



**XV** **CONFERÊNCIA DE MINISTROS  
DE DEFESA DAS AMÉRICAS**  
**2021 - 2022**  
**BRASÍLIA - BRASIL**

**BRASILIA DECLARATION**

**JULY 28, 2022**



## XV Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas

Brasília-DF, Brazil July 25-29, 2022



### BRASILIA-DF, BRAZIL

The Ministers of Defense and Security or their equivalents and the Heads of Delegation participating in the XV Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CDMA), meeting in Plenary Session on July 28, 2022:

**Reaffirming** their commitment to fully respect the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as the Inter-American Democratic Charter and its values, principles, and mechanisms;

**Guided** by the Williamsburg principles, approved in the I CDMA in 1995;

**Considering** that the CDMA's fundamental purpose is to promote mutual knowledge, analysis, debate and exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of defense and security, refraining from generating doctrine; and

**Recognizing** their commitment to the Declaration on Security in the Americas, of October 2003.

### DECLARE

1. Their commitment to continue promoting and strengthening peace in the Hemisphere, with full respect for International Law, in particular through compliance, promotion and integration of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, including the international norms and principles that regulate the use of force by defense and security forces, respecting the sovereignty of each State and in accordance with the domestic legal system of each country.
2. Their inalienable commitment to the defense of the values of self-determination, national independence, respect for territorial integrity, protection of civilian populations, freedom from foreign oppression, respect for internationally recognized borders and national sovereignty – principles upon which all CDMA Member States were founded. The conflicts present around the world, such as the invasion of Ukraine and the violent acts by armed groups that terrorize the population in Haiti are not legitimate means to settle disputes, therefore the Member States of the CDMA, seek peaceful solutions as soon as possible.<sup>123</sup>
3. Their recognition of the essential role played by women in the area of Defense and Security, including under the internationally recognized framework of “Women, Peace and Security”, highlighting the importance of their full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making activities related to

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<sup>1</sup> Disclaimer: Argentina and Brazil, consistent with the principles that govern their international relations, recognize the role of the United Nations in the search for international peace and security and consider that organization the forum with a mandate suitable for dealing with the conflict in Ukraine.

<sup>2</sup> Disclaimer: Mexico states that the provisions of the second paragraph of the Brasilia Declaration do not fall within the scope of the CDMA, and therefore, based on the compatibility of Mexico's domestic policy principles, it is not possible to adhere to its content, recognizing the United Nations as the appropriate forum to address this issue.

<sup>3</sup> Disclaimer: Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, the United States of America and Uruguay reiterate their condemnation in the strongest terms of the Russian Federation's illegal, invasion of Ukraine.



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these areas, as well as the need for the development and implementation of policies in the Hemisphere aimed at eradicating all forms of gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment and violence within the Armed Forces and Hemispheric Institutions.

4. Their willingness to continue participating in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and humanitarian aid, through contingents and specialists, such as military observers and members of General Staffs, among others, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter, saluting the Republic of Peru on the initiative of organizing the First Latin American and Caribbean Conference on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, to be held on September 6-7, 2022, in Lima.

5. Their recognition that integrated deterrence provides a construct for maintaining peace and stability in the Western Hemisphere by prioritizing regional cooperation in all defense and security domains and reducing barriers to sharing information and capabilities, and the concept will be referred to the Inter American Defense Board (IADB) for further studies as recommended by the Working Group.<sup>4</sup>

6. Their intention to continue supporting the preservation of the environment and climate resilience, through the exchange of experiences in climate mitigation and adaptation applicable to the sector, according to the legal framework of each state and respecting their national sovereignty.

7. Their recognition that climate change and adaptation will influence the role of defense institutions and their missions, and the recognition that Member States can strengthen their commitments to address climate change and environmental factors, build climate resilience and invest in environmental protection, in accordance with each state's domestic legal system and respecting their national sovereignty.

8. Their recognition that the Defense and Security Forces support civilian organizations in humanitarian assistance and disaster response events and its commitment to share best practices and lessons learned to improve regional cooperation and collaboration to minimize the impact of weather-related events and natural disasters on populations throughout the Western Hemisphere, while respecting the sovereignty of each state and in accordance with each country's domestic legal system.

9. Their support for the continued progress made by CDMA Member States in implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, as part of confidence and security-building measures.

10. Their recognition of the actions of OAS Confidence and Security-Building Measures, approved by the Committee on Hemispheric Security of that Institution (OAS/Ser. G CP/SCH - 1953/20 ver. 1, 13 March 2020) in order to strengthen bilateral, sub-regional and hemispheric relations, contributing to cooperation, stability, peace and security.

11. Their acknowledgement of the advancement of CDMA Member States in the discussion regarding cyber defense and cyberspace, recognizing: the need for continuous cooperation and exchange of information, aiming the development of capabilities to mitigate malicious cyber activity; the need to carry out joint activities to enhance knowledge in the area and foster trust between countries; and the need for the involvement of government institutions and civil society to create a holistic view of the cyberspace

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<sup>4</sup> Disclaimer: In relation to Integrated deterrence, Argentina and Chile limit themselves to considering a more in-depth study of the issue by the IADB, for a subsequent assessment, as agreed by Working Commission.



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phenomenon, contributing to the generation of better responses to those malicious activities. According to the internal legal system of each country.

12. Their appreciation for the important and unprecedented role of the Member States' defense and security organizations, in supporting civilian institutions, in delivering food, medicine, and other essential support, such as building field hospitals, to their populations during the pandemic, saving thousands of lives and preserving the well-being of their citizens.

13. Their recognition that advanced preparedness and collective responses have reduced the loss of life and consequent economic impacts during pandemics, such as that of COVID-19, noting its intention to prioritize preparedness in order to respond effectively to future pandemics, in other words: working bilaterally and multilaterally, accounting for the role of the Armed Forces and Hemispheric Institutions in providing pandemic relief to citizens and using innovative technology, including virtual tools, to maintain mission readiness, while respecting sovereignty and in accordance with each country's domestic legal system.

14. Their concern with Transnational Organized Crime, which requires cooperation and coordination among States' Defense and Security institutions in the Hemisphere, respecting the domestic legal system and the sovereignty of each country.<sup>5</sup>

15. Their commitment to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, poaching of wild animals and illegal mineral and forestry exploitation, in accordance with the domestic legislation of each country and the norms and international agreements.<sup>6</sup>

16. Their support for the continuous development of professional, civil and military capabilities, in the different national entities responsible for Defense and Security. Moreover, in particular to language learning and people to people professional exchange.

17. Their recognition of the important contribution made by civil society and academic institutions to promoting cooperation in the Hemisphere in the Defense and Security matters.

18. In accordance with the CDMA Regulations, request the OAS, on a permanent basis, to involve the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), in accordance with the resolutions of its General Assembly, in the following activities:

a. Collect, share, and store lessons learned on humanitarian assistance on the Hemisphere and disseminate them to OAS and CDMA Member States;

b. Maintain up-to-date databases of contact points for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) in each CDMA Member State; and

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<sup>5</sup> Reservation: the Ministries of Defense of Chile and Argentina presented their reservations, emphasizing that the content of the paragraph 14 must be understood in strict accordance with current national legislation.

<sup>6</sup> Reservation: the Ministries of Defense of Chile and Argentina presented their reservations, emphasizing that the content of the paragraph 15 must be understood in strict accordance with current national legislation.



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- c. Organize, annually, a table-top exercise of the CDMA Country Disaster Cooperation Mechanism (DICOME), in coordination with the CDMA Pro Tempore Secretariat.
19. Take note of the conclusions and recommendations of the three Ad Hoc Working Groups, gathered during the 2021/2022 cycle of the Conference, and:
  - a. Support the continued development of DICOME, under the coordination and execution of the IADB, as a way of enhancing cooperation in the response of countries and existing systems in the event of natural and manmade disasters in the Hemisphere;
  - b. Reaffirm their support for promoting confidence-building measures, including those related to cyber defense and cyberspace, in the interests of Defense and Security, in line with the Confidence and Security-Building Measures (MFCS), consolidated and approved by the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security (OAS). /Ser. G CP/CSH – 1953/20 ver. 1, March 13, 2020), celebrating Brazil's proposal to coordinate a cyber-exercise in the second half of 2023; and
  - c. Promote the exchange of experiences about the role, integration and importance of women's participation in the Armed Forces of the countries that make up the CDMA, in compliance with resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" of the United Nations Security Council.
20. Their recognition that the implementation of the table-top exercise on the DICOME, conducted by the IADB, in February of this year, achieved the proposed objectives with regard to its validation initial phase, documenting the need for its continuous development, with the support of the OAS.
21. Their congratulations to the IADB on its 80th anniversary and for its contributions to the advancements of multinational peace, defense, and security within our Hemisphere.
22. Agree with the deliberations carried out by the Working Committee I on the Theme “Strengthening Integrated Deterrence: Air, Land, Sea, Space and Cyberspace”:
  - a. The conclusions
    - i. The importance and relevance of the topic was recognized;
    - ii. Due to its complexity, delegates concluded that the topic needs to be further studied; and
    - iii. The participating countries are grateful for the willingness of the United States Rapporteur to carefully conduct the exposition of the topic, and to all who contributed to the success of this Working Committee.
  - b. Recommendations:

Recognizing the specificities of each country on the subject, the Working Committee recommends the following: Unanimously, the members present suggest that the subject be submitted to the OAS for a more detailed study of the proposal through the IADB and that it be taken up at the XVI CDMA.



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23. Agree with the deliberations carried out by the Working Committee II on “The Role of the Armed Forces in the Face of Migratory Flows”:<sup>7</sup>

a. Conclusions:

ii. It is considered that the issue of migration flows is a multidimensional phenomenon, having several causes such as climate change, the occurrence of natural disasters or the search for better socioeconomic conditions.

iii. Endorsed the principles, values, and commitments set forth in the Los Angeles Declaration of June 2022, including the commitment to protect the safety and dignity of all migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons, regardless of their migration status and respecting their human rights and fundamental freedoms.<sup>8</sup>

iv. Acknowledged Brazil's efforts and experience in the context of Operation Acolhida as an example of response to the phenomenon of migration flows and cooperation between national and international agencies, organized civil society and other stakeholders.

v. Acknowledged that training, exercises, and exchanges between the Armed Forces of the CDMA countries can provide significant opportunities for learning, adaptation, and improvement in the management of migration flows.

vi. Acknowledged that the experience, the lessons learned and best practices derived from the experiences of the Armed Forces in the context of migration flows can be applied in other contexts such as humanitarian assistance and in natural disaster management and vice versa.

vii. Acknowledged the importance of urgent, localized, and temporary support from defense and security forces to civilian organizations in the context of migration.

viii. Acknowledged that the limits of action of the Armed Forces regarding the issue is a sovereign prerogative of each country.

ix. Reinforced the need to emphasize the importance of the human dimension as a critical success factor.

x. Acknowledged the situation of vulnerability, in the face of the phenomenon of migration, in which certain segments of the population, such as women, girls, and minorities, find themselves.

xi. Acknowledged the need to share the experiences of the CDMA countries in relation to their response to migration.

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<sup>7</sup> Disclaimer: The Ministries of Defense of Chile, Peru and Argentina submitted their reservation. Specifying that the conclusions and recommendations of the working committee should be understood in strict conformity with the respective national legislations.

<sup>8</sup> Disclaimer: The Ministries of Defense of Trinidad and Tobago and Dominican Republic, assistant with the position adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Americas, reserves its position with respect to the endorsement of the principles, values and commitments of the Los Angeles Declaration of June, 2022.



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### b. Recommendations:

i. That they acknowledge the distinct experiences of the CDMA countries in responding to migration flows in the region and their possible exchanges.

ii. We recommend that the Member States share the best practices and lessons learned in the context of migration, in particular on the role of the armed forces, with the Inter-American Defense Board as a repository of these lessons learned.

iii. We recommend that appropriate organizations, in coordination with the Member States, hold events and courses for the purpose of disseminating the knowledge generated by sharing the experiences of each country.

iv. The converging views among participating countries of not continuing the working committee discussions, at the CDMA level, by proposing the creation of a repository of best practices were acknowledged.

24. Their gratitude and recognition to Colombia for its collaboration in the development of the virtual Ad Hoc Working Group “Cyber defense and Cyberspace”.

25. Their gratitude and recognition to Argentina for its collaboration in the development of the virtual Ad Hoc Working Group “Women, Peace and Security”.

26. Their gratitude and appreciation to the United States of America for its hospitality and collaboration in the development of the in-person Ad Hoc Working Group “Cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR)”.

27. To assign the following activities for the XVI CDMA, cycle 2023/2024, considering the results of the Ad Hoc Working Groups, as well as the particular proposals of the Member States:

a. Maintain the Ad Hoc Working Group “Cyber defense and Cyberspace”, thanking Colombia for the sponsorship offered during the second semester of 2023 and Brazil for coordinating the cyber exercise with the participation of CDMA Member States in the second half of 2023;

b. Maintain the Ad Hoc Working Group “Women, Peace and Security”, thanking the United States of America for the sponsorship offered during the first semester of 2024; and

c. Maintain the Ad Hoc Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR)”, thanking Chile for the sponsorship offered during the year of 2023, emphasizing the development of MECODE.

28. To reiterate the commitment of the Member States to participate in the Ad Hoc Working Groups organized for the 2023/2024 cycle, with the aim of reaching recommendations that allow greater cooperation and coordination between them, as well as contributing to the success of the XVI CDMA.



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29. To announce the designation of Argentina as host country of the XVI CDMA, during the 2023/2024 cycle, and communicate that the choice of the host country for the 17th CDMA 2025/2026 cycle, will take place in the 16th CDMA.

30. Their gratitude and acknowledgment to the Brazil Government, in particular its Ministry of Defense, for the effort spent in the development of this XV CDMA, which took place in a cycle affected by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences in all sectors.