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**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST
TERRORISM 2009-2010, BY AMBASSADOR GUSTAVO ALBIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO TO THE OAS**

(Delivered at the First Plenary Session on March 17, 2010)

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In what follows, I shall present a Report of the Chair of the Committee covering the 2009-2010 period, detailing the activities that CICTE has carried out, with support from the Secretariat, during the last year.

I am pleased to report that, with the help of the network of CICTE National Points of Contact, the Committee fulfilled the commitments contained in its Work Plan for 2009, which was adopted during the Ninth Regular Session.

Next, I would like to give an overview of the achievements of 2009, in the framework of the eight programs that CICTE executed through its Secretariat.

The principal objective of the CICTE Maritime Security Program, the largest of its programs, is to strengthen the capacities of the Member States to effectively meet security requirements for the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) of the International Maritime Organization. Through this program, CICTE executed 17 activities and programs, training a total of 1,542 officials.

The Airport Security Program, in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the United States Transportation Security Administration, conducted 17 training events in 15 countries, in which 251 officials participated.

In the framework of the Document Security Program, which focuses on strengthening the capacities of the Member States regarding the secure handling and issuance of travel and identity documents, 4 technical assistance activities were implemented, involving the training of 126 officials.

Under the Cyber Security Program, CICTE has helped Member States create and maintain a hemisphere-wide network of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT), which promotes the exchange of information and best practices. It conducted 6 technical assistance events involving the participation of 206 officials.

In the framework of the Tourism Security Program, 6 workshops were held, resulting in the training of 270 participants from 15 Member States. This served to strengthen the capacities of the public and private sectors in their efforts to prevent and respond to potential terrorist or criminal acts against tourist and recreational facilities.

In 2009, through the Legislative Assistance and Combating Terrorism Financing Program – with technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and the Executive Secretariat of CICAD – a number of legal instruments, with provisions enabling 9 Member States to combat terrorism, were ratified; two new national laws on combating terrorism and its financing were adopted, along with initiatives to study and/or process a range of

legislative bills in other Member States. In addition, 344 officials were trained and 13 technical assistance and capacity-building activities were organized.

Under the Strengthening Strategies on Emerging Terrorist Threats Program, which focuses on bioterrorism, CICTE carried out 3 related activities involving simulated exercises, which brought together 103 senior officials to evaluate plans and capacities for response and crisis management in a simulated bioterrorist attack.

With the goal of promoting international cooperation and coordination on policies and programs to combat terrorism in the Hemisphere, the Secretariat of CICTE developed and strengthened strategic alliances with, among others, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UNCTED), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Financial Action Task Force of South America (GAFISUD), the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (GAFIC), the United States Department of Homeland Security Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (DHS/ICE) and Transport Canada.

In conclusion, during 2009, 66 technical assistance events were held, providing training for 2,845 participants. This is evidence of the work that the Member States have carried out using a cooperation mechanism established in 2002, namely, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.

Let me emphasize that these achievements were the result of the commitments by CICTE Member States to work together to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism.

I would also like to thank all of the international organizations, cooperating institutions and experts for sharing their experiences with us during this past year.

End of report.