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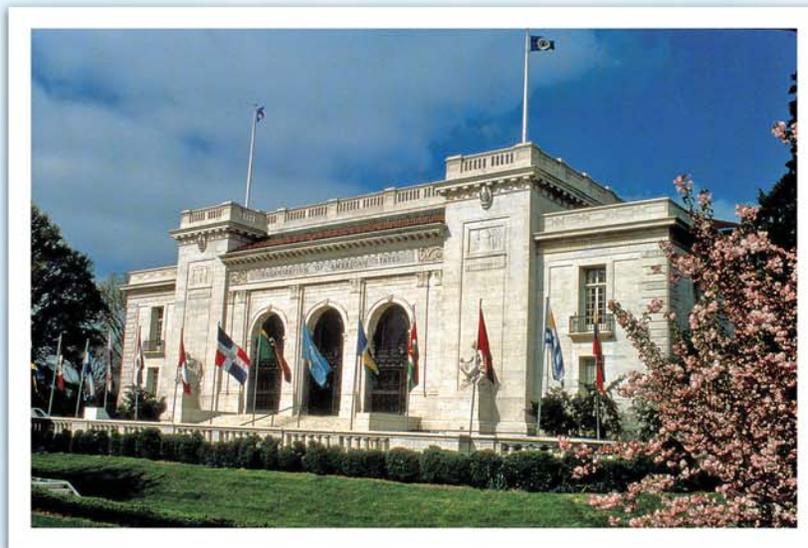
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

PEACE FUND



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# *A History of Peace Initiatives in the Americas*



1826

**Congress of Panama**

Simon Bolivar'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.

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.

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

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."

1998

**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.

1998

**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 of Education for Peace in the Hemisphere.

1999

**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 indispensable to the continuation and developing of MERCOSUR integration.

2000

**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.

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 to American nations, those American states must immediately undertake mutual consultations to achieve a pacific 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.

2003

**AG/RES. 1969 (XXXIII-0/03)**

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.

2003

**Declaration on Security in the Americas**

The Hemisphere's Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other high-level delegates from the 34 member countries of the OAS adopted this wide-ranging document that affirms shared values and outlines commitments and measures for cooperative action in maintaining peace and security. The Declaration also addresses new types of security threats, concerns, and challenges, such as natural disasters and pandemics, as cross-cutting problems that require close cooperation between governments, as well as with the private sector, and civil society.

2003

**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.

2003

**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.

1948

**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.

1948

**Pact of Bogotá**

With the inception of the OAS, Member States commit 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.

# 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.

# 1960

## 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 pacific 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.

# 1995

## OEA/Ser.K/XXIX.2 Declaration of Santiago on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures

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.