

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



THIRTY FIFTH REGULAR SESSION
June 5 - 7, 2005
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
United States of America

OEA/Ser.P
AG/doc.4496/05
13 June 2005
Original: Spanish/English

DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AT ITS THIRTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

AG/RES. 2137 (XXXV-O/05)
SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM

(Subject to review by the Style Committee)

AG/RES. 2137 (XXXV-O/05)

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

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 7, 2005)

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 (AG/RES. /05), in particular as they pertain to the Annual Report of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism to the General Assembly (CP/doc.4035/05);

RECALLING its 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), and AG/RES. 2051 (XXXIV-O/04), all entitled "Support for the Work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism";

REITERATING WITH RENEWED CONCERN that the threat of terrorism is exacerbated by connections between terrorism and illicit drug trafficking, illicit trafficking in arms, money laundering, and other forms of transnational organized crime, and that the resulting alliances and benefits derived from those connections are or can be used to support and finance terrorist activities;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that the fifth regular session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from February 16 to 18, 2005, on which occasion the member states adopted the Declaration of Port-of-Spain on Strengthening Cooperation on Strategies to Sustain and Advance the Hemispheric Fight against Terrorism, the CICTE Work Plan, and amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, and agreed to convene the Second Meeting of Government Cybersecurity Practitioners;

REAFFIRMING that terrorism, whatever its origin or motivation, has no justification whatsoever, and that, in keeping with the Declaration of Port-of-Spain, adopted by the member states at the fifth regular session of CICTE, terrorism constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security; undermines ongoing efforts to foster stability, prosperity, and equity in the countries of the region; and violates the democratic values and principles enshrined in the OAS Charter, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and other regional and international instruments;

REAFFIRMING the principal purpose of CICTE, which is to promote and develop cooperation among member states in order to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism, and the civilian nature of its functions;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION:

That, with the ratifications of Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism entered into force on July 10, 2003, and that, since then, Panama, Venezuela, Chile, Honduras, Dominica, and Paraguay have also become states parties to the Convention; and

That other countries that are not yet states parties to the Convention have made significant progress toward its ratification;

REAFFIRMING the statements with respect to the fight against terrorism made in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City on October 27 and 28, 2003;

RECALLING:

That the commitments with respect to the fight against terrorism contained in the Declaration of Nuevo León, adopted at the Special Summit of the Americas, held in Monterrey, Mexico, on January 12 and 13, 2004;

That at the Sixth Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas, held in Quito, Ecuador, from November 16 to 21, 2004, the ministers reiterated, in the Declaration of Quito, their most forceful rejection of all forms of terrorism and their support for the work of CICTE;

BEARING IN MIND United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1566 (2004), in which member states undertook to adopt specific measures to combat international terrorism and to cooperate with states that are victims of terrorist acts;

UNDERSCORING that among the functions of CICTE is that of working with member states, in consultation with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), in order to promote respect for international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and refugee law, in all actions undertaken by member states to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism; and

WELCOMING:

The increasing collaboration between CICTE, CICAD Secretariats, and subregional and international organizations, including the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFTAF), the South American Financial Action Task Force (GAFISUD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC), the Regional Security System of the Eastern Caribbean States (RSS), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO);

The holding of the third meeting of National Points of Contact on February 16 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 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

The commitment expressed by member states in the Declaration of Port of Spain to intensify efforts to disrupt the capacity of terrorist networks to threaten the ability of individuals to travel and move safely between and recreate in member states, by strengthening the coordination and provision of technical assistance, when requested, in the establishment and implementation of and compliance with security standards and practices, including those related to tourist and recreational facilities,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its utmost 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.
2. To reaffirm its commitment to continue strengthening hemispheric cooperation and implementing specific measures to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism.
3. To express its ongoing 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).
4. To express 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.
5. To call upon the member states that have not yet done so to ratify the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, as appropriate, and to implement it effectively.
6. To urge all member states, in the framework of the fight against terrorist financing, to adopt stronger measures against money laundering, the illicit drug trade, illicit trafficking in weapons, kidnapping, and other manifestations of transnational organized crime and, in keeping with their domestic laws and applicable treaties, to facilitate international cooperation and legal assistance in order to detect, freeze, and confiscate the funds that finance terrorism.
7. To endorse the Declaration of Port-of-Spain on Strengthening Cooperation on Strategies to Sustain and Advance the Hemispheric Fight against Terrorism; and to encourage member states to implement the commitments contained therein.
8. To express its satisfaction with the work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) in identifying urgent and long-term measures to strengthen hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism and, in particular, its efforts to strengthen port, maritime, and aviation security; cybersecurity; and document security, pursuant to the new CICTE Work Plan.

9. To urge CICTE to facilitate ongoing dialogue among member states with a view to undertaking preventive measures that anticipate and address emerging terrorist threats, whatever their origin, such as cybersecurity, bioterrorism, tourism security, threats to critical infrastructure, and the possibility of access to and possession, transport, and use of weapons of mass destruction and related materials and their means of delivery, by terrorists.

10. To express its renewed appreciation to the member states and permanent observers, as well as the Inter-American Defense Board, which have contributed personnel and other resources for the CICTE Secretariat to support the implementation of the CICTE Work Plan.

11. To call on member states, permanent observers, and other members of the international community to provide, maintain, or increase, as appropriate, financial contributions to CICTE and to recognize the need to strengthen the CICTE Secretariat with full-time staff in order to guarantee continuity in the fulfillment of its important mission and to facilitate the expansion of the major programs it has been carrying out in accordance with its Work Plan for 2005-2006.

12. To reiterate its appeal to the member states to:

- a. Intensify their actions to comply strictly with the provisions of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), in particular the obligation to refrain from providing any kind of support to entities or persons who participate in the commission of terrorist acts; the obligation to deny refuge and/or safe haven to those who finance, plan, support, or commit terrorist acts; and the duty to prevent their territories from being used to finance, plan, and facilitate the commission of such acts;
- b. Intensify their efforts to disrupt the capacity of terrorist networks to threaten the ability of individuals to travel and move safely between and recreate in member states by initiating actions to establish, implement, and encourage compliance with security standards and practices, including those related to tourist and recreational facilities.
- c. Recognize the need for member states to prohibit and punish within their territories citizens or any person or entity that intentionally provides, gathers, or makes available funds, financial resources, or any other economic resources that benefit persons or groups that commit, attempt to commit, facilitate, or take part in the commission of terrorist acts.
- d. Continue their efforts to implement the recommendations on financial and border controls, transportation security, cybersecurity, and document security, adopted by CICTE at its fifth regular session, including, as appropriate, the incorporation of those recommendations into their domestic law, as well as the adoption of measures necessary for intensifying the exchange of information on the activities of terrorist groups;
- e. Forward periodically to the CICTE Secretariat information on their implementation of the recommendations contained in the CICTE Work Plan, and on their respective needs for cooperation;

- f. Lend the broadest and most expeditious mutual legal assistance, including in extradition matters, in accordance with the multilateral and bilateral treaties and, to that end, participate in the mutual legal assistance network of the OAS;
- g. Continue encouraging the broadest cooperation, within the appropriate OAS organs, on matters related to the objectives and purposes of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism; and
- h. Continue efforts to ensure that weapons acquired and maintained for lawful purposes by member states are safeguarded and not vulnerable to theft by, or diversion to, terrorists.

13. To instruct the CICTE Secretariat to implement the programs and projects listed in the CICTE Work Plan for 2005, and to assist the member states, when they so request, in implementing the recommendations on border and financial controls; transportation security, in particular, maritime, port, and aviation security; and cybersecurity.

14. To reiterate the importance of strengthening collaboration, coordination, and information exchange on counterterrorism programs and activities between CICTE and the appropriate inter-American committees and mechanisms.

15. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue providing, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, administrative and any other necessary support for the CICTE Secretariat and for the sixth regular session of CICTE, scheduled to be held in Colombia in the first quarter of 2006, including the preparatory meetings for that regular session and for the meeting of national points of contact which will take place in conjunction with that regular session.

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

