82.1 Introduction

For over a decade, human security has been in the global and hemispheric agenda. During this time it became a central concept within the United Nations system. This post Cold War security concept changed its approach towards people’s security. ‘Human security’ stands within an ethical point of view in how priorities and politics are defined in this matter. Vulnerabilities link to the concept generate risks that will impact millions of people. Human security undertakes transnational challenges, and seeks to provide local responses. It also demands establishing international public goods to protect citizens. Although ‘human security’ is different from the classical security concept, a substantial progress on it will only be possible if there is not a confrontational defiance to the traditional concept of state security. There for it is a complementary concept.

‘Freedom from fear’ is the security objective laid down by the United Nations (2000) in its Millennium Report. Achieving this goal requires a recognition that the international system has fundamentally changed in recent years and that in the process a clear need has arisen to develop innovative approaches and perspectives so that we can grasp these changes and respond to new challenges.

During the Cold War, concepts of security mainly related to the state, and the military viewpoint prevailed. Since 1990 a transition can be observed towards a broader security concept whose objectives are peace, international stability and protection of individuals and communities. Since the mid-1990’s the concept of human security emerged that emphasizes the protection of individuals. One major change that influenced the evolution of the human security concept is the new nature of conflicts, most of which take place within states.

Another factor that has contributed to this change in the security outlook deals with the complexity of global problems and their repercussions for millions of people. There are now threats very different from that of a military attack against one’s homeland, including environmental risks, international crime, drug trafficking and terrorism. All this entails far-reaching changes in the basic idea of sovereignty and shows that national capabilities are inadequate to deal with these problems.

The main changes and tendencies in the international system that have influenced the perception and analysis of new security challenges, and that have contributed to a reconceptualization are associated with the following structural and international factors:

1. End of bipolar conflict;
2. New power relationships;
3. Impact of globalization in different areas, and interdependence;
4. Changes in the dimensions of time and space;
5. Loss of state capabilities;
6. Increase in intra-national conflicts;
7. New international actors;
8. New threats to security; and
9. Development gaps.

Some tendencies that worked in the immediate post-Cold War years (1990–2000) were dropped after the terrorists attacks of 11 September 2001 in the U.S., which later spread to Europe (Madrid, 11 March 2004; London, 7 July 2005) and Asia. The U.S. response to this tragedy has challenged not only international law but also the multilateral agreements. This ‘radical unilateral approach’ has generated within the U.S. a serious polarization, and abroad it contributed to an increasing anti-Americanism.

In Latin America, especially in South America, the end of the Cold War coincided with a process of democratization and pacification in certain countries of South and Central America (Fuentes/Rojas 2005; chap. 8) by De Lombaerde/Norton). When consid-
The new security situation in the Americas, a number of tendencies must be taken into account:

1. Latin America and the Caribbean have had, and still have, a marginal position in global strategic affairs.
2. Latin America has not consolidated a disarmament policy in relation to weapons of mass destruction.
3. The military spending of Latin America and the Caribbean is low by comparison with the rest of the world.
4. International security institutions are weak in Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Latin America has reached consensus on a common conceptual framework for security.
6. Internal conflicts.
7. The United States was the main actor in the region and hemisphere during the Cold War, and still is.

Latin American governments have gradually assimilated the new human security concept. In South America, for example, Chile made of this concept part of its foreign policy strategy through the Human Security Network. Ecuador included it in its defence policy definition. However, the debate over this issue among the governments has been relatively weak. More interesting debates take place within the aca-
demic community, but there is no consensus on the subject. Traditional concepts are still very powerful, and so is the notion of sovereignty in South America. Fear of foreign intervention, especially from the United States of America is also a factor. On the other hand, non-state actors have some visibility, including those organizations from the civil society, something seen as suspicious by many states. In sum, the concept of human security is still under construction.

This chapter also examines the relationship between human security and development, on the one hand, and human security and its links with state security and international security. A brief summary of the vulnerabilities of the region is done as well as the perceptions of threats and new threats. Finally, the chapter suggests some areas for future action.

82.2 Conceptual Approach on Human Security

Fear takes away freedom, and without freedom dignity and justice are lost. Without freedom, dignity and justice, people lose their basic rights. Human security presupposed the right to have rights; and the best way in which people can ensure themselves to those rights, is to reinforce democracy and governance.

Democracy is the political system that increases the rights of the people and facilitates the peaceful resolutions of conflict. Democracy could be an important measure of human security: i) Democracy have been better suited to hold governmental authorities accountable for human rights abuses. ii) There is a correlation between a lack of democracy and an inhibited economic development. iii) In democracy the ability to set the agenda via persuasion diffuses power from the central authority into the hands of citizens who chose to engage in the democratic process (Kay 2006: 267).

Human security complements state security; it does not oppose it. “Protecting and empowering people are thus about creating genuine possibilities for people to leave in safety and dignity. Seen from this angle human security reinforces state security but thus not replace it” (Ogata 2003: 5). The Human Security Now report defines human security as a way “to protect the vital core of all human live in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfilment” (CHS 2003). Human security is a universal concern and interdependent. The UN Secretary General defined human security as “freedom from fear and freedom from want” (Annan 2000a: 43).

In May 1999, a group of like-minded nations in international matters established the Human Security Network (HSN, see chap 76 by Fuentes). In the hemisphere Canada, Chile and Costa Rica have joined this initiative. But the HSN has established no common definition of human security, which led too two groups within the HSN. The first group emphasizes more on ‘basic needs’ or human development (‘freedom from want’), while the other focused on a world without fear, giving priority to certain vulnerabilities resulting from more restricted threats (‘freedom from fear’).

South American nations stand in this second group. They separate the development from the defence and security agenda to avoid a ‘militarizing’ of the development agenda and the social demands and protests (Winter 2003; Garreta 2003; Villagra 2003). During the Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec (2001), the Presidents of the hemisphere addressed issues and challenges that included improved access to education, poverty, alleviation, strengthening human rights, democracy and economic integration. The resulting Declaration of Quebec City determined the region’s priorities and goals for the upcoming years, which recognized the need to “continue addressing weakness in the development processes and increasing human security.”

The ‘Special Conference on Security’ held in Mexico on October 2003, achieved a great and important consensus on security matters. The Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted by the OAS, expresses principles and reaffirms shared values and a common approach, and also the coincidence of commitments and cooperation measures. The Declaration defines the basic purpose of security as the protection of human beings: “Security is strengthened when we deepen its human dimension” (Rojas 2008).

82.3 Double Human Security Triad

Human security is linked on one hand with human centred concepts such as human rights and human development, and on the other with international and state security.

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1 Third Summit of the Americas, Declaration of Québec City. Canada, 20–22 April 2001; at: <www.summit-americas.org/eng-2002/quebeccity-summit.htm>.
2 OAS, “Declaration on Security in the Americas”, Mexico DF, 28 October 2003; at: <www.oas.org>.
82.3.1 Human Rights, Human Development and Human Security

Human security as an idea fruitfully supplements the expansionist perspective of human development by directly paying attention to what are sometimes called ‘downside risks’. The insecurities that threaten human survival or the safety of daily life, or imperil the natural dignity of men and women, or expose human beings to uncertainty of disease and pestilence, or subject vulnerable people to abrupt penury related to economic downturns demand that special attention be paid to the dangers of sudden deprivation. Human security demands protection from these dangers and the empowerment of people so that they can cope with and when possible overcome these hazards (Sen 2003b: 8).

There is a complementarity between the concepts of human rights and human security. There is something deeply attractive in the idea that every person anywhere in the world, irrespective of citizenship or location, has some basic rights that others should respect. The moral appeal of human rights has been used for varying purposes, from resisting torture and arbitrary incarceration to demanding the end of hunger and unequal treatment of women (Sen 2003b: 9).

82.3.2 International, State and Human Security

One of the main intellectual and institutional challenges is to establish a conceptual link between human and international security that includes state security (Goucha/Rojas 2003). Once satisfactorily established, this relationship will simultaneously satisfy world security needs, as well as those of nations, individuals and people. It will also improve the implementation on human security measures.

The primordial characteristic of the new international conflicts, centred on intra-state problems, reveals the need to reach a better understanding of the interrelationship between these three levels, particularly in view of the impact of globalization. The new threats are transnational in nature and involve actors and agents that in most cases do not represent a nation or are not located in a clearly delimited state territory. There are a multidimensional causes for public and civil (in)security. New ways of linking states and non states actors are present in global scenarios. Private actors will increase their participation in the human security arena considering the emergence of new world threats, such as the green house effect and natural disasters, HIV/AIDS and other pandemic viruses, and transnational illegal crimes.

Globalization and interdependence brings new risks and vulnerabilities that affect nation’s security. This also affects other states. As a result of this situation, problems arising because of these causes cannot be resolved within its own borders. Wars have also radically changed. The great majority of conflicts occur within states and have inter-state consequences. Their origins and motivations have more to do with ethnicity, religion or self-determination than with disagreements over borders or state interests. Non-state actors are playing a more prominent part. Demands are increasingly being directed at international, inter-state and non-governmental organizations, which mean that the capabilities of states, especially the less powerful ones, are being reduced.

Human security centres on the protection of individuals and communities. This concept has a unifying and multidimensional nature. It takes in more local dimensions, even if these relate to issues affecting great masses of people. It also takes in issues of a planetary scale that affect humanity as a whole (AIDS, SARS, the environment, organized crime, etc.). In both cases, these are non-traditional issues that have been taken at the other two levels (national security and international security). In other words, the focus is shifting from the state to individuals; the fundamental issue is the protection of individuals and people over and above their connection with a particular state.

The conditions required for human security can only be met in conjunction with the conditions required for state and international security. Indeed, an international crisis is at once a state crisis and a humanitarian crisis. Likewise, a state crisis becomes a humanitarian crisis and an international crisis, and a human security crisis is simultaneously a state and international crisis, whence the need for a holistic approach.

To avoid the danger of over-reach it is necessary to agree on an approach or element that can provide a focal point for the concept of human security in the different dimensions and at the different levels where it is expressed. Similarly, a holistic or integrated perspective means that appropriate linkages can be made in the conceptual triad.

The specific structural element that enables this phenomenon to be best understood and targeted is violence, both the conditions under which this appears and its perpetrators. Joint action to forestall the use of force reaffirms international law and generates increased opportunities for concerted action. This
phenomenon can be analysed if three main aspects are considered: i) the conditions under which violence is likely to occur; ii) the perpetrators of violence; iii) and the preventive measures that can be taken so that violence and humanitarian crises do not break out.

Identifying violence as a pivotal element makes it possible to achieve a broad understanding of the phenomena that determine it and to obtain specific responses as to when and in what cases legitimate violence is the best means and when other instruments should be used. The militarization of responses results in a rising spiral of violence that is hard to stop. Conversely, the adoption of preventive measures limits the scope for the emergence of conditions that favours violence.

### Table 82.1: Conceptualization of National, International and Human Security Dimensions.

|                     | National security | International security (traditional) | Human security               |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| **Approach**        | National          | Inter-state                          | Multidimensional             |
| **Focus**           | Nation state      | Inter-state Regional Global          | Individual                   |
|                     |                   |                                      | Global (because of impact on individuals) |
| **Conflicts**       | Intra-national Inter-state | Inter-state Transnational | Intra-national Inter-state Transnational Global |
| **Implementation**  | National defence system Interministerial coordination | Bilateral coordination United Nations Coordination through regional organizations (OAS) | United Nations Interministerial coordination Intergovernmental coordination Coordination through regional/ international organizations Global networks |
| **Function of the armed forces** | Protecting national borders | Inter-state cooperation Cooperation through international organizations Peacekeeping operations (mainly chapter VI) | Protecting national borders, and peacekeeping operations (Chapters VI, VII of the UN Charter) Inter-state cooperation Cooperation through international organizations |
| **Actors**          | State             | State Intergovernmental organizations Non-governmental organizations | Individual Intergovernmental organizations Non-state actors Civil society Non-governmental organizations State |

### 82.4 South America as a Part of the Main Vulnerabilities

In the case of Latin America, especially the South American nations, the main threats to human security are associated with a set of circumstances that include, weak democracy, rising poverty and inequity and, increasingly, urban violence and crime (Fuentes/Rojas Aravena 2005a: 103–179 or: 129–163). Although efforts have been made by multilateral institutions, governments and civil society to deal with these vulnerabilities, there is still a long way to go. There are six basic areas where threats could arise for human security:

1. **Socio-economic vulnerabilities.** Social and economic vulnerabilities reflect the growing inability of the production, trading and financial systems to
solve people’s most immediate problems, essentially poverty, the distribution of income and, increasingly, unemployment. From the human security point of view, it is essential to find the best tools for dealing with these insecurities. Accordingly, emphasis has been laid on the need to reiterate the principle of ‘growth with equity’ and establish that of ‘crisis with security’. In other words, to generate and encourage the creation of mechanisms to protect people in adverse situations that includes inflation, unemployment and fiscal crises.

A review of some indicators for Latin America reveals low rates of growth and great vulnerability to upheavals in the international economy, rising external debts and high unemployment rates. This last factor leads to an uncertain economic outlook for the countries of the region. From the social point of view, furthermore, we find that poverty levels are rising, social exclusion is not improving, the gap between rich and poor is widening, and social spending is low in some countries.

2. **Social integration and vulnerability.** The persistence of high levels of poverty in the region, combined with the weakness of democratic institutions, is seriously affecting the social integration of traditionally excluded sectors that are subject to severe discrimination. The sectors that are particularly vulnerable in Latin America are ethnic groups and immigrants. Empowerment of these is essential, because they are the sectors that suffer most from economic, social and indeed cultural insecurities. This section shows some examples of this exclusion. It examines more closely the subject of migration, a vital issue for human security both internationally and regionally. It also considers the digital divide as a source of human insecurity.

3. **Politico-institutional vulnerabilities: weak democracies.** In Latin America, democracy has proved to be the best political system for attaining the goals of ‘freedom from fear’ and ‘want’. The region has a disastrous history of violations of human rights and political rights during the periods of dictatorship, when the doc of national security was paramount. This is why it is important to consolidate democracy, as a system that has an inbuilt preference for dialogue and policy agreement, to solve disputes and promote human rights among the different actors and agents of society.

Latin American democracies tend to be weak. With a few exceptions, the region displays serious politico-institutional shortcomings that manifest themselves in recurring crises, unwarranted interference by the armed forces in domestic political matters in certain countries, lack of respect for political and civil rights and basic guarantees, high indices of corruption and institutionalized violence. It is not surprising that a feeling of profound mistrust prevails towards political parties and the crisis of representation affecting these.

4. **International security vulnerabilities (traditional).** In the Latin American region the traditional conflict and associated insecurity is linked to unresolved border conflicts. There are at least a dozen interstate border conflicts. The last small war was in 1995 between Ecuador and Peru. In countries like Colombia the guerrilla warfare has been spreading beyond national borders. In addition

| Variables                  | Ecology (Life) | Economy (Wealth) | Society (Support) | Politics (Power) | Culture (Knowledge) |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|                            | Environmental capital | Economic capital | Social capital | Political capital | Cultural capital |
| Effects                    | Sustainability Disasters | Prosperity | Equality | Peace | Wisdom Ignorance |
| Globalization              | A world of associated effect ‘greenhouse effect’ | Dark side of globalization and competition, more inequality | Refugees | Governance | Identities Values |
| Use of force               | Bio-terrorism | Financial crisis E-terrorism Money laundering | Polarization | Anti-mines | Intolerance and religious wars |
|                            |                |                    | Ungovernability | Small arms | Local identities clashing with national and global security |
important transnational security threats, such as drug trafficking and organized crime – including money laundering, kidnapping and others – threats to people security. The nature of these threats is multidimensional and required a cooperative approach to fight them.

5. **Internal security vulnerabilities.** The social violence and crime became an important problem in Latin American countries. The poverty, inequity and lack of social cohesion open opportunities to organized crime in the mayor cities. Unemployment, easy access to light weapons, and a weak police organization increase criminal rates and homicides. In addition, in many countries institutionalized violence is a constant threat; and normally the death squads are related to repression forces.

6. **Environmental vulnerabilities.** Since the 1990’s the existence of a world environmental crises have been widely discussed. This has been portrayed as a problem of planetary scale whose origins are essentially human and not natural. For example, deforestation resulting from over-exploitation of woodland is reducing plant cover, diminishing genetic variety and triggering alluvial erosion and desertification.

   Water shortages are also a serious problem for future development. During the twentieth century, water consumption grew more than twice as fast as population. Four in ten of the world’s inhabitants live in areas where water is scarce. It is possible that by 2025, no less than two-thirds of the world’s population, or some 5.5 billion people, will be living in countries where there is a serious shortage of water.

   This context of deforestation and loss of plant species, water shortages and drought is generally intertwined with socio-political disasters such as armed conflict and forced migration that exacerbate the degradation, erosion and desertification of soils. The resultant loss of farming land is largely responsible for the main threats to people’s security in the region and worldwide, i.e. food security.

### 82.5 New Threats in Latin America

Each one of these vulnerabilities can change into an effective threat with a great impact to human security in the region. The more traditional threats have a low probability of occurrence, but it is necessary to develop and complete the measures of mutual trust to avoid making interpretation errors. The Special Security Conference of OAS in Mexico City in October 2003 referred to seven new threats. The security of states of the hemisphere is affected in different ways, by traditional threats and the following new threats, concerns, and other challenges of a diverse nature:

- terrorism, transnational organized crime, the global drug problem, corruption, asset laundering, illicit trafficking in weapons, and the connections among them;
- extreme poverty and social exclusion of broad sectors of the population, which also affect stability and democracy. Extreme poverty erodes social cohesion and undermines the security of states;
- natural and man-made disasters, HIV/AIDS and others diseases, other health risks, and environmental degradation;
- trafficking in persons;
- attacks to cyber security;
- the potential for damage to arise in the event of an accident of incident during the maritime transport of potentially hazardous materials, including petroleum and radioactive materials and toxic waste; and
- the possibility of access, possession, and use of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery by terrorists.

It is the responsibility of the specialized fora of the OAS, and inter-American and international fora to develop cooperation mechanisms to address these new threats, concerns, and other challenges, based on applicable instruments and mechanisms.

### 82.6 The South American Community of Nations

The South American Community of Nations has 12 States: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela. It was created as a proposal from Brazil in 2000, where a first summit of Heads of State and Governments of the region took place. The main ideas in the first two summits were centered on the concept of integration. In the context of the III Summit progress was made towards the constitution of the South American Community of Nations, on 7 December 2004, in Cuzco, Peru.

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3 OAS, Special Conference in Security. Mexico, 2003. Paragraph M.
The foundational agreement of the South American Community of Nations expresses the need to “develop a South American framework that leads to an integration process in political, social, economic, environmental and infrastructure aspects in order to strengthen South America’s own identity.” It also states that it “has to contribute to the strengthening of Latin America and the Caribbean, providing a more visible representation in the international arena.” (Cuzco Declaration, 7–8 December 2004)

From the very beginning the South American Community of Nations signaled that peace, democracy and integration are fundamental components to guarantee development and security. The democratic commitment, in agreement with Democratic Charter of the OAS, had already been present in the context of the Declarations of Peace Zone of Usuhaia, 1998 and Galapagos, 1989. During the Summit of 2002, in Guayaquil, the presidents signed the Declaration on the South American Zone of Peace. The leaders ratified the prohibition of the use or threat of use of force; of all massive destruction weapons; of the transit of arms through the region; and the elimination of the anti-personal mines. It also encouraged more transparency and the progressive limitation of arms purchases.

In the field of citizen security, during the Summit of Brasilia, September 2005, the Heads of State released a declaration on this subject, stressing the growing relevance of the concept of human security and its ongoing evolution. They stated the importance of establishing common public policies and envision a more holistic vision of the subject.

In the official texts of the Community the concept of human security is not mentioned. However, many of the contents of citizen security are quite similar to those of human security. In South America violence and deaths due to the use of small arms and light weapons continue to be a primary challenge. Likewise, the expansion of organized crime has become a real threat to the stability of the region. Global issues as the climate change continue to endanger the ecological balances and the biodiversity of South America. Instability and governance problems in the region are also major elements to consider. In sum, all these problems and limitations make it more difficult to reach consensus on policies and the joint confrontation of threats and vulnerabilities.

82.7 Policies for Action on Human Security

The end of the Cold War let the American continent in the path of searching and developing representative democracy. This was ensured in the Santiago Commitment to Democracy and the Renewal of the Inter-American System in 1991. This compromise was reconfirmed by the Summits of the Americas, and a decade later in Lima, Peru on 11 September 2001 the Inter-American Democratic Charter was signed where essential elements of democracy are expressed such as the recognition and respect for human rights, public participation, free and fair elections, and transparency and accountability of government institutions. Article 1 established that: “The people of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it. Democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the Americas” (OAS 2001).

As well Article 11 emphasizes that “Democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and are mutually reinforcing” (OAS 2001).

Even though democracy is now secure in the region, in the last decade there are signs of great difficulties expressed in high levels due to a lack of governance. The anticipated renunciation of 9 presidents, as well as the weakness and deficiencies shown by the political institutions are just part of this crisis (Rojas 2005a: 129–163). Regardless of this, since the last
months of 2005 to October 2006, free and fair elections took place in 12 countries in Latin America. This is a strong base for the citizens to express their will and their rights.

The results of these elections not only changed the political map of the region (Rojas 2006), they have also shown a dangerous tendency of less participation in the political processes. This signals the weak state of certain political parties, the disbelief of majority groups in the possibility of being included in the political agendas, as well as a strong feeling of disappointment with the democratic system, the rule of law, and the courts of justice to be able to resolve their needs of well-being.

Weakness in democracy and difficulties in governance will only help in limiting peoples rights. Also poverty and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect social cohesion, the consolidation of democracy, and become issues that bend the balance against human security (Fernández 2006).

A new era of regional cooperation, the design to defend and protect the civil population, started with the decision of sending a regional military contingent - composed of troops from Brazil, Argentina and Chile - to first stabilize and then guarantee free elections in Haiti. This action can be seen as a major compromise with the operations for peace maintenance in the newly constituted UN Peace Commission4.

The human security concept has been incorporated in the definitions of the defence policy in Ecuador (República del Ecuador 2006). The President of Chile, Ms. Michelle Bachelet (2006), reaffirmed in her UN speech on 20 September 2006 that this concept will be part of the international policy definitions in Chile.

Following the Ottawa Convention, a compromise on an anti-personal mine free zone has been adopted. Cooperative approaches and efforts of all states, as well as those of the OAS Mine Action Team will support humanitarian de-mining, mine risk education, landmine victim assistance and rehabilitation, and socio-economic recovery. As for terrorism, it is recognized as a serious threat to security, institutions, and democratic values. The entire region signed the Inter-American Convention against ‘Terrorism where all states renew their commitment to fight terrorism and it’s financing with full respect for the rule of law and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law.

All states in the Hemisphere signed the Palermo Convention, UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime held by Italian government, in Palermo, 12-15 December, 2000. Regardless of these initiatives, actions against organized crime have been deficient. The region also signed the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Consultant Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials (CIFTA).

The ‘Maras’ phenomenon in Central America is undermining weak states, bringing serious threats to democratic governance as well as national and regional stability (Rojas 2005: 56–73; Rojas 2008).

Table 82.3: South American Data. Source: Prepared by the author.

| Territory | Population (million) | GNP – Per Capita | HDI Rank |
|-----------|----------------------|------------------|----------|
| Argentina | 3,761,274 km²        | 38,000,000       | $12,106  | 34        |
| Brazil    | 8,500 km²            | 181,400,000      | $7,790   | 63        |
| Chile     | 756,096 km²          | 16,000,000       | $10,274  | 37        |
| Paraguay  | 406,752 km²          | 5,900,000        | $4,684   | 88        |
| Uruguay   | 176,216 km²          | 3,400,000        | $8,280   | 46        |
| Bolivia   | 1,098,581 km²        | 8,800,000        | $2,587   | 113       |
| Colombia  | 1,141,748 km²        | 44,200,000       | $6,702   | 69        |
| Ecuador   | 270,667 km²          | 12,900,000       | $3,641   | 82        |
| Peru      | 1,285,220 km²        | 27,200,000       | $5,260   | 79        |
| Venezuela | 916,445 km²          | 25,800,000       | $4,919   | 75        |

4 UN, General Assembly Resolution, UNGA document, A/RES/60/180, 20 December 2005; Ekinor (2006).
South American nations face the challenge of improving policies and actions in the double triad of human security. Achieving human development is crucial. Without resolving inequity and poverty issues, the main goal in human security will be impossible to obtain. Advancing an investigation and studies in defense and security are a part of the essential keys for conceptual development on human security. This will help improve public policies that will enhance stability and international and regional peace. In addition, for South American countries conceptual development is a key tool for the consolidation of democratic regimes and to overcome the unjust situation for its people.