

Organization of American States (OAS):

In 1991 the OAS established a Committee on Hemispheric Security. Its work programme includes developing various confidence and security building measures (CSBMs), participation in the UN Register of Conventional Arms and the UN standardized international reporting mechanism for military expenditures, exchanging information on defence policies and doctrines, observation of military exercises and communications between border authorities. Of particular relevance to the issue of micro-disarmament, the Committee is considering a consultation process "with a view to proceeding towards limitation and control of conventional weapons".³² This consultation would build on the work of the Rio Group³³ which, at its meeting in September 1996, "carried out a dialogue about the convenience of reaching measures to prevent an arms race in Latin America and the Caribbean...."³⁴ The Rio Group has also finalized a Draft Convention "against the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms ammunition, explosives and other related materials"³⁵ which is currently the subject of discussion in an OAS working group.

The OAS, in addition to being extensively involved in demining activities in Central America, has been promoting a global ban on the production, trade, transfer and use of AP mines. To this end, at the OAS General Assembly in Panama in June of 1996, a resolution was passed declaring the Western Hemisphere "an anti-personnel-land-mine-free zone".³⁶

³² See p. 2 of "Regional/Subregional Approaches, Sharing Security Perspectives, Confidence Building Measures, Capacity Building", a paper presented by Ambassador Carmen Moreno de Del Cueto, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS and Chair of the Hemispheric Security Committee, to a Symposium on Military Expenditures in Developing Countries: Security and Development, jointly sponsored by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the Government of Canada. This symposium is discussed *infra*.

³³ The Rio Group comprises fourteen members of which the following twelve are permanent: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. In addition, Central America is represented by the country designated by that region as its coordinator and CARICOM is represented by its current chair.

³⁴ Press Release issued September 4, 1996 by the Rio Group and quoted by Ambassador Moreno at p. 2 *ibid*.

³⁵ *Ibid*.

³⁶ See AG/Res. 1411 (XXVI-0/96) entitled "The Western Hemisphere as an anti-personnel-land-mine-free zone."