



Organization of
American States



INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)

TENTH REGULAR SESSION
March 17-19, 2010
Washington, D. C.

OEA/Ser.L/X.2.10
CICTE/INF.1/10
17 March 2010
Original: English

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

(Delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan,
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the UN,
at the Inaugural Ceremony, held on March 17, 2010)

Keynote Address by the Chairman of the United Nations
Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee

(Delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan,
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the UN,
at the Inaugural Ceremony, held on March 17, 2010)

Your Excellency, Ambassador Gustavo Albin, Chair of CICTE,
The Honourable Orville "Tommy" Turnquest, Vice-Chair of CICTE, Minister of National Security of
the Bahamas,
Your Excellency José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the OAS,
Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations to the Tenth Regular Session of CICTE,
Honourable Ministers and Vice-Ministers of Government of the OAS member States,
Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives of the Member States to the OAS,
Distinguished Representatives of the Permanent Observers to the OAS,
Distinguished National Points of Contact of the OAS Member States to the Inter-American
Committee against Terrorism,
Mr. Gonzalo Gallegos, Secretary of CICTE
Esteemed delegates and special guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour to have been invited here to speak to you today, and a further mark of the
strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and CICTE.

The UN Counter-Terrorism Committee attaches importance to the cooperation and dialogue
with relevant international and regional organizations. Therefore, I am pleased to have the
opportunity to participate in this meeting.

Allow me to begin with a brief overview of the work of the United Nations Counter-
Terrorism Committee which I, as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the United
Nations, currently have the honour to serve as Chair.

As you are all well aware, the United Nations strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms
and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose, as terrorism
constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

Acts, methods and practices of terrorism aimed at the destruction of human rights,
fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening the territorial integrity and security of States and
destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments. Therefore, the international community must
take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee is tasked primarily with monitoring United Nations
Member States' implementation of Security Council resolution 1373. Adopted unanimously by the
Security Council in 2001 pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Charter of the United Nations, the resolution is
binding upon all Member States.

It requests States to implement a number of measures intended to enhance their legal and institutional ability to combat terrorist activities at home, in their regions and around the world.

In the resolution, the Council calls upon States to:

- Criminalize the financing of terrorism;
- Freeze, without delay, any funds related to acts of terrorism;
- Deny all forms of financial support for terrorist groups;
- Suppress the provision of safe haven, sustenance or support for terrorists;
- Share information with other governments on any groups practicing or planning terrorist acts;
- Cooperate with other governments in the investigation, detection, arrest, extradition and prosecution of those involved in such acts;
- Criminalize all forms of assistance to terrorism in domestic law and bring violators to justice;
- Become party to the 16 international counter-terrorism instruments.

In order to better monitor and promote States' implementation, the Committee has recently adopted a targeted, tailored dialogue with Member States aimed at ensuring enhanced implementation of the resolution. It has also updated its working methods, in part, to encourage a greater focus on States' implementation and less on "reporting" as an end in itself.

A core tool in this regard is the preliminary implementation assessment (PIA), which constitutes a thorough, consistent, transparent and even-handed analysis of States' implementation of the resolution. A PIA of each Member State is prepared by the experts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), considered by the Committee, and shared with the State concerned. All Member States have received a PIA, and most have established a fruitful dialogue with the Committee/CTED in order to enhance their implementation of the resolution.

The Committee has also conducted a "stocktaking" of the responses of more than 60 States. This "stocktaking" exercise enables the Committee to deepen its active dialogue with Member States; to learn where States continue to face particular problems; and, more generally, to gain a better understanding of the state of implementation of the resolution and the progress achieved across the globe.

The Committee's visits to Member States are among the most effective tools available to monitor the implementation of the resolution. The visits allow the Committee to gather first-hand information about the situation in a particular State, establish a direct dialogue with the relevant authorities, identify, together with the States themselves, any potential technical assistance needs, and convey a political message about the importance and urgency of making every effort to implement the provisions of the resolution. Since 2008, the Committee has conducted more flexible visits, which are tailored to the circumstances of the State or region concerned and the nature of the terrorist threat.

During the comprehensive and focused visits, the visiting teams focus on making recommendations for action, which are subsequently included in the relevant visit report and which focus on areas such as counter-terrorism legislation, measures to prevent the use of assets for criminal purposes, the effectiveness of law enforcement services, international cooperation, border control and technical assistance. The visiting teams are led by CTED and often include experts from other international organizations. The Committee, through the Executive Directorate, has conducted 53 visits since 2005.

As many of you will be aware, CICTE participated actively in the Committee's 2009 visit to the Republic of Panama. The draft report on the visit is already approved by the Committee.

Your Excellencies,

The Committee has recognized that one of its most important functions is to help States obtain the technical assistance they need to implement the provisions of resolution 1373 and related resolutions. The Committee consistently reiterates its objective to achieve measurable, concrete results, in this regard.

Apart from monitoring and promoting the implementation of the resolution, the Committee, with the assistance of the experts of CTED, works to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to Member States in enhancing their counter-terrorism capacities.

The Committee and CTED do not provide technical assistance. Instead, they serve as a "matchmaker" or "switchboard" by facilitating the delivery of technical assistance, in accordance with the following procedure:

- First, by prioritizing the technical assistance requirements of recipient States;
- Second, by obtaining their commitment to address shortfalls;
- Third, by bringing the technical assistance needs to the attention of donors;
- And, lastly, by following-up on the delivery process.

CTED, of course, works very closely with CICTE in this regard.

CTED has taken several steps to enhance the facilitation process, including the establishment of an internal cross-cluster working group on technical assistance, the adoption of a more proactive outreach to donors, the convening of informal get-togethers with potential providers and representatives of recipient States, the setting of high-priority needs for high-priority States, the expansion of the pool of donors, the updating of the Committee's technical assistance matrix, and so forth.

In its interim review of CTED, conducted in June 2009, the Committee encouraged CTED to enhance its outreach to potential donors, including those already engaged more broadly in capacity-building activities aimed at enhancing institutions and strengthening the rule of law, in order to ensure that a greater proportion of referrals is taken up by donors and that the required assistance is successfully delivered to States.

Since the introduction of the revised technical assistance strategy, in mid-2008, CTED has made 185 referrals. Donors have agreed to follow-up on 65 referrals and in 33 cases the recipient State or institution has subsequently agreed to the specific delivery modalities proposed by the donors and/or CTED. Delivery of assistance has also taken place in a further 23 instances.

However, there remain significant challenges to the facilitation and delivery of technical assistance, including:

- the impact of the current economic slowdown and financial crisis on the facilitation process;

- the increased need for accompanying equipment to boost operational capacities;
- the need to increase the contribution of the private sector to counter-terrorism capacity-building, as a complement to Governments' efforts;
- the need for continuous training and maintenance of facilities.

The Committee and CTED work with key donors such as the members of the Counter-Terrorism Action Group of the Group of Eight (or "CTAG"); with two key States of the hemisphere (Canada and the United States); and also with regional organizations, including CICTE, CFATF, GAFISUD, CARICOM, and so forth.

Moreover, the pool of potential donors is gradually widening. Argentina, Brazil, Chile Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Peru have all indicated their willingness to provide technical assistance or to share their good practices with other States in need. (For example: a training workshop has been scheduled for one financial intelligence unit (FIU) in this region, notably involving the participation of trainers from Colombia and funding from CICTE.)

Excellencies,

Since its creation, the Committee has recognized that strong, results-oriented cooperation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations is of paramount importance in its efforts to enhance States' implementation of resolution 1373.

The Committee has consistently stressed the importance of working with such organizations with the aim of enhancing their capacity to assist their members in the implementation of the resolution. In this regard, the Committee has given priority to working with, and strengthening those organizations that have more recently begun to develop their counter-terrorism-related activities.

CTED assists the Committee in its consideration of the modalities and format of its next special meeting with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as those of another Special Meeting, open to the wider membership and regional organizations, aimed at reviewing global efforts to implement resolution 1373.

The three expert groups of the Security Council subsidiary bodies, namely CTED, the 1267 Committee Monitoring Team and the 1540 Committee Expert Group, share information about States' counter-terrorism efforts, hold joint staff meetings and hold regional workshops aimed at helping States with their submission of responses to Security Council bodies regarding their implementation efforts. The Monitoring Team also participates in the Committee's visits and will continue this practice for future visits. States' technical assistance needs are re-directed to appropriate experts group for follow-up.

CTED participates actively in the work of CTITF, in the context of the Global Strategy, in accordance with the mandates conferred by relevant resolutions. Under the guidance of the Committee, CTED continues to participate actively in and support all relevant activities of CTITF within the framework of the Strategy, and in particular in the work of the three CTITF working groups, which deal, respectively, with Countering Terrorist Financing, Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism, and Integrated Implementation of the Global Strategy, where CTED serves as Co-chair.

The Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) working group is currently engaged actively with the two pilot I-ACT States, Nigeria and Madagascar, to identify areas where the Task Force can help States better implement the strategy in a more coordinated and integrated fashion. Pursuant to the Committee's approval, CTED led, in September 2008, a joint Committee/CTITF mission to Madagascar. New States may be added to this list within the framework of I-ACT over the coming months.

Respect for human rights is an important element of counter-terrorism, and the Committee established clear guidelines in this regard, in 2005. The Committee consistently stresses to States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

The CTED staff includes a full-time human rights expert, and CTED works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Geneva. The Committee's ongoing dialogue with Member States also includes the implementation of resolution 1624, on prohibition of incitement to terrorism and the promotion of dialogue among civilizations.

In accordance with the Committee's policy guidance on human rights, CTED continues to take account of relevant human rights concerns, including in the preparation of PIAs and in country visits conducted on behalf of the Committee. CTED also continues to liaise with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, and other human rights entities. CTED also collaborates with OHCHR on the joint organization of technical assistance for States in areas relevant to resolution 1373.

Your Excellencies,

The Committee is also tasked by the Security Council with maintaining dialogue with States with regard to the prohibition of incitement to terrorism and promotion of dialogue among civilizations, as set forth in Security Council resolution 1624.

CTED continues to include the issue of the implementation of resolution 1624 in its dialogue with States and to actively encourage those States that have not yet submitted a report on their implementation of the resolution to do so. The Committee is considering possible approaches to promoting more effective implementation of the resolution and facilitating technical assistance, as appropriate.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy also provides for the prohibition of incitement to terrorist activities, and the Committee and CTED also work within that framework in this regard.

International best practices, codes and standards are useful tools that can assist Member States in their implementation of resolution 1373, and international, regional and sub-regional organizations are their prime originators. As a result, the Committee and CTED continue to work with these organizations in a coordinated manner during the identification, development and promotion processes.

Excellencies,

At the end of 2009, the Committee updated its survey of the global implementation of resolution 1373. The survey focuses on the major thematic areas addressed by the resolution, notably counter-terrorism legislation and policies pertaining to counter-terrorist financing, border control, law enforcement, international cooperation, and protection of human rights. The survey has been released to the public.

I am pleased to note that most States in Central and South America have made progress in most areas of counter-terrorism, the ratification of the international counter-terrorism instruments, the adoption of modern counter-terrorism legislation, and the strengthening of financial regulations and institutions.

Progress has also been made in establishing mechanisms for cooperation at all levels and regional cooperation. However, progress of implementation is somewhat still limited. Combating transnational crime is considered to be among the top priorities for the hemisphere because organized crime and trafficking in drugs and arms are continuing concerns, which will require the introduction of adequate border and maritime controls. Shortfalls remain, with respect, in particular, to the development of effective freezing mechanisms, the regulation and monitoring of alternative remittance systems and cash couriers, the monitoring of non-profit organizations, and the capacity of financial intelligence units.

Most States have taken an active approach to ensuring that counter-terrorism measures take due accounts of human rights obligations, an area which needs a constant attention.

However, as many other regions in the world, Central and South America face some challenges in the fight against terrorism.

States in these regions are urged to report on policies and operational measures being developed and utilized in those areas, including on regional mechanisms for law enforcement cooperation such as early-warning and intelligence cooperation.

The Committee has encouraged States of the region to take adequate measures to protect their non-profit sectors and alternative remittance systems from abuse for the purposes of terrorist financing, to improve their capacity and effectiveness to freeze funds and assets linked to terrorism, and to strengthen their financial intelligence units (or "FIUs").

The Committee has also encouraged States of the region to enhance border security at points of entry in order to prevent the illegal cross-border movement of persons, cargo, drugs and arms/explosives, as well as the physical cross-border transportation of currency and other bearer instruments.

States are encouraged to continue training law enforcement personnel with a view to enhancing counter-terrorism capacity and strengthening institutions and the rule of law.

States are also encouraged to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies to detect the illegal movement of cargo, cash and other monetary instruments and effectively implement aviation and maritime security standards and practices.

The Committee encourages States to promote training of, and cooperation among judicial and law enforcement agencies engaged in combating terrorism, its financing and recruitment.

Lastly, the Committee has encouraged States of the region to strengthen counter-financing of terrorism regimes, with emphasis on strengthening the monitoring of NPOs and alternative remittance systems.

Your Excellencies,

CICTE has of course been an active participant in many of these areas.

The Committee will continue to work with CICTE to assist States of the Central America and Caribbean region to achieve the full implementation of resolution 1373.

The Committee, CTED and CICTE work very closely together, through continuous exchange of information, best practices, and technical assistance needs, through workshops, the Committee's country visits, and many other activities.

Indeed, CICTE is the pre-eminent organization, within the Inter-American system, for the coordination of efforts to protect the citizens of its Member States from domestic, regional and international terrorism.

There is considerable potential for the Committee and CICTE/OAS to continue such coordination and cooperation in fulfilling their respective mandates for the same objective.

As the current Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, I welcome this important cooperation, and hope that it will continue to strengthen and broaden as we each work to eradicate the scourge of terrorism in the Americas and around the world.

Thank you.