



REPORT OF WORKING COMMITTEE

THEMATIC AXIS II:

Environmental Protection and Resilience

Moderator (Canada): Major General Dereck Joyce

Rapporteur (US): Mr. Shah A. Choudhury, PE; Ms E. Rebecca Patton, PMP; Mr. David Heaton

Co-Rapporteur (Antigua & Barbuda): Mrs Jocelyn Greene

Co-Rapporteur (Bolivia): Lic. Windsor Hernani Limarino

Co-Rapporteur (Chile): Mr. Gonzalo Alvarez

Participants

This group comprised delegates from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Grenada, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St Kitts Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, United States and Venezuela and included participation from the following Observer delegations:

- United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Spain
- Inter-American Defence Board (IADB)

Presentation by Observer delegations

A representative of the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) expressed his agreement with the issues and recommendations indicated in the working paper and made the following recommendations to promote enhanced environmental protection and resilience:

1. Greater investment by states in research and development.

2. Stronger inter-governmental coordination in the area of environmental protection and climate resilience.
3. Improvement of energy and water security, which would mitigate effects of environmental changes at a global and national level.
4. Movement towards establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group on climate change issues to consider the issue of the defence and security sector and environmental protection and climate resilience.

He also expressed the view that collaboration between the defence and security sector could result in shared projects to ensure a more environmentally resilient Hemisphere.

Key Issues Discussed (summary of main issues discussed, and which countries/observers contributed)

1. The growing preoccupation with climate change. It is not just a concept but also rather a very real threat facing our hemisphere.
2. Dealing with this issue is a shared responsibility. Not only within States but also among States climate change knows no borders.
3. The role of the Defence and Security Sector in tackling climate change.
4. There are now tangible results – we have moved from the discussion phase to the action phase

Conclusions (main conclusions of discussions in respect of thematic axis)

1. The operations of the Defence and Security Sector can have an impact on the environment.
2. The Defence and Security Sector supports their national civilian authorities and collaborates with other agencies to strengthen environmental protection and climate resilience in compliance with the national legislation.

3. There is an increasing need for the Defence and Security Sector, among others, to play a constant and innovative role to contribute to environmental protection and climate resilience.
4. The Defence and Security Sectors in adhering to operational requirements continue to recognize and respect environmental norms established by national authorities.

Recommendations (paragraphs for inclusion in draft Declaration of Port of Spain)

1. That they recognise the role of the Defence and Security Sector in support of civil authorities to assist in environmental protection and climate resilience;
2. Their commitment to support, national efforts in actions, as appropriate, to increase energy and water security, adopt innovations in areas such as energy efficiency, new technologies, and renewable energy sources which will increase the resiliency of the defence and security's installations and help mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change;
3. That the Defence and Security Sector increase the capacity of their defence and security installations in order to mitigate or adapt to climate effects on defence institutions and operations;
4. Their establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group on the role of the defense and security forces with regard to environmental protection and climate resilience to meet before XIII CDMA in order to share the best practices to reduce defence and security forces' impact on the climate and the impact of climate change on the defense and security forces;
5. That they recognize the need for hemispheric cooperation in order to mitigate any impacts of insect vector borne diseases on defence and security personnel through the collaboration with relevant health research institutions;
6. Their commitment to encourage the development of training programmes in the defence and security sector to mitigate the impact of the environment on force capability and health.

Signature List

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Moderator (Canada)

Mr. Shah A. Chaudhury, PE
Rapporteur (United States)

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Rapporteur (United States)

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