

INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)

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**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF PERU
HIS EXCELLENCY ANTERO FLORES-ARÁOZ,
IN THE OPENING SESSION**

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On the international stage, our countries are active participants in the globalization of production, trade, financial trends, the digital revolution in communications, as well as in the dissemination of shared values such as promoting democracy and the protection of human rights.

On the other hand, we also take notice that the world is fragmenting due to social inequality, the proliferation of civil wars, the collapse of states, genocide, terrorism, international crime and to the degradation of the environment.

Our challenge is to mold the simultaneous processes of globalization and fragmentation in a way that, in our region and in our countries, they unfold with more justice and equality and with more prosperity and security.

The hope for peace is no longer the absence of armed international conflicts. We are now conscious of the fact that it is essential to eradicate all forms of violence and to build bases for dialogue and for the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Societies around the world have seen how old scourges such as terrorism have reached new levels that transform them into threats to world peace and security. Terrorists groups also take their criminal activity in new directions, with methods of violence and destruction that overrun national boundaries and threaten all states without distinction, constantly searching for new illegal sources of financing.

Recent experience indicates that states, regardless of their geographic location or economic wealth or development, are vulnerable to terrorism and its consequences. That experience also indicates that terrorist acts not only threaten the territorial integrity and security of the states, but also destabilize legitimately elected governments and undermine the social and economic development of the states.

That is why cooperation in collective, multilateral action against terrorism is more necessary today than ever before. In that sense, as our countries have done already in the midst of the United Nations, we must reemphasize our unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and expressions because these are acts carried out with the purpose of destroying human rights, fundamental liberties and democracy.

Let us be clear: no end justifies intentional attacks on civilians and non-combatants. Terrorist acts are a violation of the right to life, to liberty, to security, to well being and to the right to live without fear.

Given the threats facing our region, Peru would like the OAS to strengthen its prevention and control role in order to help improve regional security.

Our organization must increasingly play a central role in coordinating the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking, activities that tend to become interrelated.

In that sense, CICTE must become the regional forum to exchange best practices and lessons learned with regard to establishing expertise in the states, as well as facilitating inter-American cooperation in specific areas such as: i) the protection of critical infrastructure; ii) control and prosecution of terrorism financing, including the so called “cash courier”; iii) cyber security; iv) the security of recreation and tourist sites; v) preventing terrorists from acquiring biological, chemical, or nuclear materials; and, vi) improving border security and security measures regarding travel documents.