



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN SECURITY STRATEGY

DECLARATION OF GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, Guatemala, June 22, 2011

We, the Heads of State and Government of the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA), with the participation of presidents, ministers, heads of delegation, high-level representatives of supporting cooperating countries, international organizations, private sector representatives, and members of the Central American society in general, meeting at the International Conference in Support of the Central American Integration System,

WHEREAS:

The International Treaties on Human Rights that have been signed and ratified by SICA's member states.

That the Tegucigalpa Protocol to the Charter of the Organization of the Central America States (ODECA) and the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America define the Central American model of regional security;

Transnational organized crime constitutes a serious and growing threat to the peoples and governments of Central America, resulting in different forms of violence with very significant human, social, political, and economic costs for our societies;

The SICA member states have assumed responsibility for updating and prioritizing the Central American Regional Security Strategy and its Plan of Action with Costs, having achieved consensus at the national and regional levels to ensure their implementation, and despite the international economic and financial crisis, [the countries] are increasing their security budgets to confront the problem of organized transnational crime, which significantly impacts their social investment;

There is an urgent need for the region to continue strengthening its national and regional institutions so as to halt the incursion of transnational organized crime and, moreover, failure to immediately implement the measures required by this situation would be tantamount to enabling a scenario of grave consequences for the SICA member states; and

The countries that support the objectives of the International Conference and the international organizations, within the framework of their respective areas of expertise, and in accordance with the principle of shared and differentiated responsibility, have expressed their commitment to stand by the efforts of the countries in the region in their fight against the scourge of violence, NOW, THEREFORE,

DECLARE:

That the Central American Security Strategy represents a historic milestone that marks the beginning of a new era in efforts to consolidate Central America as a secure region in terms of peace, freedom, democracy, and development. With this conviction we hereby adopt said Strategy and commit to its implementation.

That violence in Central America has increased as a result of a confluence of external factors and structural problems of an internal nature that serve to exacerbate the situation, and, consequently, the international community acknowledges the principle of shared and - differentiated responsibility as a means to address this transnational threat on new foundations of cooperation and more effective coordination.

Having approved the Central American Security Strategy, its Plan of Action with Costs, as well as the prioritized project portfolio and corresponding profiles, which were adopted by the Central American Security Commission, which are attached hereto and form an integral part of this document.

That this fight requires the support of all local, national, regional, and international stakeholders, including governments, parliaments, the judiciary, the private sector, and Central American society, as well as the political backing and assistance of supporting countries and the international organizations.

Their political will to guide their actions in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Central American Security Strategy; their steadfast and decisive commitment to continue working jointly, systematically, and in close coordination pursuant to the parameters of the Plan of Action with Costs; and their steadfast conviction that the implementation of the different activities included within the project portfolio must be undertaken in a strategic manner.

The urgent need that the Group of Friends and International Organizations, provide the necessary political support and relevant financial resources and other measures, to demonstrate their commitment with the vulnerability of the situation faced by the region, that have also consequences beyond our borders. Also, it is necessary to have that support in order to promote the development of the Strategy, the Plan of Action with Costs and the Portfolio of projects, as well as its commitment to focus on increased and appropriate cooperation for security.

The will of the SICA countries to continue contributing efforts and resources in the framework of their national budgets, assuming new internal and external financing challenges, including fiscal policy initiatives for security;

The importance of establishing supplementary financing mechanisms to capture additional resources to address the problems of regional security, in particular the establishment of a "Basket Fund" in which to centralize such resources and to make them available to the SICA countries, based of the agreed priorities for the region;

Their decision to establish a mechanism of coordination, evaluation, and follow-up on the implementation status of the Security Strategy, Plan of Action with Costs, and project portfolio;

Their firm commitment to continue strengthening the Central American Integration System (SICA) so that, in accordance with the regional character of the actions to be carried out and the nature of the System itself, the Central American Security Commission may coordinate the Security Strategy, and in this regard provide the corresponding bodies, especially the General Secretariat, with the resources and instruments necessary to achieve their objectives;

Their decision to revise and harmonize national security strategies with a view to adapting and strengthening them with respect to the Regional Strategy, and to develop the necessary synergies at the local, national, regional, and international levels;

Their decision to establish forums for discussion and decision-making, in collaboration with the Group of Friends, in order to ensure the sustainability over time of the project portfolio, as well as any other needs eventually identified as priorities for the region;

Their ongoing commitment to the security and development of Central America, and to continue working in a coordinated manner on the follow-up to and implementation of the results of the International Conference in Support of the Central American Security Strategy;

Their special thanks to the people and Government of Guatemala for the hospitality extended to the participants of this Conference, as well as the technical staff and officials of the national, regional, and extra-regional institutions who contributed to the organization of this event and the preparation of its documents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we adopt this Declaration, in Guatemala City, Republic of Guatemala, June 22, 2011.