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**REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM, MR. NEIL KLOPFENSTEIN**

(Delivered at the First Plenary Session held on February 20, 2014)

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His Excellency Allan Culham, Permanent Representative of Canada and Chair of CICTE.

Her Excellency, Elisa Ruiz Diaz Bareiro, Permanent Representative of Paraguay and Vice Chair of CICTE

Distinguished permanent representatives of the Member States to the OAS;

Distinguished delegates of the OAS member states;

Distinguished representatives of the OAS's permanent observers;

Ladies, gentlemen, and special guests:

I would like to begin my remarks by extending my sincerest congratulations on behalf of the entire Secretariat, to the Governments of Canada and Paraguay for their elections to Chair and Vice Chair this Committee. I look forward to working under your leadership and wish you success as you guide our collective efforts in the hemispheric fight to prevent and combat terrorism.

Under the Chairmanship of Colombia, in 2013 the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism continued to build capacity and deliver quality training to our Member States. The Secretariat engaged with each of your countries to build these capacities in a wide spectrum of counterterrorism skills, from critical infrastructure protection and counter-terrorism legislative assistance, to border, aviation, maritime, and cyber security.

Last year, the CICTE Secretariat conducted 113 courses, seminars, consultations and technical assistance missions that strengthened the skills of some 4,181 participants, including hundreds of security and law enforcement officials throughout the region. The Secretariat also continued to build new partnerships, strengthen existing ones, and help

Member States foster collaborative relationships with other nations, which are all vital to our collective counter-terrorism efforts.

Ambassador Gonzalez Diaz provided a very complete overview of our activities over the last few years. During this opportunity, I would like to share some of the main highlights of our most important areas of work. A copy of my complete report will be circulated among the delegates as document CICTE/Doc 4/14 “Report on Activities of the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.”

Cyber Security

2013 was a groundbreaking year for the CICTE Cyber Security Program. A major focus of CICTE’s cyber security efforts was to expand and strengthen public private partnerships on cyber security issues in the hemisphere.

For example, in May 2013, CICTE published a joint report with the cyber security firm Trend Micro titled “Latin American and Caribbean Cybersecurity Trends and Government Responses.” This report paired objective threat report data from Trend Micro 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 informed the future of CICTE’s cyber security work and exemplified the type of public-private relations that will strengthen cyber resilience in the Americas. Finally, it showed other regions in the world the dynamic perspective that is generated by working with non-government partners. Just last week, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft to start the development of joint training and capacity building initiatives in the Hemisphere.

Moving into new area, CICTE began implementing a new cyber security project on protecting internet-facing critical infrastructures. As evidenced by the report with Trend Micro, attacks on the industrial control systems—ICS—that administer our most critical services are under constant and evolving attack. In Colombia, CICTE delivered its first of at

least four workshops on mitigating vulnerable ICS from cyber risk. The event convened a mix of policy and technical-level officials, providing them a space to learn about the threat landscape and measures that should be taken to safeguard systems from digital penetration.

Aviation Security

In 2013, the CICTE Aviation Security Program worked to continue to assist Member States in increasing their knowledge and ability to comply with the International Civil Aviation Security Organization (ICAO) standards and recommended practices and other security methods. By providing scholarships to ICAO courses and through our own training, CICTE assisted Member States identify and mitigate risks to their physical, internal, and passenger security operations in their specific airport environments.

Through a partnership with the Government of Israel and the Government of Canada, CICTE delivered its first Joint Aviation Security Program, this training focused on the identification and interdiction of passengers with suspicious behavior (at the Tocumen Airport in Panama.) The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) provided expertise on anti-crime behavioral detection methods through their JETWAY Program and the Israel Security Agency (ISA) shared their experience in counter-terrorism behavioral detection methods.

In addition, for the first time, the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA) partnered with CICTE to train Aviation Security officers from 17 airports in 12 islands in The Bahamas, on passenger and cargo screening techniques. A component of this program was a “train the trainer” course which gave participants the tools to go back to their respective islands and continue to train their staff at their airports in passenger security.

Major Events

A major element of CICTE's Major Events Program is to promote gender equality and enhance the role of women in major event security planning. In March 2013, in partnership with UNICRI, CICTE hosted a sub-regional workshop on major events security in Santo Domingo where each delegation nominated at least one female participant to attend, and the host country nominated three women to participate. In the meeting, the group discussed the agenda for the upcoming regional workshop on gender issues in major event security planning. A follow-up workshop will be held in March 2014 in Ottawa, Canada.

CICTE also hosted a Regional Workshop on Major events Security and Crime Prevention in Santiago, Chile in August 2013, to promote the design and development of a Knowledge Management System (KMS) on Major Event Security planning and crime prevention for the region. Since this event, the National Focal Points for Major Events have been using the platform to exchange information and knowledge on crime prevention, and share documents on best practices.

Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540) Program

The main objective of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540) Program, is to identify specific needs and challenges with regard to the physical protection and accounting of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear materials related to the implementation of UNSCR 1540.

Since 2011, CICTE has been assisting Mexico work towards UNSCR 1540 compliance by supporting authorities to draft a National Work Plan, followed by a 2-year tailored action plan to address needs and challenges, and now to execute a tailored capacity building and technical assistance program in partnership with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the UNSCR 1540 Committee Group of Experts.

In 2013, as part of the approved Action Plan, CICTE led two (2) specialized national level workshops in Mexico City on "International Best Practices on Export Controls" in

collaboration with the Government of Mexico, the UNODA, and the Group of Experts of the UNSCR 1540 Committee.

In 2014, we will continue assisting Mexico work towards 1540 compliance, by 1) preparing a detailed study on Mexico's existing laws, regulations, and inter-agency agreements, to lay the groundwork for the development of a strategic trade management legislative system, and 2) preparing a detailed study of Mexico's criminal code to identify the changes needed to implement a comprehensive Proliferation Investigations and Prosecutions system. We also hope to work with the government of Colombia to begin implementation of their 1540 National Plan.

CONCLUSION

Although we had a successful and productive year, our work is far from finished. CICTE must and shall continue its commitment to serve its Member States. The Secretariat will continue working with all member nations to provide them an unparalleled level of training that is responsive to their needs. We will strive to expand our contacts, while coordinating and participating at the sub-regional, regional and international levels to ensure that we remain at the forefront of developments in this field. We seek to provide our Member States with the best programming possible, while continually offering training and information on the most effective and up-to-date practices, methodologies and developments in our mandated program areas.

To fulfill the mandates you have given us, we rely on the support of donors. One hundred percent of the funding we use to implement the CICTE Work Plan consists of specific funds and other donor contributions. Although we do not have the resources to complete every project in the work plan, the Secretariat is doing its best to meet Member State priorities.

Our funding situation in the year ahead is not good. Important programming activities will be sacrificed, I make a special plea: for traditional donors to maintain or increase their current level of support, and for Member States to contribute for the first time or increase their normal contribution. Trinidad and Tobago is an excellent example, a small state with a small population, but always a generous donor. This year, I have set a goal of raising \$1 million from Member States who have not generally participated in CICTE funding in the past. This goal is about 20% of our operating budget. Indeed, a number of Member States have expressed interest in contributing to CICTE. I encourage them to deliver on their intentions.