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**REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR  
OF THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM**

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In my capacity as Rapporteur of the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), I have the honor to submit this report on the proceedings and decisions adopted at that session.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Thirteenth Regular Session of the CICTE was held on March 8, 2013, at the headquarters of the Organization of American States, in Washington, D.C., attended by 30 delegations of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS). Special guests, permanent observers, representatives of international organizations, and representatives of civil society also participated.<sup>1/</sup>

During the Twelfth Regular Session, held in Washington D.C., United States of America, on March 7, 2012, CICTE agreed to hold its Thirteenth Regular Session on March 8, 2013, in Washington D.C.

The Draft Agenda<sup>2/</sup> and the Draft Calendar<sup>3/</sup> of the Thirteenth Regular Session were both approved at the Second Preparatory Meeting, held on January 25, 2013.

## II. PROCEEDINGS

### INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The inaugural ceremony of the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) was held on March 8, 2013, in the Simón Bolívar Room, at the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C.

**Remarks by the Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism – *His Excellency Jose Rodrigo Vielmann de Leon, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the Organization of American States***

His Excellency Ambassador Vielmann of Guatemala presided over the inaugural ceremony and declared open the Thirteenth Regular Session. His remarks were preceded by a minute of silence to honor the late President Hugo Chavez Frias of Venezuela and by his acknowledgment of the International Day of Women.

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1. CICTE/doc 3/13, List of participants
  2. CICTE/doc 1/13, Agenda of the Thirteenth Regular Session of CICTE (Approved at the Second Preparatory Meeting held on January 25, 2013)
  3. CICTE/doc 4/13 rev 1, Draft Calendar of the Thirteenth Regular Session of CICTE (Approved at the Third Preparatory Meeting held on February 26, 2013)

In his remarks,<sup>4/</sup> Ambassador Viemann thanked the CICTE Secretariat for its support in carrying out its mandates during the chairmanship of Guatemala. Ambassador Viemann highlighted the importance of the theme of the Twelfth Session: Strengthening cyber-security in the Americas, and reported on the specific initiatives carried out by CICTE and its Secretariat during 2012. He recognized cyber security as one of most serious emerging threats in our Hemisphere and indicated that it was essential to keep working together to address this danger.

He also encouraged the member states to continue collaborating and cooperating on the many capacity-building initiatives offered by the CICTE Secretariat, and to find new ways to exchange best practices and information in order to strengthen their preparedness in confronting the threats posed by terrorism.

**Remarks by Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States – *His Excellency Ambassador Albert Ramdin***

The welcoming address was delivered by the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, His Excellency Ambassador Albert Ramdin, who expressed the timeliness and relevance of the theme of the thirteenth session: strengthening hemispheric cooperation to address terrorism financing and money laundering.

Amb. Ramdin declared the importance of efficiently combating these threats by incorporating into national legislation and regulations the international legal standards and frameworks against terrorism and its financing, including the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. He also urged the strengthening of investigative and prosecutorial mechanisms under the rule of law and of continued regional and international cooperation.

Amb. Ramdin congratulated Guatemala for its work during the chairmanship of CICTE and recognized the important initiatives undertaken by CICTE and its Secretariat regarding regional cooperation. He thanked the CICTE Secretariat's donors for their contribution of financial and human resources, which are essential to fulfill the mandates of the Committee.

**Remarks by Special Guest Expert *His Excellency Eugene-Richard Gasana, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations, Vice Chair of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee***

The first address was delivered by the Vice Chair of the United-Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ambassador Gassana.

In his presentation, Ambassador Gassana outlined the importance of international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. He also mentioned the critical role of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), and the need for all United Nations (UN) member states to strive for its implementation to effectively combat terrorism in all its forms. In this regard, he referred to the new methodologies used by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) to assess implementation of said Resolution.

Ambassador Gassana underscored CICTE's work in the region and the importance of its strategic partnership with the CTC. Coordination at various levels, between international, regional

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4. CICTE/INF 4/13

and sub-regional organizations, as well as with civil society and the private sector should be strengthened. Additionally, Ambassador Gassana addressed the need to counter incitement of terrorism and radicalization, to fortify border controls to deter terrorism, and to exchange international best practices on counter-terrorism. In conclusion, he emphasized his support for victims of terrorism, and raised the importance of their role in countering violent narratives.

Ambassador Gassana finalized his remarks by renewing the willingness of the CTC and its Executive Directorate to continue cooperating with CICTE.

## **FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

The first plenary session commenced under the chairmanship of His Excellency Jose Rodrigo Vielmann de Leon, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the Organization of American States.

### **1. Approval of the Draft Agenda and Draft Calendar of the Thirteenth Regular Session**

#### **i. Draft Agenda of the Thirteenth Regular Session**

The Draft Agenda was submitted for consideration and approved without amendment.<sup>5/</sup> The agenda included the central theme of the session: strengthening hemispheric cooperation to address terrorism financing and money laundering.

#### **ii. Draft Calendar of the Thirteenth Regular Session**

The Draft Calendar was submitted for consideration and approved without amendment.<sup>6/</sup>

### **2. Report of the Chair of CICTE 2012-2013**

Ambassador Vielmann delivered the Chair's Report for the period 2012-2013,<sup>7/</sup> summarizing the major achievements and activities in the ten program areas that CICTE executed through its Secretariat. He highlighted the efforts of the CICTE Secretariat to strengthen the capacity of the member states through the execution of 155 events, of different types, in the region, which provided training of almost 10,000 nationals throughout the Hemisphere. He underscored CICTE's efforts to promote and strengthen hemispheric cooperation in order to jointly prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism.

Ambassador Vielmann thanked the member states, the CICTE Secretariat, and all international collaborators for their support of the work of the Secretariat. He also thanked the member states that have contributed with financial and human resources to the Secretariat and invited all CICTE members to consider supporting the Secretariat even further, especially with human resources.

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5. CICTE/doc 1/13, Draft Agenda of the Thirteenth Regular Session of CICTE (Approved at the second preparatory session held on January 25, 2013).
  6. CICTE/doc 4/13 rev 1 Draft Calendar of the Thirteenth Regular Session of CICTE (Approved at the third preparatory session held on February 26, 2013).
  7. CICTE/doc 8/13, Report of the Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism 2012-2013

### **3. Election of officers**

#### **a. Chair of CICTE**

The delegation of Costa Rica nominated Colombia for Chair of the Committee for the 2013-2014 period. The nomination was seconded by the delegations of Mexico and The Bahamas. Colombia was elected as the new Chair.

His Excellency Andres Gonzalez Diaz, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the Organization of American States, thanked the delegations for supporting Colombia as it assumed its new role as Chair of CICTE. He then thanked Ambassador Vielmann, Chair of CICTE in 2012-2013, for his dedication and accepted the appointment on behalf of his government. He then assumed the position of Chair and began presiding the session.

#### **b. Vice-Chair of CICTE**

The delegation of Chile nominated Canada to be vice-chair of the Committee for the 2013-2014 period. The nomination was seconded by the delegations of Haiti and Panama. Canada was elected by acclamation to serve in that position.

Mr. Mark Berman, Director of the International Crime and Terrorism Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, accepted the nomination on behalf of his country. He went on to express his government's appreciation for the vote of confidence, and reaffirmed Canada's commitment to work with Colombia during the upcoming term.

#### **c. Rapporteur of the Thirteenth Regular Session of CICTE**

The delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines nominated Mr. Jonathan Mitchell, Alternate Representative of the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the OAS, as rapporteur of the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Committee. The nominee was seconded by the delegation of Paraguay and Mr. Mitchell was elected by acclamation.

### **4. Remarks by the Chair of CICTE 2013-2014 – *His Excellency Andres Gonzalez Diaz, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the Organization of American States***

After assuming the role as chair of CICTE in representation of the Government of Colombia, Ambassador Gonzalez began his remarks<sup>8/</sup> by thanking Guatemala for its leadership role and focus on regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism during its term. Additionally, he expressed Colombia's satisfaction with the member states' support.

Ambassador Gonzalez referred to Colombia's previous term as Chair in 2006-2007 and the Declaration of San Carlos. He stressed the importance of approving the Declaration of this Thirteenth Regular Session: "Strengthening hemispheric cooperation to address terrorism financing and money laundering."

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8. CICTE/INF 5/13 Remarks by the Chair of CICTE 2013-2014

Ambassador Gonzalez urged countries to focus on preventing terrorism financing and money laundering by building political consensus on these issues, strengthening financial intelligence mechanisms, and integrating efforts through coordination and cooperation between international organizations, national agencies, and the private sector.

He concluded his remarks by reaffirming the need to participate actively in CICTE's programs.

**5. Report on the activities of the Secretariat of CICTE by the Secretary of CICTE, Mr. Neil Klopfenstein**

The Executive Secretary of CICTE, Mr. Neil Klopfenstein, presented a summary of the Secretariat Report on its activities in 2012.<sup>9/</sup> He reported that, in the past year, the Secretariat received more than 5 million dollars in specific funding for programming, that 155 technical assistance and capacity building activities were undertaken, and that CICTE trained 9,946 officials from all countries of the Hemisphere. He also noted that most of the activities implemented were designed, in accordance with the mandates given by CICTE, to address criminality from a comprehensive perspective while at the same time focusing on specific counter-terrorism issues, with great benefit to member states.

Mr. Klopfenstein mentioned new aspects of the Secretariat's programs that were implemented in 2012-2013. He also announced the development of new cooperation efforts with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, the private sector, civil society, and academia..

Mr. Klopfenstein noted that the CICTE Secretariat had received contributions from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago. In addition he noted CICTE's largest donors: Canada and the United States. He further acknowledged contributions in the form of human resources with seconded staff from Brazil, Mexico, the United States, and Uruguay. He stated that the Secretariat would continue to work in coordination with its partners to offer to strengthen national and regional capacities for the member states. He also reaffirmed CICTE's commitment to develop its current programming, which encompasses a range of factors that have necessarily made it both counter-terrorism and anti-crime in nature and impact.

When the Executive Secretary concluded his report, the Chair opened the floor to the delegations for their comments or observations. No comments or observations were made and the report was accepted.

**6. Oral Report on the Eleventh Meeting of National Points of Contact of CICTE, Mr. Luis Carranza, Minister Counselor and Alternate Representative of the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the OAS**

Mr. Carranza read out the Report of the Eleventh Meeting of National points of Contact, undertaken in the Simón Bolívar Room, at the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., on March 7, 2013. The Report summarized the proceedings and discussions of the Meeting.<sup>10</sup>

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9. CICTE/doc 5/13 Report on the Activities of CICTE

10. CICTE/PCN/-XI/doc 1, Report on the Eleventh Meeting of National Points of Contact to CICTE

## SECOND PLENARY SESSION

*Dialogue of Heads of Delegation on the theme: “International and Regional Legal Framework against Terrorism Financing and Money Laundering”*

- **Presentation by guest speaker Mr. Carlos Diaz, President, Financial Action Task Force of South America (GAFISUD)**

Mr. Diaz started his presentation by recognizing the presence of many of the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing experts of the region in this meeting. He echoed previous condolences in regard to the passing of the President of Venezuela.

Mr. Diaz stressed the importance of actively addressing money laundering and terrorism financing as main threats to our societies, and pointed to a cooperative approach as the fundamental premise, from which to effectively respond.

Mr. Diaz explained how the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and its South American branch (GAFISUD) have been addressing money laundering and terrorism financing since 1990. In 2012 FATF member states established 40 new recommendations against these threats and developed a new methodology to assessing compliance. Despite considerable improvements, he also warned that compliance with FATF recommendations in the last few years has been uneven amongst GAFISUD member states. Finally, he noted that the recommendations on freezing of assets related to money laundering and terrorism financing and on non-profit organizations used to commit these crimes were the ones that currently represent the biggest challenge in the region.

- **Intervention by the member states**

The Chair opened the floor to the delegations, who reaffirmed their countries’ commitment to strengthening their legal and regulatory frameworks. They also reaffirmed their operational and criminal justice systems, to fight terrorism, its financing and money laundering. The delegations underscored the need to strengthen regional cooperation in this endeavor, outlined national initiatives to counter those threats and specified their respective involvement in the activities organized by the CICTE Secretariat.

The member states expressed their gratitude to the outgoing Chair for his leadership this past year and congratulated the recently elected authorities of CICTE. The following delegations spoke: Argentina, Bahamas, the United States of America, Bolivia and Uruguay.

## THIRD PLENARY SESSION

*Dialogue of Heads of Delegation on the theme “The Fight against Terrorism Financing and Money Laundering: Experiences in the Region.”*

- **Presentation by guest speaker Mr. Sergio Espinosa Chiroque, Deputy Superintendent of the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Superintendence of Banking, Insurance and Private Pension Funds, Republic of Peru.**

In his presentation, Mr. Espinosa described the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing system in Peru and the roles that the Superintendency of Banking, Insurance and Private Pension Funds, and its Financial Intelligence Unit play in combating these threats. Additionally, he explained the latest legislative and regulatory measures approved in Peru in these matters.

Mr. Espinosa stressed the importance of new mechanisms developed in Peru to freeze funds related to the financing of terrorism and/or money laundering, as required by the relevant international legal frameworks and FATF's Recommendations. Furthermore, he explained new Peruvian legislation on terrorism financing (Law 29936 of November 2012), as well as its National Plan to Counter Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing (2011).

Finally, Mr. Espinosa provided statistical data on terrorism financing-related transactions, which are reported as suspicious or as part of an intelligence analysis. He also stressed the current complexity of criminal and terrorist organizations and the consequent links between money laundering, terrorism financing and other criminal offences.

- **Remarks by the member states**

When the floor was opened to the delegations, Mexico and Ecuador, as well as Venezuela, Paraguay, Nicaragua and Panama took the opportunity to address the Committee. These member states referred to their implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and its provisions on terrorism financing and money laundering, national and regional inter-agency coordination, the role of CICTE and its Secretariat, and the national legal and regulatory frameworks concerning terrorism financing and money laundering. Member state progress implementing FATF international standards and recommendations was also discussed.

Additionally, the Permanent Observer Missions of Spain and the Russian Federation requested the floor and referred to best practices adopted in their countries to fight terrorism and its financing.

## **FOURTH PLENARY SESSION**

### **1. Consideration and adoption of the draft CICTE Work Plan for 2013**

The Work Plan of the Secretariat of CICTE for 2013 was adopted as submitted, without observations from the participant delegations.<sup>11/</sup>

### **2. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Declaration “Strengthening hemispheric cooperation to address terrorism financing and money laundering”**

The Draft Declaration, as found in document CICTE/RP/doc 1/12 rev 4, was approved unanimously.<sup>12/</sup>

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11. CICTE/RP/doc. 2/13

12. CICTE/RP/doc 1/12 rev. 4, Declaration on “Strengthening Hemispheric Cooperation to Address Terrorism Financing and Money Laundering (Adopted at the fourth plenary session on March 8, 2013).



**3. Consideration of the venue and date of the Fourteenth Regular Session of CICTE**

The Delegation of Canada proposed that the Fourteenth Regular Session of CICTE be held on February 19, 20, and 21, 2014, in Washington D.C.; the motion was approved and reflected in a resolution.<sup>13/</sup>

**4. Reading out of the report by the Rapporteur of the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism**

Mr. Jonathan Mitchell, Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, read out a report summarizing the events of the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.

**CLOSING SESSION**

**Remarks by the Chair of CICTE, His Excellency Andres Gonzalez Diaz, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the Organization of American States**

The Chair of CICTE delivered the closing remarks, mentioning the success of the Thirteenth Regular Session and thanking the delegates for their active participation in the discussions. He noted that Colombia is aware of the importance of its role as Chair of CICTE and as such is determined to present a working plan in which Colombia's capabilities, experiences, and best practices are to be highlighted and shared with all countries in the Hemisphere. The work plan will focus on four strategic axes: border controls, cyber security, maritime security, and the fight against terrorism financing and money laundering.

He also noted that cooperation and technical assistance will play a major role in the fight against terrorism. For this reason, he called upon member states to share best practices and to build technical capabilities. He argued that this would avoid duplicity of efforts and lead to more effective resource management which would in turn result in more effective action against terrorism.

The meeting of the Thirteenth Regular Session was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Jonathan Mitchell

Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States

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13. CICTE/doc 7/13 rev. 1