

X CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS

MINUTES OF THE PLENARY SESSION

In Punta del Este, Department of Maldonado, Republic of Uruguay, on the 9th day of October of 2012, at the Conrad Hotel Convention Center, the President of the X Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, Mr. Eleuterio Fernández Huidobro, National Defense Minister of the Republic of Uruguay, opened the Plenary session of this ministerial meeting at 9:30 a.m.:

In the presence of the Members of the Board of Directors of the Conference:
the Protempore President, Mr. Eleuterio Fernández Huidobro, National Defense Minister of the Republic of Uruguay,
the Secretary General, Dr. Jorge Menéndez, Vice Minister of Defense of the Republic of Uruguay, and
the Chairman of the Working Committee on Thematic Axis III (a), Security and Defense, Mr. Mario López Chavarri, Ambassador of Peru,
the following document was submitted to the Assembly for consideration:

1) Minutes of Conclusions and Recommendations of Thematic Axis III a), Security and Defense, submitted by Ambassador Mario López Chavarri, in his aforesaid capacity, with twenty-six (26) delegations present in the meeting room.

The Delegations of the Republic of Nicaragua and the Republic of Peru took the floor, in that order.

The former stated that the document reflected in a flexible and broad manner the criteria shared by the majority of States members of the Conference, with the legal limitations imposed on each of them by their respective national laws. The delegation made no objection to the document.

The Delegation of the Republic of Peru said that the responsibility of the working group on the aforesaid Sub-item, to limit the scope of its debate, derived from the Ninth Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

In accordance with the provisions of article 48 of the Regulations, the abovementioned text was submitted to the delegations for approval.

As a result of the vote taken, the Minutes of Conclusions and Recommendations of Thematic Axis III a), Security and Defense, were approved unanimously, by the affirmative vote of all the delegations present, with a total of twenty-six (26) votes being cast.

The Plenary session was suspended at 11:30 a.m., until 4:50 p.m.

The meeting was resumed at 4:50 p.m., in the presence of the Members of the Board of Directors of the Conference, and the following document was submitted to the Assembly for consideration:

2) Minutes of Conclusions and Recommendations of Thematic Axis II), Peace Missions, submitted by the Rapporteur of that Axis, C/A Mario Sánchez, from the Republic of Peru, and the Moderator, Mr. José Burone, from the Republic of Uruguay.

The Rapporteur read the document.

The Republic of Argentina asked for the floor in order to clarify a formal aspect regarding the signature of the Representative of the Executive Secretariat, indicating that it objected to it appearing as the signature of the Advisor to the Inter-American Defense Board; instead, only the name of the person who had signed should appear. Other than that, the delegation agreed with the text of the minutes.

With regard to the statement made by the Republic of Argentina, the Secretary General, Dr. Jorge Menéndez, Vice Minister of Defense of the Republic of Uruguay, took the floor and said that the appointment of the Advisor to the Inter-American Defense Board as Representative of the Executive Secretariat was in compliance with the provision contained in article 5 of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, adopted at the Ninth Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, in the performance of the functions established in article 25 of the CDMA Regulations.

The Minutes of Conclusions and Recommendations of Thematic Axis II), Peace Missions, was put to a vote and unanimously approved by the affirmative vote of all the Delegations present, with a total of nineteen (19) votes being cast.

The Plenary session was suspended at 5:30 p.m., until 6:10 p.m.

The meeting was resumed at 6:10 p.m., in the presence of the Members of the Board of Directors of the Conference, and the following document was submitted to the Assembly for consideration:

3) Minutes of Conclusions and Recommendations of Thematic Axis III b), Security and Defense and Validity of the Inter-American Defense System – Sub-item II: Future of the Mission and Functions of the Instruments and Components of the Inter-American Defense System, submitted by the Moderator for this Thematic Axis, Dr. Maximiliano Donoso, Political Advisor to the Defense Minister of Ecuador.

The Moderator read the document.

Next, the Delegation of the Republic of Nicaragua asked for the floor, and said that although it agreed with the revision of the Inter-American Defense System, the wording of paragraph 3 was not appropriate to the extent that it used a peremptory language. Besides, it was incumbent upon the Heads of State and Government to define the foreign policy of their own countries, according to their respective legal systems and their relation with the OAS.

The Delegation of the Republic of Argentina asked for the floor to say that the text was the result of a consensus among the States that had taken part in the meeting of the Thematic Axis, and not a resolution adopted by the Ministers of the Conference. Besides, it was an internal document of the CDMA.

Next, the Delegation of the Republic of Paraguay asked for the floor and said that it shared the opinion expressed by the Delegation of the Republic of Nicaragua.

The Delegation of the Republic of Costa Rica asked for the floor and suggested to revise the language used in the document, considering its peremptory nature.

The Delegation of the Republic of Uruguay asked for the floor and stated that the debate was unnecessary since the recommendation was intended to be included in the Final Declaration; therefore, the wording of the paragraph under discussion could be revised during the drafting of the Declaration.

The Delegation of the Republic of Colombia asked for the floor and said that it shared the views expressed by the delegations of Uruguay and Argentina, and that the text reflected the consensus achieved by the States that had taken part in the discussions.

The Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela asked for the floor, noting that it was necessary to revise the IDS in order to adjust it to the current needs, and added that it shared the opinion expressed by the Delegation of Uruguay regarding the possibility to change the wording used in this text in the Final Declaration.

The Delegation of the Republic of Ecuador asked for the floor, and stated that it was necessary to evaluate the IDS, and that the Final Declaration could use more suitable terms.

The Delegation of the Republic of Nicaragua asked for the floor to reiterate the views expressed in its previous statement.

The Delegation of the Republic of Colombia asked for the floor, and said that the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra contained requests and recommendations addressed to the OAS.

The Delegation of the Federative Republic of Brazil asked for the floor to express its agreement with the substance of the matter, adding that, in order to make progress, the formal aspects could be solved within the context of the Final Declaration. The Brazilian Delegation was also of the view that this Forum had the power to make suggestions to the OAS regarding the Inter-American Defense System.

Next, the Secretary General of the Conference, Dr. Jorge Menéndez, took the floor and said that, since there was agreement on the substance of the matter, the Board of Directors proposed to keep the text that would be referred to the Committee for Declaration, on the understanding that those States that disagreed with it would have the possibility to make reservations on formal aspects or even on the substance of the text.

The Minutes of Conclusions and Recommendations of Thematic Axis III b), Security and Defense and Validity of the Inter-American Defense System – Sub-item II: Future of the Mission and Functions of the Instruments and Components of the Inter-American Defense System, was put to a vote and approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Delegations present, with one abstention.

The following reservations were placed on record:

Delegation of the Republic of Costa Rica: Costa Rica made a reservation about the wording of paragraph 3 of the Minutes under discussion, but not on the substance of the matter.

Delegation of the Republic of Nicaragua: Nicaragua agreed to hold a debate on the Inter-American Defense System, stressing that it was incumbent upon the Heads of State and Government to define the foreign policy of their respective countries and the activities carried out by the OAS with regard to matters of interest to States.

Delegation of the Republic of Paraguay: The Delegation of Paraguay expressly stated its objection to the peremptory language used in the proposal approved at the meeting.

The Ministers and Government Representatives sign below four copies of the present minutes in the Spanish, French, English and Portuguese languages.

Eleuterio Fernández Huidobro
PRESIDENT OF THE X CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE
AMERICAS, DEFENSE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY