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**REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF PERU,
HIS EXCELLENCY ANTERO FLORES-ARÁOZ
ON THE OCCASION OF PERU BEING ELECTED CHAIR OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM
FOR THE PERIOD 2008-2009**

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NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

- * A central factor in the fight against terrorism is the coming together of the international community in solidarity to prevent, eradicate and, also, to control the damage inflicted by terrorism. It is crucial that efforts to identify and eliminate terrorist groups with global reach be supported by international efforts to eliminate groups which seem to operate in collusion with drug trafficking and other organized crime activities.
- * In the case of Peru, the strategy pursued by the remnants of terrorist organizations to finance their violent actions and other illicit activities rests in their cooperation with drug traffickers and the producers of coca leaves.
- * It is necessary to dismantle criminal organizations engaged in money laundering, thus disrupting their ability to funnel money to terrorist organizations and to prevent their expansion. To that effect, Peru promotes international cooperation to support national and international efforts to combat funding of terrorist activities.
- * Terrorist groups receive money in exchange for protecting illicit crops and drug trafficking. They are part of the line of defense of coca producers and they are involved directly in international cocaine trafficking.
- * We must address the increasing use of Cash Couriers to finance terrorist activities. This phenomenon is affecting all our countries because it uses informal channels, whatever the level of development of our financial and banking systems. That is why it is important for CICTE to focus its efforts on studying this problem and finding solutions, such as conducting workshops and training courses among others. (This subject is very closely linked to narco-terrorism).
- * Here we can emphasize the importance of having a global focus on the fight against terrorism and its financing, particularly identifying its connections to illicit drug trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, money laundering, and other activities of international organized crime. It is at this level that the link to financing is made and that the connection between the provider of resources and the terrorist organization is established.
- * Narco-terrorism will also overrun national boundaries and it will generate new threats to regional and international security. But, in the meantime, it is the armed force that prevents the state from fully implementing the illicit crop substitution program or the program to eradicate illicit crops that will claim the best of our youth around the world.

- * To reaffirm the hemispheric commitment to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism, emphasizing the promotion and development of cooperation among member states. It is important to note that this commitment is framed by the principles established in the OAS Charter, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and by the absolute respect for the sovereignty of the states, the rule of law and international law, including international humanitarian rights, international human rights, and the international rights of refugees.
- * To reemphasize the importance of not confusing victims with victimizers. To acknowledge the work done by the security forces in this conflict, it is necessary to give them their rightful place where their efforts and sacrifices against this scourge are valued.
- * Make reference to the preparatory work done by CICTE on the negotiations regarding the Draft Declaration, the Draft CICTE Work Plan 2008 and on the preparations for the sessions on cyber-security, document security, and fraud prevention, and on port security. On this point, it is suggested to thank all the delegations for their dedication and valuable contributions and, specially, the alternate representatives of the member states and the support of the Secretariat (Ms. Fuller and Ms. Bristol).
- * To remember that it is important to implement the programs and projects established in the CICTE Work Plan, especially those concerning:
 1. the protection of critical infrastructure;
 2. international cooperation;
 3. measures to prevent, control, and penalize financing of terrorism;
 4. assistance to comply with the nine special recommendations of the International Financial Action Group (GAFI); specially with recommendations V and IX, the latter regarding the subject of cash couriers;
 5. assistance in the organization and implementation of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in countries where none exist;
 6. the Program on the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities;
 7. measures to prevent the acquisition of biological, chemical, or nuclear material by terrorists; and
 8. technical assistance to improve the quality and the security features of travel documents as well as other related matters.
- * To acknowledge the importance of having CICTE design training programs and elaborate proposals for strategic and cooperation plans that would allow the agencies currently responsible for security in small, insular states confront the new threats, concerns, and other challenges to their security.