

## A Comparative Atlas of Defence in Latin America and Caribbean – 2024 Edition

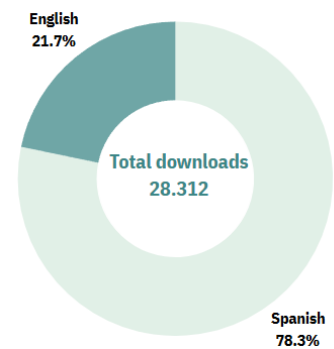
In 2024, a new edition of the *Comparative Atlas of Defence in Latin America and the Caribbean* was launched as part of the XVI Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas (CMDA), organized by the Ministry of Defense of Argentina. This new edition maintained the original structure of three main sections: seven comparative chapters on the defense sector at the regional level, a regional chapter on the Caribbean, and individual country chapters. The chapters on Women, Peace and Security, and Risk Management were particularly highlighted.

Since its first edition, the [\*Comparative Atlas\*](#) has achieved the following:

- Disseminated information at the **national, hemispheric, and global levels**—in two languages—on the realities and activities of each country's defense system.
- **Included data from 33 countries** (20 from Latin America and 13 from the Caribbean) on Defense, Security, Risk and Emergency Management, Women, Peace and Security, and Peace Operations, among other key topics.
- Provided **the most comprehensive regional source of defense data**, reflecting progress and transformations through a collaborative effort with official institutions.
- Contributed to **institutional transparency** and the inclusion of key issues in **the regional agenda**.
- **Strengthened capacities** of both the state and civil society.
- Influenced hemispheric processes of **cooperation and confidence-building**.
- Achieved **global reach** among government officials, armed forces personnel, military attachés, parliamentarians, academics, and other experts.
- Established itself as an **essential resource** for understanding defense dynamics in the region and offering valuable perspectives for global security debates.
- The Atlas is a widely utilized **reference tool and is viewed as a collaborative product** in which Latin American countries—and particularly their Ministries of Defence—actively participate. As a result, the issues and trends highlighted in the Atlas are often embraced as priorities by these countries, making it a highly effective vehicle for **mainstreaming** key topics across the region.
- Influenced by the Atlas showing the general laws governing the defence institutions, the Ministries of Defence in Latin America began putting on their websites the same laws that govern their institutions and that of the military institutions under their umbrella, **some have even imitated the style of how to reference laws in internal documents**. Likewise, another clear influence was in how the websites of virtually all of the Ministries of Defence in Latin America have taken the time to put their story and basic data on their webpages, which they didn't do before.
- **The WPS chapter was intentionally included** in the Atlas to help mainstream the topic, strategically placed among the seven comparative chapters to ensure it is not perceived as a standalone or isolated subject, but rather as an integral part of the broader defence and security agenda.
- This effort to mainstream and normalize the WPS agenda also enabled the **integration of information on sexual harassment and abuse**—drawing from inputs provided by the PSOP team—within the same chapter. As a result, these issues were addressed as part of the broader defence discourse, contributing to the chapter becoming the most downloaded individual section of the Atlas.

## 2024 Edition impact:

- **100%** of the delegations at the XVI Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas (CMDA) received at least three physical copies of the 2024 edition of the *Comparative Atlas of Defence*.
- **28,312 downloads** of the virtual edition of the *Comparative Atlas*, 2024 Edition, were recorded between October 2024 and May 2025 (Furthermore, the chapters in their individual form have been downloaded 14,417 times more).
- **The chapters on Women, Peace and Security and Risk and Emergency Management** were the two most downloaded chapters in the 2024 Edition.
- **270 physical copies** were distributed to: government officials, armed forces, embassies, parliamentarians, United Nations personnel, academics, and other experts—from Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as from: Germany, Australia, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, China, Egypt, Spain, United States, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, South Korea, Liberia, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, United Kingdom, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey, among others.



## The XVI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas

This publication is regularly used by RESDAL in its communications and engagement with foreign affairs ministries and security sector institutions in other regions of the Global South. It has proven to be a valuable entry point into these regions. As it is also developed with contributions from official Latin American institutions, it provides legitimacy when engaging with actors beyond the region.

RESDAL is currently in discussions with the host country of the [XVI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas](#), which has expressed its interest in having the 2026 edition of [the Comparative Atlas of Defence in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) published in conjunction with the event.

The publication of the Comparative Atlas of Defense has been released since 2005, and its 2024 edition was presented during the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas held in Argentina. As of May 2025, it has recorded over 27,000 downloads of its online version. The chapters that garnered the most attention were Women, Peace and Security and Risk Management, demonstrating that while each region has its own specificities, the underlying issues are shared. Peru has expressed its wish for these two chapters to be included in the upcoming edition.