



MINUTES OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE

Topic II – “The Role of the Armed Forces in the face of Migration Flows.”

At 09:00 a.m. on July 27, 2022, within the 2021-2022 Cycle of the XV Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, chaired by the Ministry of Defense of Brazil, the work on Topic II - "The Role of the Armed Forces in the face of Migration Flows" began, with Brazil as rapporteur country and Canada as moderating country.

I - BACKGROUND

- A. The Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CMDA) is a biennial meeting of multilateral policy and international importance, integrated and directed by the Defense Ministers of the Americas, with the approval of the governments of their respective countries. It is the main meeting place for the defense sector in the hemisphere and, according to article 2 of its regulations, its fundamental purpose is to promote reciprocal knowledge, analysis, debate and exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of Defense and Security.
- B. At the XV CMDA Preparatory Meeting, which took place on March 31, 2022, by videoconference, Theme II - "The Role of the Armed Forces in the face of Migration Flows" was approved for discussion during the Conference.

II – PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS

Board of Directors:

1. Moderator: Suneeta Millington – Canada
2. Rapporteur: Professor Doctor Jacintho Maia Neto from Escola Superior de Guerra (ESG)
3. Assistant Rapporteur: Professor Doctor Fábio Albergaria de Queiroz from Escola Superior de Defesa (ESD)
4. Panelist: Professor Doctor Alcides Costa Vaz – Universidade de Brasília (UNB)

Pro Tempore Secretariat Representatives of the XV CMDA

5. Rear Admiral Antonio Cesar da Rocha Martins, Executive secretary of the XV CMDA.
6. José Rubens Marques, Colonel, XV CMDA Executive Secretary Coordinator.



Participating Country Delegations

Argentina

7. Carlos Julio Sanmillán – Military Attaché of the Embassy of Argentina.

Brazil

8. Col Av Márcio Pontes – Logistical Coordinator of Operação Acolhida.

Canada

9. Jordan Fraser – Directorate of Western Hemisphere Policy.

Chile

10. General Command Jorge Flores Vera – Defense Attaché of Chile in Brasil.
11. Felipe Cousino Donoso – International Security Director – Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Colombia

12. Andrés Felipe Fernandez – Deputy Aeronautical Attaché of the Colombian Air Force

Ecuador

13. Brigadier General Santiago Almeida – Defense subsecretary MDN.
14. Colonel Pedro Alvarado – Aeronautical Attaché of Equador.

United States

15. Amon Killeen – Office of the Secretary of Defense, Caribbean Director;
16. Victor Esteves – Office of the Secretary of Defence; Advisor.
17. Dra. Fabiana Sofia Perera – Associate Professor William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies

Peru

18. FAP Colonel Edear Daniel Cabrera Márquez – Ministry of Defense Multilateral Affairs

Dominican Republic

19. General Commands Abel Elias Esmurdoc Romero – Defense, Army, Navy, Air Force and Police attaché from D.R.

Uruguai

20. Army General Gerardo Fregossi – Commander-in-Chief of the Army



III – EVENT DEVELOPMENT

C. The Working Committee established the following objective: To generate a dialogue space for the presentation and debates on Theme II - "The Role of the Armed Forces in the face of Migratory Flows" and the subsequent presentation of the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the work in the plenary session of the Conference for ratification and rectification by the Heads of Delegation.

D. The Working Committee observed the General Principles of CDMA, established in Article 3 of its regulations, namely:

- 1.Scope of action;
- 2.Flexibility in attendance;
- 3.Acceptance of diversity;
- 4.Abstention to the pursuit of the creation of doctrines;
- 5.Permanent interaction;
- 6.Projection; and
- 7.Increased bilateral contact.

IV - SESSIONS

Block 1 – Presentation of the working group by the moderating country (Canada) and start of activities with the panel "The Role of the Armed Forces in the face of Migratory Flows" with Professor Alcides Costa Vaz, from the Institute of International Relations of the University of Brasilia, who spoke about migratory flows on the hemispheric security agenda.

Block 2 – After the moderator's comments, space was opened for the manifestation of the commissions with remarks by: Brazil, the United States, Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Canada and the Dominican Republic.

Block 3 – The session began with a new round of discussions on the points presented by the panelist after comments from the delegations of Ecuador and the United States.

V - CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE

E. The Working Committee debated on various issues and shared perspectives on Theme II - "The Role of the Armed Forces in the face of Migration Flows":

➤ It 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.



XV Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas

Brasília-DF, Brazil July 25-29, 2022



- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Acknowledged the importance of urgent, localized, and temporary support from defense and security forces to civilian organizations in the context of migration.
- Acknowledged that the limits of action of the Armed Forces regarding the issue is a sovereign prerogative of each country.
- Reinforced the need to emphasize the importance of the human dimension as a critical success factor.
- 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.
- Acknowledged the need to share the experiences of the CDMA countries in relation to their response to migration.

VI - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE TO THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY MINISTERS

- F. Acknowledging the specificities of each country on the topic, the Working Committee makes the following recommendations:
1. That they acknowledge the distinct experiences of the CDMA countries in responding to migration flows in the region and their possible exchanges.
 2. 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.
 3. 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.
- G. 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.



XV Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas

Brasília-DF, Brazil July 25-29, 2022



H. At 6:00 p.m. on July 27, 2022, the Working Committee on Theme - II: "The Role of the Armed Forces in the face of Migration Flows" closed its activities with the signing of these Minutes.

I. It is noted that the Executive Secretariat of the XV CDMA will distribute digital copies of this document to the Member States, in the official languages of the CDMA.

J. These minutes are signed by me, the Secretary of the Minutes, by the representatives of the Executive Secretariat of the XV CDMA and by the representatives of the Member State Delegations of CDMA that participated in this Working Committee: