



*25 January 2022*

## **High-level meeting of the Atlantic Centre approves three-year Roadmap**

The first high-level meeting of the signatory states of the Atlantic Centre Joint Statement took place, online, on January 20th. Participants included representatives of the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of 15 countries from all Atlantic continents, closely coordinating with their respective armed forces.

The Portuguese Minister of Defence, João Gomes Cravinho, closed the meeting, highlighting that “2021 was a year full of important moments for the Centre of the Atlantic [and] this allows us to enter 2022 confident that this good moment will be reinforced through more partnerships, more activities and greater joint investment in this unique initiative”.

The agenda included the discussion of the Roadmap for the Atlantic Centre, a document presented by Portugal and setting the main lines of action for the development of this initiative over the next three years. The Roadmap gathered the unequivocal support of the totality of participants.

With this document, the Portuguese Government commits itself to a set of priorities for the development of the Atlantic Centre, with the goal of establishing a multinational centre dedicated to promoting security in the Atlantic Ocean and among its communities. The Roadmap for the Atlantic Centre is structured on the three tiers of political dialogue, research and capacity-building and identifies flexibility, complementarity and a broad and whole-of-Atlantic view of security as structuring elements for its action.

The Roadmap identifies outreach activities and the institutionalization of the Atlantic Centre as priorities for its development, namely through the creation of infrastructures in the military base, in the Terceira Island, Azores, and the establishment of a permanent coordination structure. The overall aim is to make the Atlantic Centre a permanent forum of Atlantic security.