



Organization of
American States



INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)

ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
March 17, 2011
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L.X.2.11
CICTE/INF.4/11
17 March 2011
Original: English

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR OF CICTE 2011 - 2012

(Delivered by Hon. I.J. Karl Hood, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Environment, Foreign Trade and Export Development of Grenada,
at the First Plenary Session, held on March 17, 2011)

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR OF CICTE 2011 - 2012

(Delivered by Hon. I.J. Karl Hood, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Environment, Foreign Trade and Export Development of Grenada,
on Grenada's assumption of the Chair
at the First Plenary Session, held on March 17, 2011)

Honorable Tommy Turnquest, Minister of National Security, Commonwealth of The Bahamas and
Outgoing Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism;

Your Excellency, Mr. Jose Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American
States;

Your Excellency, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General,

Ms. Lynne Anne Williams, Executive Director of the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime
and Security,

Ambassador Adam Blackwell, Secretary for Multidimensional Security of the OAS

Mr. Gordon Duguid, Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism,

Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegation,

Distinguished National Points of Contact to CICTE,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with pride that I accept, on behalf of Grenada, the Chairmanship of the Inter-American
Committee against Terrorism. Your unanimous election of Grenada to this esteemed role is for us a
tremendous honour and mark of your confidence in us to provide leadership of this unique
hemispheric forum. I wish to assure you that we assume this Chair with the intention to fulfill your
expectations of us, and that we will do so in close partnership with the each of you our sister Member
States, with the Vice-Chair and with the Secretariat.

I wish to thank very specially Peru and Uruguay for nominating my country to this position.

I must also acknowledge the dedicated leadership of this Committee in the past year offered
by The Commonwealth of the Bahamas. We commend very specially the Minister for National
Security, the Honorable Tommy Turnquest, on the unwavering direction which his Government gave
to the Committee's work since March 2010, with particular focus on the importance of private-public
partnerships in the fight against terrorism. That we are gathered at this annual meeting is due to the
successful preparatory process which was undertaken over the past year, under the guidance of His

Excellency, Ambassador C. A. Smith, Permanent Representative of The Bahamas to the OAS. Ambassador, we thank you for your conduct of those deliberations and for guiding us on a path towards consensus.

We hope to build today on the agreements arrived at during that preparatory process. Moreover, we look forward to joining with all the Member States in adopting a unified, adamant, unequivocal and resounding declaration of the renewed commitment of all the Member States of this Organization to fighting terrorism, and to enhancing our cooperation and capacities to do so.

Indeed, Grenada was most heartened that the membership so readily accompanied us in this objective. Your spontaneous welcome of the central theme proposed by my country for this the Eleventh Session of CICTE, speaks very clearly to the continuing and urgent need for us all to remain vigilant in the face of somber reality that the scourge of terrorism has become a constant threat to the security of our citizens and to the peaceful existence of our nations.

There has been impressive global cooperation over the last decade, and OAS Member States, especially through CICTE, have been leaders in meeting the transnational threat of terrorism by working as partners to prevent attacks, disrupt terrorist operations and protect our hemisphere from terrorism. Yet, it is a threat which looms ever present, and addressing it has become a routine feature of our security and defense landscape.

It is this reality which makes even more relevant today the central purpose of this Committee established in 1998– that is “to promote and develop cooperation among member states to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism, in accordance with the principles of the OAS Charter and with the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and with full respect for the sovereignty of states, the rule of law, and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law”.

We, the Member States of this Organization, have recognized and remained firm in our most vehement condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We have undertaken as one body to ensure that terrorists do not find a foothold in our Hemisphere. We have dedicated ourselves to ensuring that their efforts to disrupt the peaceful enjoyment of our freedoms are thwarted at every point. We have with one voice and united action repeatedly sent a clear message of our intolerance for terrorism. We have stood firm in denying safe haven to and in bringing to justice those who would perpetrate such heinous crimes against our peoples.

Excellencies, we must maintain this unified front against terrorists and terrorism; we must not waver in our resolve in the face of such a persistent enemy; we must endure in our joint endeavor to rid our Hemisphere of all manifestations of terrorism.

We gather here today, after more than a decade of collective resolve, joint actions, and increased capacities. And yet, the international threat of terrorism remains a serious concern that warrants our continued vigilance and renewed action.

Grenada is pleased that we have this forum –the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism- supported by a well-established technical Secretariat, with which to counter terrorism. CICTE has proven itself to be an effective mechanism for preventing terrorist threats to the security, the institutions, the democratic values of our states, and the well-being of our peoples. We share the

belief that CICTE, being the only hemisphere-wide body that deals with terrorism, constitutes the ideal forum for harmonizing and centralizing our individual and subregional efforts. Grenada is therefore pleased that on this occasion all the Member States will renew our pledge to partner with one another under the CICTE umbrella to strengthen our national capacities and extend our regional and sub-regional counter-terrorism networks and thus enhance our cooperation in countering terrorism.

To accomplish this, we must continue to build the political will and practical capacity in each of our states to combat terrorism. We must look as well to the political, economic, and social factors that terrorist organizations exploit and to the ideology that is their key instrument in pushing vulnerable individuals down the path toward violence. With these on-going considerations in mind, we must design the practical steps we can take to improve our abilities to thwart terrorists and their plans.

Bolstering our border controls, financial controls, critical infrastructures, and legislative frameworks is a constant imperative for achieving a sound front against terrorism. This must be matched with simultaneous strategies and mechanisms that facilitate the secure exchange of information, the sharing and implementation of best practices, and the development of innovative deliverables.

As we recognize the excellent contributions of the CICTE Secretariat to our work, we must increase that unit's ability to continue to provide the technical assistance that enable Member States to enhance our counter-terrorism capacity. I pause here to commend the Staff of the Secretariat and to express our appreciation to all Member States and Permanent Observer States which have contributed to the Secretariat's resources since its inception.

Excellencies, our efforts require continued international cooperation as evidenced here by our colleagues from international, regional and non-governmental organizations. The efforts of these international partners are essential in achieving our counterterrorism goals and applying international standards and practices. We are mindful of the United Nations' Counter-Terrorism Global Strategy and the need to fulfill its mandates, including to serve those whose lives have been shattered by terrorism. I am pleased to note the proposed bi-hemispheric conference on victims of terrorism to be held in conjunction with the Council of Europe and the Government of Spain to explore best practices for supporting our citizens who have suffered at the hands of terrorists. We recognize that the voices of the victims completely disarm terrorists' excuses for their attacks. Perhaps, even more importantly we must not deny our support to those innocent citizens who have been brutally attacked, to those individuals whose lives have been changed forever due to the fanaticism of terrorists.

We also know that in order to succeed in combating terrorism we must work at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels with non-governmental organizations, foundations, academia, and with the private sector.

Excellencies, yesterday I had the honor to address the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States in this very building. I wish to share with you a simple sentiment that I stated there, which is that "...it is no small feat to battle a clandestine enemy, but we are assured by the resolve and tenacity of the nations of this Hemisphere that we will certainly succeed in doing so." I close by reassuring all delegations, that my country, Grenada, is committed to providing in partnership with your nations our best efforts at coordinating and leading the undertakings which we

will reiterate today, to guarantee an enhanced environment, innovative mechanisms and practical solutions for the safety of our citizens, our freedoms and our democracies.

I thank you.