



**XVI CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF
THE AMERICAS
PREPARATORY MEETING
JUNE 11 AND 12 - BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA**



MINUTES

The Preparatory Meeting of the XVI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas was held on June 11 and 12, 2024 via videoconference. The Preparatory Meeting was presided by the Secretary General of the Conference, Mg. Juan E. Battaleme Martínez.

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 experiences in defense and security matters.
- C. The Conference will be composed of the Assembly of Member States, the Working Committees and the Pro Tempore Secretariat.
- D. The Assembly brings together the majority of the Delegations of Member States, headed by their respective Ministers or Secretaries or by an authorized Representative. The Assembly includes the plenary sessions of the Preparatory Meeting and Conference.
- E. The Preparatory Meeting should be held at least four months prior to the Conference, with the main objective of approving the Thematic Agenda to be analyzed in the ministerial meeting. The Preparatory Meeting is attended by the delegates of the Member States with the right to vote.
- F. For purposes of planning its activities, the Preparatory Meeting will have the following basic documents prepared by the Executive Secretariat: the proposed Thematic Agenda for the Conference; tentative proposals for updating the Conference Regulations; the administrative instructions for the Conference; a report on the countries that offer to host the Conference; and a draft of the proposed Declaration.
- G. The Assembly in the Preparatory Meeting will have the authority to define the Draft Thematic Agenda by seeking consensus or by a majority of votes, if necessary. In any case, a limited number of themes should be considered in accordance with the available time at the Conference.
- H. The definitive Thematic Agenda will be recorded in the Minutes of the Preparatory Meeting and disseminated by the Executive Secretariat before the Conference. After the Thematic Agenda is approved, only urgent matters may be added with the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Member States.
- I. The Preparatory Meeting, under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of the Conference, will be organized according to the same criteria established for the Conference of Ministers.
- J. In the XV CDMA, convened in Brasilia, Argentina was selected as the Host Country of the XVI CDMA for 2023/2024.
- K. During the XV CDMA, the Ministers recommended the XVI CDMA to continue to hold the three *Ad hoc* Working Groups “Cooperation in Humanitarian



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Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR)”, “Women, Peace and Security” and “Cyberdefense and Cyberspace”.

II. PARTICIPANTS

A. 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.

B. National Delegations

1. Argentina

- María Cristina Domínguez, Directora Nacional de Cooperación para el Mantenimiento de la Paz. Ministerio de Defensa.
- Sebastián Vigliero, Asesor Jefe de la Secretaría de Asuntos Internacionales para la Defensa. Ministerio de Defensa.

2. Bahamas

- Jennifer Bethel, Director of Research and Development. Ministry of National Security.

3. Brazil

- José Rubens, Coordenador-Geral da Subchefia de Organismos Internacionais. Ministério da Defesa.
- Ricardo Barillo, Assessor Militar da Subchefia de Organismos Internacionais. Ministério da Defesa.
- Ronaldo Pereira, Assessor Militar da Subchefia de Organismos Internacionais. Ministério da Defesa.
- Amanda Vieira. Assessora da Subchefia de Organismos Internacionais. Ministério da Defesa.
- Jorge Ferreira. Intérprete, Tradutor, Coordenador de Cooperação Internacional. Ministério da Defesa.

4. Canada

- Carrie Elliott, Section Head, LAC. Department of National Defence.
- Paul Owens, Policy Analyst. Department of National Defence.

5. Chile

- Ricardo Montero Allende, Subsecretario de Defensa. Subsecretaría de Defensa.
- Sergio Guevara Macías, Jefe del Departamento de Asuntos Bilaterales y Multilaterales. Subsecretaría de Defensa.
- Valentín Segura, Jefe del Departamento de Cooperación, Tratados y Acuerdos Internacionales. Subsecretaría de Defensa.
- Camila Muñoz Paiva, Encargada del Escritorio Multilateral. Subsecretaría de Defensa.



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6. Colombia

- Diana Esperanza Castillo Castro, Directora de Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación. Ministerio de Defensa Nacional.
- Luis Fernando Vargas Calderón, Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación. Ministerio de Defensa Nacional.

7. Costa Rica

- Eric Lacayo Rojas, Viceministro de Seguridad. Ministerio de Seguridad Pública.

8. Ecuador

- Luis Asanza, Analista de Relaciones Internacionales. Ministerio de Defensa Nacional.

9. El Salvador

- Tania Maricela Luna de Benítez, Jefe de Departamento Organismos Multilaterales. Ministerio de la Defensa Nacional.

10. United States

- Rebecca Zimmerman, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Security and Hemispheric Affairs. Department of Defense.
- Ashley Pixton, Country Director. Department of Defense.
- Max Shafron, DoD CDMA Lead. Department of Defense.

11. Guatemala

- Sergio Giovanni Hernández Castro, enlace del Ministerio de la Defensa Nacional para la CMDA. Ministerio de la Defensa Nacional.

12. Honduras

- José Jorge Fortín Aguilar, Viceministro. Secretaría de Defensa Nacional.

13. Jamaica

- Noel Lewis, Commanding Officer JDF Air Wing. Jamaica Defence Force.

14. Mexico

- Astroel Morales Martínez, Jefe de la Subsección de Asuntos Internacionales. Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional.

15. Panama

- Hady González, Directora de Cooperación Técnica Internacional. Ministerio de Seguridad Pública.
- Javier Barrios, Analista de Cooperación Internacional. Ministerio de Seguridad Pública.

16. Paraguay

- Jorge Ramón Garcete Luraghi, Director de Cooperación y Relaciones Internacionales. Ministerio de Defensa Nacional.



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17. Peru

- César Torres Vega, Viceministro de Políticas para la Defensa. Ministerio de Defensa.
- Augusto Cabrera Rebaza, Director General de Relaciones Internacionales. Ministerio de Defensa.
- Miguel Ángel Peña Castro, funcionario de Asuntos Multilaterales. Ministerio de Defensa.

18. Dominican Republic

- Mayor General Miguel Ángel Rubio Báez, Jefe de la delegación dominicana en la reunión preparatoria de la CMDA.
- Frank Mauricio Cabrera Rizek, delegado del Ministerio de Defensa ante la CMDA. Ejército de República Dominicana.

19. Trinidad and Tobago

- Kemba Hannays, Commanding Officer Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard. Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force.
- Shani Valdez-Forrester, International Affairs Officer. Ministry of National Security.

20. Uruguay

- Daniel Locattelli, Director General de Política de Defensa. Ministerio de Defensa Nacional.

C. Observers

- Richard Heitkamp, Director del Colegio Interamericano de Defensa. Junta Interamericana de Defensa.
- Juan Alarcón, Jefe de la Sección Organismos Internacionales de la Secretaría de la JID. Junta Interamericana de Defensa.
- Fernando Marroquín, Oficial de Enlace del Colegio Interamericano de Defensa. Junta Interamericana de Defensa.
- Luis Alberto Arrascue Avellaneda, Asesor en Desastres de la Secretaría de la Junta Interamericana de Defensa.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF MEETING

A. Opening and Welcome Speech

The Secretary General of the XVI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, Mg. Juan E. Battaleme Martínez, welcomed and thanked the delegations of Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and the observers of the Inter-American Defense Board for attending the Preparatory Meeting. Likewise, he stressed on the degrading international environment, the wars in different parts of the world and their impact on the



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Americas. Finally, he highlighted the importance of the CDMA as a body that generates mutual confidence-building measures and is willing to build, from this multilateral scenario, in pursuit of regional, hemispheric and international peace. Then, the Executive Secretary of the XVI CDMA, Mg. Ana Carolina Podlesker, welcomed the delegations and presented an institutional video of the historical change of guard and, simultaneously, of the Regiments of Mounted Granadiers (*Regimientos de Granaderos a Caballo*) “General San Martín”, the 1st Infantry Regiment “Patricios” and the 1st Artillery Regiment, Brigadier General Tomás de Iriarte in Plaza de Mayo in the city of Buenos Aires, during the celebration for the last anniversary of May Revolution (*Revolución de Mayo*).

The Program of the Preparatory Meeting of the XVI CDMA was read.

B. Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of *Ad hoc* Working Groups and of the MECODEX

In the Brasilia Declaration, the Defense Ministers or their counterparts and the Heads of Delegation attending the XVI CDMA, recommended the XVI CDMA to continue to hold the three *Ad hoc* Working Groups: “Cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR)”, “Women, Peace and Security” and “Cyberdefense and Cyberspace”. Thus, the representatives of the host countries submitted to the member States the results of the Working Groups obtained during the XVI CDMA.

- Chile – *Ad hoc* Working Group “Cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief”.

The Under Secretary of Defense, Ricardo Montero Allende welcomed the attendees and gave the floor to Mr. Valentín Segura, who explained that the meeting of the Working Group had been attended by the delegates of 16 countries of the Americas and the representatives of 3 observers.

The Working Group was held in Santiago de Chile on November 8 and 9, 2023. Mr. Segura stated that, thanks to the work performed during the meeting, as well as to the four outstanding panels addressing important issues – such as climate change and its impact on defense; civilian and military coordination, which is a key element for timely and effective response; and the international cooperation in humanitarian assistance in emergencies and disasters-, valuable conclusions and recommendations were provided.

For instance, it was agreed to explore ways to cooperate and collaborate bilaterally and multilaterally to minimize the impact of weather events and disasters on populations across the Western Hemisphere, and it was recognized that climate change will impact on the role of defense institutions and their missions. Likewise, it was considered that responding to climate change, building climate resilience and enhancing environmental protection will require Member States to revitalize hemispheric cooperation and collaboration. Finally, he reported that the Working Group recommended that Ministers emphasize the importance of keeping the issue of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as well as climate change impacts, permanently on the agenda of future CDMA's.



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- USA – *Ad hoc* Working Group “Women, Peace and Security”.
The Working Group was held in Washington on April 23 and 24, 2024. Mrs. Rebecca Zimmerman, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Security and Hemispheric Affairs, Department of Defense of the United States, stated that 23 Member States of the CDMA discussed ways to increase the important role of women in the armed forces and defense sectors in all our countries. This includes developing, modifying and implementing National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security; creating and adapting policies, strategies and programs to better integrate women into operations and the defense sector; and enhancing the role of women in operations areas relevant to the CDMA Member States, including humanitarian assistance/disaster response, maritime operations and peacekeeping operations.
Besides, she stated that there is no single way to integrate women, peace and security into defense practices, and that best practices should be shared by each CDMA Member State, both through this forum and through the gender advisory networks, so that national governments and defense institutions can implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda according to national needs and jurisdictions. Finally, she stated that the Working Group recommended that Ministers continue to support the holding of the *Ad hoc* Working Group “Women, Peace and Security” and thanked all working group members, the rapporteurs (Chile and Canada) and the observers (IADB, IADC and Perry Center) for holding a comprehensive two-day working group.
- Colombia – *Ad hoc* Working Group “Cyberdefense and Cyberspace”.
The Working Group was held via videoconference on May 16 and 17, 2024. Diana Castillo, Directora de Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional de Colombia, stated that the meeting concluded on the importance of regional cooperation on cybersecurity, acknowledging that no single entity or country can succeed on its own. The need for collaboration between the public and private sectors was stressed, as well as the importance of joint cyber simulation exercises to improve response capabilities. The impact of artificial intelligence on national and hemispheric defense was also acknowledged, as well as the need to protect essential services. Likewise, the working group highlighted the need to promote cybersecurity education and awareness, encourage the participation of women in cyberdefense teams, conduct regular exercises and drills, assess and improve cyber preparedness at the national level, strengthen intelligence services and capabilities, acknowledge the role of artificial intelligence in threat detection, promote continuous discussions on norms of responsible behavior in cyberspace and cybersecurity. Finally, he expressed that the Working Group recommended Ministers to continue to hold the *Ad hoc* Working Group “Cyberdefense and Cyberspace”.

Then, the Secretary General asked the Brazilian delegation about the Cyber Exercise proposed by Brazil during the XV CDMA, which was postponed, at their request, to the XVII Conference. The Brazilian delegation confirmed that such exercise will take place during the first half of 2026.



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After that, the representative of the Inter-American Defense Board, Luis Alberto Arrascue Avellaneda, Colonel of the Peruvian Air Force, *Jefe de la Sección de Desastres Naturales y Medio Ambiente*, summarized the lessons learned from the cabinet exercises of the Disaster Cooperation Mechanism of the CDMA countries (MECODE-CDMA). In this sense, the Ecuador's National Defense Ministry and the IADB organized the Humanitarian Assistance exercise, MECODEX-CDMA 2023, between May 8 and 12, 2023, in the city of Quito; while the Defense Ministry of Peru and the IADB organized the International Humanitarian Assistance exercise for disasters MECODEX 2024, between May 31 and June 4, 2024, in the city of Lima.

The representative of the IADB introduced the concepts of MECODE-CDMA and MECODEX-CDMA and presented their implementation schedule. Likewise, he referred to the lessons learned from the humanitarian assistance drills MECODEX-CDMA 2023 and 2024.

Finally, he stressed the importance of the implementation of the MECODE-CDMA.

C. Presentation and Approval of the Thematic Agenda

The Secretariat recalled that, on March 15, 2024, Circular Letter No. 10/XVI CDMA was sent, inviting country members to submit proposals of the themes to be included in the Thematic Agenda. As a consequence of that, Chile, Canada and Argentina submitted proposals and their representatives were asked to make a short presentation:

- Chile – “Climate Change and Environment from a Defense Perspective”.
The Chilean delegation proposed to discuss the way in which a circular economic policy could be adopted for the management of international military waste, in order to contribute to the best practices in CDMA countries. Basically, because the armed forces use different elements that, upon expiration of their useful life, are disposed. The waste from the armed forces ranges from ammunition casing, tires, metallic structures, plastics, electronic equipment, metals and glass fibers to other types of waste. The management of institutional military waste in some country members of the CDMA is neither ruled nor regulated. Therefore, encouraging their reutilization and different alternatives of waste valorization may be a way to contribute from the defense area to the fight against the effects of environmental contamination. This can be achieved by means of circular economy.
After a long discussion and exchange of opinions between the delegations, they decided to approve the theme to be included in the Thematic Agenda as “**Climate and Environmental Challenges from a Defense Perspective**”, for the XVI CDMA, but not only from the perspective of circular economy (an expression which, as explained, has certain limitations in English) but also from a broad approach where circular economy would be one of the aspects from which the topic could be considered. Thus, **Chile assumed the role of rapporteur while the United States were selected as moderators.**



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- Canada – “The perspective of the Department of National Defense and Canadian Armed Forces on the responsible development, application and governance of artificial intelligence in the military environment”.
The Canadian delegation explained that Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automatic learning have changed security and defense, and bring new opportunities and challenges for Canada and the international community. They stated that AI is evolving and is being adopted at an unprecedented scale and pace, by allies and partners as well as adversaries. If we delay in adopting this technology, we risk losing relevance, credibility, interoperability and operational advantage.
For this reason, Canada believes that by making “responsible AI development, implementation and governance” a central theme in the XVI CDMA and by sharing the lessons learned from the development and implementation of its AI Strategy, as well as from the principles it created both at national and international level, it is possible contribute to the collective effort of defense organizations in the Western Hemisphere to responsibly reap the benefits and reduce the risks from the defining technology which constitutes the AI.
After a productive exchange between delegations, they decided to approve the theme to include it in the Thematic Agenda as “**Responsible Development, Application and Governance of Artificial Intelligence in the Military Environment**” for the XVI CDMA. Thus, **Canada assumed the responsibility of rapporteur and Argentina was selected as moderator.**
- Argentina – “Hybrid Threats in a World in Transition and Transformation”.
The Argentine delegation presented the theme proposed by their country and noted that technological disruption, recurrent epidemics, climate challenges, the increasing escalation of multi-domain military conflicts and their impact on global economy -mainly on foreign trade- make it necessary to review the traditional concept of security and the need to treat National Defense and its Military Planning System as an “integral” response with a multidiscipline approach.
It was explained that hybrid threat poses a challenge that brings together conventional and non-conventional aspects but whose influence is combined, seeking synergy. Its aim is to weaken societies by fragmenting them, which causes them to become tense by showing their own contradictions. For such reason, it is imperative to adopt different courses of action aimed at updating military doctrines and training programs, investing in advanced technologies and ensuring that their use is regulated by legal and ethical standards to protect privacy and civil liberties, among others.
The theme proposed was supported by most delegations. However, the Argentine delegation suggested that the theme should not be included in the Thematic Agenda after the Secretary General informed that a limited number of themes should be considered taking into account the time available at the Conference, in accordance with Article 37 of the Regulations.

D. Report on Proposals for Updating Regulations

The Pro Tempore Secretariat asked the delegations if they had any proposal to update the Regulations of the CDMA.



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The Argentine delegation submitted a proposal to amend Article 35 by adding two paragraphs to the original version. Such proposal was based on the need to regulate the possibility of holding the Preparatory Meeting online and on the background information of the CDMA. Thus, the delegation proposed that Article 35 should read as follows:

PREPARATORY MEETING

ARTICLE 35.

The Preparatory Meeting is an assembly meeting. It should be held at least four months prior to the Conference, with the main objective of approving the Thematic Agenda to be analyzed in the ministerial meeting. The Preparatory Meeting is attended by the delegates of Member States with the right to vote.

The Chairman of the Preparatory Meeting will be the Secretary General of the Conference, who will preside over a Board of Directors composed of the advisers that the Host Country deems convenient in order to achieve the best results at the Preparatory Meeting.

The Preparatory Meeting will extend not more than three days.

In accordance with the spirit of the Conference, the meeting is to be held, preeminently, in person. Only in cases of force majeure where, for reasons of urgency and extreme necessity, there are circumstances that prevent the Host Country from holding it in person, virtual meetings will be authorized as an exception.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat shall notify not less than sixty days prior to the holding of the meeting the modality chosen by the Host Country. Likewise, in the event that a virtual meeting modality is chosen, such decision should be notified within the term established for the submission of documentation as referred to in Article 16, paragraph b) of these Regulations, and the relevant specifications, such as meeting structure and platform to be used, should be also provided in order to ensure that the Preparatory Meeting will be properly held.

There being no objections to the amendment of the regulations, the delegates of the Member States agreed to submit the proposed amendment to the Ministers. Such amendment should be resolved by the Assembly at the Conference pursuant to Article 74 of the Regulations.

E. Administrative Instructions for the Conference

The Executive Secretary provided information related to the development of the Conference of Ministers, which will be held in person in the city of Mendoza on October 13-16, 2024. In that sense, she highlighted that:

- Argentina, as the Host Country and in compliance with Article 73 of the CDMA, will pay for the accommodation, food and local transportation costs of up to 4 (four) members of the delegations of each Member State, with the Minister of Defense or his/her counterpart being the Head of Delegations and up to 3 (three) delegates in the city of Mendoza during the days the Conference is being held.



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- The same benefits shall be granted to the countries, institutions or persons invited as Observers but for only 1 (one) member.
- All members of delegations and observers shall complete a Registration Form which they will receive in due time and manner, and they shall send it back to the email address of the CDMA (cmda@defensa.gob.ar).
- Any bilateral or multilateral meetings to be held during the XVI CDMA shall be coordinated by the relevant countries and they shall notify the Executive Secretariat on the purpose of such meetings before **September 13** in order to take the necessary measures, book the meeting rooms and include the meetings in the program of the Conference.
- Information on the travel itinerary of the delegations to the city of Mendoza will be required.
- Invitations will be sent to the Ministers of Defense, Security or their counterparts, with reasonable advance notice.

F. Presentation of Countries Offering to Host the XVII (2025-2026) and XVIII (2027-2028) CDMA.

The Secretary General asked the attending delegations if any Member State was willing to offer to host the XVII CDMA (2025-2026) and the XVIII CDMA (2027-2028).

Since no country offered to host the XVII or the XVIII CDMA, the Pro Tempore Secretary requested the delegates of the Member States to report on this situation to the authorities of their countries, in order to have offers at the XVI Conference.

G. Style Committee

In compliance with Article 46 of the Regulations of the CDMA, the Executive Secretary requested the delegations to establish a Style Committee representing each of the four languages of the Conference, and designated a coordinator to conduct such group that is part of the Executive Secretariat.

The Committee would receive the documents approved in the Conference to make corrections in style and to ensure the consistency of the texts in the Conference languages.

As a result of the offers and exchanges between the delegations, it was decided that the Style Committee would be made up of the Executive Secretariat, the United States (English), Peru and Dominican Republic (Spanish) and Brazil (Portuguese). No offers were received to represent the French language.

H. Presentation and Approval of the List of Observers

The Secretary General submitted to the Assembly the list of countries or institutions proposed to attend, as observers, to the ministerial meeting, which were approved by a majority of votes and without any objections, as specified below:

- Kingdom of Denmark (Ministry of Defense).
- Kingdom of Spain (Ministry of Defense).
- French Republic (Ministry of the Armed Forces).
- Portuguese Republic (Ministry of National Defense).



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- Inter-American Defense Board (IADB).
- Inter-American Defense College (IADC).
- Inter-American Naval Conference (IANC).
- Conference of American Armies (CAA).
- System of Cooperation Among the American Air Forces (SICOFAA).
- Committee of Hemispheric Security of OAS.
- “William J. Perry” Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies.
- Inter-American Defense Foundation (IADF).
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- Regional Center for Strategic Security Studies (CREES).
- Red de Seguridad y Defensa de América Latina (RESDAL).

I. Presentation of proposals of *Ad hoc* Working Groups for the XVII CDMA (2025-2026)

By virtue of the conclusions and recommendations of the *Ad hoc* Working Groups already existing at the XVI CDMA -and which have been stated in Schedule B to these Minutes-, the delegations of the Member States discussed on the importance of continuing to hold them. Likewise, they agreed to include a new *Ad hoc* Working Group: “Climate and Environmental Challenges from a Defense Perspective”.

Thus, the majority of the attending delegates agreed that the XVII CDMA has 4 (four) *Ad hoc* Working Groups, as follows:

- *Ad hoc* Working Group “Cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR)”, with Argentina being the host country and to be held during the first half of 2025.
- *Ad hoc* Working Group “Women, Peace and Security”, with Chile being the host country and to be held in the second half of 2025.
- *Ad hoc* Working Group “Cyberdefense and Cyberspace”, with Colombia being the host country and to be held via video conference on a date to be confirmed.
- *Ad hoc* Working Group “Climate and Environmental Challenges from a Defense Perspective”, with the United States being the host country and to be held in the first half of 2026.

J. Formal Submission of the Proposal for Declaration

The Secretary General formally submitted the Proposal for Declaration, which had been previously sent to the delegations through Circular Letter No. 18/XVI CDMA of May 10, 2024. A first reading was performed for information purposes, thus closing the first working day.

K. Analysis of the Articles of the Proposal for Declaration

The Secretary General and the Executive Secretary read every article and included, deleted and/or modified the text of the Proposal based upon the suggestions and exchanges among the delegates of the Member States.

Thus, a new version of the Proposal for Declaration of Mendoza was prepared with the contribution of the different delegations. It should be noted that, such proposal has different versions of the same article (for example, Article 3 and



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Article 7) as well as proposals of new articles (such as Article 13 proposed by the Brazilian delegation; and Article 18 proposed by the Argentine delegation), which shall be submitted to the consideration of the delegations of the Member States attending the XVI CDMA to be held on October 13-16, 2024.

The latest version of the Proposal for Declaration of Mendoza, on which work will continue at the XVI CDMA, has been attached as a Schedule to these minutes.

L. Closing Ceremony

The Secretary General thanked the delegations for their participation and highlighted the contributions made by each of them. He further stated that, even when virtuality poses certain challenges, it was possible to work together and to achieve the goals set for the Preparatory Meeting. Finally, he closed the ceremony by expressing his desire to meet the delegations again in person in the city of Mendoza at the XVI CDMA.

Mg. Juan E. Battaleme Martínez
Secretary General
XVI CDMA

Mg. Ana Carolina Podlesker
Executive Secretary
XVI CDMA