



II Conferencia de América Latina y del Caribe
sobre Operaciones de Paz de la Organización
de las Naciones Unidas

STATUTE OF INCORPORATION

Latin American and Caribbean Network for Cooperation in Peacekeeping Operations (RELACOPAZ)

In the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, on September 12, 2023, the Ministries of Defense and/or their equivalents or Heads of Delegation participating in the II Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Peace Operations of the United Nations Organization (II ALCONU),

In accordance with International Law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as what is expressed in the Declaration of Buenos Aires "The commitment to make peace" of the year 2023 and in the Declaration of Lima "Living in Peace" of the year 2022, agree that:

Considering:

- That the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Cooperation in Peacekeeping Operations (RELACOPAZ) constitutes the contributing mechanism of ALCONU/LACUN.
- That the active presence of the Ministries of Defense and/or equivalents of Latin America and the Caribbean in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations reaffirm and strengthen the region as a promoter of political and peaceful solutions to armed conflicts that face the world; a guiding, deliberate and distinctive premise that has characterized Latin America and the Caribbean historically.
- That the need to optimize the articulation of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations is convenient for the consolidation of the profile of adherence to peace of the countries of the region.
- That the conclusions agreed upon in multilateral spheres on the matter, among others, the Action for the Maintenance of Peace (A4P) and the Action for the Maintenance of Peace Plus (A4P+), the premises established in the reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34), the Resolution CS 1325 (2000) of the United Nations Organization, as well as in other documents from the Secretariat and other UN agencies related to the purposes of RELACOPAZ, could be taken into account in the establishment and operation of regional peacekeeping initiatives.
- That the existence and continuous development of multilateral regional initiatives oriented to maintaining international peace and security, such as the Latin American Association of Training Centers for Peace Operations (ALCOPAZ), complement the work and goals of RELACOPAZ.



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- That as a result of the I and II Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean on Peace Operations of the United Nations Organization, the Ministries of Defense and/or their equivalents in the region, decided the creation of a multilateral-regional network of cooperation in the field of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations called "Latin American and Caribbean Network for Cooperation in Peacekeeping Operations" (RELACOPAZ by its acronym in Spanish, or LAC-PO REGIONAL NETWORK, for its acronym in English).
- That by virtue of the aforementioned agreements and with the fundamental objective of advancing in the implementation of the "Latin American and Caribbean Network for Cooperation in Peacekeeping Operations" (RELACOPAZ), the approval of its Statute of Incorporation is considered appropriate.
- That the articles of the Statute of Incorporation of RELACOPAZ produced below have been the result of consensus, confirming the existing bonds of trust among its members.

The objectives of the Statute of Incorporation of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Cooperation in Peacekeeping Operations (RELACOPAZ) are:

- a. Formalize the guidelines and parameters that regulate the operation of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Cooperation in Peacekeeping Operations (RELACOPAZ).
- b. Establish a structure that allows the correct articulation of RELACOPAZ with organizations of a similar nature in other regions.



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**Latin American and Caribbean Network for Cooperation in Peacekeeping
Operations (RELACOPAZ)**

STATUTE OF INCORPORATION

Article 1 - Purpose:

The Latin American and Caribbean Network for Cooperation in Peacekeeping Operations, hereinafter referred to in this document as RELACOPAZ, has as its fundamental purpose the establishment of a non-binding, collaborative instance that contributes to consensual decision-making and the effectiveness of the common objectives of Latin America and the Caribbean, with reference to Peacekeeping Operations.

Article 2 - Objectives:

RELACOPAZ will have the following objectives:

- Promote regional collaboration between the Ministries of Defense and/or their equivalents, to optimize the participation of Latin America and the Caribbean in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, facilitating the expansion of the operational, technical and human capacities of its Members.
- Promote cooperation among interested participants for the preparation, financing, equipment, logistics, support, exchange, and deployment of military and/or civilian personnel from the region in national, binational, or multinational contingents in Peacekeeping Operations.
- Facilitate the exchange of good practices and mutual cooperation in order to optimize the participation and preparation of personnel for deployments, in coordination with ALCOPAZ.
- Promote the analysis for the creation of guidelines and procedures to standardize interoperability between the region's contingents deployed in said operations and promote the integration and deployment of contingents among interested parties.
- Strengthen the participation of women, uniformed and civilians, from Latin America and the Caribbean in UN Peacekeeping Operations under the terms of Resolution CS 1325 (2000) and respecting the formal aspects of gender equality, to improve effectiveness in building conflict prevention, mediation and peace.
- Promote the investigation about the situation of uniformed and civilian women, in Peacekeeping Operations.



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g. Promote the production of knowledge and strategic planning regarding Peacekeeping Operations with a Latin American and Caribbean perspective.

h. Promote the exchange of information and experiences by the Ministries of Defense and/or their equivalents in the region, and with this, promote their active participation in the activities carried out within the framework of RELACOPAZ.

i. Create a proper environment for mutual collaboration on specific and cross-cutting issues related to Peacekeeping Operations.

j. Strengthen the bonds of solidarity among all the Members of RELACOPAZ in all sectors of cooperation.

Article 3 - Functions:

RELACOPAZ will have the following functions:

a. Promote and/or optimize, within its scope of powers, through the Ministries of Defense and/or equivalent, the participation of the Armed Forces of Latin America and the Caribbean in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

b. Provide advice to the countries of the region in need to start or increase their participation in Peacekeeping Operations, by agreement between the Ministries of Defense and/or interested equivalents.

c. Observing the legal framework of each participant, it will analyze and, if necessary, through a formal commitment between the interested parties, it will implement actions that allow the preparation of contingents made up of military and/or civilians from two or more countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

d. Facilitate communication and cooperation with other countries and/or organizations that make it possible to promote the exchange of knowledge and obtain financing and equipment among the interested participants, as well as cooperation through the exchange of instructors in the preparation of the contingents from Latin America and the Caribbean in Peacekeeping Operations.

e. Coordinate with ALCOPAZ in terms of activities for the exchange and promotion of knowledge, good practices and experiences aimed to build human capacities for Peacekeeping Operations.

f. Encourage Members to increase the number of uniformed and civilian women in Peacekeeping Operations as part of the region's commitment to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) for Women, Peace and Security, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and Action for Peacekeeping plus (A4P+).



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g. Promote a regional work agenda on Peacekeeping Operations with a Latin American and Caribbean perspective and, when requested, by consensus among the Members, it will collaborate with the UN in the formation of similar spaces in other parts of the world.

Article 4 – Plenary Session:

- a. The Plenary Session is the work meeting instance for all Full Members, Observers and Guests.
- b. The Plenary Session will be convened every two years, alternating with the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CMDA) and coinciding with the biennial meeting of the Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean on Peace Operations of the United Nations Organization (ALCONU / LACUN), to address all issues related to RELACOPAZ.
- c. The Plenary Session will be chaired by the representative of the Ministry of Defense and/or equivalent of the country that holds the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the ALCONU/LACUN Conference.

Article 5 - The Pro-Tempore Presidency:

- a. The President of RELACOPAZ will be the Minister of Defense and/or equivalent of the country that holds the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the ALCONU/LACUN Conference.
- b. The President of RELACOPAZ will be elected by consensus of the Full Members at the biennial meeting of ALCONU/LACUN.
- c. The President will hold office for a period of two years.
- d. The Pro-Tempore Presidency of RELACOPAZ can only be occupied by Full Members, according to the terms established in Article 7 of this Statute of Incorporation.
- e. The President will be responsible for:
1. Chair the Plenary Session.
 2. Organize the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of RELACOPAZ, composed solely of members from the same country as the Pro-Tempore President.
 3. Moderate and organize the debate in relation to the proposals of each representative and propose the work agenda with the assistance of its Pro-Tempore Secretariat.
 4. Receive proposals for the creation of Thematic Working Groups in the field of RELACOPAZ and submit them to the Plenary Session for implementation by consensus of the Full Members. A Thematic Working Group may receive specialists and/or experts as Observers and Guests.
 5. Communicate to all Members the decisions adopted by consensus.





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6. In the event that proposals for modifications to this Statute of Incorporation arise under the terms of Article 11, coordinate and organize a decision-making meeting for the implementation of said changes.

7. Call an extraordinary plenary meeting at the request of at least three Ministries of Defense and/or equivalent.

Article 6 - Of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat:

a. The Pro-Tempore Secretariat will be organized at the discretion of the Ministry of Defense and/or equivalent Member to which the Presidency of RELACOPAZ belongs in said biennial cycle.

b. It will coordinate the Points of Contact (PoC) of RELACOPAZ, consolidating the list of PoC of Full Members and Observers.

c. Communicate to all Members the decisions adopted by consensus.

d. Prepare a minute of meeting that reflects the decisions adopted in the Plenary Session.

e. Coordinate the work carried out within the framework of RELACOPAZ during the current presidential cycle and present it at the ALCONU/LACUN Conference.

f. Send invitations to Full Members.

g. Propose a list of Guests under the terms of Article 9 of this Statute of Incorporation, and send it to the Full Members of RELACOPAZ for their acceptance.

h. Issue invitations to Observers and Guests, as decided by the Plenary.

i. Create and manage an official RELACOPAZ website, where the entire annual calendar and activities carried out during the presidential cycle are published.

j. Be responsible for the institutional memory of ALCONU/LACUN and RELACOPAZ. Once the Pro-Tempore President for the next cycle is elected, transfer all the documents related to his management to the new Pro-Tempore Secretariat for both organizations.

k. Organize, every two presidential cycles, decision-making meetings in the context of ALCONU/LACUN for eventual updates of this Statute of Incorporation.

l. Coordinate the meetings and activities of the RELACOPAZ Thematic Working Groups, approved by consensus of the Full Members in the Plenary Session.

Article 7 - Full Members:

a. All Ministries of Defense and/or their equivalents in Latin America and the Caribbean that have agreed to join the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Cooperation in Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations will be considered Full Members.



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b. Full Members have the right to speak and vote.

c. The Ministries of Defense and/or their equivalents from Latin American and Caribbean countries that do not sign the Statute of Incorporation that wish to join RELACOPAZ may adhere to the Pro-Tempore Presidency through a written letter/note.

Article 8 - Observer Members:

a. Those Ministries of Defense and/or their equivalents that present their candidacy before the Pro-Tempore Presidency will be accepted as Observer Members. These candidacies must be ratified by consensus in the Plenary.

b. Observing Members only have the right to speak.

c. The RELACOPAZ Plenary Session will determine the number of Observer Members.

d. Observer Members will be renewed and added at the beginning of each biennial presidential cycle.

Article 9 - Guests:

a. Those personalities, representatives of both governmental and non-governmental organizations, researchers and academics proposed by the Pro-Tempore Secretariat and accepted by the Full Members of RELACOPAZ will be considered Guests.

b. The Guests will not have the right to speak or vote.

c. The Guests will be renewed at the beginning of each biennial presidential cycle according to the procedures established in subparagraph a.

Article 10 - Voting:

a. For decision-making, the consensus rule of all Full Members present in the Plenary will be applied.

b. For the recommendations of the Working Groups, the consensus rule will also apply. However, said recommendations will not be mandatory and must be approved by the RELACOPAZ Plenary Session.

c. "Consensus" is understood as a decision made by all the Full Members of RELACOPAZ in the absence of active opposition.

Article 11 - Modifications to the Statute of Incorporation:

Modifications to this Statute of Incorporation can only be made with the consensus of the Full Members of the Plenary Session.

Article 12 - Financing:



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a. This Statute of Incorporation will not establish financial commitments for the Full Members of RELACOPAZ.

b. Each Full Member, Observer and/or Guest, according to their financial availability, will cover the expenses of their participation in the meetings and activities carried out within the framework of RELACOPAZ.

Article 13 - Withdrawal of Members:

a. The Full Members of RELACOPAZ may withdraw from said Network at any time as long as they are not exercising the Pro-Tempore Presidency.

b. Said decision must be notified in writing to the Pro-Tempore Presidency without having to give any reasons for the decision taken.

Article 14 - Languages:

The official languages of the Latin American and Caribbean Network on Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Organization (RELACOPAZ) will be Spanish, Portuguese, French and English; prioritizing the official language of the President Pro-Tempore of the corresponding biennial cycle.

Article 15 - Legal Aspects

a. The treatment of the information that could be exchanged or generated within the scope of this Statute of Incorporation will be adjusted to the provisions of the respective national laws and regulations of the signatory countries.

b. This Statute of Incorporation does not create any right, legal or contractual obligation that is enforceable under the laws of any Nation or under international law, and is not binding under international law. The Participants understand that this Statute of Incorporation will not be considered as an Agreement, Instrument or Treaty within the meaning of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969, nor will it affect the status or obligations of any of the Parties under national or international law.



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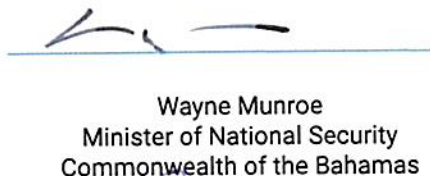
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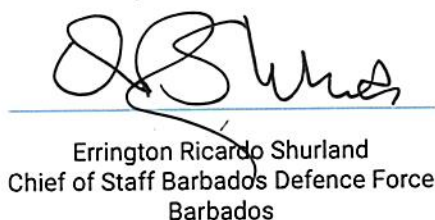
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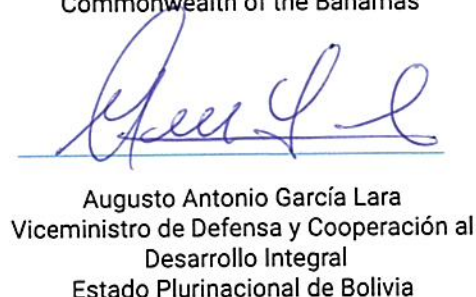
Jorge Taiana
Ministro de Defensa
República Argentina




Wayne Munroe
Minister of National Security
Commonwealth of the Bahamas



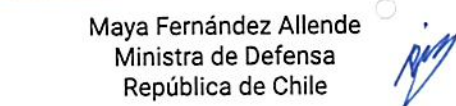
Errington Ricardo Shurland
Chief of Staff Barbados Defence Force
Barbados



Augusto Antonio García Lara
Viceministro de Defensa y Cooperación al
Desarrollo Integral
Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia



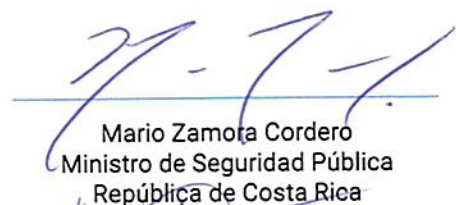
Walcyr Josué de Castilho Araujo
Chefe da Chefia de Assuntos Estratégicos
República Federativa do Brasil



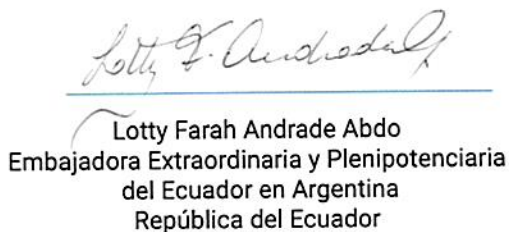
Maya Fernández Allende
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y Cooperación
República de Colombia



Mario Zamora Cordero
Ministro de Seguridad Pública
República de Costa Rica



Lotty Farah Andrade Abdo
Embajadora Extraordinaria y Plenipotenciaria
del Ecuador en Argentina
República del Ecuador



William Arnulfo López Chay
Jefe del Estado Mayor de la Defensa Nacional
República de Guatemala



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A black ink signature of Lorraine Allison Foster, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal stroke and the letters "LAF".

Lorraine Allison Foster
Adjutant General of the Guyana Defence Force
Co-operative Republic of Guyana

A blue ink signature of Enold Joseph, featuring a large, stylized "E" followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

Enold Joseph
Ministre de la Défense
République d'Haïti

A black ink signature of Alberto Flores Florián, featuring a large, stylized "A" followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

Alberto Flores Florián
Subjefe de Doctrina Militar del Estado
Mayor Conjunto de la Defensa Nacional
Estados Unidos Mexicanos

A blue ink signature of Oscar Luis Gonzalez Cañete, featuring a large, stylized "O" followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

Oscar Luis Gonzalez Cañete
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
República del Paraguay

A blue ink signature of Jorge Luis Chaparro Pinto, featuring a large, stylized "J" followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

Jorge Luis Chaparro Pinto
Viceministro de Políticas para la Defensa
República del Perú

A blue ink signature of Javier García Duchini, featuring a large, stylized "J" followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

Javier García Duchini
Ministro de Defensa Nacional
República Oriental del Uruguay



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