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**REPORT ON THE PILOT PHASE OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE SECURITY  
OF TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE AMERICAS (ITRS)  
BY HIS EXCELLENCY SENATOR THE HONORABLE MARTIN JOSEPH,  
MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

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Your Excellency Mr. Ricardo Durán Jaeger, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama,  
Your Excellency Ambassador Camilo Ospina, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the  
Organization of American States and Chair of CICTE,  
Dr. Carol Fuller, Secretary of CICTE,  
Distinguished Permanent Representatives of Member States of the OAS,  
Permanent Observers to the OAS,  
Representatives of International Organizations,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A pleasant good morning to you.

For most Member States in this hemisphere, and particularly in the Caribbean, tourism and recreational facilities are identified among their critical infrastructure. Today, as a former President of CICTE, it gives me deep satisfaction to report on the successes recorded through the implementation of a Programme for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas, commonly known by the acronym ITRS. This Programme was piloted in ten CARICOM states and is to be expanded into all Member States of the OAS.

The Pilot Project focused on the delivery of specialized security training in these participating States and the building of capacity to assess and improve the security infrastructure at tourism and recreational facilities in each of the Member States.

I am pleased to report that in addition to the training provided to approximately two hundred and fifty (250) officials since inception, the Member States that participated in the Pilot Project have begun to establish National Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Assessment Panels. These Panels are conducting security assessments at forty (40) eligible facilities throughout the CARICOM region where the upcoming 2007 Cricket World Cup Tournament (CWC 2007) will be hosted and where many visitors will be accommodated.

Further, the CICTE Secretariat in collaboration with the Combat Support Assessments Division of the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency has developed a format for a Standardized Baseline Assessment, at the request of participating Member States. This Format has been distributed to all National Points of Contact in the Member States that participated in the Pilot Project. This format is currently being used as the standard reporting guideline by the Security Assessment Panels, with minor adjustments to suit the specific needs of the respective countries.

Ladies and Gentleman, you may recall that in the Declaration of Port of Spain, in February 2005, CICTE Member States expressed a commitment to intensify efforts to disrupt the capacity of terrorist networks, by strengthening the establishment, implementation and compliance with security standards and practices, of tourist and recreational facilities.

You may also recall that in June 2005, the OAS General Assembly adopted Resolution (AG/RES 2137): "*Support for the Work of CICTE*", in which it reiterated the appeal to Member States to initiate action to establish, implement and encourage compliance with security standards and practices related to tourist and recreational facilities.

From 2005 to now, this commitment has been consistently pursued by CICTE.

In July 2005, cognizant of its responsibility as the Chair of CICTE at that time, for ensuring that both of these mandates were pursued, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago assigned a second Programme Officer to the CICTE Secretariat. The assignment of this officer increased the institutional capacity of the Secretariat to implement its ongoing counter-terrorist activities while it developed a Programme related to the security of tourism and recreational facilities.

In January 2006, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago again discharged its dual responsibility for this initiative, by hosting the First Consultative Meeting on the Proposed Inter-American Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security (ITRS) Programme in Port of Spain.

In March 2006, to ensure that further progress was made to fulfill the mandates contained in the Declaration of Port of Spain and OAS General Assembly Resolution (AG/RES. 2137), the Government of Barbados hosted the Second Consultative Meeting on the ITRS Programme in Bridgetown.

Again in March 2006, at the Sixth Regular Session of CICTE held in Bogotá, Colombia, Member States expressed their continued commitment to this proactive initiative, when they approved the inclusion of tourism security in the CICTE Work Plan, and adopted the Resolution: "*Cooperation Initiatives for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas*".

Beyond its strong message of cooperation, this Resolution served to mobilize the technical and financial assistance of Member States, in particular the United States of America. This assistance was invaluable for the implementation of the Pilot Project, and enabled all of the nine (9) host countries of CWC 2007 to benefit from specialized training and expertise between August 2006 and February 2007.

Most recently in February 2007, the current and outgoing Chair, Colombia, hosted the First Regional Seminar on the Security of Major Events that provided an opportunity for CICTE to offer this ITRS initiative as a model for cooperation among all Member States of the OAS. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) sponsored this Seminar, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of Spain and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECD), with the support of the CICTE Chair and the Secretariat. Participants from eighteen (18) CICTE Member States in Central and South America attended the Seminar, at which the importance of improving the security of tourism and recreational facilities was highlighted as a necessity in preparing to host Major Events such as the upcoming 'Pan American Games' in Brazil and the 'Copa Americas' in Venezuela.

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago would therefore encourage and support greater collaboration between CICTE and UNICRI in strengthening capacity-building activities for Member States in catering for the security of major events.

Trinidad and Tobago, along with the other CARICOM delegations that have benefited from the implementation of the ITRS Pilot Project, is convinced that this cooperation initiative can serve to improve the capacity of Member States to protect their tourism and recreational infrastructure. In several cases, such facilities, though not primarily tourism-centered, attract the attention of visitors and contribute to the sustainability of the tourism sector by generating employment and income. An ideal example of this is the Panama Canal.

The dialogue topic for this Seventh Regular Session of CICTE therefore provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to again reaffirm their commitment to the security of tourism and recreational facilities in the Americas, since such facilities can form part of a nation's critical infrastructure.

I wish to therefore urge that before this meeting comes to an official close, Member States approve the date for the convening of the meeting of experts agreed to in the Resolution adopted in Bogotá in March 2006. I am confident that the results of that meeting will confirm the immense value of adopting and expanding the ITRS Programme in all Member States in accordance with the specific requirements for the protection and security of their respective critical tourism and recreational services infrastructure.