

**COOPERATION FOR SECURITY IN THE HEMISPHERE.
CURBING THE PROLIFERATION OF INSTRUMENTS OF WAR AND
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, CONSIDERING:

That the Organization of American States, to fulfil its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, has proclaimed that among the essential purposes of the Organization are:

- the strengthening of peace and security in the hemisphere,
- the achievement of an effective limitation of arms that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the Member States;

That cooperation for security in the hemisphere is of fundamental importance in fulfilling these purposes;

That such cooperation must address, in a positive and active manner, significant themes bearing on security, among them the encouragement of arms control and disarmament;

That a climate of enhanced peace and security, both globally and within the hemisphere, should liberate human and material resources needed for the promotion and strengthening of democracy, the furtherance of economic and social development, the protection of the environment and the safeguarding of human rights;

That all forms of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction undermine international security and risk a perilous escalation of conflict in regions of tension;

That the convergence of views in the Geneva negotiations on the need for the global, effective and complete elimination of chemical weapons is of relevance to negotiations in other areas of disarmament and arms limitation;

That measures aimed at regulating international exchanges of sensitive technologies should take into account the need to preserve and permit access to use of such technologies for peaceful purposes;

That OAS Member States are proud of their efforts with respect to the control of arms and, in particular, of steps taken by the democratic countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which are among the least armed and militarized countries in the world;

That build-ups of arms beyond legitimate defence requirements contribute to instability and increase the risk of armed conflict, and that increased transparency and consultation surrounding the acquisition and transfer of arms would contribute to the growth of confidence and security,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its strong support for efforts in bilateral and multilateral deliberations, and in particular in the United Nations, to eliminate all forms of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to bring about a global and more effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and dissemination of chemical and biological weapons.
2. To urge all members of the international community to exercise sensitivity in transfers of arms and technologies related to arms systems, particularly with respect to countries involved in or under the imminent threat of hostilities or involved in unwarranted build-ups of arms.
3. To request the Permanent Council to study the problems posed for international security, and for the furtherance of economic and social development, by the proliferation of instruments of war and weapons of mass destruction, and to examine the possibility of exchanging information regarding national policies, laws and administrative procedures governing the transfer and procurement of arms, including the establishment of a mechanism for consultations about situations where excessive arms build-ups appear to be developing.
4. To recommend to the Secretary General that he bring this resolution to the attention of the Member States and that he report on its implementation at the next session of the General Assembly.

G7 Address Arms Transfers and Non-Proliferation

The following is the text of the Declaration on Conventional Arms Transfers and Nuclear-Biological-Chemical Non-Proliferation issued on July 16 by the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the USA at their economic summit in London.

1. At our meeting in Houston last year, we, the Heads of State and Government and the representatives of the European Community, underlined the threats to international security posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and of associated missile delivery systems. The Gulf crisis has highlighted the dangers posed by the unchecked spread of these weapons and by excessive holdings of conventional weapons. The responsibility to prevent the re-emergence of such dangers is to be shared by both arms suppliers and recipient countries as well as the international community as a whole. As is clear from the various initiatives which several of us have proposed jointly and individually, we are each determined to tackle, in appropriate fora, these dangers both in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Conventional arms transfers

2. We accept that many states depend on arms imports to assure a reasonable level of security and the inherent right of self-defence is recognized in the United Nations Charter. Tensions will persist in international relations so long as underlying conflicts of interest are not tackled and resolved. But the Gulf conflict showed the way in which peace and stability can be undermined when a country is able to acquire a massive arsenal that goes far beyond the needs of self-defence and threatens its neighbours. We are determined to ensure such abuse should not happen again. We believe that progress can be made if all states apply the three principles of transparency, consultation and action.