

AG/RES. 2272 (XXXVII O/07)

SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Observations and Recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Reports of the Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the Organization of American States (AG/doc..../07 add. ), particularly the Annual Report of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CP/doc..../07);

REITERATING the commitments undertaken in resolutions AG/RES. 1650 (XXIX-O/99), “Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism”; AG/RES. 1734 (XXX-O/00), “Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism”; and AG/RES. 1789 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1877 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1964 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2051 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2137 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2170 (XXXVI-O/06), “Support for the Work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism”;

REAFFIRMING that terrorism, whatever its form or manifestation and whatever its origin or motivation, has no justification whatsoever, is inimical to the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights, and poses a grave threat to international peace and security, institutions, and the democratic values enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and other regional and international instruments;

Noting with satisfaction the holding of the Seventh Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) in Panama City, Panama, from February 28 to March 2, 2007, the adoption of the Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism, and CICTE’s decision to hold a meeting of experts on the security of tourism and recreational facilities in the Americas;<sup>1/</sup>

NOTING ALSO that in that Declaration the member states stated that “critical infrastructure refers, *inter alia*, to those facilities, systems, and networks, and physical or virtual (IT) services and equipment, the disabling or destruction of which would have a severe impact on populations, public health, security, economic activity, the environment, democratic governance, or the ability of the government of a member state to operate effectively” and that they recognized the Panama Canal as an example of critical infrastructure for the Hemisphere;

WELCOMING the offers made by the Government of the Republic of Panama, in its capacity as Chair of CICTE, to hold, *inter alia*, an International Conference on Secure Trade and Transportation, a Forum between CICTE and Inter-American Civil Society, and a Training Program

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<sup>1/</sup> The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, because it regards it as criminal and unjustifiable, and, for reasons of principle, enters a reservation concerning adoption of the Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism, as it considers that said Declaration does not contain the elements needed for comprehensive consideration of the topic of terrorism. The grounds for our position are set forth in document CICTE/DEC. 1/07.

for Judges and Prosecutors on enforcement of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and international conventions for combating terrorism (CICTE/INF. 5/07);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that at the aforementioned seventh regular session of CICTE the decision was made to establish an open-ended working group to conduct a substantive review of the CICTE Work Plan;

RECALLING the need to confront terrorism through sustained cooperation, with full respect for the obligations that international law imposes, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law;

REAFFIRMING that the fight against terrorism demands the broadest possible cooperation among the member states and coordination among international and regional organizations, in order to prevent, punish, and eliminate terrorism in all its forms;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, and Uruguay ratified the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism in 2006 and 2007 and that other countries not yet party to this Convention have nonetheless made important headway;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION ALSO the holding of the fifth meeting of CICTE's National Points of Contact, in Panama City, Panama, on February 28, 2007, and the strengthening of the National Points of Contact Network to facilitate and improve information exchange and to share best practices for cooperation in the fight against terrorism in the Hemisphere; and

WELCOMING the recently adopted United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, of September 8, 2006 (doc. A/RES/60/288), which calls for the intensification of all activities designed to enhance security and the protection of especially vulnerable targets, such as critical infrastructure and public places, and which builds on many of the elements proposed by the U.N. Secretary-General in his report of April 27, 2006, to the U.N. General Assembly, entitled "Uniting against Terrorism: Recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy" (doc. A/60/825),

#### RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its most vigorous condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as criminal and unjustifiable under any circumstances, in any place, and regardless of who perpetrates it, and because it poses a grave threat to international peace and security, and to the democracy, stability, and prosperity of the countries of the region.

2. To endorse the Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism, adopted by the members of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) at its seventh regular session; and to encourage the member states to implement the commitments contained therein.<sup>1/</sup>

3. To acknowledge that terrorism is a threat to critical infrastructure; and to express the commitment of member states to take all necessary actions, in accordance with domestic laws and relevant international agreements, to prevent, mitigate, and deter potential terrorist threats to critical infrastructure in the Hemisphere, through the development and implementation of national measures and the strengthening of regional and international cooperation.

4. To reiterate that it is important for the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to sign, ratify, implement, and continue implementing, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, as well as pertinent regional and international conventions and protocols, including the 13 international conventions and protocols and United Nations Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 1566 (2004), 1617 (2005), and 1624 (2005), in order to find, deny safe haven to, and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates, or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation, or commission of terrorist acts or provides safe havens.

5. To call upon those member states that have not yet done so to ratify the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and to implement it effectively.

6. To express its abiding commitment to fight terrorism and the financing thereof with full respect for the rule of law and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international refugee law, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

7. To express its satisfaction with the progress made by member states in the adoption of effective measures to prevent, combat, and eradicate terrorism; and to underscore the need to continue strengthening their application and that of cooperation mechanisms in the fight against terrorism at the bilateral, subregional, regional, and international levels.

8. To reiterate its satisfaction with the work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) in identifying immediate and longer-term measures needed to strengthen hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism, including technical assistance provided to states that request it in order to comply with their obligations under the various binding international instruments, in accordance with the CICTE Work Plan.

9. To encourage the work of the Working Group on the CICTE Work Plan, established at the aforementioned seventh regular session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), which will meet at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat, in Washington, D.C., as part of the preparatory process for the eighth regular session of this Committee.

10. To instruct the CICTE Secretariat to implement the programs and projects listed in the CICTE Work Plan for 2006-2007, in particular those that involve the protection of critical infrastructure, international cooperation, measures to prevent, control, and punish terrorist financing, through training programs for those officers of the law and the courts charged with investigating, prosecuting, and punishing these crimes; assistance in carrying out the Nine Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF); assistance in creating and launching Cyber Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in those countries where they do not yet exist; the inter-American Program for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas; measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring biological, chemical, and nuclear materials, and technical assistance to improve the quality of travel documents and similar documents and their security measures.

11. Once again to thank the member states and permanent observers that have contributed human and other resources to CICTE's Secretariat to help implement the CICTE Work Plan.

12. Once again to call upon member states, permanent observers, and pertinent international organizations to provide, maintain, or increase, as appropriate, their voluntary contributions of funding and/or human resources to CICTE to enable it to perform its functions and enhance its programs and areas of activity.

13. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue providing, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the OAS and other resources, administrative and any other support needed for the CICTE Secretariat, including support for the eighth regular session of CICTE, scheduled to be held at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat, in Washington, D.C., in the first quarter of 2008, including the three preparatory meetings for that regular session and those required for the Working Group on the CICTE Work Plan; for the sixth meeting of CICTE's National Points of Contact that will take place in conjunction with that regular session; and for the upcoming Meeting of Experts on the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities.

14. To request the Chair of CICTE to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.