



## GCST WORKING GROUP REGIONAL SECURITY FROM ABOVE AND BELOW

### THE CASE OF THE AMERICAS Buenos Aires – August 16th 2010



#### Introduction



**Objective.** To look into the institutional and political framework of security in the Hemisphere, and the dynamics of different forces in place: the Hemispheric along with the regions, the institutions along with political agreements, and the State along with civil society



#### Work flow

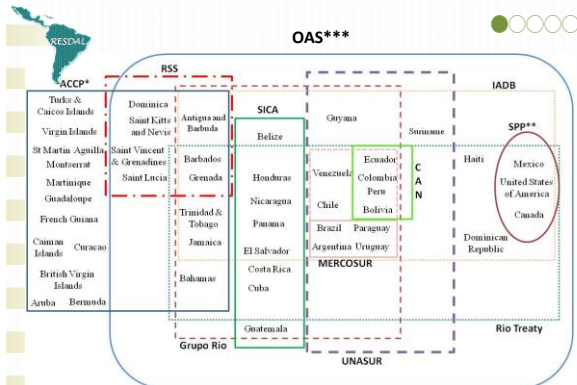
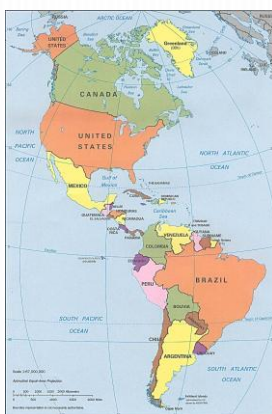
- Introduction
- Regional Security Institutions and Mechanisms
- The Subregions: Institutions and Agreements
- Civil Society interacting with Regional Institutions
- Trans-border Interactions and Impacts: Some Examples



The Americas can be divided into four regions:

- North America (Canada and the US),
- Central America (Mexico and Central American countries)
- The Caribbean,
- The Southern Cone.

The coexistence of very different political agendas has marked the life of hemispheric institutions, and its potential for development



\*Due to distribution problems, Suriname, Belize and Guyana must be added to the members of ACCP  
 \*\* Mexico is also a member of Grupo Rio.  
 \*\*\* Due to distribution problems, CEFAC cannot be shown within OAS' orbit. CAFAC is formed by Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic



## Regional Security Institutions and Mechanisms



- The American system is two-dimensional and complex

The Inter American system born after the Second World War has three basic components:

- The OAS.
- The Inter-American Defense Board (IADB).
- The Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty)



## The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American System.



### Evolution

- First International American Conference (1889-1890)
- Ninth International American Conference (1948)
  - Charter of the Organization of American States
  - American Treaty on Pacific Settlement (Pact of Bogotá)
  - American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Manhood
- Protocol of Amendment to the Charter of the Organization of American 1967

### General Concepts

- The multidimensionality of security
- Confidence Building and Pacific Settlement of Disputes
- The Constitutional subordination of all the institutions of the State to the legally constituted civil authority and the respect for the rule of law



The main defense actors within the structure of the OAS are:

- The Committee on Hemispheric Security. (1992)
- The Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (2005)
  - The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
  - The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)
  - The Department of Public Security



## The Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas (CDMA)



This Hemispheric Conference was born in 1995 as a result of the Miami Summit

### Williamsburg Principles

- The strong linkage between democracy and security.
- The role of the armed forces as a fundamental piece in the defense of the State's interests.
- The subordination of the armed forces to civilian, democratic control.
- The needs for confidence building, including transparency and exchange of information between countries.
- The promotion of further cooperation in peace keeping operations



The CDMA held in Santiago, 2002, declared the concept of **"flexible architecture"** as a way to get out of an unsolved problem: how to build confidence building and new defense institutions with the old structures in the Inter-American system



## The Conference of Ministers of Public Security in the Americas (MISPA)



Mexico 2008 and Santo Domingo 2009

### Concerns:

- Public security management
- The prevention of crime and violence
- Police management
- Citizen and community participation.

The "Commitment to Public Security in the Americas" recognizes not only that "violence and crime negatively affect the social, economic, and political development of our societies" but also the "importance of international cooperation for improving economic and social conditions and thereby strengthening public security



## The Subregions: Institutions and Agreements



### UNASUR and the South American Defense Council

The *Union de las Naciones de América del Sur (UNASUR)* was created in 2008. The Treaty of UNASUR contemplates the integration of 12 South American countries in several areas and policies, including among them security and defense issues.

In December 2008, and after a strong Brazilian initiative, the South American Defense Council (SDC) was created



The South American Defense Council has the following general objectives:

- Consolidating South America as a zone of peace, a base for democratic stability and the integral development of our peoples and a contribution to world peace.
- Creating a South American identity in defense issues.
- Generating consensus in order to strengthen regional cooperation for defense issues.

The Council has declared several specific objectives:

- To advance in the analysis and discussion of shared components for a joint defense outlook.
- To promote the exchange of information and analysis on regional and international issues in order to identify risk factors and threats.
- To contribute to the articulation of joint positions in the region for multilateral defense forums.
- To strengthen the adoption of confidence building measures.
- To promote interchange and cooperation in the defense industry arena.
- To promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the defense arena.



### MERCOSUR and the meeting of Ministers of Internal Affairs



The Meeting of Interior Ministers of MERCOSUR (RMI) held its first meeting in the city of Asuncion on May 30th, 1997

Plan for Cooperation and Reciprocal Assistance in Regional Security (1998) created within the Mercosur framework

Specialized working groups are varied:

- The Technical Committee
- The Specialized Forum on Migration
- The Police Training and Coordination Center of the MERCOSUR
- The Panel on Illicit Nuclear Material
- The Delictual Working Group
- The Working Group on Terrorism
- The Working Group on Informatics and Communications



### Andean Community

The Andean Community of Nations (CAN) is a group formed by Bolivia, Colombia Ecuador and Peru that detached from what was the ancient Andean society. Basically, they are looking to achieve faster development, more balanced and independent, by the Andean integration, South American and Latin American

Programs on security and peace:

- Democracy and Human Rights
- Judicial and Police Cooperation
- Drug Enforcement and Security and Andean Zone of Peace.

The CAN signed the "Lima Commitment: Andean Charter for Peace and Security, limitation and control of expenditure for external defense," emanated from the meeting of the Andean Council of Ministers with Foreign Ministers of Defense of the Andean Community, held in Lima (June 2002).



### The Conference of Central American Armed Forces (CFAC)



CFAC was created in 1997 by Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, with the incorporation of the Dominican Republic in 2007

CFAC has been working on issues like:

- The consideration of emerging threats to the region
- Humanitarian support
- Peacekeeping operations.

It has also promoted a set of confidence-building measures (regional military integration, the creation of a peacekeeping unit and the development of combined trainings and exercises)

CFAC also developed a plan for prevention and combat of terrorism and organized crime having a strong component of training and coordinated actions.



### SICA and the Commission of Police Chiefs of Central America, Mexico and Caribbean

The Central American Integration System (SICA) was born on December 13, 1991, in the framework of the XI Summit of Central American Presidents, held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where it was signed the Protocol of Tegucigalpa.

The Commission and the Presidents' Meetings are part of the structure of the system. The commission is organized into three subcommittees:

- The Public Security Subcommittee
- The Defense Subcommittee
- The Legal Subcommittee

In 1991, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama created the Association of Police Chiefs of Central America, which ended in a wider Commission years later included inside the arrangements of SICA



### Regional Security System (RSS)



Created in 1982, the RSS is not a collective alliance, but a defense system seeking for coordination and cooperation

The purposes and functions of the System are to promote cooperation amongst the Member States in:

- Prevention and interdiction of traffic in illegal narcotic drugs.
- National emergencies.
- Search and rescue.
- Immigration control.
- Fisheries protection.
- Customs control.
- Maritime policing.
- Natural disasters.
- Pollution control.
- The prevention of smuggling.
- The protection of off-shore installations and exclusive economic zones.



### The Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS - CARICOM)



The IMPACS is an institution of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). It Started its functions since September 2006, by the Inter-governmental Agreement on the Twenty Seventh Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM.

IMPACS acts as the nerve centre for CARICOM Crime and Security Management Framework

### The Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police

Created in 1972, this organization is composed of Commissioners of Police from 24 countries. The Association was and intends to be the clearinghouse for the promotion of common policies regarding public security problems

The objectives :

- Regional cooperation in the suppression of criminal activities in such areas as narcotics, terrorism and organized crime.
- Exchange of information in criminal investigations.
- Sharing of common services which may include training, forensic analysis and research.
- Effective management of law enforcement agencies



## Civil Society interacting with Regional Institutions



### Participation in OAS activities

In its formal structure of the OAS, the Department of International Affairs (DIA) of the Secretariat for External Relations (SER) is responsible for advising the Secretary General on all matters relating to civil society develop and execute activities and strategies designed to promote broaden participation civil society organizations (CSOs) in activities related to the OAS.

The article 26 of the Charter establishes that the Organization of American States (OAS) will consult and cooperate on an ongoing basis with Member States to take into account the contributions of civil society organizations (CSOs) working in those fields.

In the Special Summit of the Americas, in Monterrey Mexico, on 2004, that the Heads of State and government of the Hemisphere and in the Nuevo Leon Declaration emphasized that the civil society organizations should contribute to the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies adopted by the different orders and levels of government



From 2002 to 2009 the civil society made many recommendations on various areas. The main points of concern are:

- Democracy
- Hemispheric Security
- Strengthening democracy and multidimensional security

### The Academia

There are current debates on the Inter-American System, the challenges of public security, and the issue of the need for institutionalization of civilian control.

### Groups working regional on security and defense

**The Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO)** at the headquarters of Chile has a Security and Citizenship program which address the problems of insecurity and crime in Latin America and the Caribbean

The program currently has three ongoing projects:

- Global Consortium on Security Sector Transformation
- Security Sector Reform in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Studies of implementation and removal of baseline data for Plans of Public Safety



**The Security and Defense Network in Latin America (RESDAL)**, which seeks through its programs to address issues of concern for the region in matters of security and defense, especially the strengthening of democratic institutions.

Core programs are:

- The Comparative Atlas on Defense
- Gender and Armed and Security Forces
- Parliaments and Defense
- Transparency on Budgets

The **Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública** brings together academia based on safety issues. It has two magazines on the subject and an annual publication.

It is also conducting three projects steadily.

- The first is the annual meeting
- A program on training and dissemination of Brazilian police.
- It also has an updated information system on youth and violence in each of the municipalities in Brazil.



In the US, two centers can be found that dedicates specials programs to Latin America:

- The Woodrow Wilson International Center.
- The Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA).

**The Central American Observatory on Violence (OCAVI)** whose overall objective is to contribute to human security and democratic governance in Central America.

The Southern Cone Centre for Defence and Armed Forces that is being distributed by the team of Brazil Report "**Grupo de Estudos da Defesa e Segurança Internacional**" (GEDES). The Centre prepares and distributes weekly reports, summaries of press releases on the subject in the five member countries.

### External Actors

**The European Union (EU)** had influence on the participation of civil society in Central America and the Andean Region There is cooperation agreement with the Andean Community "Action with Civil Society for the Andean Integration (SOCICAN)", to encourage civic initiatives and good practices that contribute to regional public policy development



## Trans-border Interactions and Impacts: Some Examples

- The question of the TBA. Argentina-Brazil-Paraguay.
- The Mexico-USA border.
- The Central American situation on public security.
- The Colombian case with respect to Ecuador and Venezuela.



Thank you very much