



XI CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS

Final Report

## ***FINAL REPORT TO THE OAS***

***PRO TEMPORE SECRETARIAT***

***XI CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS***

***MINISTRY OF DEFENSE***

***REPÚBLIC OF PERÚ***



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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The XI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas reaffirmed the role of this forum as the main mechanism for dialogue, exchange of views and hemispheric cooperation space on security and defense. In that sense, the need to strengthen multilateral cooperation to deal more effectively with the challenges, threats and concerns faced by countries of the continent in this century was highlighted, according to the commitment of the Declaration on Security in the Americas 2003.

The XI CDMA, held in Arequipa, has strengthened the character of our continent as a zone of peace. This condition gives America a strategic asset in relation to other areas of the world. However, there are other threats and risks to security in the hemisphere that require consensus, coordination and exchange of experiences. In that sense, this hemispheric forum highlighted the shared interest of our nations to coordinate efforts to consolidate and strengthen our zone of peace.

As stated by the President of Peru, Ollanta Humala, in his opening address to the CMDA XI, these new threats are difficult to address because they are beyond the strategic conceptualization that prevailed until the last century. Therefore, from this century, a broader approach to security has emerged, whose fundamental components are cooperation and multidimensional action.

This view has been reflected in the Declaration of Arequipa, as a result of the exchanges and discussions on the XI CDMA. This document is a commitment of the countries of the American continent to coordinate and define channels of cooperation of the Armed Forces of America on topics such as military health, humanitarian aid, protection of the environment, humanitarian demining, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, search and rescue, and exchange-

At the operational level and in order to establish the American system of defense, it has been agreed to design a space to better articulate the CDMA with other specialized military forums in the continent, such as the Conference of American Armies (CAA), the American Naval Conference (CNI) and the Cooperation System of the American Air Forces (SICOFAA)



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In summary, the countries of the hemisphere have reaffirmed their will to implement a more fluid cooperation to address transnational challenges of the XXI century that also transcend our continent. Therefore, the participation of defense ministers of Spain and Portugal, as observers, in the Conference has also been very important to establish a projection to the European Union area, with whom we are united by democratic values and a common vision on various issues on the global agenda linked to security and defense.



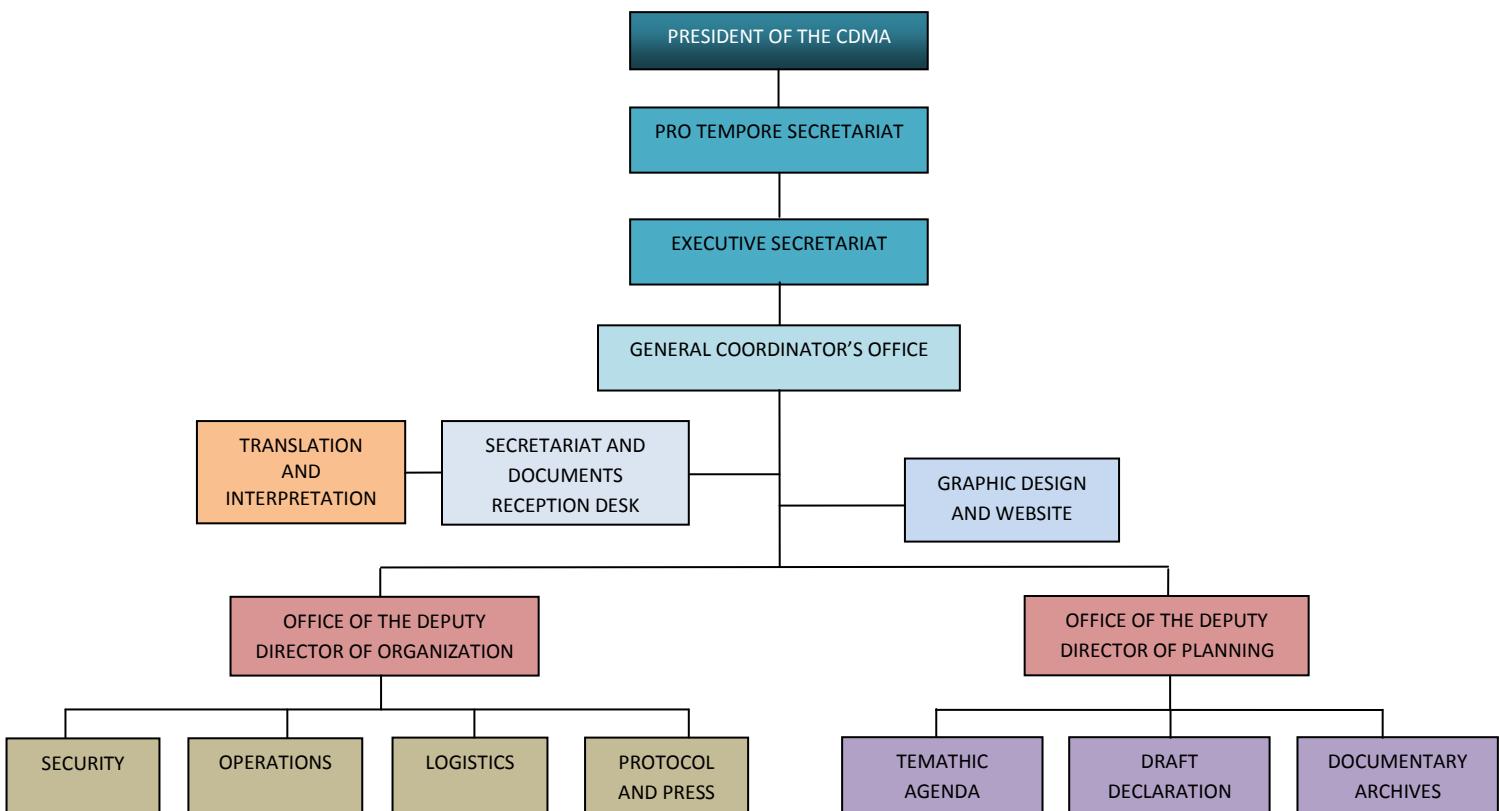
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## 2. PRO TEMPORE SECRETARIAT: ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

As part of the responsibilities assumed by the host country, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Peru established the Pro Tempore Secretariat, in order to organize, plan and coordinate the various activities that would lead to the realization of XI CDMA, pursuant to the provisions of the Regulations of the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas.

The Defense Minister directed the work of the aforementioned Pro Tempore Secretariat and coordinated its realization through the Executive Secretariat and the General Coordinator's Office, covering all work areas, according to the following structure:





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### 3. PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

#### 3.1 Declaration of the XI CDMA as an Activity of National Interest

With Supreme Decree No. 001-2014-DE of January 31, 2014, the Supreme Government of Peru declares as National Interest the realization of the Preparatory Meeting and the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, as well as related activities and events that derive from them.

This statement by the Peruvian government formalized the importance that had to be granted to this important event, which led to the different sectors of government and private system converge in their efforts to the success of the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas.

#### 3.2 Workshop on the Information Exchange Mechanism for Natural Disasters (MICADEN)

During the X CDMA held in October 2012 in Punta del Este - Uruguay, Chile presented a Cooperation Mechanism for Natural Disasters, which was based on international cooperation and humanitarian assistance in case of emergencies, disasters and catastrophes. This mechanism involves integrating, participating and contributing, with certain capacities, from the structure of the defense or security forces of contributing countries to be made available at the request of the concerned countries. To make it effective, an information technology tool called Information Exchange Mechanism on Support Capacities for Natural Disaster (MICADEN) was designed; this system was formally delivered to Peru in April 2013.

Upon Peru's taking of the Pro Tempore Presidency of the XI CDMA, it undertook to organize this workshop on the "Information Exchange Mechanism on Support Capacities for Natural Disaster (MICADEN)" held on February 24, 2014, in Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS) William J. Perry, in Washington DC. hosted by Mr. Walter Earle, director for Western Hemisphere Affairs of the Department of Defense of the United States, and Mr. Ken LaPlante, acting director of the CHDS; it was attended by



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thirty-five delegates and officials from member countries of the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CDMA).

During the event, the following presentations, *inter alia*, were made: "The Administration of Aid after Natural Disasters," a lecture by the delegation of Chile titled "The MICADEN Concept: How to complement the existing international humanitarian system?" and a table exercise on "the responsiveness of countries to natural disasters." Lieutenant General (r) of the US Army Ken Keen was also a guest speaker, who spoke about "The experience in Haiti after the earthquake."

### **3.3 Preparation Process of the Declaration of Arequipa**

In order to prepare the thematic agenda for the XI Conference and gather input for the declaration, the Pro Tempore Secretariat consulted Member States on issues of interest or those that are considered appropriate to include. From these contributions, taking into consideration the historical agenda of the CDMA, reflected in the Statements of previous Conferences, and the Thematic proposed, a first draft of the Declaration of Arequipa was prepared.

The presentation of this draft document was included in the plenary session of the Preparatory Meeting, held in Lima from March 06 to 7, 2014, in order to collect the various contributions of the participating delegations. In that event, it was decided to consolidate contributions and submit the document to all delegations to continue enriching and adjusting it before the final conference.

With a Circular Letter, this new draft Declaration of Arequipa was first submitted via email to the delegations of all Member States, requesting that it should be returned within one month with any comments and contributions that deemed necessary for the enrichment of the document. This work mechanic was repeated three more times before the Conference.

Several delegations made important contributions, which in some cases were supported with explanations, all of which allowed to gradually preparing a text that, at first, gathered the shared interest to make this XI CDMA to aim at highlighting the cooperative dimension on security and defense matters in the Hemisphere.



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On the day of the Conference of Ministers, it was scheduled from the beginning, the work on the draft Declaration of Arequipa, designating an exclusive room with capacity for representatives from each delegation, simultaneous translation booths and a technical table.

The work of the representatives of each country, assigned to be part of the Declaration Commission, was hard throughout the Conference, doubling their efforts in the last phase since it was a period where the insertion of the conclusions of the Working Committees of each of the 5 thematic axes were discussed.

Finally, the text agreed in the Declaration Committee was presented to the plenary session of the Conference of Defense Ministers, which adopted the Declaration of Arequipa in its final act.



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#### 4. PREPARATORY MEETING

As part of the program established by the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the XI CDMA, the Preparatory Meeting of the CDMA XI was held in Lima on March 6 and 7. It was attended by Deputy Ministers of Defense and equivalents, as well as official delegates from 32 countries of the Americas. During this meeting, the Thematic Agenda, the draft Declaration of Arequipa and the nomination of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to host the XII Conference of Defense Ministers 2014 were approved by consensus.

*This preparatory meeting had the following objectives*

- Approval of Thematic Agenda (5 Thematic Axes);
- Appointment of Working Committees (moderators, rapporteurs and co-rapporteurs) for each approved Thematic Axes;
- Presentation of the draft Declaration of Arequipa;
- Approval of the list of observers to participate in the XI Conference;
- Presentation of candidacies to host the XII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas;
- Presentation of Administrative Instructions and Methodological Guide for the XI Conference.

##### 4.1. Program of Activities

The program prepared during the Preparatory Meeting of the XI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas was successfully executed according to the following details:

##### **March 5:**

1500 – 2000	Arrival to the airport and transfer of delegations, registration and delivery of identification credentials.
2000 – 2200	Reception cocktail and cultural event.



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#### **March 6:**

0800 – 0830	Registration and accreditation of Delegations.
0830 – 1045	Opening Session of the Work Meeting. Welcoming Remarks by the Vice Minister for Defense Policy. Considerations of the Agenda of the Preparatory Meeting. Official Picture.
1045 – 1115	Coffee Break.
1115 – 1300	First Session. Approval of the Thematic Agenda of the XI CDMA.
1300 – 1430	Lunch.
1430 – 1645	Second Session: Appointment of Rapporteurs, Co-rapporteurs and moderator. Proposal for the update of the Regulations of the CDMA. Presentation of the Draft Declaration of Arequipa.
1715 – 1830	Presentation of Administrative Instructions of the XI CDMA.
2000 – 2300	Dinner for the Heads of Delegations and Delegates.
2300	Move of Delegations to hotel.

#### **March 7:**

0830 – 1030	Third Session: Proposal on Observers to be invited to the XI CDMA. Candidacy for Host Country of the XII CDMA.
1030 – 1100	Coffee Break.
1100 – 1300	Approval of the Minute of the Preparatory Meeting. Closing Ceremony.
1300 – 1430	Buffet lunch and end of the Preparatory Meeting.



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#### 4.2. Approved Thematic Axes

Work sessions conducted as part of the abovementioned agenda, resulted, among others, on the approval of the following thematic axes:

- a) Coordination of Specialized Conferences of Hemispheric Armed Services with the CDMA.

Objectives:

- To evaluate the existing integration level among Hemispheric Military Conferences (CEA, CNI, SICOFAA) and the CDMA.
- To identify existing communication channels among the conferences and the CDMA.
- To analyze and evaluate the effective relation level among the Conferences.
- To study measures to strengthen existing channels and propose new instruments for the exchange of experience and lessons learned among the Conferences.

Delegations took into consideration the importance to conduct coordination, as well as interoperability and strengthening of communications channels between the Conferences and the CDMA.

Even during this discussion, it was agreed that this cooperation will contribute to strengthening the Institutions and their capacities,

On the latter, this theme was approved by consensus.

During the discussion on this theme, some concern was raised by some countries on the role of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) on this issue and the scope of its operations.

The establishment of the working group that will work on detail this theme was as follows:

RAPPORTEUR : Argentina  
CO-RAPPORTEUR : Chile and Brazil  
MODERATOR : Peru



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#### b) Cooperation at the Military Health Level

Objectives:

- To evaluate the existing integration level among military health institutions of the Hemisphere.
- To analyze the possibility of formalizing and strengthening communication channels among military health institutions of the Hemisphere, aiming at providing support to operations of humanitarian assistance in case of disasters

During the discussion, some delegations welcomed the inclusion of this theme in the Agenda of the conference. The following aspects were addressed as topics of great interest a) Production and distribution of medicine within the armed forces, b) Mental health, c) Exchange of experience on best practices in the area of military health, and d) Field Hospitals.

After discussions, this theme was approved by consensus.

The establishment of the working group that will work on detail this theme was as follows:

RAPPORTEUR : Canada  
CO-RAPPORTEUR : Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago  
MODERATOR : United States of America

#### c) Cooperation in Search and Rescue Capacities

Objectives:

- To evaluate the existing level of cooperation in the hemisphere on Search and Rescue issue.
- To analyze the role of the Military Conferences (CEA, IANC, SICOFAA) in combined Search and Rescue operations.
- To evaluate the possibility and feasibility of conducting a study on the possible components and conditions for hemispheric integration of Search and Rescue systems. The starting point could be the



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standardization of terms and concepts used in the Armed Forces, in their various languages.

During the discussion, the need to consider the experience and lessons learned from other multinational organizations operating in other regions was mentioned.

The armed forces will cooperate under the conduction of pertinent authorities of each country and at their request, in cases of rescue during natural disasters.

After discussions, this theme was approved by consensus.

The establishment of the working group that will work on detail this theme was as follows:

RAPPORTEUR : Chile

CO-RAPPORTEUR : Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago

MODERATOR : Dominican Republic

#### d) Environmental Protection and Defense

Objectives:

- To deepen studies on the possible participation of the Armed Forces in the protection of the environment.
- To analyze the feasibility of hemispheric cooperation among Ministries of Defense on environmental issues.

During the discussion, it was agreed that the theme is important and represents a great opportunity for exchange of experience and information on this topic.

After discussions, this theme was approved by consensus.

The establishment of the working group that will work on detail this theme was as follows:

RAPPORTEUR : Peru

CO-RAPPORTEURS : Brazil and Panama

MODERATORS : Trinidad and Tobago



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- e) Exchange of Experience on the Participation and Effectiveness of the Armed Forces in Security Tasks in the Region and the Hemisphere

After the discussion on the themes proposed by the Pro Tempore Secretariat, the proposal by the Delegation of El Salvador, requesting the inclusion of the following theme: “The importance of the participation and effectiveness of the armed forces in security tasks in the region and the hemisphere” was presented. During the discussion, no consensus was reached on the theme. After voting, this proposal did not reach enough votes for its inclusion.

The Delegation of Mexico submitted a proposal to amend the terms of the theme to reflect only the exchange of experience among member states in such operations. After discussion, the theme was put to a vote again and was approved by majority.

The new wording of the topic was presented in the theme header.

The establishment of the working group that will work on detail this theme was as follows:

RAPPORTEURS : Colombia

CO-RAPPORTEURS : Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico

MODERATOR : Paraguay



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#### **4.3. Presentation of the Proposals on Modification of the Regulations of the CDMA**

After discussion on the themes for the Agenda of the Meeting, the Pro Tempore Secretariat presented proposals for certain modifications of the Regulations of the CDMA. It is noted that some countries do not support the proposal on amendment of the CDMA Regulations.

#### **4.4. Presentation on the Final Draft Declaration of the XI CDMA**

The Pro Tempore Secretariat presented a proposal for the text of the Final Declaration of the Conference.

During the discussion, delegations made several suggestions for modifications of the original text, including the need to increase topics related to the theme initially proposed by the Delegation of El Salvador and subsequently amended at the suggestion of the Delegation of Mexico. These suggestions were incorporated into the text and the Pro Tempore Secretariat will continue to receive written contributions by delegations until September, for consolidation.

#### **4.5. Presentation of Administrative Instructions for the XI CDMA**

The Pro Tempore Secretariat presented the administrative instructions for the XI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, highlighting the importance to submit to the Pro Tempore Secretariat accreditation forms and flight itineraries of delegates, at least one week before the Conference, which was fully accepted by the meeting.

#### **4.6. Presentation on Proposals on Observers to be Invited to the XI CDMA**

After receiving contributions by delegations, the proposed list of observers to be invited to the XI CDMA was presented.



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#### **4.7. Candidacies for Host Country of the XII CDMA and the XIII CDMA**

The following countries are proposed to host the next Conferences of Defense Ministers of the Americas:

- XII CMDA: Trinidad and Tobago
- XIII CMDA: Panama

The Delegation of Panama made an altruistic gesture by choosing to deter their candidacy to host the XII CDMA 2016, and applying to host the XIII CDMA in 2018. Similarly, member delegations of the preparatory meeting acknowledge the gesture of the Dominican Republic for withdrawing its candidacy.

#### **4.8. Minute of the Preparatory Meeting**

Attached as Exhibit "A."



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## 5. XI CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS

The XI CDMA was held over the period October 12 and 14, 2014, in Arequipa. It was attended by 35 countries (33 Member States and 2 European countries as observers), represented by delegates, observers, special guests and support staff.

Three activities were conducted during the conference:

- **Plenary Sessions:** Meeting of all Ministers for the opening ceremony, remarks by the Ministers, conclusions of the Thematic Axes, signing of the Declaration of Arequipa and Closing Session.
- **Working Groups:** Thematic Agenda and Draft Declaration of Arequipa by participating delegations.
- **Bilateral meetings** among countries participating in the Conference: 48 bilateral meetings.

### 5.1. Program of Activities

The program of the Conference was executed according to the following details:

#### **October 12:**

0000 – 1500	Arrival at the airport and transfer of delegations, registration and delivery of credentials.
1230 – 1400	Lunch
1430 – 1500	Coordination meeting.
1500 – 1700	Revision of the Draft Declaration of Arequipa
1700 – 1900	Meeting of working committees for Thematic Axes I, II and III.
2000 – 2200	Honor cocktail



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#### **October 13:**

##### Plenary Conference Room

- 0730 – 0830 Registration and accreditation of delegations.  
0830 – 0915 Opening Session.  
0915 – 0930 Official picture.  
0930 – 1300 Presentation of authorities of the Head Table.  
Election of the new host country.  
Invitation to the Minister of the Host Country of the XII CDMA to be part of the Head Table as Deputy Chairman.  
Remarks by the Defense Ministers of the Americas.  
1300 – 1430 Lunch.  
1430 – 1600 Remarks by the Defense Ministers of the Americas (continued).  
1600 – 1700 plenary session:  
Presentation of conclusions and recommendations for Thematic Axis I.  
1700 – 1800 Plenary session:  
Presentation of conclusions and recommendations for Thematic Axis II.  
1800 – 1900 Plenary session:  
Presentation of conclusions and recommendations for Thematic Axis III.  
2100 - 2300 Welcoming Dinner.

##### Thematic Axes room/Draft Declaration

- 0815 – 1930 Ad Hoc Working Group for the Draft declaration of Arequipa.  
1430 – 1700 Meeting of working committee for thematic axis IV and V.  
1700 – 1715 Coffee break.



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#### **October 14:**

##### Plenary Conference room

0830 – 0945	Plenary session: Presentation of conclusions and recommendations for Thematic Axis IV.
0945 – 1100	Plenary session: Presentation of conclusions and recommendations for Thematic Axis V.
1100 – 1115	Coffee break.
1115 – 1300	Plenary session: Declaration of Arequipa.
1300 – 1350	Press Conference.
1400 – 1530	Closing Lunch.
1530 – 1730	Closing Session: Signing of Declaration of Arequipa. Closing Remarks.
1900 – 2030	Dinner

#### **5.2. Event**

Minutes of the Opening Session, Plenary Session of 10/13/14, Plenary Session of 14/10/14 and Closing Session are attached as Exhibit "B."

#### **5.3. Thematic Agenda**

The Minutes of Conclusions and Recommendations of Thematic Axes I, II, III, IV and V are attached as Exhibit "C."

#### **5.4. Declaration of Arequipa**

The Declaration of Arequipa, signed by the Ministers of Defense and Security of the Americas, is attached as Exhibit "D."



## 6. Results and progress made

The XI edition of the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas was marked by precise understandings in areas that may be the basis for progressively building a more effective articulation of the defense sector in the Americas. From this perspective, the Declaration of Arequipa, which was the final product of the event, has served to identify some areas that, with the commitment of all member countries, we should develop in the coming years so that the CDMA be constituted not only as a forum for dialogue and exchange of positions, as it has been so far, but also serve as a framework for our defense institutions to work more closely together, in order to give content and enforce our cooperative security regime.

During the Preparatory Meeting for vice ministers - held in Lima in March 2014 - delegations agreed on the thematic axes of this conference, which largely reflect our perspective of looking for, through concrete activities, the strengthening of cooperation among our countries.

In these lines, it is a very important achievement that the continent's countries have agreed on the need to seek greater coordination among Military Hemispheric Conferences and the CDMA, which was the subject of work of the first thematic axis.

In the Declaration of Arequipa, the way for member countries to work in the design of a scheme to improve interoperability and strengthen communication channels among forums such as the Cooperation System among American Air Forces (SICOFFAA), the Conference of American Armies (CEA), Inter-American Naval Conference (CNI) and the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas has been left open. This process should contribute to a constructive reconfiguration of the hemispheric security and defense system, avoiding duplication of efforts and aiming at achieving the common goals of all nations of the continent.

Another issue where we can find common ground for joint efforts among our nations is the military health system, which was the subject of the second thematic axis. A goal to achieve in the coming years is to set opportunities for cooperation among military health organizations in the hemisphere. From there, we should be able to formalize and strengthen the channels of communication among the medical and military institutions of our nations. The impact of this understanding could



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have very positive effects both in the field of medical science applied to the military field, as well as to combine capabilities that can be very useful in situations such as those generated by natural disasters. From the experience we have on the continent, they are a challenge of great magnitude for the provision of humanitarian aid.

Under this same perspective, we must strengthen our coordination in the field of Search and Rescue. We hope that from this conference we have a clear picture that allows us to improve the link at the hemispheric level systems in this important area.

The linking between the Environment and defense is closer. As recalled by various delegations, various activities affect the ecological balance and pose threats to our nations across borders. Also, countries of the hemisphere are not helpless to the negative effects of climate change that, as seen in other parts of the world, carry a potential risk to the security of our states.

In the XI CDMA, countries of the hemisphere have emphasized the need to develop coordinated actions and the sharing of good environmental practices applicable to the defense sector, including the possible consequences of climate change. It is expected that in the medium term we establish some precise points of convergence to promote greater interaction and participation of our armed forces in protecting the environment.

In the XI CDMA, participating countries expressed constructively their perspective regarding the participation of the armed forces in matters of security, which was the subject of thematic axis five of this conference. In that sense, the Declaration of Arequipa sets as pending task that the Pro Tempore Secretariat facilitate the exchange of lessons learned from countries that have experience in the use of the armed forces in matters related to security (Paragraph 14).

The CDMA has a documentary archive of lessons learned in various fields that support the cooperative security approach for the hemisphere. In that sense, in the Declaration of Arequipa various topics that can serve to crystallize course for greater cooperation, especially in those areas that have to do with the governance of international peace and security were included. One is that of Peacekeeping Operations. Several countries of the continent contribute an increasing number of



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troops in these missions that in the current time, are based on broader mandates and have a multidimensional character. The challenge for our states involved in these missions is to strengthen their capacity to operate in a constantly changing scenario, as highlighted in paragraph 11 of the Declaration of Arequipa.

Other achievements during the XI of the Conference of Ministers include:

- Participation of most Ministers of Defense and Security in the Americas.
- Participation of two European Ministers of Defense (Spain and Portugal) as observers in the XI CDMA.
- Adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Committees of the 5 Thematic Axes.
- Conduction of numerous bilateral and multilateral meetings.
- Formalization of Trinidad and Tobago to host the XII CMDA.