The OAS gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions that the following donors have made to the OAS Peace Fund: China, Germany, Holy See, Korea, Mexico, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States.
1826 Congress of Panama
Simon Bolívar’s meeting of the American States with the aim of forming a mutual military, defense pact, and Parliamentary Assembly to resist Spanish threats to state sovereignty and encourage inter-American solidarity.

1889-1890 First International Conference of American States
Considered the beginning of the inter-American system; American states met in Washington DC to discuss arbitration, war prevention, and trade agreements.

1902 Treaty of Compulsory Arbitration
American nations committed themselves to submit to diplomatic and peace-oriented arbitration to solve disputes.

1923 Gondra Treaty
Provides signatories with recourse to investigatory and conciliatory measures to resolve a controversy.

1937 Inter-American Treaty on Good Offices and Mediation
Parties can turn to the good offices or the mediation of an eminent citizen of one of the American countries, who will be selected from a list which is composed of eminent citizens that American countries have elected.

1945 Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace (Act of Chapultepec)
The United States and Latin American nations met in Mexico City to strengthen hemispheric cooperation in the face of World War II, recommending the construction of a regional body which could deal with matters relating to peace and security.

1947 Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Continental Peace and Security (Rio Treaty or TIAR)
In Rio de Janeiro, countries of the Hemisphere formulated and approved the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance. Signatories demonstrated reciprocal assistance in that an attack by a state on an American state is considered an attack on all American states, resulting in collective self-defense.

2001 Inter-American Democratic Charter
Provides peoples of the Americas the right to Democracy, and their governments’ obligation to promoting and defending it. It further claims Democracy as essential for the social, political, and economic development for the peoples of the Americas.

2002 Declaration of South America as Zone of Peace and Cooperation
South American countries agreed to ban the use or threat of force among themselves, maintaining the principles of the OAS and UN charters. Participating states are also urged to combat the dissemination and selling of small arms and light weapons throughout South America.

2002 Andean Charter for Peace and Security
The Member States of the Andean Community reaffirm their commitment to the adoption of joint measures aimed at promoting a culture of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes; confidence-building; arms control; and the development of new regional security concepts.

2002 The Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism (AG/Resolution 1840(XXXII-0/02)
The Convention was adopted by the OAS General Assembly on June 3, 2002 in the immediate aftermath of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and commits state parties to take certain measures to prevent, combat, and eradicate the financing of terrorism and to deny safe haven to suspected terrorists. The Convention provides for enhanced cooperation in a number of areas, including exchanges of information, border control measures, and law enforcement actions.

2008 Inter-American Peace Forum
Fosters a continuous, open, and wide-ranging dialogue on the importance of promoting universal values and social practices related to ideas of solidarity, friendship, and mutual understanding to achieve a pacific and democratic coexistence within and among the OAS Member States.

2008 III Forum on Confidence and Security Building Measures
These Forums originated in the First Summit of the Americas in 1994, when it was agreed to hold what turned out to be the “First Regional Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures” (Santiago, Chile, 1995). In April 2008, the OAS hosted the III Forum on Confidence and Security Building Measures to review, evaluate and analyze the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in the region.

2008 VIII Conference of Ministers of Defense
Conferences of Ministers of Defense of the Americas trace their origins to the Summits of the Americas. During the First Summit of the Americas, held in Miami in 1994, the need emerged to organize and connect Defense Ministries to press for further economic and international security. A mandate from that Summit of the Americas led to the first Conference held in Williamsburg, Virginia. In all the subsequent Summits of the Americas (Santiago, Quebec, and Mar del Plata) Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the value of discussing international security and defense themes. The VIII Conference of Ministers of Defense took place in Banff, Canada in September 2008.

2008 First Conference of Ministers of Public Security
In October 2008, the OAS convened the First Meeting of Ministers responsible for Public Security in Mexico with crime and violence as its main theme. The meeting took place in follow-up to the Declaration on Security in the Americas of 2003.”
1929

General Treaty of Inter-American Arbitration

Commits American nations to arbitration when a complaint arises with regard to an interpretation of a treaty, any point of international law, and the existence of a fact that if proved would constitute a violation of an international obligation, or the redress that breaks with an international obligation.

1936

Convention for Maintenance, Preservation, and Reestablishment of Peace

American states will ban together in the search for a peaceful solution or response, when one American state is menaced by an exterior threat. In the event of war between American nations, those American states must immediately undertake mutual consultations to achieve a peaceful resolution.

1937

Treaty on The Prevention of Controversies

Parties must create Permanent Mixed Bilateral Commissions which study and propose (with an end towards the elimination of) the causes of difficulties and future controversies in order to develop peaceful relations in the region.

1936

1937

1948

1998

1998

1999

2000

2003

2003

2003

2003

1929 - 1948

Declaration of San Salvador on Confidence-and Security-Building Measures

Adds additional measures to the Declaration of Santiago, promoting the role of legislators in confidence-building measures, extending the role of diplomatic training institutes, military and academic academies in the creation of peace-based coursework and conferences; promoting a culture of peace in border regions; and many other transparency- and confidence-building measures.

AG/RES. 1604 (XXVIII-O/98)

Program of Education for Peace in the Hemisphere

Convened a meeting for experts, including UNESCO and other important institutions, to design a draft Program for Education for Peace in the Hemisphere.

Political Declaration of MERCOSUR, Bolivia, and Chile as a Zone of Peace

Declares MERCOSUR countries, Chile, and Bolivia as a zone of peace, free from weapons of mass destruction. Signatories also commit to claiming peace as indispen-sable to the continuation and developing of MERCOSUR integration.

AG/RES 1756 (XXX-0/00)

Fund for Peace: the Pacific Settlement of Territorial Disputes

The creation of the Fund for the Peace: The Pacific Settlement of Territorial Disputes. Both a financing mechanism to resolve disputes and a tool in which disputing parties can receive recourse to direct negotiation, good offices, mediation, investigation and conciliation, judicial settlement, and arbitration.

Declaration of Miami on Confidence-and Security-Building Measures

Sets forth both military and general measures in order to encourage an environment of and recourse to peace in the Americas. Some of these measures 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.

Declaration of Kingston on Security of Small Island States

Governments signed the Declaration of Kingston on Security of Small Island States and Security Management model for Small Island States and Confidence and Security Building Measures to enhance the security of Small Island States.

Recognition of the South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation

OAS recognition of and emphasis on the benefits from the Declaration of South America as Zone of Peace and Cooperation. Member States are also encouraged to conduct seminars, courses, and studies on the maintenance of the Zone of Peace.

Declaration of Bogotá

With the inception of the OAS, Member States commit to refrain fom 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.

The Ninth International Conference of American States

Hemispheric nations met in Bogota, Colombia to create the OAS and its founding Charter, which has its main purpose to achieve an order of peace and justice, promote solidarity, strengthen collaboration, and defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of its member states.

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1826 – 1948
1948 Organization of American States Founding Charter
Member States, in order to develop peaceful relations among one another, do not have the right to intervene into the internal or external affairs of another state, militarily, politically, economically, and culturally. Any situation that might endanger the peace of an American State, be it a direct attack or an act of aggression will be considered a direct or indirect threat to the peace of all American States.

1948 American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man
American nations committed themselves to guarantee and respect the inherent rights of their citizens. The Declaration covers a wide gamut of economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to: life, liberty, and personal security; equality before the law; religious freedom; and to vote and participate in government.

1950 Declaration of San José, Costa Rica
Strengthening of continental solidarity and the inter-American system through a condemnation of intervention or the threat of intervention by an extra continental power.

1967 Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean or “Treaty of Tlatelolco”
The nations of Latin America and the Caribbean drafted this treaty to keep their region of the world free of nuclear weapons.

1969 American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José)
Parties must uphold individual civil and political rights in order to consolidate a system of personal liberty and social justice base on respect for the essential rights of man.

1970 Protocol of Buenos Aires
Amended the OAS charter, stating that the Permanent Council is to keep vigilance over the maintenance of friendly relations among the Member States and effectively assist them in the peaceful settlement of their disputes.

1971 AG/RES. 54 (I-0/71) Strengthening of the Inter-American System for the Maintenance of Peace
Charged the inter-American Juridical Committee to study the treaties and conventions which make up the inter-American system of peace in order to evaluate the implementation of and benefits from peaceful procedures.

1982 AG/RES. 589 (XII-0/82) Declaration of 1986 as the Inter-American Year of Peace
This resolution was adopted at the eighth plenary session of the General Assembly, held on November 20, 1982.

1983 Declaration of Cancun on Peace in Central America
Signatories agree to construct a culture of peace by: not resorting to force or coercion against the territorial integrity or political independence of a state, committing themselves to the peaceful settlement of disputes, to non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, to cooperation among States to settle international conflicts, and to the self-determination of peoples and the juridical equality of States.

1985 Protocol of Cartagena de Indias
Provides that any party to a dispute in which one of the peaceful procedures provided for in the Charter is underway may resort to the Permanent Council to obtain its good offices; does not require the consent of both parties in order for the Permanent Council to examine the situation. Also, the Secretary General of the OAS could now bring to the attention of the General Assembly or the Permanent Council any matter that in his opinion might threaten the peace and security of the Hemisphere.

1991 Santiago Commitment to Democracy and the Renewal of the Inter-American System/Resolution 1080
Instructed the OAS to adopt efficacious, timely, and expeditious procedures to ensure the promotion and defense of representative democracy; the Secretary General can call an immediate convocation of the meeting of the Permanent Council or a Special Session of the General Assembly to respond to a threat to representative democracy.

1992 AG/RES. 1179 (XXII-O/92) Cooperation for Security and Development in the Hemisphere-Regional Contributions to Global Security
Recognizes the opportunity and need for increased dialogue in security matters and reaffirms that the peaceful settlement of disputes is a central tenet to both the OAS charter and international law. The resolution urges Member States to accept as a guiding principle regional disarmament and security/stability enhancement. Various measures are urged to implement the resolution, from maintaining a minimal military to restricting foreign nationals from using domestic territory to destabilize governments or violate the rule of law.

OAS Member State governments agreed to utilize confidence- and security-building measures, such as: advance notice of military operations; exchanging information on defense-related policies; considering a consulting process which would limit conventional weapons; cooperative programs for natural disasters; general civilian and military interchange to promote an environment of trust.

1997 The Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials (CIFTA)
On 14 November 1997 the OAS took a significant step toward reining in the illegal trade of small arms and light weapons by adopting CIFTA - the first legally binding regional agreement on illicit firearms trafficking. The Convention raises regional standards for firearms export controls. By creating a mechanism for exchanging information, cooperating on investigations, and ensuring that law enforcement personnel are adequately trained it also increases the regional capacity to identify, investigate and prosecute illicit firearms manufacturers and traffickers.