



**DECLARATION OF THE SECOND CENTRAL
AMERICAN
MILITARY FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE
AND NON-VIOLENCE**

Guatemala City, Guatemala, 17 April, 1998

We the Ministers of Defence and Commanders in Chief of the armed forces of the Republics of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, responding to the invitation of Brigadier General Héctor Mario Barrios Celada, Minister of National Defence of Guatemala, in his capacity as President of the Supreme Council of the Conference of Central American Armed Forces ('CFAC'), and of Mr Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Director-General of UNESCO, meeting in Guatemala on 17 and 18 April 1998 for the 'Second Central American Military Forum for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence', whose purpose is (a) to follow up the conclusions and recommendations of the First Central American Military Forum for the Culture of Peace, (b) to contribute to the dissemination and promotion of UNESCO's World Programme for the Culture of Peace and (c) to strengthen within the framework of each country's constitutional mandate the institutional relations between the armed forces of Central America and between those forces and civil society:

Take note of the results of the Second Central American Military Forum for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence and of the follow-up given to the conclusions and recommendations of the First Central American Military Forum, held in San Salvador;

Emphasize the importance of the Tegucigalpa Protocol of 1991, the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security of 1995 and the Resolution that established the Conference of Central American Armed Forces 'CFAC' of 1997;

In keeping with the principles set forth by the Presidents of the Republics of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in their capacity as Supreme Commanders of their respective armed forces, and in accordance with the constitutional role performed by the armed forces in the region and as an integral part of society, must continue activities to foster confidence, transparency and mutual co-operation;

Reaffirm the wish to further strengthen the good relations, confidence and exchange of knowledge between the military institutions of Central America with the purpose of strengthening democratic systems and the rule of law and consolidating the culture of peace and non-violence;

Recognize the spirit of integration and the strengthening of democratic processes in the countries of Central America, which have resulted in the consolidation of peace in the region, reconciliation in the bosom of our societies and joint solutions for our various situations in regard to security and development;

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Reaffirm our responsibility as representatives of military institutions to promote measures that will guarantee the democratic security of our region's inhabitants and give effect to individual freedoms and human rights;

Consider it necessary to support the principles upholding the culture of peace and non-violence, human rights and international humanitarian law, which will enable us to attain the objectives of our work in respect of humanitarian operations, peacekeeping and the constitutional defence of each country's national sovereignty;

Recognize the efforts made by UNESCO and the United Nations system in general to foster peace throughout the world and especially in Central America, are grateful to UNESCO for its participation in the proposed Plan of Action that will facilitate implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the First and Second Central American Military Forums for the Culture of Peace, welcome and approve the draft Agreement between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Conference of Central American Armed Forces 'CFAC' concerning the creation of a UNESCO itinerant Chair for peace, democratic security and development, which will be duly considered on the basis of the draft Agreement submitted during the Second Central American Military Forum for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, and

Wish to record our particular gratitude to the Government of Guatemala for its hospitality, to UNESCO for its assistance with and its contributions to the work of the Second Central American Military Forum for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, and to the army of Guatemala for its sponsorship, organization, planning, execution and co-ordination of the event that is brought to a close today.

Guatemala, this seventeenth day of April, nineteen ninety-eight.

HECTOR MARIO BARRIOS CELADA
Brigadier General
Ministry of National Defence
Republic of Guatemala

JAIME GUZMAN MORALES
Major General
Ministry of National Defence
Republic of El Salvador

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