



**XVI CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF
THE AMERICAS
WORKING COMMITTEE
“CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF DEFENSE”
MENDOZA, ARGENTINA. OCTOBER 13-16, 2024**



MINUTES

The Meeting of the Working Committee “Climate and Environmental Challenges from the Perspective of Defense” was held within the framework of the XVI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas on October 15, 2024 at 02:30 pm. As agreed by the delegates of the member states of the CDMA at the Preparatory Meeting, the Republic of Chile assumed the role of rapporteur, while the United States of America was the moderator.

I. BACKGROUND AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- A. The Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, created in 1995, is an international multilateral and political forum directed by the Ministers of Defense of the hemisphere, with authorization from the governments of their respective countries.
- B. The key objective of the Conference is to foster reciprocal knowledge, debate, analysis and exchange of ideas experiences in defense and security matters.
- C. The Conference is organized by the Assembly of Member States, the Working Committees and the Pro Tempore Secretariat.
- D. The Working Committees are made up of the Member States appointed in the Preparatory Meeting to discuss the Thematic Agenda or the specific issues of the Conference. A Working Committee will be established for each thematic issue which will be presided over by the delegate of the Member State appointed as Moderator and will be supported by a Recording Secretary and the staff appointed by the Host Country.
The Working Committees are reserved. Only the delegates appointed by the Member States and Observers, if authorized at the Preparatory Meeting, will be allowed to participate in such committees.
- E. The Thematic Agenda was submitted and approved at the Preparatory Meeting of the XVI CDMA held on June 11 and 12, 2024 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on a virtual modality.
- F. At the Preparatory Meeting of the XVI CDMA, the theme “Climate and Environmental Challenges from the Perspective of Defense” was approved to be discussed during the Conference. There, it was resolved that the Republic of Chile will assume the role of rapporteur and the United States of America, of moderator of the Working Committee.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- A. **Presiding officers of the Working Committee**
 - Moderator: Paul J. Angelo. Departamento de Defensa de los Estados Unidos de America



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- Rapporteur: Karen Meier, Jefa de División de Relaciones Internacionales del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional de la República de Chile.

B. Representatives of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the XVI CDMA

- Juan E. Battaleme Martínez, Secretario General de la XVI CDMA.
- Ana Carolina Podlesker, Secretaria Ejecutiva de la XVI CDMA.

C. National Delegations

1. Argentina

- Flora De Oro Ocampo, Directora de Planeamiento de la Asistencia Militar a la Protección Civil.

2. Brazil

- Brigadier General, José Roberto Queiroz, Subjefe de Organismos Internacionales.

3. Canada

- Chantal Desormeaux, Capitán de navío

4. Chile

- Karen Meier, Jefa de división de Relaciones Internacionales dependiente de la Subsecretaría de Defensa.

5. United States

- Kimberly Crusey, Directora de Western Hemisphere Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

6. Honduras

- Gral. de Brigada Dagoberto Moncada. Inspector de las Fuerzas Armadas.

7. Jamaica

- Bryce Waugh Latoya, Jefa de Delegación.

8. Mexico

- TC Constantino Rogerio Moreno, Jefe de Grupo de Gestión de Riesgos

9. Panama

- My Wladimir Gonzalez García, Asesor Tecnológico. Ministerio de Seguridad Pública.

10. Peru

- Guillermo Portillo, Dirección de Asuntos Multilaterales y Cooperación Internacional.

11. Trinidad and Tobago

- Air Vice Marshal Darryl Daniel, Jefe de Delegación



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12. Uruguay

- Contralmirante Gustavo Luciani, Director de Inteligencia Estratégica.

13. Guyana

- Capitán Britany Van Lage

III. MEETING

A. Presentation of the theme “Climate and Environmental Challenges from the Perspective of Defense” by the Republic of Chile.

The issue of climate and environmental challenges was conceptualized and later, a description of the international context was provided. The seriousness of this phenomenon which affects the entire world was emphasized and some examples of recent situations that have had an impact on countries of the western hemisphere were provided.

The delegation explained how climate change is related to defense in different ways delving into adaptation and mitigation issues and giving examples of the Chilean experience in this sense.

B. Exchange of ideas between the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, the United States of America, Peru, Guyana, Mexico, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Uruguay and Trinidad and Tobago. The following conclusions were reached:

C. Conclusions of the Working Committee

After the presentations made by the delegations of Chile and the discussion held by the delegations, it was concluded that:

- **The situation of vulnerability in the face of new climate challenges can lead to social, economic and political instability, thus causing the forced displacement of populations what may create conditions that both state and non-state actors can benefit from.**
- **There are no permanent working areas to share the experiences from the CDMA countries in response to climate challenges to optimize regional coordination.**
- **There is a strong connection between the climate and environmental challenges and the activities related to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.**
- **There are different interpretations and legal frameworks of each country in terms of defense and security against the threats arising from climate and environmental challenges.**



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D. Working Committee's Recommendations

On account of the issue raised, the Working Committee recommends the following to Defense Ministers and Heads of Delegation.

- Continue with the creation of a new ad hoc working group on this issue. Within this framework, share prior experiences and policies implemented by each country for better practices and lessons learned.
- Share and develop activities of national defense adaptation including national adaptation plans in terms of recycling, waste management and critical infrastructure resilience.
- Recommend that the IDB may serve as a lessons learned repository in terms of Climate and Environmental Challenges.
- Propose that the AH/RD Working Group in this Conference continues with MECODE's ongoing projects through the MECODEX.
- Regarding the relationship between Defense and Climate and Environmental Challenges, two different aspects should be considered:
 - a. The optimization of the Armed Forces responses, as a subsidiary mission, to mitigate the effects caused by natural disasters.
 - b. The improvement of the Armed Forces operational resilience capacity against the effects of climate and environmental challenges, mainly in the geographic areas where they must operate.
- Strengthen the coordination between the CDMA countries, through the use of multilateralism and existing HA/DR cooperation mechanisms at subregional level.
- Encourage the education and training of military and civilian staff of Defense to improve the practices of adaptation, mitigation and response to natural disasters.
- Include in the working agenda the principles of Women, Peace and Security related to HA/DR and the collection of data related to climate and environmental challenges.
- Collect in a centralized way the statistical data and information for the preventative diagnosis of climate and environmental risks.
- Disseminate the prospects and good practices of circular economy within the context of defense together with other government entities of countries of the CDMA as a sustainable alternative to optimize budgets.

On October 15, 2024, at 07:15 pm, the Working Committee “Climate and Environmental Challenges from the Perspective of Defense” concluded its activities and signed these Minutes.

It is expressly placed on record that the Executive Secretariat of the XVI CDMA will distribute copies of this document to the Member States in the official languages of this Conference.