

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

## **THEMATIC AXIS III**

### **Cooperation in Search and Rescue Capabilities**

**Moderator (The Dominican Republic):** Coronel Frank Mauricio Cabrera Rizek

**Rapporteur Relator (Chile):** Navy Captain Víctor Ruiz / Colonel FACH José Valenzuela Figueroa

**Co- Rapporteur (Colombia):** Lieutenant Colonel FAC Rodrigo Ramón Zapata Romero

**Co- Rapporteur (Trinidad and Tobago):** Lieutenant Commander Lorenzo Patrick Charzanpy.

The Working Committee met to discuss the issue on Cooperation in Search and Rescue capabilities, from the document submitted by the Republic of Chile. In this regard and after a comprehensive analysis by the attending delegations, they reached to the following conclusions:

#### **Conclusions:**

1. To congratulate the Republic of Chile for this excellent work, as rapporteur on Cooperation in Search and Rescue Capabilities, as well as the contribution by Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago as co- rapporteurs.
2. Following the work presented and the consensus expressed, it was observed a real interest of nations in strengthening the national and regional systems dedicated to safeguarding the integrity and the lives of people who are at risk due to aerial and maritime accidents and disasters.
3. There are Military Conferences and thier corresponding regulatory framework, which are a mechanism to articulate resources and make significant contributions to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation among the American countries to discuss issues of common interest, one of these issues is cooperation in Search and Rescue, both in the aerial and maritime field.
4. The establishment of a Working Group for Cooperation in Search and Rescue, under the framework of the current international provisions, allow developing an agenda, comprising specific issues and an action plan related to strengthening Regional

Search and Rescue Capabilities that integrates and coordinates the work of the conference.

5. There is a mechanism of positive effect on improving the capacity of Search and Rescue and relevant cooperation mechanisms, through the ratification of international agreements to structure centers dedicated to Search and Rescue operations/National Rescue, established under the framework of Military Conferences, a Regional System
6. The Working Group for Cooperation in Search and Rescue, under the framework of the specialized conferences, will be led by the country chairing the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, supported by two or more volunteering countries, which will include the following topics include: Information exchange on Search and Rescue, planning of actual and/or simulated operational exercises that consider the geographical characteristics and/or interest of each country, Seminars to establish operational mechanisms to optimize the response time and quality of international Search and Rescue aid operations and Aeromedical assistance; Exchange of experiences and lessons learned; education and training of personnel working in Search and Rescue coordination centers; creation of a website that keeps information on points of contact; and preparation and update of an archive of maritime and aerial SAR cases.

### **Recommendations**

1. Strengthening of the role of the Military Conferences (CEA, CNI and CONJEFAMER) and resource coordination mechanisms to improve cooperation on Regional Search and Rescue Capabilities, both in the maritime and aerial field.
2. Establishment of a Working Group for Search and Rescue Cooperation, under the framework of existing international regulations and respecting the rules of each country, which regularly propose the development of an agenda with specific issues and the respective Plan Action that will strengthen Search and Rescue capabilities that integrate and coordinate the work of the Specialized Conferences (CEA, CNI and CONJEFAMER).
3. To suggest to member countries of the XI CMDA, which have not yet made it, to ratify International Agreements that allow structuring operation centers dedicated to Search and Rescue/National Rescue as a way to improve the Search and Rescue / Regional Rescue Capability.
4. To suggest to member countries of XI CMDA to consider the creation of a Working Group for Cooperation in Search and Rescue, under the framework of current

international standards, which will be led by the country holding the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, which would invite two or more volunteering countries.

5. To suggest that the topics to be included in the draft Agenda and proposed corresponding Action Plan of the Working Group to strengthen cooperation on Search and Rescue/Regional Rescue capabilities, take into account the following topics:
  - Information exchange on Search and Rescue;
  - Planning of operational exercises that consider the geographical characteristics and/or interest of each country;
  - Conduction of seminars to establish operational mechanisms to optimize response times and quality of international Search and Rescue aid operations and Aeromedical assistance;
  - Exchange of experience and lessons learned, education and training of personnel working in Search and Rescue coordination centers; creation of a website that keeps information on points of contact; and preparation and update of an archive of maritime and aerial SAR cases.
6. To include the following in the "Declaration of Arequipa of XI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas":
  - a. *"Their interest in adopting measures to strengthen the level of cooperation on Search and Rescue/Regional Rescue capabilities, in accordance with the capabilities of each country, as a way of preserving life, and for humanitarian assistance in case of accidents and disasters that could occur both at sea and in the American territory. "*
  - b. *"Their interest in supporting the role of the Specialized Conferences (CEA, CNI and CONJEFAMER) as mechanisms for integration and coordination of resources to improve the level of cooperation on Search and Rescue / Regional Rescue capabilities."*
  - c. *"Their interest in promoting the establishment of a Working Group for Cooperation in Search and Rescue/Regional Rescue, made under the framework of the Specialized Conferences (CEA, CNI and CONJEFAMER), to integrate and articulate the specific actions to improve Search and Rescue capabilities. "*
  - d. *"Finally it is suggested that the proposed Working Group be defined, integrated and start working within the first half of 2015. To this end, counties are*

*requested to formalize, through the relevant mechanisms their will to be part of the Working Group, within the same period, before the host country of the Pro Tempore Secretariat. "*

NOTE:

Nicaragua expressed its reservation on the recommendation of the creation of the Working Group for Cooperation in the Search and Rescue / Regional Rescue Capabilities, requesting that this be formalized through the relevant mechanisms, whose acceptance will be defined in the highest decision level.

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Moderator (The Dominican Republic)

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Rapporteur Relator (Chile)

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