

MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF CONSULTATION OEA
OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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September 21, 2001
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STRENGTHENING HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION TO PREVENT, COMBAT, AND ELIMINATE TERRORISM

(Resolution adopted at the first plenary session, held on September 21, 2001)

THE MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

DEEPLY REGRETTING the terrorist attacks perpetrated against innocent persons from many nations that took place in the territory of the United States of America on September 11, 2001;

REAFFIRMING the principles and provisions contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Charter of the United Nations.

RECALLING the resolutions adopted within the framework of the inter-American system for hemispheric security and combating terrorism;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council A/RES/56/1 and S/RES/1368 (2001), of September 12, 2001, through which the United Nations strongly condemned the terrorist attacks on the United States of America and called on all states to work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors of these acts and to redouble their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts, as well as all the resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council on the means to prevent, combat, and eliminate international terrorism;

CONSIDERING the statement approved on September 11, 2001, by the twenty-eighth special session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, which condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist acts that occurred in the United States, which demonstrated the need to strengthen hemispheric cooperation to combat this scourge and its full solidarity with the people and the Government of the United States of America;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT FURTHER that the Secretary General of the United Nations stated on September 12, 2001, that all nations of the world must be united in their solidarity with the victims of terrorism, and in their determination to take action - both against the terrorists themselves and against all those who give them any kind of shelter, assistance or encouragement;

BEARING IN MIND the Convention to Prevent and Punish the Acts of Terrorism Taking the Form of Crimes against Persons and Related Extortion That Are of International Significance;

RECALLING the Declaration of Principles of the Summits of the Americas of Miami, Santiago, and Quebec City;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Declaration of Lima to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism, as well as the Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism, adopted within the framework of the First Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism, in Lima, Peru, in April 1996; as well as the Commitment of Mar del Plata, adopted by the Second Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism, which proposed to establish the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, CICTE., and provided "Guidelines for Inter-American Cooperation regarding Terrorist Acts and Activities" and "Measures to Eliminate Terrorist Fundraising";

BEARING IN MIND that the General Assembly, through its resolution AG/RES. 1650 (XXIX-O/99), "Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism", created CICTE.

REAFFIRMING the absolute rejection by the people and governments of the Americas of terrorist acts and activities, which endanger democracy and the security of the states of the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING the inherent right of individual and collective self-defense in accordance with the Charters of the Organization of American States and the United Nations;

CONVINCED that the response of the member states to the present situation requires the application or adoption, in accordance with their national law, of urgent measures at the national and international levels, to combat threats to peace, democracy and hemispheric security resulting from terrorist acts, and to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of these acts, as well as those who aid, abet, or harbor them;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the Inter-American Democratic Charter, adopted at the twenty-eighth special session of the General Assembly on September 11, 2001, recognizes the commitment of the governments of the member states to promote and defend democracy, and that no democratic state can be indifferent to the clear threat that terrorism poses to democratic institutions and freedoms;

RECOGNIZING further that terrorist acts, and the climate of insecurity they generate, have highly damaging effects on international trade, the tourism industry, and investment capital flows, and therefore also represent a threat to the economic and financial stability, progress, and freedom from social unrest in the countries of our Hemisphere;

CONSCIOUS that the new threats to hemispheric security should be considered by the OAS, in a manner consistent with the decisions adopted by the United Nations, especially Resolution 1368 of the Security Council and Resolution A/RES/56/1 of the General Assembly of the United Nations; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the responsibility of all states to cooperate in identifying, prosecuting, and punishing all those responsible for terrorist acts, which constitute crimes of

the most serious nature, and the imperative need to expedite the extradition process, in applicable cases,

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn vigorously the terrorist attacks perpetrated within the territory of the United States of America on September 11, 2001.
2. To express its deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people and the Government of the United States of America and, in particular, with the families of the victims of this heinous crime.
3. To call upon all member states and the entire international community to take effective measures to deny terrorist groups the ability to operate within their territories, noting that those responsible for aiding, supporting, or harboring the perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors of these acts are equally complicit in these acts.
4. To call upon all member states to strengthen cooperation, at the regional and international levels, to pursue, capture, prosecute, and punish and, as appropriate, to expedite the extradition of the perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors of these terrorist acts, strengthen mutual legal assistance, and exchange information in a timely manner.
5. To reaffirm that actions to combat terrorism must be undertaken with full respect for the law, human rights, and democratic institutions in order to preserve the rule of law, liberties, and democratic values in the Hemisphere;
6. To call upon all member states to promote widespread tolerance and social harmony within their societies in recognition of the racial, cultural, ethnic and religious diversity of the communities that make up our Hemisphere and whose fundamental rights and freedoms were reaffirmed most recently in the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
7. To urge those states that have not done so, to sign or ratify, as appropriate, the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing Terrorism, adopted on December 9, 1999 in New York.
8. To instruct the Permanent Council to convoke, as soon as possible, a meeting of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism so that it may identify urgent actions aimed at strengthening inter-American cooperation to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism in the Hemisphere.
9. To entrust the Permanent Council with preparing a draft Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism with a view to presenting it to the next session of the OAS General Assembly. Also, to urge the states to study the international legal repercussions of the conduct of government authorities who provide financial support to, protect, or harbor terrorist individuals or groups.
10. To instruct the Committee on Hemispheric Security to expedite preparations for the Special Conference on Security, taking into account the contributions of CICTE, and to make specific recommendations to the Permanent Council.
11. To instruct the Secretary General to provide the necessary support for CICTE activities, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 1650 (XXIX-O/99).
12. To invite the Inter-American Defense Board to provide the necessary advisory services to the Committee on Hemispheric Security, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1240 (XXIII-O/93) and when the Committee so requests.