



INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)

SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
February 28 to March 2, 2007
Panama City, Panama

OEA/Ser.L.X.2.7
CICTE/doc.11/07
28 February 2007
Original: Spanish

2006-2007 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM,
H.E. AMBASSADOR CAMILO OSPINA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLOMBIA TO THE OAS

2006-2007 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM,
H.E. AMBASSADOR CAMILO OSPINA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLOMBIA TO THE OAS

When the Government of Colombia assumed the Chair of CICTE in March of last year, it underscored the need to build CICTE's capacities and to develop its work plan by setting priorities in accordance with the member states' obligations vis-à-vis various international organizations, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). On that occasion, we proposed giving priority to the following areas identified in the 2006 – 2007 Work Plan:

- Expanding technical assistance programs to improve the quality of travel documents and the security measures they incorporate;
- Strengthening assistance for the creation and implementation of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in those countries where they do not yet exist; and,
- Improving the training programs that exist for combating terrorism financing.

In order to prevent the duplication of efforts and to make maximum use of the scarce financial resources available to the Committee Secretariat for carrying out the proposed assistance programs, from the Chair we have worked to promote the coordinated and combined work of CICTE with other OAS bodies and with other international agencies. In this undertaking, the CICTE Secretariat has been an unconditional ally.

To date, CICTE has strengthened its previously existing alliances with agencies such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The Committee has also expanded its arena for action with the forging of new alliances, such as those agreed on with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and other organs of the OAS.

In my capacity as Chair, I would like to report on the progress made in those areas put forward by Colombia:

- **Improving the training programs that exist for combating terrorism financing**

The financing of terrorism is a topic that has been on CICTE's agenda ever since its creation. Recognizing that attacking the sources that provide terrorism with funding weakens its ability to act and its criminal structures, in 2002 CICTE adopted a series of recommendations whereby the member states could strengthen their measures for dealing with terrorism funding.

Those recommendations took on board the provisions contained in mechanisms and instruments developed by various specialized international agencies, including the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, several resolutions of the Security Council, in particular Resolution 1373, the nine Special Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, and the CICAD's Model Regulations Concerning Laundering Offenses Connected to Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Offenses.

In order to progress with implementing those recommendations and to assist the member states in both developing appropriate legislation and enforcing it, in 2006 the Secretariat drew up the Practical Guide for Detecting, Preventing, and Suppressing Terrorism Financing. While we congratulate the Secretariat for that Guide, we emphasize the importance of complementing its publication with training programs. In that connection, the First Terrorism Financing Meeting, targeting eight nations of Central America and Colombia, was held in Bogotá.

The states attending that meeting were represented by members of the law enforcement agencies and officials responsible for investigating and prosecuting the crime of financing terrorism. The various invited experts underscored the need to criminalize terrorism funding as an autonomous offense; they also noted that preventive measures included the enactment of appropriate domestic laws and that, from the points of view of both its investigation and prosecution, the offense has much in common with the crime of money laundering. The event also concluded that to tackle this crime, coordination and joint action among the different national agencies has to be strengthened, and that, in the international arena, strengthening exchanges of intelligence among each country's competent authorities was a priority. In light of the positive results of this first event, the Government of Peru offered to host a second meeting for the nations of South America.

- **Expanding technical assistance programs to improve the quality of travel documents and the security measures they incorporate**

As part of its fraudulent documents program, in July 2006 the Secretariat organized a regional seminar on passports, travel documents, and issuing systems, in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration. The goal of this seminar was to improve the authorities' ability to detect fraudulent travel documents and thus help strengthen border security measures.

Under this program the Secretariat is developing new proposals for training that will be submitted to international donors. Colombia hopes that the next Chair of CICTE will continue to support the development of training programs targeting the Hemisphere's Spanish-speaking countries. In this regard, we should recall that strengthening the capacities of the agencies charged with checking travel documents is an obligation that ICAO member countries must meet before 2010.

- **Strengthening assistance for the creation and implementation of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in those countries where they do not yet exist**

The Comprehensive Inter-American Strategy To Combat Threats to Cybersecurity: A Multidimensional and Multidisciplinary Approach To Creating a Culture of Cybersecurity, adopted by the General Assembly at its 34th Regular Session, AG/RES 2004 (XXXIV-O/04), tasked CICTE with creating an Inter-American Alert, Watch, and Warning Network to rapidly disseminate cybersecurity information and to respond to crises, incidents, and threats to computer security.

In pursuit of that mandate, two meetings of government cyber-security practitioners were held, which drew up a series of recommendations for establishing a network of National Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs). As part of the training activities provided for in the Work Plan, in April 2006 the Secretariat organized a seminar on cyber security and terrorism for police officers and intelligence officials from 14 member states.

To date only nine member states have set up Computer Security Incident Response Teams. From the Chair, Colombia insisted that to comply with the General Assembly's mandate, support had to be given to the creation of national teams in all the member states, enabling the establishment of an operational hemispheric network. To this end, CICTE will develop a two-year training program to help all the member states in setting up their teams. In Colombia's opinion, the creation of National Computer Security Incident Response Teams in all the member states must be one of CICTE's main priorities, and the Secretariat's program must continue to focus its efforts and the funding provided by international cooperation in pursuit of that.

Inter-American Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Program

At its sixth regular session, the Committee agreed to develop the Inter-American Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Program. The program began in August in those Caribbean nations that are to host the 2007 Cricket World Cup. The program entails strengthening the governments' capacities to assess risks and vulnerabilities, and it also provides training for security officials.

In its capacity as Chair, Colombia offered complete support for this program. Subsequently, pursuant to the resolution on "Cooperation Initiatives for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas" and in order to expand the program's coverage, the Chair contacted the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and asked it to organize, under the aegis of the International Program for Security during Major Events, an event to help enhance states' capacities for maintaining security at mass sporting, cultural, or political events.

As a result of this new alliance between CICTE and UNICRI, and with the generous assistance of the Government of Spain, on January 12 to 16, 2007, the Colombian city of Cartagena de Indias hosted the first regional seminar on "Strengthening International Cooperation for Security at Major Events," attended by delegates from 19 nations of the Hemisphere.

The seminar's agenda covered various issues related to security at major events, including a definition of exactly what can be considered a mass event, together with basic elements for preparing and implementing a security plan. Since this is a new area of endeavor for the region, the event involved an exchange of experiences about the different threats that could arise during a major event, and about policies applicable to the media, the protection of critical facilities and infrastructure, and tourism sector security.

Since UNICRI, as part of its mandate, has set up the International Permanent Observatory on Security during Major Events (IPO) to facilitate and promote the adoption of best practices and to strengthen international cooperation in connection with major events, the seminar's participants stressed the need to work towards a regional cooperation mechanism to encourage and develop cooperation along those lines.

In addition, in order to ensure that all the CICTE member states have access to the technical documentation produced by the IPO, Colombia agreed to fund the publication in Spanish of the UNICRI manual on security at major events; similarly, Brazil and Portugal offered to finance its publication in Portuguese.

Finally, I would like to speak about other activities carried out by the Chair:

In its capacity as CICTE Chair, in April 2006 Colombia attended the Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Organized Transnational Crime, organized by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC – TPB) and the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE). The purpose of this event was to offer a discussion forum for reviewing the ratification and implementation of the 13 international conventions and protocols related to the prevention and elimination of terrorism, the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism, and the United Nations Convention against Organized Transnational Crime.

In addition, in line with the spirit of permanent collaboration and coordination that has guided us in this period as Chair – and that has also guided our host country, Panama, during its time as Vice Chair – Colombia attended the International Seminar on Counterterrorism Measures for the Protection of Critical Infrastructure, held in this city last October. That seminar offered a unique opportunity to reflect on policies for preventing attacks on critical infrastructure and helped define the scope of the topic that is to be addressed during this seventh regular session: “Critical infrastructures: Policies, Regulations, and Hemispheric Cooperation.”

Colombia also attended the Regional Seminar on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), held in Buenos Aires last November. The aim of that event was to promote the adoption of effective measures to counter the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their possible acquisition by non-state agents. In this regard the Secretariat has also forged an alliance with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLiREC), whereby it will expand its activities to support the member states’ efforts in meeting the terms of that resolution.

While serving as Chair, Colombia was able to note that the resources available to CICTE are modest, but thanks to the Secretariat’s work and its efforts to establish cooperative alliances with various international organizations and the governments of member states and observer nations, the Committee has expanded its areas of endeavor and has, in each, pursued cooperation programs that have benefited the member states in concrete and effective ways. Colombia supports the Secretariat’s pragmatic approach, which places at the forefront CICTE’s role as a promoter of cooperation and technical assistance in the struggle against terrorism.

Colombia has sought to contribute to CICTE’s work, believing it to be an investment both in the security of its citizens and in the security of the Organization’s member states. We thus urge all the member states to maintain, deliver, and if possible increase their regular contributions to CICTE.

In handing over the Chair to our sister republic, Panama, Colombia hopes that we will all continue to acknowledge CICTE as the natural forum for hemispheric discussion on counterterrorism policy and as the promoter of international cooperation aimed at assisting the member states in meeting their international anti-terrorism commitments.