



Organization of
American States



INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)

FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
February 20-21, 2014
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L/X.2.14
CICTE/INF.5/14
25 February 2014
Original: English

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM 2014-2015

(Delivered by His Excellency, Ambassador Allan Culham, Permanent Representative of
Canada to the OAS, during the First Plenary Session, held on February 20, 2014)

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM 2014-2015

(Delivered by His Excellency, Ambassador Allan Culham, Permanent Representative of
Canada to the OAS, during the First Plenary Session, held on February 20, 2014)

Your Excellency Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS,

Your Excellencies Heads of Delegations of the Fourteenth Regular Session of CICTE,

Honourable Ministers and Vice-Ministers of Government of the OAS member States,

Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives of the member States of the OAS,

Distinguished Representatives of the Permanent Observers to the OAS,

Your Excellency Ambassador Adam Blackwell, Secretary for Multidimensional Security,

Mr. Neil Klopfenstein, Executive Secretary of CICTE,

Esteemed delegates and special guests,
Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great honour and a privilege to be taking on the functions of the Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism. I would like to thank all member states for their support. I sincerely hope we will be worthy of the confidence you have bestowed upon us.

As you know, we have been active contributors to CICTE debates and programming since the creation of this committee more than a decade ago. This marks the first time Canada takes on a leadership function at CICTE. We look forward to collaborating with all Permanent Missions to the OAS to ensure that our term as Chair of CICTE will be a successful one.

I would like to thank Ambassador González Díaz and his team from Colombia for their excellent work as Chair of CICTE this past year. We are grateful to have been able to count on such a solid chair and partner to carry on the important work of this committee.

The strengthening of hemispheric cooperation to address terrorist financing and money laundering continues to be an issue of serious concern to Canada and many other member states. We believe that the commitments we have undertaken to confront these issues will contribute to a safer and more secure hemisphere.

Please allow me to congratulate Paraguay for its election as vice-chair of CICTE. We are confident that Paraguay's leadership and engagement will be an asset as we work together to

address our shared hemispheric security challenges. Paraguay can count on Canada's support as they take on these new responsibilities.

We would also like to thank Mr. Neil Klopfenstein, Executive Secretary of CICTE, and his dedicated team of officials, for all the work they have done to make this meeting possible.

Canada's historical support for CICTE and views on budget sustainability

Canada is very pleased to be participating in this 14th General Session of CICTE. We are committed to the fight against terrorism – in Canada, in this hemisphere, and around the world.

Canada sees CICTE as the key inter-American body for fostering concrete and practical cooperation against terrorism in the hemisphere, and we have long been committed to its success.

First, as a forum for dialogue between member states, CICTE is uniquely placed to raise awareness and facilitate collaboration to prevent and respond to emerging terrorist threats.

Secondly, CICTE has proven to be a reliable, capable partner in strengthening hemispheric security in the region. While its mandate is focused on counter-terrorism, the impact of its capacity-building programming in protecting public security is considerable. These measures have had the dual benefit of making the hemisphere more resistant to the spread of terrorism, while also impeding the activities of transnational organized crime.

Canada has historically contributed significantly to CICTE through its Counter-Terrorism and Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programs. Since 2009, Canadian capacity building funding to CICTE has totaled almost \$10 million. These projects have focused primarily on port security, border controls, protecting major events, cyber security, among other areas.

Through CICTE, Canada recently approved a \$1.6 million project to bolster cyber infrastructure protection and incident response capabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean. This will include technical training to enhance the capabilities of member states to respond to cyber-attacks and develop national cyber-security strategies.

Recognizing the strengths of this committee, Canada is very satisfied with the important work accomplished by CICTE. However, we believe there is always room for improvement. Together, we should build upon our successes over the last decade to enhance CICTE's efficiency and long-term financial sustainability.

There is growing recognition that the existing CICTE donor base needs to be expanded to better reflect the changing economic landscape in the Americas and the collective responsibility for addressing transnational threats.

Voluntary contributions to CICTE have historically relied on only a very small number of donors. Most of CICTE's funding comes almost exclusively from the United States and Canada. This two-donor funding model is not sustainable. It creates financial uncertainties that have a negative impact on CICTE's long-term planning ability.

In the future, we hope that more countries will participate in the definition of CICTE's priorities, and enhance their financial contributions to this committee. We must also identify areas in which we can partner more closely with other OAS bodies and other counterparts to maximize the reach and impact of limited financial resources.

Strategic Vision for CICTE beyond 2014

It is for this reason Canada has proposed a discussion on a Strategic Vision for CICTE beyond 2014 as one of the key themes of our chair.

Confirming a renewed strategic vision and fostering a frank exchange on the objectives, priorities, and institutional structures of this committee will be essential to setting this organization on the right path forward.

Of course, the ongoing debates on the strategic vision for the OAS have not yet reached their conclusion. While we should be cautious to avoid duplication or contradict these efforts, we should explore concrete avenues for enhancing the effectiveness of CICTE.

To complement these efforts, Canada has proposed to replace the traditional negotiated declaration with a more concise Chair's Report. The Chair's Report will highlight the main conclusions of this meeting, and identify specific action-oriented follow-up for the Secretariat and member states to undertake in support of CICTE's priorities.

Canada would like to thank all delegations for their support as we experiment with this new approach. We hope the end result will be satisfactory to all member states, and that future chairs will continue with a similar methodology.

We will have the opportunity to carry on these discussions tomorrow during the fourth plenary of our Regular Session of CICTE. This session will enable us to explore how we can increase the effectiveness of CICTE's annual meetings, particularly the National Points of Contact meeting.

We should seek ways to enable and maximize the engagement and participation of experts, including by examining the current frequency and timing of the NPC meetings.

Further to Canada's 2014 chair, we will propose the development of a 5-Year Strategic Plan that could be endorsed by all member states at the next Regular Session of CICTE in 2015.

This Strategic Plan would be an effective management tool for CICTE. It would help refine our long-term goals with clear indicators, allowing both the CICTE Secretariat and member states to measure the progress accomplished over a 5-year period. This would also be consistent with the management modernization initiative currently being implemented throughout the OAS.

The elaboration of a 5-Year Strategic Plan will enable us to translate the guiding principles that emerge from the OAS strategic vision process into a concrete proposal for CICTE. It will offer all member states the opportunity to shape and refine the long-term priorities of CICTE.

If member states are supportive of this initiative, Canada would ask the CICTE Secretariat to prepare a first draft of the 5-Year Strategic Plan, which will serve as a starting point for member states to provide comments and input. Combined with realistic financial needs, this plan will provide a strong foundation to help the CICTE Secretariat attract new donors, and remain effective in the fight against terrorism in the hemisphere.

Countering the criminal activities that may exacerbate the threat of terrorism

This brings me to the second theme of our chair: “Cooperating to counter the criminal activities that may exacerbate the threat of terrorism”.

As we all know, the hemispheric security landscape continues to grow in complexity. The global illicit economy has become increasingly flush with cash derived from a wide range of illicit activities – from trafficking of drugs, persons, and firearms to kidnapping for ransom, extortion and money laundering. The wide availability of cash creates opportunities for illicit actors and networks of every persuasion to finance their operations and campaigns.

As some forms of terrorism become more transnational in nature, it should not come as a surprise that some terrorist groups are involved in various forms of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, counterfeiting and money laundering, to support their activities.

Proceeds from the drug trade are critical to the continued funding of such terrorist groups as the Taliban and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Terrorist organizations such as Al Shabaab and Al Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) have also turned to criminal activities, such as kidnap for ransom, to generate funding to continue their operations.

However, one thing is clear: We do not have a full understanding of how terrorist groups become involved in criminal activities, or how the criminal activities of terrorist groups in the western hemisphere may support terrorism in other parts of the world.

For this reason, Canada would like to begin a process to better understand the ways in which we can impede terrorist groups by targeting their criminal activities. We need to look at how the supply of funds and resources for a terrorist group is affected by parallel black economies.

Tomorrow, our first guest speaker, Mr. Steven Dudley of Insight Crime, will discuss the theme of criminal activities that may exacerbate the threat of terrorism, building on his extensive expertise on organized crime in the Americas, and regional security issues. We will then open the floor to all delegations for their interventions on this subject.

While Canada has experienced relatively few terrorism incidents within our country, we are not immune to the threat of terrorism. Al Qaida-inspired violent extremism has been the leading threat to the security of Canada for many years.

This was recently demonstrated in Canada in April 2013, when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrested and charged two individuals residing in Canada for conspiracy to carry out a terrorist attack against a VIA passenger train. This matter is still before the courts. Another

such example has been the conviction of several persons who were involved in the so-called Toronto 18 case.

Beyond this, we recognize that there are a number of international and domestic violent extremist groups present in Canada. Some engage in terrorist activity here, or support terrorism beyond Canada's borders. Some also work to disseminate and promote violent extremist propaganda in order to radicalize others to the point of violence. In some cases, they recruit others to support and carry out terrorist acts.

In 2012, Canadian citizen Mouna Diab was charged a terrorism offence following a Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigation that linked her to an alleged scheme to smuggle firearm parts to Hizballah in Lebanon. Ms. Diab was arrested at Montreal's airport in 2011 and charged with committing a crime "for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a terrorist group", in this case Hizballah, after firearm parts were reportedly found in her luggage. This case is still before the courts.

Hizballah has been involved with criminal activity in Canada, including credit card and banking scams, trade in contraband, and the theft of luxury vehicles for shipment to Lebanon for use by senior Hizballah officials.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE or Tamil Tigers) have also been known to subject Sri Lankan Tamils living in Canada, the United Kingdom, and other countries to intimidation, extortion and even violence to ensure a steady flow of funds for operations in Sri Lanka. Canada listed the LTTE in 2006 and the World Tamil Movement (WTM) in 2008 as terrorist organizations.

These incidents are just a few recent examples of the increasing global reach of some terrorist organizations to engage in cross-border criminal activities, and to use not-for-profit organizations as a means for terrorist financing.

Further to Canada's experience, it is highly likely that terrorist financing and recruitment efforts are occurring in other parts of the hemisphere as well.

Allegations of Hizballah benefitting financially from criminal activities in Latin America, including potential links with drug trafficking organizations, are becoming increasingly widespread. While open sources continue to link the activities of individual criminal actors in Latin America with Hizballah, questions remain about the extent of Hizballah's formal interaction with these criminal activities.

We know that terrorism affects all countries in the hemisphere, regardless of the terrorists' nationality or their theatre of operation. We also recognize that each country's experience is unique and that each faces different challenges.

Indeed, we all stand to gain by sharing best practices and identifying new means of combatting terrorism, including by focusing on those activities that facilitate, fund or accompany terrorist activity. We must strengthen our collective resolve to address this complex and evolving threat.

Strengthening Criminal Justice Responses to Acts of Terrorism

To effectively respond to terrorism, member states need adequately functioning counter-terrorism legal regimes and criminal justice systems that respect human rights. They also need the capacity to handle potentially complex criminal cases that are transnational in scope.

Strengthening criminal justice approaches to terrorism can provide for effective prevention mechanisms, including interventions that target terrorist financing, allow for the interception of conspiracies to commit attacks, and the prohibition of incitement to terrorism. These types of interventions can help strengthen our collective efforts against terrorism in the hemisphere.

In this regard, the technical assistance of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Terrorism Prevention Branch is particularly important. It supports not only the efforts of member states to ratify and implement relevant counter-terrorism instruments, but can also assist their efforts to strengthen the rule of law and build the capacity of their criminal justice officials.

Tomorrow, Mr. John Sandage, Director of the UNODC's Treaty Affairs Division, will reflect on the subject of strengthening criminal justice responses to acts of terrorism.

Conclusion

As we embark on our chair for the year 2014, we look forward to fostering a frank exchange on the priorities, objectives and institutional structures of this committee. We hope that more countries will actively participate in the elaboration of CICTE's priorities for the years ahead.

Furthermore, by exploring the manner in which we can cooperate to counter the criminal activities of terrorist groups, we hope to develop a broader collective understanding of terrorist financing and recruitment activities in the western hemisphere, and how these activities may contribute to terrorism in other parts of the world, including Africa and the Middle East.

We invite member states to actively participate in the dialogue tomorrow and share their observations, expertise and analysis related to this evolving phenomenon. Thank you.