

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



PEACE

Americas

Bulletin of the Department of Democratic Sustainability and Special Missions – PEACE FUND

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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Reader,

The Western Hemisphere is a hemisphere of peace. From the snow-capped mountains in Canada to the endless pampas in Argentina, the people of the Americas have celebrated peace in every way possible: from the creation of regional organizations to the domestic protection of indigenous peoples; from bilateral non-proliferation pacts to the collective anti-landmines agreements. Of course, the Americas are not free from conflict, dispute, and violence. The region has a history tied to dictatorships, natural disasters, drug cartels, and stark poverty. Despite these challenges, hemispheric peoples have strived to work together as a region, cultivating an environment characterized by peace, prosperity, and harmony.

This is due in part to the pragmatic and potent pacific mechanisms that the inter-American system has developed. As you will read, these peace-based tools cover a wide gamut of concepts, from a joint response to a threat, to an investigative commission, to Confidence-Building Measures. This variety, combined with an in depth understanding of the region, has

generated much success, rendering the region relatively free of overt inter-continental conflict over the past two centuries. These measures, however, are not enough. As the focus of pacific resolution has shifted from the resolution of conflict to the prevention of a future conflict, a culture of peace must be internalized by each citizen of the Americas.

“...peace must not be an ideal, but a reality. It cannot be one possible choice to a solution, but the only choice to a solution.”

This is not an easy task. It requires a range of peace-based education programs, large gains in poverty reduction, sharp movements against discrimination, and much success in conventional arms control. More hemispheric nations must reaffirm their commitment to peace by ratifying existing pacific mechanisms while new peace programs need to take into account the national, regional, and historical specificities of American countries. In order to continue and expand upon the region’s success, peace must not be an ideal, but a reality. It cannot be one possible choice to a solution, but the only choice to a solution.

This bi-monthly publication is meant to inform the readers of the active role that the OAS plays, and has played, in the peace-keeping process. By engaging in a continued dialogue in peace management, the peoples of the Americas can work together to create more dynamic and comprehensive peace-based mechanisms. As our future unfurls with increasing uncertainty, we as a region must construct and maintain a dialogue which searches for a collective solution to our collective challenges.

—José Miguel Insulza



President Taft of the United States with Andrew Carnegie planting the Peace Tree in the “House of the Americas” (OAS Headquarters in Washington, DC) 1910

Introduction

In late November of 1890, representatives from eighteen governments joined together in a move towards the economic, political, and social integration of the Americas. They formed the Commercial Bureau of the American Republics, planting the seeds of a comprehensive inter-American system which would eventually sprout the thriving Organization of American States. With its headquarters in Washington, DC, the Bureau served as permanent secretariat to the newly formed International Union of American Republics, advancing the modern integrative trade policies of Free Trade Agreements and tariff reductions well over a century ago.

The Commercial Bureau of the American Republics represents one of many steps towards regional integration and peace promotion. Coincidentally, these two objectives were not thought to be mutually exclusive. Indeed, leaders in the Americas have demonstrated their credence to the notion that regional prosperity could only be achieved through both peace and integration. In order to realize their vision of a pacific and integrated American future, Hemispheric governments put into effect peace-keeping, peace-building, and conflict-resolving measures which can date back to the early 19th century.

When organizing the historic Congress of Panama, Simon Bolivar espoused his beliefs on the importance of forming an inter-American system following the wave of Latin American independence in the early 19th century:

"It is due time that the interests and relationships that unite the American Republics have a fundamental base that serves to eternalize, if possible, the duration of these governments."

Since 1826, leaders of the Americas have implemented countless peace-based mechanisms, organized hundreds of meetings for pacific resolutions, and have signed innumerable agreements of peaceful accords. The Americas' passion for peace can be seen in the wide variety and pragmatic use of these initiatives: While American nations celebrate the right to Democracy in the Santiago Commitment, they also agree Zones of Peace and Cooperation; as they commit to reciprocity in the Rio Treaty, they also strive for peaceful resolutions in the Pact of Bogotá.

One can find the result of these initiatives by simply comparing maps of Latin America to maps of Europe over the course of the 20th century. Through the World Wars, ethnic separation, and the deterioration of state powers, European

nations witnessed constant territorial shifts, with new borders cutting across old lands, mighty nations enveloping weaker across old lands, mighty nations enveloping weaker powers, and even new countries emerging within old ones. In contrast to Europe, Latin America can be seen as a beacon of stability and solidarity. There has been remarkably sparse border change or overt inter-continental conflict, and this can be partially attributed to the utility and pragmatism of peace-based initiatives under a working inter-American system. The hemispheric body which guides the Americas has evolved, from the Congress of Panama, to the Commercial Bureau of American Republics, to the Pan-American Union, to the Organization of American States, yet its motivation and purpose have remained the same: peace and prosperity in the region. Importantly, these evolutions have matched changing times and the challenges that they bring. For instance, the inter-American system has now strategically incorporated social renewal, the role of civil society, political, social, economic, and cultural security, and sustainable development.

But why is this dynamic integration possible? And furthermore, why is it important? Undoubtedly, the Americas share a rich regional history, a diverse cultural background, and a relatively uniform language. The American nations all fought for their independence from European colonizers, later transitioning into republics and representative democracies. They share common problems and common goals, from the eradication of drug trafficking and poverty to the consolidation of Democracy and civil society. American leaders realized early on that attaining such objectives would require regional support, integration, and concord.

As the Americas move towards an integrated future, they must not only continue with their pacific policies, but also amplify them. Long-term peace programs are a necessary component to the creation of a culture of peace, in which conflicts are prevented before they arise. With such programs, grounded in education, culture, civil society, and government, future generations can internalize peaceable pragmatism and pacific resolutions. Another objective could be the ratification of existing peace-based initiatives. Many of the countries that joined the Organization of American States after its 1948 inception have yet to ratify important confidence-building and peace-keeping mechanisms such as the Pact of Bogotá. Participation in such

measures has immeasurable importance within an organization such as the OAS, where the richest country wields the same amount of power as the poorest country and where the small island nation of Barbados and the massive landmass of Brazil share the same amount of votes.

In a future characterized by uncertainty and new challenges, the OAS' role in cultivating and maintaining peace will become even more essential. The following articles on peace-based instruments will serve as a basis for future issues, where the complex and critical topic of peace in the Americas will be discussed. Only through understanding the history of peace in the inter-American system can we seek to ensure its permanence and ubiquity.

Congress of Panama

Over one hundred and twenty years before the inception of the Organization of American States, Latin American nations demonstrated their commitment to regional unity and peace at the Congress of Panama. Simon Bolivar initiated the meeting, believing in the benefits of a united America in countering both Spanish imperial threats to national sovereignty and various other forces which challenged peace and democracy. In his invitation to the representatives of the major Latin American powers, Bolivar lists the peace-based objectives of the Congress of Panama:

“So that we form a confederation, and meet, in the Isthmus of Panama or another agreed upon location, as an assembly of plenipotentiaries from each state, who should act as a council during periods of great conflicts, to be appealed to in the event of common danger, and to be a faithful interpreter of public treaties when difficulties arise; in brief, to conciliate all our differences.”

At 11:00 AM on June 22nd, 1826, representatives from Grand Colombia, the Federal Republic of Central America, Peru, and Mexico met in the Chapter Room of the Convent of San Francisco in Panama to work towards the first collective manifestation of Pan-Americanism. While Great Britain and the Netherlands sent unofficial representatives, one unfortunate US representative died en route and the other arrived after the congress had ended.

The parties involved agreed to the creation of a league of American republics with a common military, a mutual defense pact, and a supranational Parliamentary Assembly.

“Peace is a never-ending process, the work of many decisions by many people in many countries. It is an attitude, a way of life, a way of solving problems and resolving conflicts. It cannot be forced on the smallest nation or enforced by the largest. It cannot ignore our differences or overlook our common interests. It requires us to work and live together.”

—Oscar Arias

Oscar Arias: Costa Rican President responsible for the Esquipulas II Peace Agreement, which promotes Central American regional unity and conflict resolution through arms control, reconciliation, democratization, and free and fair elections.

The success of the Congress, however, was limited—only Grand Colombia ratified the measures, and they were soon dropped after the nation's subsequent dispersal.

Despite the Congress of Panama's marginal success, the meeting represents the unflagging commitment of Latin American countries and leaders towards integration, peace and democracy. As the President of Grand Colombia wrote, an inter-American system that “cuts from the roots any intent directed at involving Latin American nations in new calamities” is essential to regional peace and prosperity. Indeed, the very act of uniting leaders from several countries who had won their independence within only



Bolivar, the organizer of the historic Congress of Panama, ushered in some of the region's first peace-based tools.

fifteen years is a great feat. It also shows that the resolve to create a working inter-American system aimed at consolidating peace and democracy dates back centuries.

SIGNATORIES OF THE GONDRA TREATY

Argentina
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
United States
Uruguay
Venezuela

Gondra Treaty

After witnessing the violence of World War I, hemispheric nations banded together to cultivate an environment of peace by implementing one of the first inter-American peacekeeping mechanisms. On May 3rd, 1923 at the Fifth International Conference of American States in Santiago, Chile, sixteen American countries ratified the Treaty to Avoid and Prevent Conflict between American States, also known as the Gondra Treaty, from the Paraguayan President (Manuel Gondra). In order to prevent conflict between American States, signatories had a compulsory recourse to an impartial system of investigation and conciliation. It provided an investigatory commission of five representatives from the member states: each disputing party could select two representatives, and a fifth was to be elected by common agreement. The Gondra treaty also established two inquiry commission offices in Washington DC and Montevideo in order to facilitate the investigative process. Finally, while the investigation was underway, states were forced to refrain from military action and preparation.

In 1929, Paraguay called upon the Gondra treaty in order to peaceably settle

dispute with Bolivia over Fort Vanguardia on its border. An investigative commission delved into each country and summarily produced a bilateral agreement in which both countries committed themselves to a pacific resolution.

The Gondra treaty's peacekeeping utility can be seen in its constant strengthening, when American Nations constantly widened the power of the treaty. In 1929, the Inter-American General Convention of Conciliation widened the power of conciliation, followed by a 1933 addition in which permanent bilateral commissions were created (Saavedra Lamas Agreement). The Gondra treaty was eventually superseded by the Pact of Bogotá, which incorporates Gondra's peacekeeping mechanisms.

The Treaty to Avoid and Prevent Conflict between American States represents yet another initiative produced by the hemispheric nations aimed at engendering a regional environment of peace and security. American countries demonstrated both a practical understanding of and undying commitment to peace measures which have served to pacifically settle disputes throughout the Americas.

TRANSITIONS OF THE GONDRA TREATY

Gondra Treaty (1923)	Inter-American General Convention of Conciliation (1929)	Saavedra Lamas Agreement (1933)	Pact of Bogota (1948)
Investigatory Commission; conciliatory offices in Washington DC and Montevideo; non-aggression during commission.	Commissions of Inquiry better defined; adding wide powers of conciliation.	Treaty of Non-Aggression and Conciliation; putting an end to the Chaco war between Paraguay and Bolivia.	To refrain from the threat or the use of force, or from any other means of coercion for the settlement of their controversies, and to have recourse at all times to pacific procedures, including an investigative commission.

Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance Peace, Buenos Aires

Startling global events of inter-state aggressions and hostilities during the 1930s prompted US President Franklin D. Roosevelt to call an extraordinary inter-American Conference. His personal support for and belief in the inter-American system in maintaining regional peace can be seen in his circular letter:

“The moment has now arrived when the American Republics, through their designated representatives seated at a common council table, should seize this altogether favorable opportunity to consider their joint responsibility and their common need of rendering less likely in the future the outbreak of the continuation of hostilities between them, and by doing so, serve in an eminently practical manner the cause of permanent peace on this Western Continent.”

In response to Roosevelt’s request, leaders from the Americas, including Argentine Foreign Minister Saavedra Lamas, met from December 1st till December 23rd of 1936 at the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace, held in Buenos Aires to construct an inter-American peace agenda.

The first important result was the inauguration of a system of consultation through the Convention for the Maintenance, Preservation, and Reestablishment of Peace. In an unprecedented move, American countries agreed that, if peace in an American Republic is menaced, those countries who are signatories to the 1928 Treaty of Paris or 1933 Treaty of Non-Aggression and Conciliation, must consult with other American governments in order to ensure a pacific solution. However, if war were to break out between two American Republics, they must undertake mutual consultations to exchange views and seek peaceful collaboration. Interestingly, the consultation mechanism could also be called upon in the event of international war outside the Americas in order to derive a proper response.

At the inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace an additional protocol of non-intervention was proposed, in which *“no state has the right to intervene in the internal or external affairs of another.”* Reaffirming the principles of the previous convention, if a violation of non-intervention were to occur, American countries would peaceably enact the consultation mechanism.

A third result of the Buenos Aires Conference was the Treaty on the Prevention of Controversies, enacted in 1937. This move represented the development of a preventative system, in which the possible ways in which future controversies and disputes emerged would be analyzed and halted. Furthermore, Article I of the Treaty created permanent bilateral mixed commissions which would study the application of treaties that were in force.

On the same pacific trajectory of conflict resolution, the regional leaders also constructed the Inter-American Treaty on



“The Pan-American Union gathers to discuss mechanisms for guaranteeing regional peace.”

Good Offices and Mediation. Facilitating hemispheric methods to find peace and a solution to controversies, Articles I and II state that signatories *“have recourse to the good offices or mediation of an eminent citizen of any other American country.”* The list of peace-bringing officials with good offices would be made by the Pan-American Union.

In addition to these four pacific tools, a variety of other conventions were approved, including the Pan American Highway, the promotion of inter-American cultural relations, and a Declaration of Principles of Inter-American Solidarity and Cooperation. The Buenos Aires Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace was a prolific and constructive stepping stone in the creation of a working inter-American system. Many of the Conference’s products, such as consultation, good-offices, and preventative diplomacy would become the basis for future peace-based mechanisms such as the OAS Charter and Confidence-Building Measures.

***“Peace is not the product of terror or fear.
Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.
Peace is not the silent result of violent repression.
Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all.
Peace is dynamism.
Peace is generosity.
It is right and it is duty.”***

—Oscar Romero

Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez: Commonly known as Monseñor Romero, was a bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador. A man of deep conviction and bold actions, he is most widely known for his actions of the pursuit of peace and solidarity with the Salvadoran people. Romero was Archbishop of San Salvador beginning in 1977 and ending in 1980 when he was assassinated during Mass on March 24th.

Rio Treaty/TIAR

SIGNED AND RATIFIED RIO TREATY	DATE RATIFIED
Argentina	Jul 19, 1950
Bahamas	Nov 12, 1982
Bolivia	Sep 18, 1950
Brazil	Mar 5, 1948
Chile	Jan 28, 1949
Colombia	Jan 10, 1948
Costa Rica	Nov 20, 1948
Cuba	Dec 4, 1948
Ecuador	Oct 30, 1950
El Salvador	Feb 19, 1948
Guatemala	Mar 18, 1955
Haiti	Oct 30, 1947
Honduras	Jan 15, 1948
Nicaragua	Nov 1, 1948
Panama	Dec 31, 1947
Paraguay	Jul 7, 1948
Peru	Oct 9, 1950
Dominican Republic	Nov 7, 1947
Trinidad and Tobago	Jun 2, 1967
United States	Dec 12, 1947
Uruguay	Sep 7, 1948
Venezuela	Sep 9, 1948

The Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR/Rio Treaty)

In the middle of World War II, countries of the Western Hemisphere met to construct peace-keeping measures in order to build a more secure environment. In 1945, at the Inter-American Conference on the Problems of War and Peace in Mexico City, leaders and representatives from the Americas produced the Act of Chapultepec. After two years of delays and revisions, at the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Continental Peace and Security in Rio de Janeiro, they formalized the act into a powerful and effective peace-keeping mechanism: the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR), also called the Rio Treaty.

Since its inception on September 9th 1947, twenty three cases of inter-American conflict and dispute have employed the TIAR in order to engender a peaceful resolution. The Treaty's central component is that of reciprocal assistance:

“An armed attack by any State against an American State shall be considered as an attack against all the American States and, consequently, each one of the said Contracting Parties undertakes to assist in meeting the attack in the exercise of the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense.” (Article 3)

Signatories must agree by a two-thirds vote before any response can be qualified, and no state is obliged to respond to an attack.

Furthermore, signatories commit to achieving a peaceful resolution through the inter-American system before contracting the UN General Assembly or Security Council.

In the face of the terrorist attacks against the United States in September of 2001, many Latin American nations expressed their solidarity and commitment to peace by reaffirming the importance of the Treaty. In March of 2008, Colombia and Ecuador made reference to the peace-based tenets of the Rio Treaty when coming to a solution for Colombia's bombing of FARC on Ecuador's territory.

In his speech at the Inter-American Peace Forum, Secretary General of the OAS Jose Miguel Insulza compared the borders of Latin America to those of Europe. He noted that over the past century, European state borders have expanded, contracted, or experienced some type of dramatic change. Conversely, Latin American borders have generally remained static due to the precedence of peace. Various instruments, like the Rio Treaty, have contributed to the development of an effective inter-American system in which Member States strive for the peaceful solution to all disputes. With Western Hemispheric nations committing themselves to peace-based measures, an environment of security and harmony is in the making.

“But peace does not rest in the charters and covenants alone. It lies in the hearts and minds of all people. So let us not rest all our hopes on parchment and on paper, let us strive to build peace, a desire for peace, a willingness to work for peace in the hearts and minds of all of our people. I believe that we can. I believe the problems of human destiny are not beyond the reach of human beings.”

—John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)

John F. Kennedy: Thirty-fifth President of the United States who fought for both global and hemispheric peace. In addition to advocating for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, he requested that congress establish the Peace Corps and denounced undemocratic regimes throughout Latin America.

Pact of Bogotá under The American Treaty on Pacific Settlement

On April 30th 1948, twenty-one American nations met in the Colombian capital of Bogotá to affirm their commitment to hemispheric peace. In addition to forming the Organization of American States, the world's oldest regional organization, the Member States constructed a legal instrument which would compel the Americas to settle disputes through diplomacy and peace: the Pact of Bogotá. Due to the tense Cold War atmosphere and the era's perennial security threats, OAS Member States felt the need to design a mechanism that would ensure the settlement of disputes through peaceful means.

Signatories agreed to exactly that:

"...to refrain from the threat or the use of force, or from any other means of coercion for the settlement of their controversies, and to have recourse at all times to pacific procedures." (Article I)

In order to help resolve these disputes, the Pact of Bogotá mandated the establishment of an OAS Arbitral Tribunal which would serve as a skilled mediator in conflict resolution. Furthermore, disputing states could freely choose their method of achieving peace, be it Good Offices and Mediation or Investigation and Conciliation. If a peaceful settlement still could not be achieved, the Pact of Bogotá gives recourse to the International Court of Justice or similar conciliators in the hopes that they will reach a peaceful solution.

Fourteen Member States have ratified the Pact of Bogotá and twenty have signed it. Presently, about only 57% of the OAS Member States are signatories of the Pact of Bogotá. This does not reflect an aversion to or the unpopularity of this peace-keeping measure, but a historical reality: in the Pact's inception, the Caribbean nations and Canada were not part of the OAS. In fact, the Pact of Bogotá has been employed several times

by Member States in order to reach a peaceful settlement: Costa Rica and Nicaragua (1948, 1998); Cuba, Panama, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic (1959); Honduras and Nicaragua (1957).

The Pact's utility is felt even today. Chile and Peru referred to it in their recent dispute over maritime border delimitation while Nicaragua and Colombia mentioned the Pact with regard to their territorial dispute in the Caribbean Sea. Ecuador demonstrated its commitment to peace by ratifying the pact in March of 2008, following the Colombian attack on FARC camped out in the Ecuador-Colombia border zone.

Considering today's ever-present uncertainty and ubiquitous controversies, the 43% of OAS Member States that have not signed the Pact of Bogotá might do so. With their signature, they would reaffirm

"We believe that health transcends political divisions. We believe that not only can it, but many times it has been a key factor in promoting dialogue, in fomenting solidarity and in contributing to peace among people and among nations."

-Sir George Alleyne

Sir George Alleyne: United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean region. Alleyne was made Knight Bachelor by Queen Elizabeth II in 1990, and awarded the Order of the Caribbean Community in 2001. In October 2008 Alleyne received the Science of Peace Award from the Inter American Heart Foundation.

their commitment to hemispheric peace and regional security.

OAS MEMBER STATE	SIGNED	RATIFIED
Argentina	Apr 30, 1948	
Bolivia	Apr 30, 1948	
Brazil	Apr 30, 1948	Nov 9, 1965
Chile	Apr 30, 1948	Aug 21, 1967
Colombia	Apr 30, 1948	Oct 14, 1968
Costa Rica	Apr 30, 1948	Apr 27, 1949
Cuba	Apr 30, 1948	
Dominican Republic	Apr 30, 1948	Aug 4, 1950
Ecuador	Apr 30, 1948	Mar 3, 2008
Guatemala	Apr 30, 1948	
Haiti	Apr 30, 1948	Aug 21, 1950
Honduras	Apr 30, 1948	Jan 13, 1950
Mexico	Apr 30, 1948	Nov 23, 1948
Nicaragua	Apr 30, 1948	Jun 21, 1950
Panama	Apr 30, 1948	Apr 17, 1951
Paraguay	Apr 30, 1948	May 23, 1967
Peru	Apr 30, 1948	Feb 28, 1967
United States	Apr 30, 1948	
Uruguay	Apr 30, 1948	Aug 17, 1955
Venezuela	Apr 30, 1948	



“In Colombia, at the inception of the Organization of the American States, hemispheric nations gather to denounce intervention.”

“A human being has the right to live with dignity, equality and security. There cannot be security without real peace, and peace must be built on the firm foundation of human rights.”

—Sérgio Vieira de Mello (1948-2003)

Sérgio Vieira de Mello: A Brazilian United Nations (UN) diplomat.

The Santiago Commitment to Democracy and the Renewal of the Inter-American System

In 1991, OAS Member States boldly advanced the notion of hemispheric Peace with the Santiago Commitment to Democracy and the Renewal of the Inter-American System. Moving away from non-intervention towards a more proactive approach to peacekeeping and peacebuilding, the Santiago Commitment, also known as Resolution 1080 of the OAS General Assembly, demonstrates the profound import that American nations give to representative democracy:

“To instruct the Secretary General to call for the immediate convocation of a meeting of the Permanent Council in the event of any occurrences giving rise to the sudden or irregular interruption of the democratic political institutional process or of the legitimate exercise of power by the democratically elected government in any of the Organization’s member states, in order, within the framework of the Charter, to examine the situation, decide on and convene and ad hoc meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, or a special session of the General Assembly, all of which must take place within a ten-day period.”

This unwavering commitment to Democracy was long in the making.

The wave of military dictatorships that overthrew democratically elected regimes in Latin America transitioned back to democracy in the late 1980s. In order to maintain this democratic shift, American nations approved the Protocol Amendment to the OAS Charter in Colombia, which claims “Representative Democracy is an indispensable condition for stability, peace, and development in the region.” In May 1991, at the Fifth Meeting of the Presidential Council of the Andean Group, five Latin American countries suggested amending the OAS Charter to call for a more active response to threats to Democracy by suspending diplomatic relations with a state that violates its constitutional system.

The Santiago Commitment to Democracy shows the OAS’ comprehensive approach to hemispheric security and peaceful resolutions. Recognizing that threats to security do not emerge only from foreign nations, the OAS moved to actively support the development and sustainability of peace through the promotion of internal representative democracies. Wielding the tools of Resolution 1080, the Pact of Bogotá, and the Rio Treaty, to name a few, American States are progressing towards the pacific settlement of disputes and greater regional security.

RESOLUTION 1080

Country	Year	Explanation
Haiti	1991	Haitian military forces ousted democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.
Peru	1992	President Alberto Fujimori illegally closed the Peruvian National Congress.
Guatemala	1993	President Jorge Serrano suspended constitutional guarantees in a self-coup.
Paraguay	1996	Army Commander General Lino Oviedo’s unwillingness to resign at President Juan Carlos Wasmosy’s request precipitated a constitutional crisis that threatened to interrupt Paraguay’s fragile democratic transition.

Confidence-Building Measures

With the end of the Cold War, Latin America saw the rise of new types of challenges, emerging from the effects of globalization and the decay of a world order based on West-East tension. The creation of a new hemispheric agenda became a necessary task in order to respond to new threats, tame old ones, and construct a culture of peace in the region. This agenda would be grounded in mechanisms that not only peaceably resolve conflicts, but prevent them before they happen: confidence-building measures (CBMs).

While CBMs come in a variety of forms, their central purpose remains the same: to reduce the risk of tension and armed conflict, simultaneously encouraging national, bilateral, and multilateral cooperation and transparency, especially in the defense and arms sectors. Such measures can include two countries sharing figures of defense spending to a regional dissemination of information on troop size, formation and movement. CBMs also include spreading peace-based knowledge, resources, and skills to academic and pedagogical institutions in the form of conferences, studies, and workshops. Furthermore, confidence-building measures play an especially important role in border zones, where conflict and tension is more likely to erupt. Pacific prevention, through an adjacency zone, a meeting between two border-zone nation's defense ministers, or a bi-national soccer game, can serve to reduce tension and halt the escalation of a potential conflict.

Importantly, CBMs need to take into account geographic, political, social, cultural, and economic conditions in order to be successfully constructed and implemented. They also must respect the sovereignty of a nation, take into account historical trends, and be systematized and institutionalized.

Some examples of bilateral success include the nuclear cooperation between Argentina and Brazil and defense spending

“My wish is that a conscious sense of peace and a feeling of human solidarity would develop in all the people, which could open new relationships of respect and equality for the next millennium, ruled by fraternity and not by cruel conflicts.”

–Rigoberta Menchu

Rigoberta Menchu: Indigenous Guatemalan Peasant Activist who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992. Through her instrumental participation in various movements, such as the Committee of the Peasant Union and the United Representation of the Guatemalan Opposition, she brought awareness to the Guatemala's peasants' plights in addition to educating countless rural indigenous in order to resist oppression and marginalization.

awareness between Argentina and Chile.

Multilateral success in the form of commitments and treaties can be found in the OAS' 1995 Declaration of Santiago and 1998 Declaration of San Salvador. In both ground-breaking accords, Member States committed themselves to promoting a culture of peace by agreeing to a wide gamut of CBMs, from previous notification of military exercises to peace-based border zone activities. Subsequently, in the Declaration of Miami of 2003, member countries agreed on military and general measures, which include a program of notification to joint military exercises, participation in arms monitoring and disposal, the exchange of various types of military-related information, the establishment of confidence-building measures in border zones, and the intensification of cooperation within the OAS framework to combat terrorism, drug trafficking, arms distribution, and piracy.

With crucial advances in regional integration and peace-based mechanisms like CBMs, the Americas are progressing to times characterized by a lack of conflict and controversy and where regional peace has become the norm.

DECLARATION OF SANTIAGO (1995)	DECLARATION OF SAN SALVADOR (1998)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Previous notification of military exercise ▶ Participation in the UN's Registry of Conventional Arms ▶ Interchange on defense policies and doctrine ▶ Military interchange (visits to facilities) ▶ Educational Programs for Peace ▶ Military and Civilian interchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stimulation of contacts and cooperation among legislators on confidence-building measures and peace-related topics ▶ Extension to diplomatic, military, seminary, university, and other schools of courses and studies on confidence-building measures, security and disarmament ▶ Promotion of peace-based border-zone activities

Publications

- ❖ *The Organization of American States: Peace, Democracy, and Conflict Resolution*. A summary of the efforts of the OAS in the construction of peace and conflict resolution in the Member States.
- ❖ *The Organization of American States: A Commitment to Peace*. An educational book for children about the work advanced by the OAS.
- ❖ *Annual Report of the Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes*.
- ❖ *The Bogota Pact*. Pocket Book Version.
- ❖ *2008 Activities Bulletin of the Office of the General Secretariat in the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala*.
- ❖ *Peace Initiatives in the Americas*. A list of Treaties, Conventions, Resolutions, and other important peace related documents.

Seminars in 2009

- ❖ Indigenous Populations and Peace-building Experiences.
- ❖ Democratization of Knowledge as an Inspiration for a Culture of Peace.
- ❖ Development as an Essential Ingredient for Peace.
- ❖ Social Inclusion and Democratic Governance.
- ❖ Inter-American Peace Forum (Annual Ceremony).

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PEACE *Americas*

In our next edition, highlights include the current work of *the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia; the OAS Mission of Good Offices in Ecuador and Colombia; the OAS Mission of Good Offices to Bolivia; the Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes; the Inter-American Peace Forum*; among others.



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