



I THEMATIC REUNION THE IX CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS: BUILDING A THEMATIC AGENDA

*La Paz, Bolivia
May 10th and 11th, 2010*

Organizers: IX CDMA Pro Tempore Secretariat and RESDAL

Report

Introduction

The Conferences of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CDMA) are instituted as a space for dialogue which calls for high-level representatives to discuss guidelines and criteria about the defense in a democratic framework. Since 1995 with the first conference held in Williamsburg, United States, to the eighth held in Banff 2008, Canada, the Conferences have distinguished themselves for the creation of a space that allows the exchange of different points of views and also identify areas of potential cooperation. In that way, they have served as a mechanism of mutual trust.

To enable these meetings, behind them there is a widespread deployment of work that involves mainly the host country, who makes up a Pro Tempore Secretariat which begins to coordinate and implement the instances of meeting and structuring the thematic agenda.

For the definition of the issues that will be discussed on the Conference's table, the host country proposes a tentative list with topics or points. Over that list, Ministry of Defense's delegations of the member countries are invited to participate in a preparatory session about the proposed agenda. In consensus, it is decided not only what the structure of the agenda will be but also other issues of common interest for the well development of the Conference.

Civil society participation in these ministerial meetings was allowed for the very first time at the Sixth Conference held in Quito in 2004. Since then it has been an increasing role of RESDAL in this hemispheric process. In this context, the Minister of Defense of Bolivia, as head of the IX Conference to be held in November 2010, solicited the support of the Network for the construction process of the thematic agenda.

The premise for building an agenda is that the content of it must operate on the principles of *democracy preservation as the basis for mutual security and military subordination to an authority with democratic control*. Following this basic premise, defense specialists gathered in La Paz Bolivia, 10 and May 11, 2010 by the Secretariat Pro Tempore of the CDMA and RESDAL IX, under the auspices of the British Embassy in Bolivia, in order to contribute to the construction of the thematic agenda through the perspectives and debate of civil society and academia on defense issues and trends in the hemisphere. This report synthesizes the major points and discussions that were developed during the meeting. A second meeting will



be held on 17 and 18 May, bringing together ministerial representatives around academic experts' presentations.

Participants and work mechanic

The two-days-event was held at the Radisson Hotel in Bolivia. It was attended by 20 recognized analysts of most countries in the hemisphere which were convened with the aim of integrating civil society contributions with the Conference's agenda and to reflect on the current regional scene with the organizers and other Bolivian's officials. Prior to the meeting, participants prepared a short document containing its proposals for the thematic agenda which becoming an initial kick to the debate that took place during the conference.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat established three axis items in which would set the agenda items:

- Peace and Conflict in the Americas
- Democracy, Armed Forces and Society
- National Defense and Natural Disasters

The meeting took place in a day and a half session in a flexible work like a roundtable which allowed participants to exchange views from the exposures of some experts. These brief presentations were the triggers for the debate.

Program and debates

The event started on Monday 10th at 15hs. The opening was made by the Minister of Defense of Bolivia Saavedra Ruben Soto and the presence of British Ambassador to Bolivia, Nigel Baker.

During his speech, the minister brought to the attention of all participants that the Ministry organized the first national discussion process organized by the Pro Tempore Secretariat. This Roundtable was attended by representatives of the armed forces, Defense Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, representatives of Parliament, civil society organizations and social movements in Bolivia. This meeting had three broad themes which are inscribed the points in the agenda: Peace and Conflict in the Americas, Democracy, Armed Forces and Society, and National Defense and Natural Disasters.

Another issue, to which he referred, expressed the need to discuss the subject of military equipment transparency in the hemisphere. As an element that will effectively contribute to maintaining the region as a peace zone. In this regard, he stressed the pacifist stance of the Government of Bolivia, and its policy in terms of defense deterrent. On the other hand, he mentioned the conception of the armed forces in Bolivia as an active agent in development politics.

After that, Ms. Loreta Telleria, Secretary Pro Tempore of the CDMA XI thanked RESDAL support in the process of organizing this event, she highlighted the idea that the event would



not have been implemented without unconditional support of the Network. She also thanked the British Embassy for joining this effort under the auspices of the event.

Finally, Ms. Telleria thanked the various participants invited to participate based on their extensive knowledge on the subject, and she stressed the importance of their contribution as they make possible that the IX CDMA thematic agenda contains novel, priority and relevant issues and includes the interests and concerns of all countries in defense matters. While it may be difficult to address critical issues for the region, it is important to confront them in the timeliest manner and keeping the dialogue.

Reaffirming the words of the Minister of Defense, she highlighted the progress made by the Secretariat Pro Tempore so far through the organization of the First National Roundtable, which was attended by representatives of all sectors involved in Bolivia. Within its final document, the main decisions included were: the recognition of the opportunity that stand for Bolivia to be responsible for the Secretariat Pro Tempore of the XI CDMA and present a purposeful thematic agenda, the awareness of the changes in traditional thinking about security and defense, traditional concepts on cooperative security, collective security and even multidimensional security would not reflect more the interests of the region and the crisis on security concept as regards the ones on multiculturalism and plurality.

The three main themes that emerged from this national debate to be part of the defense agenda were defined as follows:

- Peace and Conflict in the Americas: military spending in Latin America How much is spent in the region in military equipment? How is this spending distributed by the country? What are the economic and political costs of these expenses?
- Armed forces and society: gender, multiculturalism, education and armed forces, and military service.
- Defense and Natural Disasters: experience and lessons learned after the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, and the events after these disasters.

A critical look at the process of the Conference of Ministers of Defense (1995-2008)

The first display provided by Hal Klepak and Juan Ramon Quintana was intended to make a critical reading of the CDMA's forums from a historical and policy perspective.

Emphasizing his view as historian and his participation in all previous conferences, Mr. Klepak highlighted the enthusiasm that covered the CDMA in Williamsburg (1995) and what has followed. The agenda was under a political moment. It corresponded to the quest of linking the defense and security debate with discussions of policy cooperation in the hemisphere. The U.S. perspective prevailed in that forum but consolidated from Latin American countries. Those who sought to protect the existing security system with a clear interest in maintaining a beneficial relationship of bilateral over multilateral predominance. Thus, although the difficulties and specific problems of bilateral levels were often intended to



be brought to the table, defense ministers always try not to do so in order to maintain the dialogue.

Despite these contradictions, the CDMA became the only regular forum in which senior representatives of the Ministries of the entire region can be found in an area of fellowship to exchange ideas, to see the concerns of their counterparts in a relatively favorable. A forum in which no country has sought to exclude itself or be excluded it out. The CDMA has succeeded in establishing a permanent place and a tradition discuss issues of cooperation and issues that unite us. Although always have wanted to raise issues that do not cooperate in this regard, the Ministers always bet on finding them other space.

Thus, the countries have increasingly come to understand that the problems we face are in fact mostly bilateral or sub regional. It has been gradually sidelined the ideals of broad agreements involving all the countries of the hemisphere. Instead, initiatives to create non-hemispheric environments for peace processes, conflict resolution and confidence-building measures are proposed. This is new from Williamsburg, where the approach to build trust between two countries was emerging. With enough time, this type of approach has become common. From that time until today, the possibility of bilateral meetings has increased significantly and their potential for success has grown especially in favorable circumstances.

It should be noted the non-binding aspect of the declarations. A reading of CDMA's documents shows that the thematic agendas have not been dynamic. While it can be rescued the permanent discussion around democracy issue, in many contexts what is designated as a new security agenda have been repetitive themes and issues that are not within the scope of action of the Defense Ministers: drug trafficking, public security, among others. What has taken different forms in the CDMA is organization. The different ways of organizing has resulted in sub discussions enrolling in the margins of the Conference, either because they are more complex approaches to a central level and / or because only address issues which not concern all members.

On the other hand, the political environment has changed over the years. United States has been involved in conflicts in other regions of the world. Solid policies on defense were not able to continue, reformist governments have come forward in promoting processes of ambitious reforms and immediately, the dynamism of the world has moved from hemispheric worlds to smallest ones.

Towards this not very pleasant background, it remains to confirm that the CDMA is the only forum of its kind left: of high-level and hemispheric which allows a flexible diplomacy and that is by definition a positive environment for further dialogue with its limitations.

Juan Ramon Quintana then took the floor stating that his presentation will address the national perspective of the Government of Bolivia for the next CDMA.

The case of Bolivia is unique as it is now going through a complex process of state reconstruction from the recognition of three major historical debts in its Constitution:



- The debt to the citizenship as part of a historical tension between society and state, in a duality between rights to enforce and to ignore.
- The region's debt which responds to a complex relationship between the central power and the regions which operated in the past under certain forgetfulness and indifference.
- The economic debt due to the liberal scheme which has built the country's economic system that left little role to the state.

Under this new stage in Bolivia, the known debts have tried to be answered through mechanisms such as:

- The recognition of multiculturalism in Bolivia.
- The configuration of regional autonomy and the redistribution of the surplus.
- Transformation of the political system itself by opening space for participation to a wider range of political organizations, social movements and civil society groups.

In terms of defense and security, this new political, social and economic development of the Bolivian state has made a living between the old and new schemes. The major changes that the State lived have not quite reached the defense sector. However, among the priorities of this process of state reform, the changes involving the defense sector that will continue in the near future include things such as:

- The renunciation of war as part of its new foreign and security policy, which involves a transformation in what will be the doctrine of defense in Bolivia.
- Reform the role of armed forces in the territorial domain, which in the past it had been assigned to internal enforcement work, to assign a role all in the borders.
- An active role for the armed forces in the conservation of natural resources.
- The recovery of sovereignty in international security and defense as opposed to a past in which the doctrine and the prospects for action were supervised by external actors.

Then, the space for debate was opened. The interventions of the participants focused on the need to define a model or set expectations about what is expected from the Conference. These expectations will be addressed as more controversial issues that may generate opposing positions, or otherwise will build a basic agenda supported in public areas, containing issues that facilitate dialogue and consensus without creating tensions.

We must recognize the situation in terms of continental security, defense, strategic and promoting peace issues in the last four years. Keep regions in where peace is maintain is an asset for the countries in those regions that think about cash flow and political dynamics in the globalization context. Considering this premise is that in this Conference should be given priority to the problems of peace and confidence building.

The CDMA has played an important role as forums for dialogue and mutual understanding in a wide range of subjects. An emphasis was placed on the need for hemispheric repowering in this unique forum that the region has on defense. However, it is impossible not to see that CDMA does not have institutional autonomy as a multilateral forum, making it impossible to escape the conditions that arise and complicate the regional overview. The IX CDMA faces a current scenario marked by disagreements on two fronts. A weaken multilateral context and contexts that diversify their positions with respect to the armed forces. These reissued conflictive situations which involve different assessments on the upgrading of skills,



territorial disputes, among others. It is therefore very important to prevent these disagreements from becoming confrontational. It is wrong for a forum of this nature to keep trying to achieve only problems without confrontational effect. By contrast, it is require a political forum focused on the structural problems of defense, political definitions, institutional problems and how they affect international cooperation.

The CDMA system itself was raised from the outset limitations as regards the issues that should refrain from addressing. There is a contradiction between the desires that are formulated in hemispheric terms and ministers postures that will be assume at the Conference, without neglecting the non-binding nature of the CDMA and the strictly of it rhetorical statements.

In this sense, it was difficult for some countries that are just beginning a long task to distinguish between fields and work on national defense and internal security. It is ambitious to devise a result in which these countries may have an interest in Latin America for multilateral cooperation on defense issues.

Some participants identified as one of the outstanding issue to be addressed in the use of forces in each country, emphasizing that this free determination faces limits established by the Court and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights regarding the extraordinary military forces intervention in the appeasement of social disputes. It also raised some doubts about the vision that gives an active role to the armed forces in the development. Where in some national cases this same work weakened the role of civilians and provides a protective role to the armed forces in the past.

Some positions were firm to raise the failure to include in the Conference a country that promotes a coup in times of democracy.

Another issue raised was how this instance must be reconciled with the new sub hemispheric referents. Each of these instances gives to the countries a certain levels of priority and in this context is meant the realization of the IX CDMA.

1) *Peace and conflict in the Americas*

The session was moderated by Carmen Rosa de León Escribano who reflected how to start thinking about the agenda for a meeting where the agenda itself could become an obstacle to the of the meeting.

This first presentation was by Luis Tibiletti. After presenting a conceptual categorization and went through two hundred years of Latin American history in building peace and conflict resolution, he punctually made reference to the role of the ministries of defense in the construction of peace: bringing coherence to the defense policy with the foreign policy, where diplomacy remains the instrument of peace. Using Williamsburg's principles of institutionalization and civil control, he recalled the previous need of political leadership as a condition for further control. But he noted the importance of defense ministries to conduct their area so that it resembles foreign policy of democratic governance and integration



processes (respecting sub regional differences). It is the responsibility of the ministers of defense to work to prevent the adoption of doctrines alien to the Latin American tradition (e.g., "preventive war" or "national security doctrine").

As part of CDMA previous statements, this question of peace contribution has been considered through various points. This is one of the central themes of these conferences. Also the reference to military transparency in expenditure refers to the trusted search for peace. The history of peace and conflict in the Americas can recognize the tension between America and the hegemonic power. In this context, the challenges ahead are to distinguish this problem and re-evaluate this area of multilateral dialogue. The Conference should discuss the difficulty of begin troubleshooting.

Main points of discussion:

- The importance of preserving the CDMA space. The agenda of a political meeting like CDMA must address both policies and technical issues.
- Place the issue of peace efforts as one of the main axes to be addressed by the CDMA due to peace and conflict problems that the region is facing now.
- The deployment of forces in South America linked to the war on drugs but with dual-use capacity, it generates fear among countries.
- Unwillingness of various regional actors to acknowledge their involvement in these issues using defense as an element of domestic policy. For example, through the discourse of the arms race. Politicization in the re-equipment issue. Way of thinking of those who occupy public offices and positions of the culture of secrecy.
- Instrumental use of the conflict's vision. Inertia to practices that set identity by difference and confrontation. This affects the transparency and predictability necessary in a multilateral strategic dialogue. Inability to create reliable institutions.
- Defense policy should be enlightened by foreign policy. It is concerning the dissatisfaction between the ministry of defense and the foreign ministry. Those who are responsible for these policies should work with the knowledge of the other.
- Progress in the political conduction and civilian leadership. Strengthening Ministries. Management forces' budget.
- White Books as a transparency tool. To the inside they legitimize the defense function with the rest of society, to the external, represent a unilateral confidence of a state to the other countries.
- Advance of the South American Defense Council (CSD) on measures of trust. CDS Proposal of carrying the joint position to the IX CDMA on mechanisms of mutual trust and transparency in military spending.

2) *Democracy, Armed Forces and Society*

The presentation for this second workshop was conducted by Marcela Donadio who made a presentation based on personal statements, emphasizing that her presentation does not necessarily represent the views of RESDAL. First, she recalled that this subject was always present in CDMA since the first meeting in Williamsburg where they established the principle that mutual security rests on the preservation of democracy, the vital role of military forces to



defend democratic states, the subordination of the armed forces to the constituted authorities, and transparency in defense matters.

Since the 80 and 90 in Latin America, reforms were more aimed at the reorientation of the political order rather than the reformulation of the role of the armed forces in the general framework of a state. Progresses are significant in terms of institutional building and ministries strengthening. "The defense in the XXI century" has been the favorite sentence in the documents and official speeches. However, the role of the armed forces remains unchanged from the designs of it at the late nineteenth and early twentieth: territorial defense, world presence, and in many cases the armed forces as guarantee of the constitutional and political order. The institutional structures of the defense have not been well adapted to the needs of recent times. With these reflections, Ms. Donadio sought to express the tension between historical trends and future prospects, the gap between policy statements, expressed for example on white books and the current reality of the military, expressed for example in budgets which do not reflect those statements.

It is important to strengthen and deepen what has been achieved in terms of institutional and civil control. But to improve the consolidation of democracy in our region it is necessary to address a major debate which is related to a look at to the inside of military institutions.

There are some issues here that are incorporated into the regional political agenda such as gender, multiculturalism and human rights. But for this reason they are making real limits. Other issues to address military reform are to think about education, justice, and military service. All these issues have a strong impact on the democratization of the armed forces as they change the models, open discussions and face how different is the essence of democracy. It's time to face the debate over what forces we want, what are these forces missions in which societies are formed, and thus how they should be structures.

Today these concepts of traditional liberal democracies are not dominant in all our countries. Accept that not everyone has the same model would show that we are in the same democratic hemispheric environment.

Main points of discussion:

- Democratization of the defense. Defense as a public policy. Transparency, accountability and access to information. Progress and construction of a link with civil society.
- The armed forces are a reflection of society in which they are formed.
- Share experiences of change processes. For example, the incorporation of African Americans to the United States Army, or the question of multiculturalism, for example, the many military battalions composed of Brazilians' indigenous protecting the Amazon.
- Managing democratic protection equipment to ensure the rights of all military personnel, particularly in situations of vulnerability due to gender or age. Strengthening human rights within the military institution can help to expand human rights to the rest of society by the institution itself.
- Education of the armed forces in human rights and international humanitarian law.



- Participation of the armed forces in national development.
- Involvement of the legislative branch. On many occasions members of parliament stay longer in specific committees than ministers in their posts, this "melting pot of memory" on defense matter should be used
- The question of Honduras. Intervention and / or use of military instrument in the political arena. Role of the military in a democratic environment. Need to drive and deepen civilian control.

3) National Defense and Natural Disasters

The last trigger presentation was made by Miguel Navarro, who began to stress the complexity of the issue for their political character and its relevance, considering that no country is immune from disasters.

Inevitably, involving the armed forces in the field of disaster has an impact on civil-military relations as it must be considered that not all countries are prepared for inter-agency coordination and definition of the institution that lead armed forces in these operations. In the case of the recent earthquake in Chile, the debate was about when the armed forces may enter to the action. Institutions are not acting on their own and this means political responsibilities and costs that the authorities should take.

Other complexities arise in the legal arena. *The State of Catastrophe* in a constitutional level has many policy edges as the decree restricts civil liberties allowing possible cases of human rights violations. In general, the state somehow abdicates its responsibilities which will be lain in the military. The civil authority is somehow out of all the decision-making process in a disaster area, and is the military authority which assumes the control in it. This allows questioning the issue of roles and missions between civil and military authorities. In general terms, the president is usually the one who will decide on the division of roles and coordination between civilian and military institutions. Finally, there is a subject around the theme of the role of military courts and their jurisdiction. In some cases the disaster areas vary from state jurisdiction to become part of military ones, and apply different rules and procedures to those of civil justice in situations such as looting.

Nevertheless, the use of the military institution has clear advantages. Faced with major disasters, armed forces are the only institutions with skills, facilities and resources for immediate response. The decision-making process within the military institution is very different from the civilian institutions. Decisions are implemented easier in the military because of their verticality. Among other advantages is the ability to focus media and mass transportation. It also has the ability to self-sustain in areas where services collapsed due to the disaster.

On the other hand, he highlighted the lessons learned following the terrible experience in Chile: the need for preparation in terms of training, capacity building, equipment, greater interagency coordination, build capacity for rapid action and preparation for the reception aid procedures, bilateral and multilateral mechanisms.



As future prospects in the issue of military participation in disastrous situations it must be noted the importance of this axis to become an element that unites us and it is an excellent first step in establishing mechanisms of mutual trust coordination and international security systems.

Main points of discussion:

- Institutional design of the defense and disasters: how to put into practice what has been working together.
- Time of decision and implementation by the political authorities.
- Issue of who leads the armed forces in operations.
- Conflict between the exercise of authority between civilians and military in the disaster area.
- Inter-agency action protocols within and between countries for help in the future. Creation and implementation of a sub regional system to deal with risks and vulnerabilities, resources and technical means.
- Difficulties of MINUSTAH and the countries in supporting Haiti's population: political leadership, control, cooperation, communication, coordination, movement, language.
- Sovereignty, international cooperation and support of the armed forces in case of disaster.

Conclusions and proposals

This last session was intended to discuss how to work on a hemispheric conference in a difficult scenario, an issue that was addressed from the start of the event. The occasion allowed Mike Snell, an organizer of the previous Ministerial Conference held in Banff, Canada in 2008, to convey its experience.

One of the highlighted topics was the dynamism of the Conference process and the change in the thematic discussions and parallel events maintaining the need for a final declaration. He recommends the necessity to recognize the spirit of the Conference. He also suggests a central theme for the meeting, seeking opportunities and ways for ministers to focus on that single axis. Taking a look at the region we become aware that exist complex and diverse problems. But the region remains stable, and therefore we cannot miss the opportunity to build an original cooperation.

Each participant expressed concisely the themes and subthemes that the agenda for the next ministerial meeting should contain. The topics proposed by Bolivia have been considered broadly positive. There was consensus to establish a thematic agenda that recognizes the current regional situation. Proposals are summarized in the following scheme:

1) *Peace and Conflict in the Americas*

- Reaffirmation of principles: essential value of peace, not aggression, non-interference, sovereignty.



- Transparency in military acquisition budgets. Arms race, yes / no? Compliance filing with inter-American records. Communication and dialogue.
- Devices and deployment of forces and confidence building. Early warning mechanisms in case of use them against terrorism and drug trafficking.
- Exchange and cooperation in the military field.

Special considerations:

- Promotion, recognition and support in confidence building and peace building for the emergence of other initiatives (such as the CDS or the Commission of Truth in Honduras).
- Recognition of the work of MINUSTAH.

2) *Democracy, Armed Forces and Society*

- Institutionalization of defense and civilian control. Strengthening ministries of defense. Executive capacity and resource management. The defense as a public policy: transparency and relations with society. Accountability.
- Transformation of the armed forces: military justice, military training and recruitment systems. Professionalization of the military instrument.
- Gender, multiculturalism and human rights.

3) *National Defense and Natural Disasters*

- Sovereignty, international cooperation and support of the armed forces in disaster
- Regional capacity to respond to the disaster. List of vulnerabilities and potential responses.
- Coordination with other state agencies and conduct of operations for natural disasters.

Another question that guided these findings was how to ensure the continuity and enhancement of this forum. Here are summarized some partial considerations in this regard:

- Recover the spirit of Williamsburg, the dialogue and the seeking of cooperation in the hemisphere.
- Consider this forum as a process to institutionalize the defense in a democratic framework.
- Identify topics of interest to the defense policies of the countries.
- Establish a monitoring mechanism of each meeting, allowing to link (and not repeat) the previous statements and monitoring the progress of the agreements. Promoting an agenda of actions and collaborations that some countries - perhaps not all - take in the intervening years with the intention to communicate the results at the next ministerial meeting.
- Share lessons learned and best practices.
- Tender to the institutionalization of confidence-building measures through a permanent mechanism.



- Include a more extended and strengthened the civil society organizations and academics. Understanding that they bring social legitimacy and transparency to the process of the conferences while make important conceptual and technical contributions.
- Approach to the ministries a document prepared by civil society on progress and setbacks during these two years between the VIII and IX CDMA.
- Back to convene the parliament to participate as observers in the Conference.

To conclude, it was rescued the continued participation of civil society in the context of hemispheric process. This participation took further strengthening with the Canadian organizers at the VIII CDMA, when they summoned the representatives of civil society organizations and academia to discuss the construction on the basis of the thematic agenda, the initiative has been taken up by the Pro Tempore Secretariat of Bolivia for CDMA IX.

Then, Loreta Telleria as Secretary Pro Tempore of the IX CDMA remarked some issues about the discussion topics mainly the value of peace and the importance in the defense of non-interference and nonintervention in internal affairs. She reaffirmed the belief that when the issues are dealt with truth, respect and tolerance, you may meet them and arrange a thematic agenda beyond the sensitivities that can bring an issue for some countries. Transparency and dialogue on military procurement, for example, can lead to break the rigidity that subject generate today. On the other hand, the repetition of themes such as multiculturalism or gender, are due to the need to move from mere opening or new laws, it requires a change in the doctrine and culture that involves many actors beyond the military.

Finally, she referred to two challenges ahead: to ensure that the ministers get involved and discuss these issues, using the value of sharing lessons learned, and create mechanisms to monitor on this hemispheric process.

The organizers appreciated the encouragement, preparation, openness and honesty with which each participant is expressed during the days of the meeting.

With the support of:





Participants List

- Colonel. LUIS ARIÑEZ, Pro Tempore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- NIGEL BAKER, British Ambassador to Bolivia
- C.C. JAVIER BALDAVIEZO, Pro Tempore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- Lieutenant Colonel JORGE CADIMA PAZ, Pro Tempore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- ROBERTO CAJINA, RESDAL, Nicaragua
- PABLO CELI, Universidad Central, Ecuador
- ELIZABETH COLOMA, British Embassy to Bolivia
- MARGARET DALY HAYES, Evidence Based Research Associates (EBR), United States
- C.F. CARLOS DEBRECZENI, Pro Tempore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- ANTONIO DE LA CUESTA COLUNGA, Advisor, Senate of Mexico
- CARMEN ROSA DE LÉON, Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible (IEPADES), Guatemala
- REINA GONZÁLES, Pro Tempore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- GUIDO GONZÁLES, Minister of International Relations, Bolivia
- JULIÁN GONZÁLEZ GUYER, Universidad de la República, Uruguay
- IVELAW GRIFFITH, York College of The City University of New York
- CLAUDIA HERNÁNDEZ, Pro Tempore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- HAL KLEPAK, Emeritus Professor Royal Military College, Canada
- ERNESTO LÓPEZ, Argentine Ambassador in Guatemala
- FAUTO LOVERA, Pro Tempore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- MIGUEL NAVARRO, Academia Nacional de Estudios Políticos y Estratégicos (ANEPE), Chile
- KEVIN NEWMAYER, Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS), United States
- FREDERICK NUNN, Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS), United States
- Captain IVÁN ORELLANA, Pro Tempore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- ROSARIO PÉREZ PONCE, Pro Tempore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
- JUAN RÁMON QUINTANA, Security and Democracy Observatory, Bolivia



-
- JOSEFINA REYNOSO, Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (FUNGLODE), Dominican Republic
 - ELIÉZER RIZZO DE OLIVEIRA, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil
 - JOSÉ ROCA BADO MENDEZ, Pro Tempore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia
 - LUCILA SANTOS, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), United States
 - GONZALO SERRA, Executive Secretariat, RESDAL
 - MIKE SNELL, Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, Canada
 - ANA MARÍA TAMAYO, Instituto de Defensa Legal (IDL), Peru
 - LUIS TIBILETTI, SER en el 2000, Argentina
 - Sgto, GROVER TORREZ, Pro Tempore Secretariat IX CDMA, Bolivia

Organizers:

- LORETA TELLERIA, Executive Secretary, IX CMDA.
- MARCELA DONADIO, Executive Secretary, RESDAL.



Program

May 10th

15.00 - 15.30

Opening

Loreta Telleria (Secretary Pro Tempore IX CMDA)

Marcela Donadio (RESDAL)

15.30 - 17.00

A critical look at the process of the Conference of Defense Ministers (1995-2008)

Presentation: *Hal Klepak*

Juan Ramón Quintana

Debate

17.00 – 17.30

Coffee

17.30 – 19.00

Proposals for a Thematic Agenda

Intervention of participants on agenda issues

May 11th

09.00 - 10.30

Peace and Conflict in the Americas

Presentation: *Luis Tibiletti*

Debate

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee

11.00 - 12.30

Democracy, Armed Forces and Society

Presentation: *Marcela Donadio*

Debate

12.30 - 14.00

Lunch

14.00 - 15.30

National Defense and Natural Disasters

Presentation: *Miguel Navarro*

Debate

15.30 - 16.00

Coffee

16.00 - 18.00

Conclusions

Towards the next Conference: How to working on a hemispheric conference in a difficult scenario?