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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT ON
ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE
AGAINST TERRORISM

(Presented by the Executive Secretary of CICTE, Mr Neil Klopfenstein)
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Under the Chairmanship of Guatemala, in 2012 the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism continued to build capacity and deliver quality training to our Member States. Under the policy guidance and mandates established by you - our CICTE Member States, the CICTE Secretariat continued to support Member States in your national and collective efforts to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism in the Americas through programs that helped you to secure your borders, protect your airports and maritime facilities, prepare for emerging threats, keep tourists safe, detect fraudulent documents, stop the proliferation of CBRN materials, safeguard your cyber networks, provide security for major events, and draft legislation to prevent the financing of terrorism.

The Secretariat’s work in these areas is strengthened by its partnerships and cooperative arrangements with over forty national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations and entities engaged both in counter-terrorism and law enforcement in general, as well as by its unique network of “National Points of Contact” in each Member State.

The name of “CICTE” and the context of its origin reflect the OAS Member States’ preliminary intent focused on preventing and combating terrorism, but a range of factors has necessarily made CICTE’s current programming also anti-crime in nature and impact. Chief among these is the fact that the vulnerabilities often cited for potential exploitation by terrorist groups are the very same ones that other transnational criminal organizations seek to exploit, including: inadequate controls along land and sea borders; deficiencies in port and airport security; lack of cooperation and information-sharing; insufficient training and professionalization of security personnel; and, increasingly, the vulnerability of critical information infrastructure.
Therefore, the CICTE Secretariat’s programming is seeking to address the aforementioned vulnerabilities with an eye for reducing terrorist groups’ abilities to operate in the Americas, and to diminish the likelihood and potential consequences of a terrorist attack. At the same time, CICTE supports member states’ efforts in preventing and combating illegal and criminal activities.

CICTE’s technical assistance programs reached a new level of productivity and efficiency. For two consecutive years, the Secretariat has received over 5 million dollars in specific funds from member states. We used these funds to execute more activities - 155 in 2012 - and train more officials - 9,946 - than in any other year. Ambassador Vielmann gave a very complete overview of our activities over the last year. A copy of my complete report will be circulated among the delegates.

I want to emphasize that the Secretariat remains committed to improving its methods to measure the results in order to improve the work we are doing. In cooperation with the Department of Planning and Evaluation (OAS/DPE) CICTE has proposed a model to measure, monitor, and evaluate how effectively our programs support capacity building in our Member States. To date, we have reviewed our Maritime Security, Immigrations and Customs, and Legislative Assistance and Counter-Terrorism Financing programs. First results will be made available in the upcoming months.

We are also trying to use funds more wisely and efficiently. For example, we have made a conscious effort in the last year to reduce reliance on outside consultants by “training our
own trainers” and collaborating with government experts such as the Royal Mounted Police and the U.S. Secret Service. We are also exploring new technologies and virtual communication to reduce travel costs.

Although we had a successful and productive year, our work is far from finished. CICTE must and shall continue its commitment to serve its member states.

To fulfill the mandates you have given us, we rely on the support of donors. One hundred percent of the funding we use to implement the CICTE Work Plan consists of specific funds and other donor contributions. Although we do not have the resources to complete every project in the work plan, the Secretariat is doing its best to meet Member State priorities.

Thanks to the contribution of our donors, 2012 was a very productive year for CICTE and our Member States. The Secretariat would like to express its gratitude to the following Member States whose specific fund contributions made possible our success: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and our largest donors Canada and the United States.

Our gratitude also extends to our donors who provide sustained support in kind by assigning seconded staff to help CICTE implement its work plan: Brazil, Mexico, the United States, and Uruguay in 2012.
To broaden our support base, we are exploring new partnerships with APEC, NATO, OSCE, Mexico, Colombia, and Paraguay, among others.

We all recognize that without continued voluntary financial support from our Member States, our programs and activities will decrease and our assistance to member states will falter. Therefore, we invite and encourage all Member States to consider making a financial contribution to support the CICTE program areas of their choosing in the coming year.

For the complete Report on the Activities of the Secretariat, please refer to document CICTE/doc 5/13 (CICTE00820).