

XI CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS

THEMATIC AXIS IV

Environmental Protection and Defense

Moderator Country: (Trinidad and Tobago)

Rapporteur Country: (Peru)

Co-Rapporteur Country: (Panama)

Co-Rapporteur Country: (Brazil)

The Work Commission met to analyze the topic “Environmental Protection and Defense”, based on the document presented by the Republic of Peru. Regarding this matter and after an extensive analysis from the present delegations, the following conclusions were reached:

Conclusions:

1. The Defense Sector must be respectful towards the environment, thus performing activities that are compatible with the natural surroundings in which they operate.
2. The Defense Sector of the American countries participates directly and indirectly in supporting the State organisms that are responsible for the protection of the environment.
3. The Defense Sector, through the use of satellites, air platform embedded sensors and surface sensors, can monitor the surface and air space, obtaining timely and truthful information to fight illegal activities such as, illegal mining, logging, illegal fishing and drug dealing, among others; and also to timely detect and evaluate weather phenomena and natural disasters that affect the environment.
4. The military institutions, through the adoption of measures related with the preservation of the environment, will contribute to achieve sustainable development.

5. The exchange of knowledge and experiences among the Defense Sector of the American countries regarding the observation of the earth and maritime surface, and the air space, will further the actions to be taken in order to protect the environment in the region.

Proposals:

In accordance with correspondent legal normativity of each country:

1. Strengthen the capacities and participation of the Defense Sector in the monitoring and surveillance actions of the earth and maritime surface and the air space, against the development of illegal activities that affect the environment, such as illegal mining, logging, illegal fishing and drug dealing, among others; and also to timely detect and evaluate weather phenomena and natural disasters that affect the environment.
2. Promote the exchange of experiences and training the human resources in the use of the monitoring and surveillance means and other measures to protect the environment.
3. The Defense Sector will promote the strengthening of measures that collaborate directly with regard to environmental protection, such as the ones suggested below:
 - a. Adequate management of solid waste, particularly those qualified as Electric and Electronic Devices Residues (EEDR).
 - b. Progressively employ alternative and renewable energy sources, and promote energy efficiency measures.
 - c. Reduction of contaminating emissions that affect the water, air, soil, or human health.
 - d. Further relationships with the national institutions to develop environmental improvement activities and programs.
 - e. Designate and/or create offices that are responsible for environmental matters within the organizational structure of the Defense Sector.
4. Develop environmental educational activities within the military and where feasible social surroundings that promote sustainable development.
5. Inform during the next Conference, the activities taken by each State to implement previously proposed measures.

6. Include in the “Arequipa Declaration of the XI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas” all the previously proposed measures.

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