



Organization of
American States



INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)

FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
February 20-21, 2014
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L/X.2.14
CICTE/doc.6/14
26 February 2014
Original: English

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST
TERRORISM 2014-2015, HIS EXCELLENCY ALLAN CULHAM,
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

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Pursuant to the Declarations adopted at the sessions of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and endorsing all the resolutions related to terrorism adopted by the General Assembly and the Permanent Council of the OAS, delegations gathered for the 14th Regular Session of CICTE and continued their discussions on enhancing the capacity of Member States to prevent and combat terrorism in the hemisphere.

The discussions held during the 14th Regular Session of CICTE focused on three themes and highlighted the following issues:

1. Countering the criminal activities that may exacerbate the threat of terrorism;

While the understanding of the exact nature of the relationship between terrorism and transnational organized crime varies among Member States, it was recognized that some terrorist networks have benefitted from various types of criminal activities, such as drug and arms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, human trafficking, money laundering, and illegal mining, among others;

Member States underscored the importance of strengthening hemispheric cooperation at sub-regional, regional and international levels to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the need to improve our understanding and analysis of criminal activities that may exacerbate the threat of terrorism;

2. Strengthening criminal justice responses to acts of terrorism;

Member States recognized that strengthening criminal justice systems and the rule of law, including respect for human rights, are essential to preventing and responding to acts of terrorism;

Member States agreed on the importance of fair and effective criminal justice sector responses to terrorism, including those aspects related to international judicial cooperation, mutual legal assistance, information sharing, and joint investigations to support the prosecution of potentially complex terrorism cases that are transnational in scope;

3. Enhancing the efficiency of CICTE and the National Points of Contact

Member States welcomed the initiative of the Chair to seek ways to enhance the effectiveness of the National Points of Contact meeting and to improve the long-term financial sustainability of CICTE.

Several Member States expressed support for the internal reorganization of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and the need to align these efforts with the management modernization initiative and broader Strategic Vision exercise currently underway at the OAS.

The Chair will formally seek the feedback of Member States on the list of concrete proposals put forward by Member States during this plenary session, and will propose the creation of an informal working group to report back with recommendations that could strengthen the work of this committee.

The Chair invites Member States to cooperate with the CICTE Secretariat for the implementation of the CICTE Annual Work Plan, which includes its work areas of border controls, legislative assistance, and combating terrorism financing, critical infrastructure protection, strengthening strategies on emerging terrorist threats, and international coordination and cooperation, adopted at the Fourteenth Regular Session of CICTE.

The Chair reinforces the appeal made by the Executive Secretary of CICTE for traditional donors to maintain or increase their current level of support, and for Member States, including non-traditional donors, both within and outside of the hemisphere, to contribute for the first time or increase their normal contribution to CICTE, no matter how modest, to facilitate the performance of its functions, and promote the enhancement of its programs and the scope of its work.

The Chair urges that the OAS Regular Fund contribute the necessary resources to provide the CICTE Secretariat with the necessary resources to continue its endeavors and implement the mandates, programs, and activities contained in the Work Plan adopted at the 14th Regular Session of CICTE.