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

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**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST  
TERRORISM 2010-2011, H.E. O.A. TOMMY TURNQUEST, MINISTER OF NATIONAL  
SECURITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

(Delivered at the First Plenary Session on March 17, 2011)

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Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ambassadors, Heads of Delegations, Delegates and Colleagues, Members of the Secretariat, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning,

I wish to draw to your attention activities undertaken by the Secretariat of CICTE for the year 2010 in accordance with Article 17.h of the Statute and Article 11.e of the Rules of Procedure of CICTE, and following up with its 2010 work plan.

It is with great pleasure to report that the Secretariat has implemented capacity building and training programs in all Member States through 114 events benefiting 3,505 participants in the areas of border controls, legislative assistance and combating terrorism financing, protection of critical infrastructure, strengthening strategies on emerging terrorist threats, and international cooperation and partnerships. A full report of these programs and activities is already on the floor.

As of today the CICTE Secretariat works in the five areas aforementioned strengthened by its partnerships and cooperative arrangements with over forty national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations and entities engaged both in counter-terrorism and law enforcement in general.

While Committee's context of its origin reflect the OAS Member States' original intent to focus on preventing and combating terrorism, a range of factors has effectively made CICTE's current Work Plan largely anti-crime in nature and impact. Chief among these is the fact that the vulnerabilities often cited for potential exploitation by terrorist groups are the very same ones that other transnational criminal organizations seek to exploit, including: inadequate controls along land and sea borders; deficiencies in port and airport security; a lack of cooperation and information-sharing among counterpart security authorities within and between countries; insufficient training and professionalization of security personnel; and, increasingly, the vulnerability of critical information infrastructure.

This correlation is further evidenced through the partnerships that the Secretariat has developed with a wide range of national, regional and international authorities engaged primarily in anti-crime efforts, including but not limited to: Royal Canadian Mountain Police (RCMP), Canada's Border Service Agency (CBSA), U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Interpol, UNICRI, and UNODC, among others. These partnerships have proven so successful primarily and precisely because the capacity gaps, vulnerabilities and training needs identified by Member States.

One year ago, we met to discuss how to strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors in the fight against terrorism, and how to enhance these partnerships among our Member States at sub-regional, regional and international levels. The development of public-private partnerships is critical to an effective integrated approach to terrorism prevention and resolution, but it does require the sustained support of the international community. We must cast a wide net of engagement solutions that will take the active partnership of governments, the private sector and civil society, the media, community leaders, young leaders and many others.

I recognize that each Member State has given its support to this effort, and we are making progress, but this work requires action on many levels. Building capacity is a strong endeavor of this Committee. In collaboration with REMJA, the Secretariat has supported Member States in developing strategies or national frameworks for cyber-security policies. The national Computer Security Incident Response Teams have been working with leading companies and with the academic sector engaged in Information Technologies – Microsoft Corp. and Carnegie Mellon University among others - to define guidelines and strengthen capacity in protecting critical infrastructure and citizens' lives in the Hemisphere.

In the area of tourism security, about 70% of CICTE's workshops and courses in the region focus on promoting partnerships between the private sector and the government. The program began execution in the Caribbean, and expanded to Latin America and Central America. The program seeks to enhance the capacity of security managers in the private sector of tourism and public law enforcement officers including the tourism police, and raise awareness of the need to improve communications among both sectors as well. Key partners in the program include the "Asociación Panamericana de Hoteles (APATEL), the "Instituto Guatemalteco de Turismo (INGUAT), the Instituto Costaricense de Turismo, the Policia Turística de El Salvador, the Secretaría de Integración Turística Centroamericana of SICA (SITCA), and the Argentinian NGO "Turismo para todos", among others.

The Secretariat has also been actively engaged in cooperating with United Nations agencies in supporting Member States' compliance with their UN obligations. In the past few years, the Secretariat has entered into a broad range of partnerships deepening cooperation between the OAS Member States and the United Nations: UNODC, UNCTED, UNICRI, OACI, the 1540 Commission and others.

With these efforts, we have begun to realize our goal of creating more public-private partnerships. There remains much work ahead, but I value and encourage your important role in working together toward achieving this Committee's mission and vision. To date 24 member states have ratified or acceded to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. It is important for all OAS Member States to sign, ratify, or accede to, as the case may be, and implement in an effective way the Convention as well as pertinent regional and international conventions and protocols, including the 18 UN resolutions.

Even so, I believe that we are achieving success in our mission to strengthen the capacity of Member States to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism. For example, since 2006, we estimate that Member States have:

- 50 new ratifications of universal legal instruments against terrorism.
- 7 new ratifications of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.
- Adopted 7 national laws against terrorism.
- 8 draft bills are tabled in national legislatures—with technical assistance provided by OAS/CICTE.
- And at least 396 significant training programs have been organized by the Secretariat resulting in more than 12,886 Member State officials trained.

Additionally, in 2010 the Secretariat leveraged our partnerships with a range of regional organizations including the CARICOM Secretariat, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and APEC, as well as with leading UN agencies. Finally, our network of National Points of Contact remains a key resource for linking the OAS Member State authorities responsible for counter-terrorism at a policy level. Your support includes ensuring that our national Points of Contact network remains strong and vibrant. Please also note that the ninth meeting of CICTE's National Points of Contact will be held tomorrow in this same venue.

I wish to thank all Member States and permanent observers that have contributed human and other resources to the CICTE Secretariat for implementation of CICTE's Work Plan for this past year. I note that funds continue to be donated to the Secretariat and that four Member States have continued to support the Secretariat with seconded personnel despite the financial difficulties we all face. Your past support has provided the results I have just cited; your continuing support is needed as much now as ever in order to continue to protect our region against terrorist attacks, and to take part in the global fight against terrorism.

I welcome you all again, and look forward to our discussions.

Thank you.