



Organization of
American States



INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)

FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
19 March 2015
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L/X.2.15
CICTE/doc.4/15 Cor.1
March 23, 2015
Original: English

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM 2014-2015
JENNIFER MAY LOTEN,
INTERIM PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE OAS**

(Presented at the first plenary session, on March 20, 2015)

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Distinguished Ambassadors, Heads of Delegation, delegates and colleagues, Secretariat members, ladies and gentlemen:

I have the pleasure to report that under the chairmanship of Canada and in accordance with the policy directives and mandates you have established, the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) has continued to provide support to member states in their national and collective efforts to prevent, combat, punish, and eliminate terrorism in the Americas. From January to December 2014, the Executive Secretariat implemented capacity-building and training programs in all member states through 70 events that contributed to the strengthening and professionalization of some 2,764 officials in the region.

These programs are wide-ranging in scope: securing borders; protecting airports and maritime installations; preparedness against emerging threats; providing tourist security; fraudulent document detection; halting the proliferation of nuclear, biological, chemical, and radiological (NBQR) materials; protecting cyber networks; providing security at major public events; and drafting adequate legislation to prevent terrorism financing. Through such programs, the CICTE Executive Secretariat has continued to contribute to strengthening security in our member states.

The CICTE Secretariat will submit a comprehensive and complete report on its activities, describing the results of these activities carried out under the CICTE Work Plan for 2014. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the most important work carried throughout the year.

Cybersecurity

Since the adoption of the Comprehensive Inter-American Cybersecurity Strategy in 2004, the CICTE Cyber Security program has promoted the creation of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), whose numbers have risen from six (6) to nineteen (19) in the last decade. In parallel, countries such as Colombia (2011), Panama (2012), and Trinidad and Tobago (2013) have established national cybersecurity policies and strategies. In 2014, the OAS initiated the national strategy development process in Dominica and Jamaica, as well as the development of a national cyber security action plan for Suriname. Jamaica launched its National Cyber Security Strategy in January of this year. In addition to CSIRT and National Strategies development, the Cyber Security program conducts cybersecurity crisis management exercises, which have been used for training activities in eight (8) countries through a mobile cyber laboratory built and configured with the support from the OAS Department of Information and Technology Services (DOITS).

The Cyber Security program is preparing to launch a new cyber security hemispheric platform aimed to facilitate real-time communication and information sharing between CSIRTs in the Americas. This platform will also serve as tool where response teams can correlate logs and eventually perform other incident response processes.

CICTE's Cyber Security program continues carrying out cyber security projects to protect industrial control systems (ICS). To this end, CICTE's Cyber Security program has worked closely with a variety of stakeholders to organize a number of events and training workshops aimed at improving Member States' capabilities in this regard. For instance, the OAS organized in June 2014 a workshop on "Advanced Industrial Control Systems" hosted by the Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team (ICS-CERT) of the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The event provided hands-on instruction in discovering ICS network intrusions, identifying vulnerabilities, and learning how vulnerabilities can be exploited. The Cyber Security program also offered scholarships to cover some of the costs in order to encourage Member States' participation in this event. In July 2014, the program organized a training workshop on Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure in Mexico City, and offered scholarships to Member States in order to participate in the Meridian Conference in Tokyo, Japan. The latter consisted of a global event for policymakers focusing on critical information infrastructure protection.

Moreover, the CICTE's Cyber Security program has also cooperated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in an event in Brazil about securing information security systems at nuclear facilities, including those related to energy production, research, or used for medical purposes. The event focused on the nexus of physical and digital security concerns and how managers and cyber technicians can mitigate cyber risk and stay abreast of novel trends.

The Cyber Security program has partnered with Trend Micro to produce a report on cyber security and critical infrastructure protection in the region. This report will include case studies and the result of surveys conducted among Member States and private sector in order to better depict the region's critical infrastructure status on cyber security. This joint-report with Trend Micro will be released in early 2015

Finally, there were also cyber security workshops organized in Washington, DC (October) and Bogota, Colombia (November) for the purpose of encouraging information sharing among Member States and discussing cyber security related concerns, best practices, and policies at the regional level. The Cyber Security program also organized specific missions to Member States aimed at improving their technical cyber security capacities through training events. For instance, the Government of Colombia approached the OAS for support in organizing an International Commission of Experts to assess the country's cyber security status. From March-April 2014, the OAS organized a national cyber security technical assistance mission. After exchanging ideas among relevant actors, national and international experts prepared recommendations on four main topics: institutional capacities,

cyber security capabilities, international and multi-stakeholder cooperation, and cyber security legal frameworks.

The Cybersecurity program has forged important partnerships and cooperation agreements concluded with civil society and the private sector. With regard to the former, the Secretary General signed a cooperation agreement with the global awareness campaign “Stop. Think. Connect,” which seeks to raise Internet user awareness of cybersecurity risks. The OAS General Secretariat also signed the World Economic Forum’s Cyber Resilience Principles, which assist institutions in adapting appropriate cybersecurity principles. CICTE also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft to start the development of joint training and capacity building initiatives in the Hemisphere.

In order to facilitate the sharing of experiences between government and private sector, the Cyber Security program coordinated with USUARIA – the Argentine Internet User Association – the promotion of a number of SEGURINFO events in OAS Member States, such as Panama (April 2014), Mexico (October 2014), Peru (October 2014) and Washington, DC (October 2014)

In June 2014, CICTE published a joint report with the cyber security firm Symantec titled “Latin American + Caribbean: Cybersecurity Trends.” This report paired objective threat report data from Symantec with Member State-provided data concerning government responses to issues of cyber security and cybercrime. Filling a knowledge gap expressed by Member States, the report provided an overview of cybercrimes and cyber security in Latin American and the Caribbean in 2013, and assessed the major trends in the region in terms of the threats to the cyber domain and how governments, private enterprises and individual end-users could be affected. This work also encompassed country reports, depicting in a comprehensive way the current cyber security situation of each Member State

Finally, the CICTE’ Cyber Security Program has partnered with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and with the Global Cyber Security Capacity Center at Oxford University to produce a cyber security gap analysis of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Cyber Security Program and Oxford developed a tool that will be used for the collection of data among OAS Member States in early 2015. This cyber security gap analysis report is expected to be completed in 2015.

Document Security and Fraud Prevention

During 2014, the Document Security Program continued providing assistance and capacity-building in Travel Document Security and Identity Management in the Americas, carrying out a Hemispheric Workshop that culminated a 3 year project funded by Canada. The Program carried out a capacity gap assessment mission on travel document security and identity management in Uruguay. The mission focused on identifying the challenges that the office of passports, immigration and the civil registry in Uruguay face regarding the security

of document issuance processes and control of travel documents, while at the same time providing recommendations and suggestions on how to address those challenges. Additionally, the program carried out and national trainings on document examination and fraud prevention.

Security in Major Events

2014 marks the final year of CICTE's 3-year project on Capacity Building in Security for Major Events. The program carried out regional and sub-regional workshops focusing on preparation for major events in the region, and also as a way to exchange information, best practices and lessons learned. CICTE's Security in Major Events program promotes the building of national and regional prevention capacities through direct assistance to the member states.

In 2014, CICTE provided direct technical assistance to Mexico's state of Veracruz during the months leading up to the XXIII Central American and Caribbean Games, which took place in November. CICTE worked in close partnership with the Organizing Committee for the Games and the Veracruz Secretary for Public Security. The technical assistance project was made possible in collaboration with the UN Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) through the joint CICTE/UNICRI IPO Americas initiative, the International Permanent Observatory on Security for Major Events created specifically to build the capacity of security planning officials to secure major events and promote international cooperation.

CICTE's Security for Major Events program continues its longstanding partnership with the UN Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) to provide direct assistance to member states preparing to host major events, and to foster greater international cooperation on the subject. For example, in 2014, the CICTE/UNICRI partnership jointly organized the first hemispheric conference on the role of women in security for major events planning and implementation in addition to providing assistance toward the preparation of the XXIII Central American and Caribbean Games in Veracruz, Mexico. Additionally, CICTE collaborated with UNICRI on the design of the next phase of its partnership that involves both technical assistance projects and the online IPO Americas Knowledge Management System (KMS).

Tourism Security

In 2014, CICTE, in collaboration with the Mexican government, hosted the first international best practices seminar on protection and assistance to tourists. Likewise, CICTE collaborated with the Government of Ecuador to launch the third annual International Tourism Security Conference of the Americas. The Government of St. Maarten also invited

CICTE to participate in its first Critical Infrastructure Protection Conference to share experiences about tourism security efforts in OAS Member States.

During 2014, the CICTE Secretariat also conducted two training activities in San Miguel Allende and Michoacán, Mexico. These activities were carried out in collaboration with Member State officials, international experts, and international organizations which form part of the tourism security network such as: the Pan-American Health Organization, the UN World Tourism Organization, Secretariat of Tourism of Mexico (SECTUR), and others. The Program built the capacity of public and private security officials to prevent and respond to crimes and other incidents that could affect tourists and tourist facilities within each destination.

This was done through specialized training courses designed for each location according to the types of crimes they experience and could experience. In San Miguel Allende, a network was created between public and private sector officials to continue to monitor, prevent and respond to criminal activities within the tourism destination.

This has led to the creation of a network of tourist security liaisons for the exchange of experiences and best practices. In that connection, the program has enabled tourism police and private sector security chiefs in each locale to work in a harmonized manner with the other providers of tourism services, taking advantage of the social network technological platform.

With support from the OAS Department of Tourism, the CICTE Tourism Security continues to collaborate with the World Tourism Organization and the Ministries of Tourism of the Hemisphere to organize the Tourism Security in the Americas Conferences (Dominican Republic, 2011, Panama, 2013; and the conference in Ecuador, 2014). The Tourism Security Program continues to develop relationships with tourism security agencies around the region, creating a strong network of partners, which include both public and private sector members. CICTE also organized an international seminar on the protection and assistance to tourists in collaboration with the Secretariat for Tourism in Mexico. CICTE was invited to participate in the first Critical Infrastructure Conference in St. Maarten to share experiences of Member States in Tourism Security. This participation has initiated a relationship between CICTE and the islands of the Dutch Kingdom for matters related to tourism security.

Aviation Security

As the Aviation Security Program can be seen more clearly as an anti-crime program, aviation security training courses held in 2014 in areas such as screening techniques, access control and risk management all contribute to anti-crime efforts within the region. In 2014, CICTE worked with countries in South America through sub-regional training courses for Southcone countries and a national training course for Peru in “passenger interdiction” to

ensure that law enforcement and other airport officials have the fundamental skills necessary to interdict high risk passengers who intend to traffic/smuggle drugs, weapons, explosives and other illegal contraband through the airport. Participants trained were officials who, in the course of their duties conduct examinations of persons, their documents and baggage, and may undertake arrests and seizures at the airport. During the practical exercise of one of the training courses, participants from the class identified and intercepted a drug smuggler.

Assistance for UNSC RES 1540 Implementation

Since 2011, CICTE has been assisting Mexico work towards UNSCR 1540 compliance by supporting authorities the drafting of a National Work Plan, followed by a two-year tailored action-oriented program to address needs and challenges. This tailored capacity building and technical assistance program is conducted in partnership with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the UNSCR 1540 Committee Group of Experts. 2014 has been a key year in terms of the work developed by the CICTE Secretariat for the UNSCR 1540 implementation in Mexico. Three main activities haven been developed during 2014:

- The completion of a detailed study of Mexico's existing laws, regulations, and inter-agency agreements, to lay the groundwork for the development of a Strategic Trade Management Legislative System;
- The completion of a detailed study of Mexico's criminal code and authorities charged with carrying out investigations, imposing administrative sanctions and fines, to identify any changes to the criminal code and authority structure that would be necessary to fully implement a comprehensive Proliferation Investigations and Prosecutions System; and,
- The drafting and official launch of Mexico's National Action Plan for UNSCR 1540 implementation. This would serve as a roadmap for full implementation of UNSCR 1540 in other countries, starting with those that have already expressed interest in the model, as well as to establish the basis for future peer reviews in the region.

In Colombia, based on the tailored assessment and the needs and priorities identified in its National Action Plan of Colombia, CICTE in collaboration with the Colombian Government plans to host specialized training activities at in-country in the near future. The number of activities to be implemented depends on the available funding from donor countries for the Project. To date, funding sources have not been identified. CICTE supported the drafting and official launch of Colombia's National Action Plan in November of 2014.

In addition, in partnership with Panamanian government authorities, the CICTE Secretariat, with the support of UNODA and the 1540 Committee Group of Experts, has led a meeting with relevant officials on December, 2014, to take the first steps towards the drafting of a National Work Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1540 in Panama.

Legislative Assistance and Combating Terrorism Financing

Since 2002, the CICTE Executive Secretariat has provided training and technical assistance to member states in the area of legislative assistance to combat terrorism financing, to enhance their justice system development. This has led to greater fulfillment of commitments assumed under the international instruments on combating terrorism and its financing through their implementation in national legislation.

In that regard, 25 member states have now ratified the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism; and there are now 60 ratifications of the universal treaties against terrorism. Nine national laws have been enacted on terrorism financing; and another eight bills are under discussion in their respective Congresses.

During 2014, CICTE's Legislative Assistance and Countering Terrorism Financing Programs (LACTF) trained more than 170 officials in 6 training activities. The CICTE Secretariat has also provided technical support for the drafting, and eventual passing, of a number of counter-terrorism and counter-terrorism financing legislations in the Hemisphere. In 2014, the OAS supported the Government of Dominica in passing amendments, regulations, and code of practice related to Anti-Money Laundering and Suppression of Terrorist Financing.

In partnership with CICAD, the CICTE Secretariat conducted two national workshops on Anti Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism in 2014. These courses were held in Dominica in May and in Barbados in June. In these workshops, judges and prosecutors were trained in the preparation of financial intelligence reports and in the combat against terrorist financing.

As part of a coordinated effort by international organizations, CICAD joined with CICTE, the Executive Directorate of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNCTED), the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB) and the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT) to create the MECOOR Initiative to develop joint capacity building projects to prevent and fight money laundering and terrorism financing. In 2014, they organized two sub-regional workshops on combating money laundering and terrorism financing, the first in Guatemala for officials from five Central American countries, and the second in Chile for officials from five South American countries.

The CICTE Secretariat also carried out a National Workshop on Guatemalan Legislation related to Countering the Financing of Terrorism and Money Laundering, and a Sub-regional Workshop on Border Controls and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, both held in Guatemala City in July, 2014.

Global Supply Chain Security

2014 marked the launch of CICTE's Global Supply Chain Security program, through which the Secretariat assists member states in the design, development, and implementation of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programs. AEO programs allow border control agencies to partner with the private sector to secure international commerce against criminal threats and smuggling. CICTE provided technical assistance to seven member states currently developing or implementing AEO programs, conducting eleven technical assistance missions.

Immigration and Customs Control

The CICTE Immigration and Customs program initially sought to raise awareness among border officials of risk management and to strengthen institutional relations among border control authorities. Based on this approach, workshops were held in 15 countries in Central America and the Caribbean, working in coordination with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Department of Public Security (DPS). Thereafter, in response to the priorities indicated by the member states, the approach was modified to address the issue of container and cargo ship security so as to ensure the safety and efficiency of the flow of trade in the region.

Five seminars on Customs and Immigration Control and Border Security were delivered in partnership with CICAD. These seminars took place in Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Guatemala, Panama and St. Lucia involving 228 participants. Another seminar was held in St. Kitts and Nevis for 45 customs and immigration officers from the host country.

CICAD and CICTE also organized and delivered a two-week seminar on container control in Jamaica. This was a train the trainer seminar that included a total of 47 participants. The program looked at the ways that narcotraffickers use containers to smuggle drugs and related contraband and how to target interdiction efforts.

Strengthening Strategies on Emerging Terrorist Threats

The Strengthening Strategies on Emerging Terrorist Threats Program seeks to strengthen Member States' capacity to respond to potential bio-terrorist threats. This

program is implemented primarily through tabletop practical exercises and technical assistance missions to address specific issues and develop a National Response Plans. Over the last five years, this program has provided critical training to over one thousand government officials in over 30 Member States. As a result, regional knowledge and awareness have been greatly increased, and several nations – including Trinidad & Tobago, Panama, Guatemala and Chile – have initiated, completed or improved upon existing national response plans. In addition, this program has also improved interagency cooperation within the Members States, as well as regionally. The program has not only allowed Member States to be better prepared in the event of a bioterrorism attack, but also to create and implement the response basis needed in the event of a naturally occurring bio-incident, such as influenza or Ebola outbreaks.