria Institucional</i>	Ministry of Interior, Police and Public Security
Cuba	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Dominican Republic	<i>Memoria Anual</i>	Ministry of Defence
Ecuador	<i>Informe de Gestión</i>	Ministry of National Defence
El Salvador	<i>Memoria de Labores</i>	Ministry of National Defence
Guatemala	<i>Memoria de Labores</i>	Ministry of National Defence
Haiti	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Honduras	<i>Memoria</i>	Secretariat of National Defence
Mexico	<i>Informe de Labores</i>	Secretariat of National Defence Secretariat of the Navy
Nicaragua	<i>Memoria Anual</i>	Army of Nicaragua
Panama	<i>Memoria</i>	Ministry of Public Security
Paraguay	<i>Informe del Gobierno Nacional</i>	Presidency of the Republic
Peru	<i>Anuario Estadístico del Sector</i>	Ministry of Defence
Uruguay	<i>Memoria Anual</i>	Ministry of Defence
Venezuela	<i>Memoria y Cuenta</i>	Ministry of the People's Power for Defence

n/a: no available data.

Source: Compilation based on the information provided by the institutions mentioned above.

Transparency Measures



Register/Instrument: Average number of reports submitted in each period (for the calculation of reports submitted to the OAS, all countries considered in this publication, with the exception of Cuba, have been included).

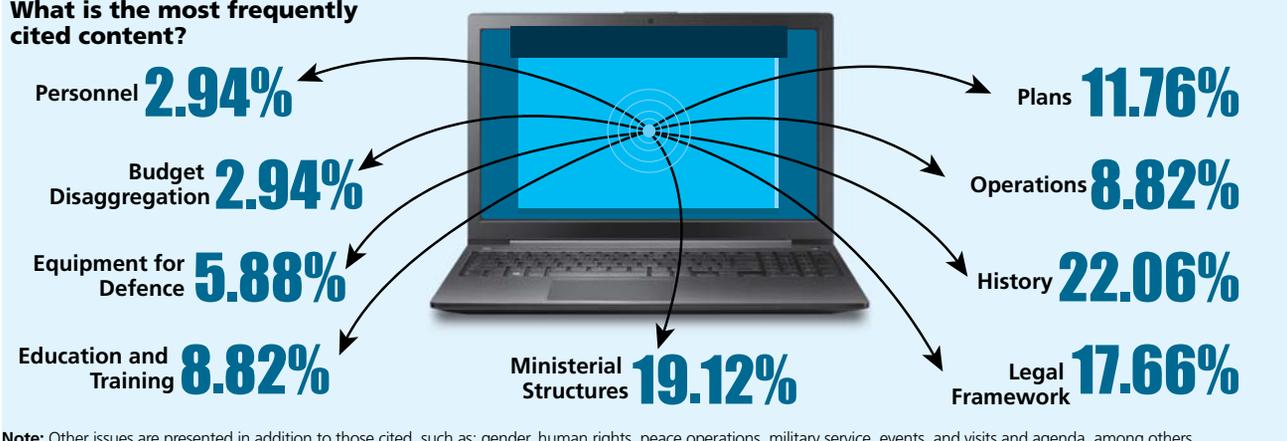
Source: Compilation based on reports submitted by the States to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures from 1992 to 2013 and reports submitted by States to the OAS on the Implementation of Confidence and Security-Building Measures in the 1997-2013 period.

Policy Documents

Country	Document
Argentina	Libro Blanco de la Defensa Nacional 1999. Revisión de la Defensa 2001. Directiva de Política de Defensa Nacional 2009. Libro Blanco de la Defensa 2010
Bolivia	Libro Blanco de la Defensa 2004. Bases para la Discusión de la doctrina de Seguridad y Defensa del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia 2010.
Brazil	Política de Defesa Nacional 1996 and 2005. Estratégia Nacional de Defesa 2008 and 2010. Livro Branco de Defesa Nacional 2012.
Chile	Libro de la Defensa Nacional de Chile 1997, 2002 and 2010.
Colombia	Política de Defensa y Seguridad Democrática 2003. Política de Consolidación de la Seguridad Democrática 2007 and 2010. Política Integral de Seguridad y Defensa para la Prosperidad 2011. Política Nacional de Defensa de la Libertad Personal 2011.
Dominican Republic	Directiva de Seguridad y Defensa Nacional 2007.
Ecuador	Política de la Defensa Nacional del Ecuador 2002 and 2006. Agenda Política de la Defensa Nacional 2008, 2011 and 2014.
El Salvador	Libro de la Defensa Nacional 2006.
Guatemala	Libro de la Defensa Nacional de la República de Guatemala 2003. Política de la Defensa Nacional 2005.
Honduras	Libro de la Defensa Nacional 2005.
Mexico	Libro del Ejército y Fuerza Aérea Mexicanos 2005.
Nicaragua	Libro de la Defensa Nacional de Nicaragua 2005
Paraguay	Política de Defensa Nacional de la República del Paraguay 1999. Libro Blanco de la Defensa Nacional 2013.
Peru	Libro Blanco de la Defensa Nacional del Perú 2005.
Uruguay	Bases para una Política de Defensa Nacional 1999. Política de Defensa Nacional 2014

Defence Through the Websites of the Respective Ministries

What is the most frequently cited content?



Note: Other issues are presented in addition to those cited, such as: gender, human rights, peace operations, military service, events, and visits and agenda, among others.

Source: Compilation based on the websites of the Ministries of Defence of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, Ministry of the People's Power for Defence of Venezuela, Secretariat of National Defence of Honduras, Secretariat of National Defence and Secretariat of the Navy of Mexico. The cases of Costa Rica and Panama are not included as the table refers specifically to the Ministries of Defence.

Political Participation of Military Personnel

	Can they vote?	Can they be candidates for Elections?
Active	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica ⁽⁴⁾ , Cuba, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Panama ⁽⁴⁾ , Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.	Cuba, Honduras ⁽¹⁾ and Mexico ⁽²⁾
Retired	Yes, all those that have retired are able to vote	Yes, in all cases ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾ .



Note: In Brazil, military personnel on active duty are not allowed to run as candidates. If they have less than ten years in service, the individual must retire; if he/she has had more than ten years of service, he/she shall be separated from duty by his superior authority; if elected, he shall automatically be discharged.

In the Dominican Republic, Section 123 of the Political Constitution establishes as a requisite that the President is not in active military or police service for at least three years prior to standing in presidential elections. Section 77, pertaining to the conditions required to become a congress member, does not mention any requirement.

In Uruguay Subsection 2 of Section 91 of the National Constitution establishes that "military personnel who resign their salary and post in order to enter the legislature shall keep their rank, but for the duration of their legislative responsibilities last they shall not be promoted. They shall be exempt from all military subordination and the duration of their legislative activities will not be counted towards promotion". Section 98 of the Organic Law of the Armed Forces N° 14157, states that military status shall be suspended in the case of a member of the military that is elected for a political position.

1. The Constitution mentions the possibility of running for elections in those cases not prohibited by Law (Sec. 37), but it establishes that they cannot be elected as Deputies (Sec. 199) or President (Sec. 240).

2. Members of the military on active duty must resign from their position at least 90 days prior to standing to be elected as a Deputy (Political Constitution, Sec. 55) or Senator (Political Constitution, Sec. 58), with this period extending to six months for those standing for the Presidency (Political Constitution, Sec. 82). Legislation indicates that in order to occupy a position involving a popular vote, members of the armed forces must request a special permit for that purpose.

3. In Bolivia, in order to hold a position of public office, military personnel must resign at least three months prior to the election. (Political Constitution, Art. 238). In Chile, Colombia and Nicaragua, one year after retiring. In El Salvador a period of three years in retirement is required prior to running as a candidate in a presidential election. The Constitution of Haiti establishes a period of two years prior to standing for any non-military public position. In Guatemala, five years in retirement is stipulated. In the Dominican Republic, the Constitution establishes as a requirement that the President not be in active military or police service for at least three years prior to presidential elections. Section 77 pertaining to the conditions required to become a congress member, does not mention any requirement. In Uruguay, subsection 4 of Section 77 of the National Constitution establishes that only the members of the military on active duty cannot perform political activities.

4. In the case of Costa Rica and Panama references are made to members of public security forces.

Source: Compilation based on national legislation. For more detail on such legislation refer to section "Countries" of this publication.