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DECLARATION ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

(Approved at the Fifth Plenary Session, held on March 19 2010)

DECLARATION

“PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM”

(Approved at the Fifth Plenary Session, held on March 19 2010)

The Member States of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS), gathered at its Tenth Regular Session, held in Washington, D.C., in the United States of America, from March 17 to 19, 2010,

REAFFIRMING:

The purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States and of the Charter of the United Nations;

The State has primary responsibility for preventing and countering terrorism;

That terrorism, whatever its origin or motivation, has no justification whatsoever and that it constitutes a grave threat to the lives, well-being and fundamental freedoms of all people, threatens international peace and security, and undermines the values and principles underlying the Inter-American system, democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the freedoms enshrined in and promoted by the Charter of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and other international instruments;

That the threat of terrorism is exacerbated when connections exist between terrorism and illicit drug trafficking, illicit trafficking in arms, money laundering, and other forms of transnational organized crime, and that such illicit activities may be used to support and finance terrorist activities;

Their commitment to fight terrorism, in keeping with the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention and juridical equality of Member States, and in full compliance with their obligations under national and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law;

That the fight against terrorism calls for an integrated and a multi-dimensional approach, the broadest possible levels of cooperation among the Member States, as well as coordination among international, regional, and sub-regional organizations to prevent, punish, and eliminate terrorism in all its aspects;

The commitments and conclusions of all Declarations adopted at previous regular sessions of CICTE;

RECOGNIZING:

That states should continue to identify ways to reduce the threat of terrorism including the consideration of establishing and enhancing public-private partnerships;

That terrorism can be prevented, combated and eliminated more efficiently by collective and coordinated efforts, including information sharing and capacity building;

That the private sector and civil society can collaborate, as appropriate, with ongoing governmental counter-terrorism efforts and projects aimed at strengthening capacities and enhancing the level of security of states;

The experience gained under the Tourism Security Program developed by the Secretariat of CICTE, which involves a focus on public-private partnership;

That major events such as sport, economic, cultural and political gatherings, as well as commercial and business centres, tourism facilities, critical transportation and utilities infrastructure, among others, can be targets for terrorist acts;

That training and previous experiences in managing security for major events and crisis management can increase the capacity of the States to respond to terrorist acts;

That the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Section III, paragraph 13, recognizes the importance of developing public-private partnerships to identify and share best practices to prevent terrorist attacks; and

EMPHASIZING:

The importance of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and the deposit, to date, of the instrument of ratification or accession by 24 Member States, which strengthens the Inter-American commitment in this area;

The importance for the Member States of the OAS to sign, ratify, or accede to, as the case may be, and implement in an effective way the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism as well as pertinent regional and international conventions and protocols, including the 13 related universal legal instruments, resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004) and 1624 (2005) and other pertinent resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by the UN General Assembly to fight terrorism, including to find, deny safe haven to, and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute any person who supports, facilitates, participates, or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation, or commission of terrorist acts or provides safe haven,

DECLARE:

1. Their most vehement condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
2. Their commitment to fight terrorism, in full compliance with their obligations under national and international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law.

3. That terrorism is a menace that goes beyond borders and states therefore firmly resolve to reinforce existing national and international measures and strategies and to examine, as appropriate, new multilateral cooperation strategies designed to strengthen the fight against terrorism.

4. Their commitment to identify and to counter terrorist threats, and likewise to develop and/or adopt national plans and cooperative programs, including mechanisms to exchange information and best practices to prevent and combat such threats.

5. Their commitment to promote, where applicable, public-private partnerships in the fight against terrorism, including in port, maritime and civil aviation security, according to national legislation.

6. Their commitment to identify and promote, according to national legislation, models and initiatives of public-private partnerships in the fight against terrorism.

7. Their willingness to explore, in accordance with national priorities, what role civil society can play in a comprehensive and multi-dimensional response to terrorism.

8. Their commitment to develop and conduct, according to the needs of each Member State, and in collaboration with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) Secretariat, training programmes and workshops on public-private partnerships in the fight against terrorism.

9. The need to encourage Member States to develop close ties with the private sector and civil society in their respective countries, as appropriate, in order to develop capacity-building prevention and protection programs on threats to critical infrastructure.

10. Their agreement to develop, continue to apply, or strengthen training programmes and workshops that enhance their capacity to carry out crisis management responsibilities.

11. Their commitment to adopt measures to strengthen international cooperation mechanisms, especially at the hemispheric level, including the application of extradition and mutual legal assistance, as well as the exchange of information, including financial information, in accordance with domestic law, in order to find, deny safe haven to, and bring to justice any person who supports, facilitates, participates, or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorists acts or provides safe haven.

12. To urge Member States that have not yet done so, to sign, ratify, or accede to, as the case may be, and implement in an effective way, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, as well as the 13 related universal legal instruments and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council^{1/}.

13. Their recommendation that the OAS Regular Fund contribute the necessary resources to provide the CICTE Secretariat with human and financial resources to ensure continuity in its endeavours and in the implementation of its mandates, programmes, and activities contained in the CICTE Work Plan adopted at the Tenth Session.

1. See Appendix.

14. Their appeal to the Member States, Permanent Observers, and pertinent international agencies that they provide, maintain, or increase, as appropriate, their voluntary financial and/or human resource contributions to CICTE, to facilitate the performance of its functions and promote enhancement of its programs and the scope of its work.

15. Their commitment to implement this Declaration and the CICTE Work Plan adopted at the Tenth Session of CICTE.

APPENDIX

**UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS DEPOSITED WITH
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

1. **Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14 December 1973**
2. **International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 December 1979**
3. **International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 December 1997**
4. **International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9 December 1997**
5. **International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
New York, 13 April 2005**

MULTILATERAL CONVENTIONS DEPOSITED WITH OTHER DEPOSITARIES

6. **Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963.** *(Deposited with the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization)*
7. **Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at the Hague on 16 December 1970.** *(Deposited with the Governments of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America)*
8. **Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 23 September 1971.** *(Deposited with the Governments of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America)*
9. **Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, signed at Vienna on 3 March 1980.** *(Deposited with the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency)*
10. **Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988.** *(Deposited with the Governments of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America and with the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization)*

11. **Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, done at Rome on 10 March 1988.** (*Deposited with the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization*)
12. **Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, done at Rome on 10 March 1988.** (*Deposited with the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization*)
13. **Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, signed at Montreal on 1 March 1991.** (*Deposited with the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization*)