



Organization of
American States

**“Training Seminar for Judges and Prosecutors in Money Laundering Control”
Port of Spain, December 2, 2014**

Remarks by Dr. Riyad Insanally, OAS Representative in Trinidad and Tobago

Senator the Honourable Anand Ramlogan SC, Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago
Honourable Justice Hayden St. Clair-Douglas
Distinguished Colleagues and Participants
Members of the Media

It is my honour to convey to you greetings, on behalf of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, His Excellency José Miguel Insulza, and the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Ambassador Paul Simons, at the opening of this very important Training Seminar for Judges and Prosecutors in Money Laundering Control.

Attorney General, please accept our sincere congratulations on your recent election as Deputy Chairman of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF). This, obviously, augurs well for the success of this workshop.

Permit me to place on record, on behalf of the OAS, our thanks to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in particular, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of National Security, for making this Seminar possible, and our thanks to the CFATF for collaborating with OAS/CICAD as a strategic partner. We also wish to express our appreciation to the US Government for their generous donor support.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

At the private dialogue of Heads of State and Government at the 6th Summit of the Americas, in Cartagena, Colombia, in April 2012, the leaders of the hemisphere focused on two areas of broad concern: the increase in drugs trafficking and consumption in the Americas and the violence associated with transnational organized crime. As a result of the mandate of the 6th Summit, the OAS produced, in 2013, the Report on the Drug Problem in the Americas.

This Report constitutes a pivotal piece of work, providing a clear picture of the challenges currently facing our hemisphere and which, unfortunately, are expected to remain with us in the coming years.

Nonetheless, the Report has also opened an appropriate and timely dialogue on these challenges and I am happy to announce that the Forty-sixth Special Session of the OAS General Assembly, held in Guatemala City, in September of this year, approved a landmark resolution, entitled “Reflections and Guidelines to Formulate and Follow Up on Comprehensive Policies to Address the World Drug Problem in the Americas”.

I wish to highlight that this resolution includes the recommendations made by the Expert Group for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX), to improve the anti-money laundering systems of our Member States and set actions and goals for 2020. These recommendations are:

- 1) To strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies responsible for the persecution and prosecution of money laundering offences and related crimes;
- 2) To improve the effectiveness of international cooperation;
- 3) To develop and/or strengthen forfeiture systems, including asset investigation and administration of criminal assets; and
- 4) To advance in the study of methodological tools to allow each country to develop its analysis of risk factors, in cooperation with specialized international organizations.

In this regard, CICAD, through its Anti-Money Laundering Section, has been facilitating technical assistance and training programmes to strengthen the capacity of Member States to combat money laundering and related offences. Allow me to give you a few examples.

Within the framework of the Seized and Forfeited Asset Management Project in Latin America (BIDAL), CICAD has been able to support Member States in building and strengthening units for the management of confiscated assets, enhancing their ability to detect, seize and forfeit assets based on the principles of legality, transparency, efficiency and coordination with other related agencies. We very much hope that BIDAL will be implemented in Trinidad and Tobago in 2015.

CICAD, along with its strategic partners, has also been working to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement agencies, bank regulators, Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), specialized public prosecutors, the Judiciary, and other agencies involved in money laundering and terrorism financing detection, investigation and prosecution in the hemisphere.

As part of these efforts, the Training Programme for Judges and Prosecutors has elements of discussion and analysis related to the legal framework of money laundering and organized crime, as well as the particularities of their investigation process, trial and sentencing.

We have conducted training for Judges and Prosecutors on Money Laundering Control in all the countries of South and Central America and I am pleased to say that this is the first time we are carrying out such a workshop in and for the Caribbean, with participants from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and, of course, Trinidad and Tobago. This is an important milestone for us all and we hope that it will be the first of many activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of agencies charged with fighting money laundering in the region.

As the schedule of activities for this workshop shows, you will be addressing a variety of critical topics over the next few days. In this regard, CICAD has assembled an experienced team of experts and practitioners from different regions, who will lead the discussions, from both the theoretical and practical perspectives, bringing to bear comparative legal approaches, special investigative techniques, case-studies and the analysis of sentences, within the framework of international treaties and instruments for cooperation. Worthy of note is the fact that there will also be a discussion on the status of the implementation in the region of the Financial Action Task Force's 40 recommendations and the challenges for the upcoming round of mutual evaluations.

You, the participants will therefore have the opportunity to share your questions, perspectives and experiences, promoting discussion and knowledge sharing among different jurisdictions. In this respect, we regard this training as a valuable opportunity for greater regional cooperation in information sharing for purposes that include successful money laundering prosecutions and the forfeiture of proceeds of crime. I know that I do not need to stress to you just how important collaboration and cooperation are in the ongoing global war against well-funded, transnational criminal organizations.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

As many of you know, Trinidad and Tobago will be the first country in the region to be evaluated, in January next year, during the Fourth Round of Mutual Evaluations, followed by Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and The Bahamas. The Round of Evaluations is a clear demonstration of the determination of Caribbean countries to protect regional and international financial systems from criminals.

I urge all of you, who are participating in this training session, to encourage your governments and colleagues to share best practices regarding Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF); to set in motion your national coordination and cooperation machinery; to ensure that your data capturing mechanisms are accurate and accessible in a timely fashion; to review your respective legislative frameworks; and to amend existing laws or enact new ones where necessary to accomplish the international standards set by the international treaties and FATF recommendations.

In closing, I wish you fruitful deliberations over the next three days and every success in accomplishing our shared goal to protect more effectively the regional financial system and, thereby, the economic security, stability and peace of our region. I pledge to you the support of the OAS, our Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and CICAD in particular, as you address these challenges.

Thank you all for your kind attention.