

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 26 AUGUST 2004 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF PERU TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE FORWARDING THE DECLARATION OF SAN FRANCISCO DE QUITO ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANDEAN ZONE OF PEACE, ADOPTED ON 12 JULY 2004 IN QUITO, ECUADOR

The Permanent Mission of Peru to the international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to forward the Declaration of San Francisco de Quito on the Establishment and Development of the Andean Zone of Peace, adopted on 12 July 2004 by the Presidents of the five member countries of the Andean Community, meeting in Quito, Ecuador, at the fifteenth Andean Presidential Council, held to commemorate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Cartagena Agreement, which initiated the process of Andean integration.

In the Declaration of San Francisco de Quito, the Presidents agreed “to establish a Zone of Peace in the Andean Community ... as a zone free of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in which the necessary conditions will be developed to permit the peaceful and agreed solution of conflicts of any nature whatsoever, as well as the causes thereof”.

In this regard, it would be greatly appreciated if the document in question could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to all member States of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

The Permanent Mission of Peru to the international organizations in Geneva takes this opportunity to convey to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

**Declaration of San Francisco de Quito on the Establishment and
Development of the Andean Zone of Peace**

The Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, gathered in Quito, Ecuador, within the framework of the fifteenth Andean Presidential Council,

Inspired by the Cartagena Agreement, which reflects the shared resolve to pursue the historic task of integrating our nations, and by the principles governing international relations as laid down in the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of American States,

Convinced that the Andean integration process has made valuable contributions to the maintenance of peace in the subregion and the development of our nations, through institution-building, growing economic and commercial exchanges and a joint search for better terms of participation on the international stage,

Convinced that the strengthening and deepening of Andean integration require intensified cooperation in all areas and the consequent development of community institutions, leading to greater knowledge, trust, solidarity and fraternity among our nations,

Recognizing that peace and security are essential conditions for attaining higher levels of political, economic, social and cultural development in our countries, and that they consequently constitute objectives which are intrinsic to the Andean integration process,

Certain that the full realization of democracy and the rule of law are the best guarantee of peace,

Bearing in mind that an inherent element of the strengthening and consolidation of democracy is the shaping of fair societies in which human development is encouraged and poverty, social exclusion and unfairness are overcome,

Recognizing that justice and social cohesion, human development and cooperation for integral development are necessary for the stability of the States which compose the Andean Community,

Recalling the "Galapagos Declaration: Andean Agreement on Peace, Security and Cooperation",

Also bearing in mind the "Lima Commitment: Andean Charter for Peace and Security and for the Limitation and Control of Foreign Defence Spending", signed by the Foreign and Defence Ministers of the member countries of the Andean Community,

Reaffirming the content of the Andean Charter for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,

Welcoming the adoption of the Andean Common External Security Policy Guidelines, which constitute a milestone in the development of political cooperation within the Andean integration process,

Determined to pursue further within the Andean Community the very important step taken by the South American Presidents at the Guayaquil summit, when they declared a South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation,

Convinced of the urgent need to establish a Zone of Peace in the Andean Community which will encourage the strengthening of democratic institutions and promote security and mutual trust, as well as the balanced and harmonious development of the member countries, in order to achieve sustained improvement in the quality of life of the inhabitants of the subregion,

Hereby agree as follows:

1. To establish a Zone of Peace in the Andean Community, within the geographical area comprising the territories, airspace and waters under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, as a zone free of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, in which the necessary conditions will be developed to permit the peaceful and agreed solution of conflicts of any nature whatsoever, as well as the causes thereof.
2. To declare that the Andean Zone of Peace is based on the responsible exercise by citizens of, and the full realization of, democratic values, principles and practices, the rule of law, human rights, social justice, human development, national sovereignty and non-interference in each country's internal affairs. It is also based on Andean identity, the promotion of relations of friendship and cooperation for all-round development, and the culture of peace, as well as joint efforts to prevent and counteract both conventional and new threats to security, and the joint quest for a fairer and more equitable international order.
3. To state that the Andean Zone of Peace represents a continuous and participatory effort, aimed at promoting growing commonality between Governments, public opinion, political parties and civil society, with regard to objectives and values, such as those mentioned herein, that are widely shared.

Objectives

1. To contribute to the development and strengthening of democratic values, principles and practices and, among them, the development and strengthening of the political and institutional systems of the member countries and the region as a whole, in a context of justice, unity and social equity.
2. To ensure compliance with the prohibition on the use or threat of use of force among the member countries.

3. To encourage, within the Andean Community, the prevention of conflicts of any nature whatsoever, and their peaceful solution.
4. To contribute to international disarmament and the effective prohibition of weapons of mass destruction - nuclear, chemical, biological and toxin weapons - and their passage through the subregion, as well as the final eradication of anti-personnel mines, in accordance with international instruments in force.
5. To create the necessary conditions to overcome the problems that have a negative impact on the all-round development of our societies.
6. To contribute to the strengthening of international peace, through the development of the South American Zone of Peace, on the basis of a democratic, cooperative and non-offensive conception of security.

Guidelines

1. To define a general framework of principles and options by means of which the parties directly involved in any dispute that does not fall within the competence of the judicial bodies of the Andean Integration System may find a solution thereto.
2. To promote the design and implementation of an Andean programme of confidence-building and security-building measures, taking into account the progress achieved in the development of cross-border relations between the member countries, and in the implementation of the provisions of the Lima Commitment, the Declarations of Santiago and San Salvador and the Miami Consensus.
3. To develop a standardized methodology for the preparation of white papers on defence, taking into account the knowledge and experience accumulated in the region.
4. To encourage participation by the Andean countries in peacekeeping operations, under the authority of the United Nations.
5. To implement the Andean Common External Security Policy Guidelines, through the full implementation of decision 505 entitled “Andean plan for cooperation to combat illegal drugs and associated crimes”, and decision 552 entitled “Andean plan to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”, as well as other instruments.
6. To develop and extend legal, police and judicial cooperation, for the purpose of contributing to the creation of a common space for public security and justice.
7. To encourage the inculcation of a culture of peace, with a view to peaceful coexistence within the Andean Community.

8. To promote the implementation of the community policy on integration and border development, in order to prevent the appearance of tensions that may threaten peace and security in the community.

9. To encourage convergence and the consolidation of progress made in the development of the Andean Zone of Peace, through full implementation of the Common Security Policy Guidelines, with other community policies and efforts in the fields of social development, environmental management and biodiversity, as well as human rights.

10. To encourage initiatives aimed at the development and consolidation of the South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation, as well as the hemispheric and global architecture of the common security system.

Signed in the city of Quito, Ecuador, on this 12th day of July 2004.

CARLOS MESA GISBERT
President of the Republic of Bolivia

ÁLVARO URIBE VÉLEZ
President of the Republic of Colombia

LUCIO GUTIÉRREZ BORBÚA
President of the Republic of Ecuador

ALEJANDRO TOLEDO MANRIQUE
President of the Republic of Peru

HUGO R. CHÁVEZ FRÍAS
President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
