“The Mexican Navy’s point of view on Continental Security and Defense”
Introduction
Current world conditions require joint international efforts to consolidate a secure environment.
Background
Mexico’s perspective on Continental Security

**Mexican defense concept**

- Adequate Armed Forces to ensure reasonable dissuasive effects
- Diplomatic service to achieve peaceful solutions to controversies
Mexico’s perspective on Continental Security

2001 Mexico denounced the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance

2002 Mexico ratified its position
Mexico’s perspective on Continental Security

Treaty had been surpassed by a global system and a group of new threats
Mexico’s perspective on Continental Security

Mexico’s participation in two Regional Conferences on Trust and Security Measures

Mexico supported the Plan for Hemispheric Action Against Transnational Organized Crime
Mexico’s perspective on Continental Security

The worst threats to Latin America are the meager economic development and extreme poverty.
Characteristics of the Continental Security environment
Characteristics of the continental security environment

The term “Hemispheric security” is consistent with the concepts stated in the United Nations Charter and the Organization of American States Charter.

Mexico defines the term Hemispheric Security as an equivalent to the term security for the American Continent, including the Caribbean States.
Hemispheric security is associated to economic and social development

Extreme poverty and social inequity threaten the social stability of the continent
Areas on security and defense where Mexico is involved and the Mexican Navy is included
Areas on security and defense where Mexico is involved and the Mexican Navy is included

Organization of the Mexican Armed Forces

SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES

SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

SECRETARIAT OF THE NAVY

ARMY

AIR FORCE

NAVY

NAVAL AVIATION

MARINES
Areas on security and defense where Mexico is involved and the Mexican Navy is included

Organization of the Mexican Armed Forces

Mexican Navy

Maritime defense of the territory

Coast Guard activities
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Organization of the Mexican Armed Forces

The Mexican Armed Forces support federal and state law enforcement agencies in their tasks of public security
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Security Issues
Fight against organized crime

Public security and welfare are the guidelines of President Calderon’s administration

National Development Plan
2007-2012
Areas on security and defense where Mexico is involved and the Mexican Navy is included

Fight against organized crime

Joint High Impact Operations
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**Drug trafficking**

Mexican littorals are areas of high incidence for drug trafficking.
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Drug trafficking

Organized crime in Mexico launders up to seventy billion dollars per year.
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Drug trafficking

- Deny the use of the ocean for drug trafficking, both at sea and on the ground
- Constant exchange of intelligence with national and international agencies
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**Unified Centers for Maritime and Port Incidents**

- Capability to control and oversee all maritime operations in Mexican ports
- Compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code
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**Weapons trafficking**

- Increase in weapons seizures
- Permanent flow of illegal weapons
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- Weapons trafficking

- Tracking operation allows to pinpoint the origin of many weapons

- Direct sale mechanism for Mexican organized crime
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Weapons trafficking

The southeastern border of Mexico has become a crossing site for illegal weapons trafficking.
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**Human trafficking**

Mexico is in the route to illegal immigration to the United States

Joint efforts to reduce illegal immigration to the United States
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Human trafficking

The Yucatan Canal is the maritime border with Cuba and is used to transport illegal Cuban migrants bound to the United States.

In 2008 Mexico and Cuba, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to guarantee the legal flow of migrants between both countries.
Areas on security and defense where Mexico is involved and the Mexican Navy is included

Human trafficking

Mexican Navy has increased its operations in the Yucatan Canal

Also along the borders with Belize and Guatemala

Full respect to Human Rights
Areas on security and defense where Mexico is involved and the Mexican Navy is included

**Coincidental operations**

North America Maritime Security Initiative

Development of Standardized Operational Procedures for Coincidental Operations

**Letter of Intent**

We recognize the need to strengthen the exchange of information and cooperation among our Organizations in matters of safety and maritime security in order to improve our mutual capacity for operational coordination. Accordingly, we intend to establish and share standard operating procedures for the prevention of and response to incidents or illicit acts that could threaten the maritime security of our respective nations.
Areas on security and defense where Mexico is involved and the Mexican Navy is included

**Security to Strategic Facilities**

Pillars of the economic development of the country
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Security for Strategic Facilities

Protection of coastal and offshore strategic facilities is a Mexican Navy responsibility

Laguna Verde Nuclear Power Plant
Areas on security and defense where Mexico is involved and the Mexican Navy is included.

Security for Strategic Facilities

The Navy plays an important part of the emergency plans.
Subversive Groups and Sabotage

These groups do not represent a real threat for the stability of the country.
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**Subversive Groups and Sabotage**

Lack of dynamism and political isolation compromise their ideologies
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**Terrorism**

Mexico, as a close commercial neighbor and a main hydrocarbons supplier of the United States, could become the target of a terrorist act.
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Natural phenomena

Hydrometeorological phenomena

Tropical hurricanes cause a lot of damage in coastal areas
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Natural phenomena

Navy’s “Plan Marina”:

support the civilian population in cases and zones of emergency or disasters, with the purpose of avoiding or diminishing the effects of destructive agents or natural calamities on the population and its environment
Telluric and volcanic

Approximately 25 percent of the Mexican population lives along the Volcanic Axis of Mexico.
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Telluric and volcanic

As a result of the 1985 earthquake, the Seismic Alert System of Mexico City was established and began operations in 1991.
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**Pandemics**

The World Health Organization recognized Mexico’s response for the seriousness, responsibility and transparency used to handle the sanitary contingency.
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Pandemics

Medical units of the Secretariat of the Navy successfully integrated with the national effort to diminish the effects of human influenza among the population.

To ease attention to the population, the Navy’s High Specialty General Hospital was open to the public.
Areas on security and defense where Mexico is involved and the Mexican Navy is included

**Defense Issues**

**Mexican Foreign Policy**

Normative principles

1. Self-determination of States
2. Non intervention
3. Peaceful settlement of international disputes
4. Refrain from the use of threat or use of force in international relations
5. Legal equality of States
6. International cooperation for development
7. International peace and security as a main goal
Areas on security and defense where Mexico is involved and the Mexican Navy is included

Mexican Foreign Policy

Mexican foreign policy principles are a consequence of its history and are aligned with those of the Charter of the United Nations.
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**Naval Forces Exercises**

Mexican naval forces are trained constantly and outfitted with the equipment necessary to fulfill their mission.
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UNITAS GOLD 50-09

The Mexican Navy is an instrument of the State to demonstrate its international policy

The knowledge and capabilities acquired during theses exercises are used to counter the threats that attempts against our National Security
Threats to the Continental Security identified by Mexico
Threats to the continental security identified by Mexico

Mexico does not perceive the materialization of warlike threats against its territory in the short or medium term.

Continental security faces asymmetric threats that expand every day.
Mexico identified drug trafficking and its related crimes as some of the most harmful manifestations of organized crime.

Poverty and natural disasters are concealed threats for the stability conditions and security required for development.
Mexican perspective in matters of security and continental defense
Mexican perspective in matters of security and continental defense

Special Conference on Security of the Organization of American States

“Each State has the sovereign right to identify its own national security priorities and to define the strategies, plans and actions to counter the threats to its security according to its legal structure, with total respect of the international law and the norms and principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Charter of the United Nations”
Mexican perspective in matters of security and continental defense

Transnational organized crime continues to be an omnipresent continental challenge

October 2008: First Meeting of Ministers in matters of Public Security
Conclusions
Mexico adopted strategies to counter the new threats and challenges.

The Mexican Navy has been an important component of this effort.
Decisive actions have been taken to cooperate with the security of the continent.

Standardization of Operating Procedures between the Mexican Navy, US Navy and US Coast Guard.
Conclusions

Organization of American States as a forum to advocate dialog and agreement, which are suitable means to sustain regional peace and security.
Need for all the countries of the hemisphere to join against organized transnational crime, which harms our institutions, endanger our democracies, degrade society, and attacks the most fundamental right:

…the right to life itself
“The Mexican Navy’s point of view on continental security and defense”