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American States



## **INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)**

TENTH MEETING OF NATIONAL  
POINTS OF CONTACT TO THE CICTE  
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### **REPORT ON THE TENTH MEETING OF NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)**

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### 1. Opening Remarks: Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism

The Tenth meeting of National Points of Contacts (NPC) of CICTE commenced with opening remarks by Rodrigo Amaya Pineros, of the Government of Colombia in which he expressed the commitment of Colombia to the CICTE work plan and introduced the two main topics of the meeting: critical infrastructure protection and global supply chain security. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Gordon Duguid, Executive Secretary of the CICTE Secretariat who thanked the NPCs for attending and recognized them as a “unique and dedicated network of individuals that allow the Secretariat to implement its Work Plan.” Mr. Duguid also underscored the work of the Secretariat in 2011 in conducting a record number of training activities within Member States and the important role that the National Point of Contact network played in the success of the Secretariat in this regard. As he introduced the upcoming topics of discussion, Mr. Duguid pointed out that the Committee considers the protection of people as its utmost goal, followed by the protection of infrastructure and resilience and recovery as the response to an attack. He indicated that the following session would supplement discussions on cyber security held during the CICTE Annual Meeting, which represented but one area of critical infrastructure under the CICTE Work Plan.

At this time, the draft agenda and calendar for the meeting were approved without amendment.

### 2. Topic: Enhancing the Protection of Critical Infrastructure

The session proceeded with a panel discussion on the subject of “enhancing the protection of critical infrastructure” which began with presentations from two CICTE Secretariat Staff Members: Alejandro Diaz de Leon and Ignacio Ibanez.

Alejandro Diaz de Leon presented on the work of the CICTE Secretariat in Tourism Security and the Security for Major Events. In his presentation, he acknowledged the Government of Canada as a principal donor for this program. He also recognized key partners in tourism security that CICTE collaborates with to carry out its activities such as the World Tourism Organization, the Central American Secretariat for Tourism, UNICRI, and other Caribbean Tourism Organizations. These key partnerships have enabled CICTE to look at how tourism security is provided in several countries as well as the standards that should be used as points of reference.

Mr. Diaz de Leon stressed that security is key for decision making when tourists and travelers choose a particular travel destination. He described the general objective of the training courses and workshops led by CICTE as: strengthening the security systems in the tourism industry of Member States while increasing cooperation and developing alliances between the public and private sectors. The concept of these programs, which originated through a pilot project in 2009 in the Caribbean, is to develop mutual trust between public and private sectors who are directly involved in the tourism sector. These courses have allowed the private sector to make the public sector aware of things they otherwise would not have found out unless they had direct interaction with guests.

The program has since been extended to several countries in the region including Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Guatemala, and The Bahamas. Mr. Diaz de Leon indicated that the selection of the beneficiary countries for this program is based on the importance of the tourism industry in those countries, not the level of criminality; further emphasizing that this is a preventive program. The training program has several phases including a consultation visit to the country, followed by separate workshops with each the private and public sector, and a course with both parties. The curriculum includes topics on risk analysis, crisis management, physical security, communication with the media, among others. The final phase of the tourism security projects is the post evaluation phase where the participants are evaluated on the increase of knowledge from the courses and workshops and the application of the material learned.

Delegations expressed interest in expanding the program to include South American countries as well as other alliances with international organizations such as UNESCO. Mr. Diaz de Leon noted that CICTE is willing to explore the possibility of extending the program to South America and also underscored CICTE's work with UNICRI and Interpol to bring the experience of countries that have successfully organized major events to share with other countries.

Delegations also emphasized the importance of planning for human error and natural disasters in addition to planning for possible terrorist attacks. In this sense, governments and businesses can be prepared for events which could disrupt the infrastructure. They also highlighted the importance of evaluating and integrating lessons about security plans for major events and engaging non traditional actors within those plans. Mr. Diaz de Leon ended his presentation by thanking Mexico, Trinidad, and Spain for their financial contributions to the program. Mr. Duguid reiterated that any large gathering of people can become a terrorist target.

#### **Presentation on 1540**

The session continued with a presentation by Mr. Ignacio Ibanez, Program Manager at CICTE Secretariat on Legislative Assistance and UNSCR 1540 implementation. Mr. Ibanez expressed the importance of the compliance of this resolution which aims to avoid non-state actors from obtaining biological weapons. He underscored the role of the private sector in guaranteeing that non-state actors do not gain access to these weapons. Mr. Ibanez acknowledged the difficulty States experience in fully implementing the resolution but emphasized that it is an international imperative.

This program was included in the 2010 Work Plan of CICTE under the topic of border controls but the topic is so broad that it can be included in international cooperation. He discussed that this topic has been addressed within both the political and technical sphere of the OAS. On the political front, the hemispheric security committee has worked with the Security Council to obtain the necessary political support for this resolution. Additionally, the Assistant Secretary General's office has helped in offering political support to the various initiatives undertaken for the implementation of the resolution. Until last year there was no specific program on the 1540 Resolution, but given the critical impact weapons of mass destruction can have on infrastructure, a clear need for training in this area was identified. On the technical front, he described the cross cutting nature of this topic, depicting its integration in several CICTE programs such as Maritime Security and the Legislative Assistance program. For example, within the Maritime Security program, technical assistance is offered in preparing law enforcement agents on how to deal with potential biological agent in a container while conducting cargo inspections.

Mr. Ibanez acknowledged that thanks to Canada's support, CICTE's Emerging Terrorist Threats Program has also been able to incorporate elements of the 1540 resolution within the specific projects which aim to increase the preparedness of Member States in the event of a biological terrorist attack.

Mr. Ibanez noted that the majority of the Member States understand the obligatory nature of implementing this resolution but have fallen short in the technical knowledge of how to actually implement it. As a result, a two-phase pilot project was designed to assist Member States in this regard. The first phase has been completed in Mexico and Colombia. This phase includes a technical visit to assess the needs and priorities of the country. The result of this phase is a work plan outlining the list of activities to be undertaken in order to implement the resolution. This plan is designed by the country with the technical support of the committee ensuring that the ownership of the project resides with the country. The second phase is the evaluation phase to measure the impact of the activities undertaken. Key partners in this pilot project are the governments of Mexico and Colombia, the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and experts of the 1540 committee.

The floor was opened for discussion by delegates. Member States welcomed the work of the 1540 program and encouraged the Committee to continue to provide training on new emerging trends and threats of terrorism. They also expressed their interest in learning about the experiences and results of Mexico and Colombia's participation in the pilot program. Member States also described the work they have done within their countries in support of resolution 1540 as a critical tool in advancing their non-proliferation objectives. They further discussed actions taken in the protection of their critical infrastructure and highlighted the important role of the private sector in these efforts.

The first session was adjourned.

### 3. Topic: Global Supply Chain Security

The second session initiated with a presentation on the topic of Global Supply Chain Security by guest speaker, Mr. Mark Koumans, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of International Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, United States of America. Mr. Koumans described the recently approved U.S. National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security which aims to: a) promote the efficient and secure movement of goods and b) foster a resilient supply chain system while collaborating to manage the risks presented by and to the transportation system. He acknowledged that we depend on global supply chain for food, medicines and other goods; therefore, the goal is not to slow down commerce, but to increase security and facilitate trade instead.

Mr. Koumans acknowledged several partners that have worked together over the last few years with the US Government to raise standards to secure the supply chain and to ensure resilience. Some partners included the World Trade Center (WTC), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Universal Postal Union and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

He described the US strategy for outreach and engagement both domestically and internationally. The US seeks to work with the international community to increase understanding of the threats and vulnerabilities, develop international best practices, and to strengthen the supply chain overall to ensure that it can resume its operations in the case of any unexpected disasters. In this regard, he underlined several initiatives within the Americas specifically in Mexico, Central America, and Canada to help to facilitate the secure flow of travel and trade.

Mr. Koumans remarked, “Only one country doing its best is not sufficient.” Mr. Koumans discussed the importance of establishing trusted trader programs with companies that share the same standards and security measures. He closed this topic by inviting comments and criticisms from Member States on the strategy and offering CICTE the opportunity to work with the US on supply chain security. The following website was provided for direct access to the strategy:  
[www.dhs.gov/globalsupplychain](http://www.dhs.gov/globalsupplychain)

Member States expressed their support for the inclusion of this topic in the CICTE Work Plan. They acknowledged that there is a need to manage risks along the supply chain including at the point of manufacture and the areas where products are stored. Additionally, they described their experiences with supply chain security in their own countries.

#### 4. Topic: Other Business

At the conclusion of this discussion, the Mr. Duguid presented the opportunity for Member States to discuss other business. Mr. Duguid took the opportunity to inform delegations of problems the Secretariat has experienced in planning and executing training programs in Member States. He noted that last minute cancelations and changes of participants nominated to attend CICTE programs are increasing and raising the costs of the Secretariat’s programs.

Another issue addressed was the need for greater coordination amongst Ministries or agencies on part of the National Points of Contact to ensure that the nominees sent to CICTE are the best and most appropriate fit for the program at hand. Mr. Duguid also called on Member States to help the Secretariat by communicating a negative response to the Secretariat if the country cannot accept the offered programs at that time. This will allow CICTE to offer the programs to another country that might be interested, in accordance with program timelines. He indicated that timely communication is necessary and that the Secretariat understands that this relationship must work both ways.

Member States shared their experiences as Points of Contact for CICTE. Some delegations emphasized efforts taken to manage inter-institutional challenges and to follow up with those who have benefited from CICTE programs to ensure that this knowledge is put into practice at the national level. Delegations requested that invitations and other requests be sent with more advance to ensure time to study the profile of the invitations to be able to select the appropriate individuals from various agencies. They also urged CICTE to ensure that communication is kept within the formal channels.

Delegations were in agreement that they desire to have more ongoing dialogue amongst each other through more frequent meetings. This would allow for greater discussion amongst states about ideas and innovations in the field. Moreover, the network and as an extension the Committee can continue to be dynamic and productive.

Mr. Duguid responded to concerns of delegations, saying that the Secretariat would work to ensure that CICTE’s partners respect the formal NPC process. It was suggested that NPCs make use of advanced technology such as video conferencing to facilitate regular meetings. Mr. Duguid also suggested that if a Member State wishes to host a sub-regional meeting, CICTE can bring a team to brief the network on the work it is conducting in the region.

#### 5. Closing Remarks by the Chair

All suggestions were noted for consideration by Mr. Gordon Duguid, Executive Secretary of CICTE Secretariat who then delivered the final address to the delegations. In his remarks, Mr. Duguid summarized the main points of the day's discussion. He acknowledged the National Points of Contact network as unique and vital to the work of the Secretariat. Mr. Duguid reminded delegations that CICTE's success is also their success. With these remarks, the 10<sup>th</sup> National Point of Contact Meeting was adjourned.