



Organization of
American States



INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)

SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
25-26 February 2016
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L/X.2.16
CICTE/Doc.1/16
26 February 2016
Original: English

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM 2015-2016**
(Presented at the first plenary session, on February 26, 2016)

Distinguished Ambassadors, Heads of Delegation, delegates and colleagues, Secretariat members, ladies and gentlemen:

I have the pleasure to report that under the chairmanship of Paraguay and in accordance with the policy directives and mandates you have established, the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) has continued to provide support to member states in their national and collective efforts to prevent, combat, punish, and eliminate terrorism in the Americas. From January to December 2015, the CICTE Executive Secretariat implemented capacity-building and training programs in all member states via 65 events that contributed to the strengthening and professionalization of over 3,500 officials in the region.

These programs are wide-ranging in scope: securing borders; protecting airports and maritime installations; enhancing preparedness against emerging threats; providing tourist security; detecting fraudulent documents; halting the proliferation of nuclear, biological, chemical, and radiological (NBQR) materials; protecting cyber networks; providing security at major public events; and drafting legislation to prevent terrorism financing. Through such programs, the CICTE Executive Secretariat continues to contribute to strengthening security in our member states.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the most important work carried throughout the year.

I. BORDER CONTROLS

Aviation Security:

The CICTE Secretariat's Aviation Security Program aims at building the capacity of Member States to comply with the standards and recommended practices established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with respect to safeguarding international civil aviation and its facilities, to prevent and combat potential acts of terrorism as well as others of unlawful interference.

The CICTE Work Plan mandates the Secretariat to identify and provide technical assistance and training to Member States on security-related aviation procedures and improvements to help them meet ICAO standards.

The CICTE Aviation Security Program achieves its objective through national training on topics that can generally be tailored specifically to one airport - offered primarily by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA), but increasingly with experts from Canada, Israel, and the region, as well as Sub-regional trainings for counter terrorism and anti-crime topics which also facilitate the exchange of best practices between Member States.

CICTE's Aviation Security program trains aviation security, police, customs, immigration officers, airline and others to identify and intercept risks and threats (including drugs and related contraband) as they enter or exit the country – either via passengers or cargo supply chain – and to safeguard civil aviation facilities.

In 2015 alone, CICTE trained 91 aviation security, border security and law enforcement officials in the region on insider threats and risk management, passenger interdiction, and conducting inspections and audits through three training courses.

For 2016, CICTE is planning to host a Passenger Interdiction Course in Barbados; to execute a Regional Workshop in Insider Threats in Trinidad and Tobago; to host a Sub regional Course in Access Control Techniques in St. Lucia; a National Course in Access Control Techniques in Guyana; and National Training Courses in Cargo Security in Dominica and Barbados.

Maritime Security:

In 2015 the CICTE Secretariat prepared to re-launch its once robust Maritime Security Program, to provide much-needed assistance to the Member States in support of their efforts to comply with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and other international maritime security standards.

Beginning in 2016 the program will focus on building national and regional capacity for securing maritime and port infrastructure and confronting the myriad threats to maritime commerce. The CICTE Secretariat will organize and oversee a range of activities including: national and sub-regional “best practices” workshops and seminars on key aspects of maritime security; port-specific needs assessments and follow-on training; national crisis management exercises; and the development of an online platform for information-sharing and collaboration on issues related to maritime security.

These activities will be undertaken in close partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as well as relevant national authorities from the Governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, among others. Emphasis will be placed on improving cooperation within and between Member States, engaging the full spectrum of maritime security stakeholders, and identifying and preparing for emerging threats and trends in the maritime domain.

Customs and Immigration Security:

Building on previous trade security initiatives implemented jointly with CICAD through a combination of port assessments and trainings on infrastructure security, inspection and screening techniques, and information sharing and intelligence analysis, CICTE’s Customs and Immigration Security program will continue to address trade security in Central America and the Caribbean. This project focuses on providing training on container and cargo ship security for customs and port security officers. By employing a train-the-trainer approach, this initiative will focus on risk assessment and inspection techniques for both containerized goods and the infrastructure of the ships that carry them. This is a three-year project, funded by Canada’s Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP), consisting of national workshops and assessments.

CICTE's Immigration and Customs program initially sought to raise awareness among border officials of risk management and to strengthen institutional relations among border control authorities. Based on this approach, between 2010 and 2013 workshops were held in 15 countries in Central America and the Caribbean. Thereafter, in response to the priorities indicated by the Member States, the approach was modified to address the issue of container and cargo ship security, so as to ensure the safety and efficiency of the flow of trade in the region. Thus, the program intends to provide specialized training to secure containerized trade, focusing on container and cargo vessel targeting, risk assessment, and inspection techniques. It also aims to increase Member States' cooperation and information sharing on these issues.

Since its inception, CICTE's Customs and Immigration Controls program has trained almost a thousand immigration, customs, and port security officials in Central America and the Caribbean in cargo and passenger interdiction techniques, behavioral analysis methods, and human trafficking detection and prevention.

In 2014 the US State Department Bureau of International Law Enforcement and Narcotics Affairs (INL) granted resources for a Container and Cargo Ship Security Project that would seek to increase the security and efficiency with which Member States protect and monitor the flow of containerized trade across borders. This is currently being implemented jointly with CICAD through a combination of port assessments and trainings on infrastructure security, inspection and screening techniques, information sharing and intelligence analysis.

To date, Assessments and Trainings have been completed in Barbados and Guatemala. Both of these stages are pending for Trinidad and Tobago and Belize. In 2015, CICTE trained 35 Customs Officers in Cargo vessel rummaging and in container control and security through 2 training courses.

Likewise, funds for an approved three-year project, funded by Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP) on Cargo Security are expected to be received in the upcoming weeks, in order to provide training on container and cargo ship security for customs and port security officers. By employing a train-the-trainer approach, this initiative will focus on risk assessment and inspection techniques for both containerized goods and the infrastructure of the ships that carry them.

Assessments as well as Train-the-Trainer Trainings on container control and cargo vessel security are expected to be carried out in Mexico, Honduras, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile and the Dominican Republic.

Document Security and Fraud Prevention:

Since its launch in 2006, the Document Security and Fraud Prevention Program has striven to enhance security in the issuance and control of travel and identity documents in our

member states. The Secretariat has implemented different activities and training courses in the region, including advanced training in the detection of fraudulent documents and impostors, and sub-regional workshops on best practices in travel document security and identification management.

This program in 2016 will have an increased focus on technical assistance to address specific needs identified in individual Member States. The overarching aim of this is to ensure that our Document Security Program continues to support our member states in meeting international standards for travel documents.

During 2015, the Document Security Program continued to provide assistance and capacity-building in Travel Document Security and Identity Management in the Americas. It carried out national training courses on Document Examination and Fraud Prevention, including the first “Train-the-Trainers” course in the region, which will be replicated in other countries that have requested assistance in this regard.

UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Implementation:

CICTE’s program supports Member States’ implementation efforts through specialized capacity building and legislative assistance activities aimed at strengthening their preventive frameworks against the use of CBRN materials by non-state actors. Currently, in partnership with the United Nations, CICTE works closely with several nations to assist them on drafting their national action plans, strengthening their legal framework and capacity to prevent and combat smuggling cases and promoting the exchange of best practices through the use of a “peer review” methodology and facilitating coordination at the political level to identify areas for regional and sub-regional cooperation.

Within the next month, through much appreciated financial support from the UN and the U.S. government, a 1540 Regional Coordinator position will be established at the OAS to help Member States identify strategic priorities for implementing Resolution 1540, and to support the development of national action plans to that end.

Since 2011, CICTE has been assisting Mexico work towards UNSCR 1540 compliance by supporting authorities in the drafting of a National Work Plan, followed by a tailored action-oriented program to address needs and challenges. This tailored capacity building and technical assistance program is conducted in partnership with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the UNSCR 1540 Committee Group of Experts.

During 2015, CICTE continued to support the implementation of the UNSCR 1540 in Mexico through the provision of legislative assistance in the drafting of the *Freezing of Assets for the Financing of Weapons of Mass Destruction Law*.

Also during 2015, CICTE received a contribution from the U.S. Department of State Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program to provide legislative assistance on the drafting and implementation of UNSCR 1540 National Action Plans in Panama, Chile, Costa Rica and Colombia. Activities comprising legislative assistance missions, capacity building projects and meetings have been programmed in this regard from 2015 through 2017.

II. LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE AND COMBATING TERRORISM FINANCING

Legislative Assistance and Counter-Terrorism Financing Program (LACTF):

Under this program, CICTE provides training and technical assistance to Member States to advance the implementation of the universal and regional legal frameworks and recognized standards against the financing of terrorism. Although each country's needs are assessed individually, as a general trend it can be said that over the past years the focus of the program has shifted increasingly in providing technical legal assistance to draft counter-terrorism and counter-terrorism financing legislation and providing specialized training in these areas, as the level of ratification of the universal and regional instruments against terrorism progresses and the need for the actual implementation of a legal and a related operational structure increases.

Since 2014, CICTE has been working to bring together the small island states of the Caribbean with the small island states of the Pacific to promote the exchange of information and best practices in dealing with challenges common to both regions.

Additionally, CICTE has been providing assistance to OAS Member States related to best practices and sharing of information to minimize the risks of abuse of Free Trade Zones in the Americas.

The program will also continue to cooperate with UNODC, GAFILAT, UNCTED, and the CICAD's Anti-Money laundering Unit, to leverage resources and experience to maximize results.

During 2015, CICTE's Legislative Assistance and Countering Terrorism Financing Program (LACTF) conducted 4 inter-regional workshops to promote the cooperation and exchange of information on illicit and terrorist networks between Caribbean and Pacific islands, and to address terrorism financing and money laundering in the free trade zones. Over 100 officials benefited from those workshops.

III. PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Cybersecurity:

Since the adoption of the Comprehensive Inter-American Cybersecurity Strategy in 2004, the CICTE Cyber Security program has promoted the creation of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), whose numbers have risen from four (4) to nineteen (19) since 2004. In parallel, countries such as Colombia (2011), Panama (2012), Trinidad and Tobago (2013), and Jamaica (2015) have established national cybersecurity policies and strategies. The OAS has been supporting Costa Rica, Dominica, Paraguay, Peru, and Suriname in the development of their national cybersecurity strategies. In addition to CSIRT and national strategies development, the Cyber Security program conducts cybersecurity crisis management exercises, which have been used for training activities in eight (8) countries through a mobile cyber laboratory built and configured with the support from the OAS Department of Information and Technology Services (DOITS). In 2015, the CICTE in partnership with Spain's Cybersecurity Institute (INCIBE) organized the first *International CyberEx 2015*, which attracted 39 teams from OAS member states and 7 international teams.

The Cyber Security program is preparing to launch a new cyber security hemispheric platform aimed to facilitate real-time communication and information sharing between CSIRTs in the Americas. This platform will also serve as tool where response teams can correlate logs and eventually perform other incident response processes.

CICTE's Cyber Security program continues carrying out cyber security projects to protect industrial control systems (ICS). To this end, CICTE's Cyber Security program has worked closely with a variety of stakeholders to organize a number of events and training workshops aimed at improving member states' capabilities in this regard. In July 2015, the Cybersecurity Program organized in coordination with the Government of Chile and with the support of INCIBE a 2-day event on "Critical Infrastructure Protection and Industrial Control Systems." In November of that same year, a 3-day sub-regional seminar on cybersecurity in critical infrastructure protection and industrial control systems was organized in coordination with the Government of Paraguay and the support of INCIBE. Those events were geared towards professionals directly involved in the operation and management of critical infrastructure in the region.

Moreover, the CICTE's Cyber Security program has also cooperated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in an event in Brazil about securing information security systems at nuclear facilities, including those related to energy production, research, or used for medical purposes. The event focused on the nexus of physical and digital security concerns and how managers and cyber technicians can mitigate cyber risk and stay abreast of novel trends.

In 2015, the Cyber Security program partnered with Trend Micro to produce a report on “Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection in the Americas.” This report included case studies and the result of surveys conducted among member states and private sector in order to better depict the region’s critical infrastructure status on cybersecurity. This joint-report with Trend Micro was released in April 2015.

Since 2004, the Cybersecurity Program executed more than 180 cybersecurity initiatives and activities with more than 6,500 people directly benefitting from them. Such successful results were possible due to the collaboration of CICTE’s partners. For instance, in September/October 2015, the Cybersecurity Program organized in partnership with the Forum for Incident Response Teams (FIRST) the “and Cybersecurity Technical Colloquium,” which consisted of consisted of a plenary session and three training tracks: Law Enforcement, Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), and Industrial Control Systems (ICS). Particular attention was paid to the facilitative and leadership role to be adopted by Governments in cybersecurity matters while considering best practices, appropriate infrastructure and relevant policies, legislation and regulation. During the last day of the event, October 2nd, the OAS/CICTE Cyber Security Program held a plenary session along with the US Department of Homeland Security and the National Cybersecurity Alliance to launch the Cybersecurity Awareness Month. This event focused on the discussion of the role of industries, nonprofits, and academia in raising awareness about cybersecurity matters among society and fostering a cybersecurity culture. Participants included senior government officials, professionals of the private sector, academia, and law enforcement professionals from member states directly involved with cyber security issues.

The Cyber Security program also organized specific missions to member states aimed at improving their cybersecurity capabilities. For instance, the Government of Colombia approached the OAS for support in organizing an International Commission of Experts to assess the country’s cyber security status. From March-April 2014, the OAS organized a national cyber security technical assistance mission. After exchanging ideas among relevant actors, national and international experts prepared recommendations on four main topics: institutional capacities, cyber security capabilities, international and multi-stakeholder cooperation, and cyber security legal frameworks. In August 2015, the OAS and the international cybersecurity experts were invited to Colombia to review their new National Cybersecurity Strategy and to analyze whether this new document took into account the recommendations provided last year. As a result of this mission, complementary and supplementary recommendations and observations were submitted for the country’s consideration. Likewise, CICTE conducted a national workshop and assessment on cybersecurity with the Mexican Government in October 2015. Said workshop saw the participation of a Commission of International Experts organized by the OAS/CICTE with the objective of analyzing the current state of cybersecurity in the country and offer recommendations to help strengthen the country’s cybersecurity capabilities. The international experts prepared a series of recommendations to be taken into account by the Mexican Government.

The Cybersecurity program has forged important partnerships and cooperation agreements concluded with civil society and the private sector. With regard to the former, the Secretary General signed a cooperation agreement with the global awareness campaign “Stop. Think. Connect,” which seeks to raise Internet user awareness of cybersecurity risks. Indeed, the Program supported countries such as Dominica, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay, to join “STOP.THINK.CONNECT.” initiative.

The OAS General Secretariat also signed the World Economic Forum’s Cyber Resilience Principles, which assist institutions in adapting appropriate cybersecurity principles. CICTE also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft to start the development of joint training and capacity building initiatives in the Hemisphere.

In 2015, Argentina, Chile and Mexico became founding members, along with the OAS General Secretariat, of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE). This venue was used by the OAS/GS to launch the OAS Cyber Security Initiative, which seeks to develop partnerships to fulfill capacity-building needs of member states.

In order to facilitate the sharing of experiences between government and private sector, the Cyber Security program coordinated with USUARIA – the Argentine Internet User Association – the promotion of a number of SEGURINFO events in OAS member states, such as in Paraguay (March 2015).

In 2015, awareness-raising tools were developed, including, most recently a generic OAS Cybersecurity Awareness Campaign Toolkit, which can be used by all member states in their awareness-raising efforts. A tailored Cybersecurity Education and Awareness Strategy was also developed for the government of Trinidad and Tobago.

In June 2014, CICTE published a joint report with the cybersecurity firm Symantec titled “Latin American + Caribbean: Cybersecurity Trends.” This report paired objective threat report data from Symantec with member state-provided data concerning government responses to issues of cyber security and cybercrime. Filling a knowledge gap expressed by member states, the report provided an overview of cybercrimes and cyber security in Latin American and the Caribbean in 2013, and assessed the major trends in the region in terms of the threats to the cyber domain and how governments, private enterprises and individual end-users could be affected. This work also encompassed country reports, depicting in a comprehensive way the current cyber security situation of each member states.

Finally, the CICTE’ Cyber Security Program has partnered with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and with the Global Cyber Security Capacity Center (GCSCC) at the University of Oxford to produce a cybersecurity gap analysis of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Cyber Security Program and the GCSCC developed a tool that was used for the collection of data among OAS member states in 2015. This cybersecurity gap analysis report is expected to be launched in February 2016.

Tourism Security:

Since 2009, CICTE's Tourism Security Program has executed capacity building and specialized security training courses for the tourism industry in select destinations. We have built a network of stakeholders from the public and private sectors and identified needs, priorities, and best practices to satisfy those. The program is entering a new three-year phase aiming to develop crisis management plans for an entire tourist destination, instead of just for specific facilities. This follows a successful project proposal submitted to Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP), which will begin implementation in 2016. This particular project aims to utilize the existing knowledge and skills of tourism security officials in locations that have benefited from the CICTE Tourism Security Program in the past to assist member states to develop tourism security and crisis management plans for an entire tourist destination, instead of just for specific facilities. The program will continue to build capacity and expertise for tourism destinations/countries which have not yet benefited from CICTE programs. Additionally, CICTE will expand the focus of its programs to address the specific risks and threats of a particular place such as kidnapping/sex tourism and trafficking.

In particular, this project seeks to establish and promote a permanent mechanism of cooperation involving the OAS member states with regard to security planning and the protection of tourist destinations. It draws on the extensive experience and well established networks of CICTE and the United Nations Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The new project has three parts: Basic Training Courses on Tourism Security at the policy and operational level; Support for the development of Integrated Tourism Security Plans in coordination with Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs); and Specialized Training Courses on Risk Management and Crime Prevention for Central America and the Caribbean.

With support from the OAS Department of Tourism, CICTE continues to collaborate with the World Tourism Organization and the Ministries of Tourism of the Hemisphere to organize the Tourism Security Conferences in the Americas (Dominican Republic, 2011, Panama, 2013; Ecuador, 2014, and Mexico, 2014). The Tourism Security Program continues to develop relationships with tourism security agencies around the region, creating a strong network of partners, which include both public and private sector officials. CICTE also organized an international seminar on the protection and assistance to tourists in collaboration with the Secretariat for Tourism in Mexico. CICTE was invited to participate in the first Critical Infrastructure Conference in St. Maarten to share experiences of Member States in Tourism Security. This participation has initiated a relationship between CICTE and the islands of the Dutch Kingdom for matters related to tourism security.

Security for Major Events:

The Security for Major Events Program works toward the development of national and regional capacities for the prevention of crime and for the protection of major events

(including sporting, political, cultural, and other high-profile events). Its principal functions involve context-specific training opportunities based on member state capacity for hosting major events, and the consolidation of a network of National Focal Points (NFPs). As a result of the support from Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP), the program has worked with the United Nations Crime and Justice Institute (UNICRI) since 2010 to build the International Permanent Observatory (IPO Americas) initiative, which has developed platforms and other opportunities to improve information sharing strategies and planning tools to prevent criminal activities and manage crises during and after major events in the hemisphere.

From November 2014 to June 2015, CICTE's Security for Major Events team worked jointly with the ICSS to organize and implement the first regional conference for the Americas on Major Sporting Events: the Crossroads of Security and Socioeconomic Development, which took place from June 25-26, 2015 in Washington, D.C. This brought together high-level government officials from Ministries of Sport, Security, and Human Rights as well as representatives from the academic community, the international development, international policing, and private sectors to explore topics ranging from regional security policies to financial integrity and the protection of vulnerable groups within the context of major sporting events. We hope that event marked the beginning of a fruitful partnership between the CICTE Secretariat and the ICSS.

Supply Chain Security:

The CICTE Supply Chain Security Program focuses its efforts on a public-private partnership program that is being accepted as a best practice worldwide in terms of risk management and supply chain security- in addition to trade facilitation. That specific program is called The Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program, and it is an initiative that has proven beneficial to private companies and national governments alike. In order to be certified in the program, companies must meet minimum security standards and follow basic security protocols. The national government benefits when more companies adhere to these security standards, mitigating the risk associated with certain imports and exports and allowing them to focus limited security resources on riskier shipments.

In 2015 CICTE's Global Supply Chain Security program, through which the Secretariat assists member states in the design, development, and implementation of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programs, trained officials from 11 countries through tailored technical assistance missions and one technical conference. In addition to offering operational training for customs officials, the program assists outreach to the private sector. Building on a series of 14 technical assistance missions conducted in 2014-2015, CICTE will continue to support the expansion of AEO programs throughout the Hemisphere through national and regional skills workshops for both public and private sector stakeholders.

IV. STRENGTHENING STRATEGIES ON EMERGING TERRORIST THREATS

Biosecurity:

The goal of this program is to enable countries to create national preparedness plans and inter-institutional protocols in the event of a bio-incident, be it caused by intentional or natural actors. In order to efficiently organize an inter-institutional response, OAS/CICTE facilitates discussion between the different responsible national entities by first examining the existing framework through the a Preliminary Assistance Mission, then testing the proposed protocols and response through a Table Top Exercise Simulation of a bio-incident, and finally with two Technical Assistance Missions that address the technical issues uncovered in the earlier steps. By the completion of this cycle of missions, the host country should have a national preparedness plan and each institution should have supporting protocols.

Over the last five years, this program has provided critical training to over one thousand government officials in over 30 Member States. As a result, regional knowledge and awareness have been greatly increased, and several nations – including Trinidad & Tobago, Panama, Guatemala, Chile, the Bahamas, Colombia, Honduras and the Dominican Republic – have initiated, completed or improved upon existing national response plans. In addition, this program has also improved interagency cooperation within the Members States, as well as regionally. In 2015 OAS/CICTE assisted Colombia and the Bahamas draft their inter-institutional response plans and annexes, executed a successful live simulation of a bioterrorist attack in Bogotá, and began to evaluate the existing framework in the Dominican Republic and Honduras.