



**INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)**

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SENATOR THE HONOURABLE MARTIN JOSEPH  
MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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- Honourable Acting Prime Minister, Dr Lenny Saith;
- Your Excellency Dr. Elias Bluth, Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism and Under-Secretary for National Defense of Uruguay;
- Your Excellency Ambassador Luigi Einaudi, Acting Secretary General of the Organization of American States;
- Honourable Ministers and Vice-Ministers;
- Your Worship, The Mayor of Port of Spain, Mr Murchison Brown
- Distinguished Heads of Delegation and Ambassadors;
- Executive Secretary of CICTE, Mr. Steven Monblatt;
- Distinguished Delegates;
- Specially Invited Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the Minister of National Security, I have the privilege and quite distinct honour of welcoming all of you, from so many countries, to the Fifth Regular Session of CICTE here in the beautiful twin-island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. My delight is further highlighted as this is the first time that a Caribbean nation has been the venue of a CICTE meeting. May I therefore take this opportunity to express my country's and the Caribbean Community's appreciation to the member states of the Organization of American States and of the Inter American Committee Against Terrorism for having selected Trinidad and Tobago as the site for this important meeting.

Over the next few days, underlying our discussions will be the sober acknowledgement that we are all potential victims, given the indiscriminate nature of terrorism. This acknowledgement is what will serve to propel us to act – to establish and implement policies as well as enact laws in order that we can be vanguards for each other whilst simultaneously remaining bastions against terrorist activity. Our presence here is truly indicative of our integration, collective resolve and sustained commitment to the assiduous global efforts to pre-empt terrorism.

As we engage, at this forum, on the effectiveness of our anti-terrorism polices and practices and seek to improve and conceive new multilateral strategies, we shall be challenged to find responses that are urgent, practical and harmonized. In particular, we must be creative in developing cooperation programs that address our divergent legal systems, peculiar vulnerabilities and distinct needs. I am confident that we will meet this demand, that we will be innovative while sharing and learning from best practices and that ultimately, the course we chart will produce an effective firewall against terrorism.

On behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, may I therefore renew our welcome. We eagerly anticipate a rich and energetic debate and exchange of views and experiences. Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you.