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SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
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**REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR
OF THE SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM**

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In my capacity as Rapporteur of the Seventh Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), I have the honor to submit to the plenary this Report on the proceedings.

I. BACKGROUND

At the Sixth Regular Session, held in Bogotá in March 2006, CICTE accepted Panama's offer to host the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE. Subsequently, at the preparatory meeting for this regular session, chaired by Colombia, the session was scheduled for February 28 and March 1 and 2, 2007, and the Draft Agenda and Draft Calendar were approved.

II. PROCEEDINGS

OPENING SESSION

As provided in the Draft Schedule, (document CICTE/doc.4/07), the Opening Session of the Seventh Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) commenced at 11:30 a.m. on February 28, 2007, in the Centenary Hall of the Conference Center of the Hotel El Panama in Panama City, Republic of Panama.

The Opening Session was chaired by the Chair of the Committee, Ambassador Camilo Ospina, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the Organization of American States.

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda

The Draft Agenda (document CICTE/doc.3/07) was presented for consideration.

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago recalled the resolution adopted by the Committee at its Sixth Regular Session on "Cooperation Initiatives for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas" (CICTE/RES. 1/06) and proposed the inclusion of a new item on the Agenda to set the date for the meeting of experts to evaluate the results of the pilot project referred to in that resolution.

The Agenda was adopted with the amendment proposed by Trinidad and Tobago (document CICTE/doc.3/06 rev. 1).

2. Approval of the Draft Schedule

The Draft Schedule (document CICTE/doc.4/07) was presented for consideration.

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago asked that the Schedule include the new item on setting the date for the meeting of experts, which was included in the Agenda.

The Chair reported that the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS could not attend the meeting and proposed that the Schedule be adjusted accordingly.

The Schedule was approved with the amendments proposed by Trinidad and Tobago and the Chair (document CICTE/doc.4/07 rev. 1).

3. Suspension of Article 18 of the CICTE Rules of Procedure

The Chair recalled that during the preparatory process for the Seventh Regular Session it had been agreed to suspend Article 18 of the CICTE Rules of Procedure, regarding the order of precedence, in order to achieve more fluid interaction during the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation, and that this had been done during the fourth, fifth, and sixth regular sessions of CICTE for the same reason.

It was therefore agreed to suspend Article 18 of the CICTE Rules of Procedure for the Seventh Regular Session.

4. Opening remarks by the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama, Mr. Ricardo Durán Jaeger

Vice-Minister Durán Jaeger welcomed all the delegations to Panama. He noted the importance of the topic for this session of the Committee, “Critical Infrastructure: Policies, Regulations, and Hemispheric Cooperation,” saying that the application of counterterrorism measures is by nature preventive and in many cases carried out in collaboration with the private sector, and includes the challenge of ensuring that intelligence information is shared. He recalled that another important aspect regarding which CICTE has an explicit mandate is the Comprehensive Inter-American Cybersecurity Strategy, with the problem of simultaneously protecting facilities and preserving the quality of the services and information provided to users.

He recalled Panama’s preparatory work for the meeting through seminar-workshops, one of which was an international gathering that brought together agencies concerned with national security. Among their conclusions he noted the need for national strategic plans for prevention and defense, training and awareness-building for civil society, and the search for hemispheric and international cooperation schemes to facilitate joint actions.

Vice-Minister Durán Jaeger then referred to protecting the security of the Panama Canal, which carries three percent of the world’s trade and has permitted progressive development in the multimodal sector of Panama’s economy. From the perspective of the theme of the meeting, security involves adopting a series of measures and procedures to ensure that worldwide trade is efficient and safe. In Panama that is part of the national defense strategy known as the Panamanian Secure Trade and Transportation Initiative.

Finally, he thanked the Government of Colombia for its effective service as the Chair of CICTE, and the Federative Republic of Brazil, the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, and the United Nations for sending experts to the meeting.

5. Report of the Chair of CICTE 2006-2007^{1/}

In his presentation, Ambassador Camilo Ospina, Chair of CICTE for the period 2006-2007, recalled that when the Government of Colombia assumed the Chair of the Committee it underscored the need to build CICTE's capacity and to develop its Work Plan by setting priorities in accordance with the Member States' obligations vis-à-vis various international organizations, hence giving priority to the following areas identified in the 2006-2007 Work Plan:

- Improving training programs for combating terrorism financing;
- Expanding technical assistance programs for the quality of travel documents and their security; and
- Strengthening assistance for the creation and implementation of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in those countries where they do not yet exist.

He also encouraged the coordinated and combined work of CICTE with other OAS bodies and international agencies in order to prevent duplication of efforts and to make maximum use of the scarce financial resources available.

On the areas prioritized by Colombia, Ambassador Ospina reported the following progress:

In order to improve training programs for combating terrorism financing, the Secretariat drew up the Practical Guide for Detecting, Preventing, and Suppressing Terrorism Financing. That was complemented with training programs, including the First Terrorism Financing Meeting, targeting eight nations of Central America and Colombia, which was held in Bogotá, and a second meeting that will take place in Peru for the South American countries.

On expansion of technical assistance programs to improve the quality of travel documents and related security measures, the Chair recalled the holding in July 2006 of a regional seminar on passport, travel documents, and issuing systems, in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration. Under this program the Secretariat is developing new proposals for training that will be submitted to international donors.

In the area of strengthening assistance for the creation and implementation of Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in those countries where they do not yet exist, there were two meetings of government cyber-security practitioners. In addition, CICTE will develop a two-year training program to help all the Member States to set up their teams.

In addition, at its Sixth Regular Session, the Committee agreed to develop the Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Program, which began in August 2006 in those Caribbean nations that were to host the 2007 Cricket World Cup. In this area the Chair promoted a partnership between the Committee and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) which, with the assistance of the Government of Spain, made it possible to host a regional seminar in the Colombian city of Cartagena de Indias on "Strengthening International Cooperation for Security at Major Events."

Finally, among other activities carried out by the Colombian Chair, he mentioned participation in several meetings on the progress of ratification and implementation of the 13

1. Published as document CICTE/doc.11/07.

international conventions and protocols related to the prevention and elimination of terrorism, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on the subject.

Ambassador Ospina supported the Secretariat's pragmatic approach, which places at the forefront CICTE's role as a promoter of cooperation and technical assistance in the struggle against terrorism, and urged the Member States to maintain, deliver, and if possible, increase their regular contributions to CICTE.

6. Report on the Pilot Phase of the Program for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas (ITRS) ^{2/}

The Honorable Senator Martin Joseph, Minister of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago, reported on the pilot phase of the Program for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas (known as ITRS), agreed to by the Committee in its resolution CICTE/RES. 1/06 and the resolution of the OAS General Assembly, AG/RES. 2137 (XXXVI-O/06).

Minister Joseph said that for most Member States in the Hemisphere, particularly in the Caribbean, tourism and recreational facilities are identified among their critical infrastructure, and he expressed satisfaction with progress made in the implementation of the pilot phase of the ITRS program, which was piloted in ten CARICOM states and is to be expanded to all CICTE Member States.

The pilot project focused on the delivery of specialized security training and capacity-building to assess and improve the security infrastructure at tourism and recreational facilities in the participating States. As a result of the pilot project, training was provided to approximately 250 officials, and tourism and recreational facilities security assessment panels were established. The CICTE Secretariat developed a format for a standardized baseline assessment that is used by the participating States.

Senator Joseph also referred to the consistent effort by CICTE since July 2005 to establish, implement, and encourage compliance with the mandates of the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution 2137. He added that Trinidad and Tobago, along with the other CARICOM delegations that have benefited from the implementation of the ITRS Pilot Project, is convinced that this cooperation initiative can serve to improve the capacity of Member States to protect their tourism and recreational infrastructure.

7. Report on Activities of the Secretariat of CICTE ^{3/}

Dr. Carol Fuller, Secretary of CICTE, gave an oral summary of the Report on Activities of the Secretariat, contained in document CICTE/doc.6/07. Dr. Fuller said, among other things, that this has been a period of transition but that there were considerable advances and improvements, especially in the areas of program and administrative management; international coordination and partnerships with other international organizations; and implementation of capacity-building programs and technical assistance.

2. Published as document CICTE/doc.7/07.

3. Published as document CICTE/doc.6/07.

In the management area, the Secretariat instituted a focus on annual objectives and long-term budget planning, organizing all existing and projected activities under broad program areas.

The Secretariat also saw significant personnel changes. The Secretary General appointed Carol Fuller as the new Secretary in October 2006. Similarly, Pablo Martínez became the Assistant Secretary and Program Coordinator. Since March 2006 the Governments of Brazil, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, and Canada have detailed new personnel and Uruguay has extended the detail of Pablo Martínez until 2010. In addition, Ms. Gillian Bristol was transferred to the CICTE Secretariat.

In the area of international cooperation and new partnerships, and as part of its new Policy Development and Coordination Program, the Secretariat strengthened existing partnerships and established new ones with several countries and other international organizations, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); the Interregional Institute for Crime and Justice Research (UNICRI); the United Nations Regional Office for Peace, Disarmament and Economic Development in Latin American and the Caribbean (UN-LIREC); the cyber-security and maritime ports committees of the Asia and Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee (APEC); the Anti-Terrorism Unit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); and the Executive Directorate of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee (UNCTED). In addition, several governments increased their support to Secretariat programs during 2006, especially the governments of Canada, Spain, The Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, the United States, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turkey. The United Nations also provided financial support.

The CICTE Secretariat has also strengthened its relationship with other secretariats and dependencies of the OAS, especially with the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP), and has initiated discussions on future coordination with the Office of Science and Technology and the Division of Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness of the OAS General Secretariat.

In the area of implementation of capacity-building programs and technical assistance, the Secretariat's programs were focused on the highest priorities in the Work Plan and on areas where CICTE can make a worthwhile contribution. The Secretariat's programs are now organized in six main areas: border controls, financial controls, critical infrastructure protection, counter-terrorism legislative assistance, terrorism crisis management exercises, and policy development and coordination. In the last year, providing training assistance to the nine Caribbean countries hosting the Cricket World Cup in March and April 2007 remained a high Secretariat priority.

Dr. Fuller pointed out finally that despite significant advances in the program and management areas, the Secretariat faces several challenges in order to continue meeting the objectives set for it by the Member States. These are, on the one hand, financial challenges, because since its creation in 2002 the Secretariat has received only minimal funding from the OAS Regular Fund and donors are increasingly tying their contributions to specific projects, so any financial contribution from Member States can make a difference in the Secretariat's ability to carry out the CICTE mandates and implement training courses throughout the Hemisphere. There are also challenges in regard to the associate staff, because during the next year at least four of the seven staff detailed by their governments to the Secretariat will complete their assignments.

The Opening Session was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The Inaugural Ceremony began at 5:00 p.m. with an address by the CICTE Chair, Ambassador Camilo Ospina, who said, among other things, that the threat posed by terrorism to the Panama Canal affects us all, because it is an essential link in hemispheric and global communications and it is a duty of the Hemisphere to contribute to its preservation. The fight against terrorism is a daily task. In this struggle it is vital to secure the greatest amount of information and intensify international cooperation and exchanges of experience. Enhancing security implies confidence-building. Ambassador Ospina also said that terrorism is not an isolated phenomenon; it is globalized and must be addressed multilaterally through cooperation. CICTE, as the appropriate forum for dealing with terrorism issues, must continue contributing to the creation of a hemisphere that is safer, more democratic, and more respectful of human rights.

The next speaker was the Secretary General of the OAS, Mr. José Miguel Insulza, who said that today the Americas are prospering in democracy, but the states must remain cautious and foresee situations that, in the future, could challenge democracy. Among these challenges is the threat to security. He said that this region is one of the most severely affected in that regard. It is home to vast sectors that are extremely vulnerable and whose insecurity arises from their incapacity to confront natural disasters, climate change, growing levels of crime, gangs in the cities, transnational organized crime, pandemics, and terrorism. All of that poses a new security situation for the Hemisphere which is facing challenges that are multidimensional in nature.

He said that CICTE owes its existence to the deep-rooted conviction shared by all the Organization's members, without exception, that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its origin or motivation, has no justification whatsoever, affects the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights, and represents a grave threat to peace, to the democratic values enshrined in the Charter of the OAS and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and, unquestionably, to the stability and prosperity of the countries of the region. He said that the CICTE Secretariat, established in 2002, provides technical assistance and training and facilitates the exchange of best practices in several areas.

He noted that the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE coincides with the way forward indicated by the United Nations Global Counterterrorism Strategy, which invites states to intensify all activities aimed at improving the security and protection of particularly vulnerable targets, such as critical infrastructure installations and public places. He called on all the Member States of the Organization of American States that have not yet done so to ratify or adhere to, as appropriate, the inter-American and universal anti-terrorism instruments, and to enforce their provisions. He made special mention of the governments that have made contributions to CICTE.

The main inaugural speech was delivered by the First Vice-President of the Republic of Panama and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Samuel Lewis Navarro, who welcomed all the delegations on behalf of his government and expressed the hope the meeting will be used for an open discussion of the problems of terrorism, which affects all without distinction. Foreign Minister Lewis Navarro noted that international legal instruments provide a strategic framework and a common platform so that states can work together to increase their security. He recalled that the topic addressed in the Declaration is that of protecting critical infrastructure. He thanked all the delegations for the consensus that was reached and for the solidarity they expressed in recognizing the Panama Canal as an example of critical infrastructure in the Hemisphere.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

The First Plenary Session was called to order by the Chair immediately after the Inaugural Session and the election of officers was dealt with.

i. Chair of CICTE

The Delegation of Colombia nominated the Republic of Panama to occupy the Chair for the period 2007-2008. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago seconded this nomination and proposed that the election be by acclamation. Panama was elected Chair by acclamation. Ambassador Arístides Royo, Permanent Representative of Panama to the OAS, assumed the Chair on behalf of his country and thanked Colombia for its invaluable work as Chair of CICTE for the period 2006-2007.

ii. Vice-Chair of CICTE

The Delegation of Costa Rica nominated Peru to the vice-chairmanship of CICTE for the period 2007-2008. This nomination was seconded by the Delegation of Canada, which also proposed that the election be by acclamation. Peru was elected Vice-Chair of CICTE for that term by acclamation. Ambassador José Barba Caballero, head of the Peruvian delegation, accepted the position of Vice-Chair of CICTE on behalf of his government.

iii. Rapporteur of the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE

The Delegation of the Bahamas nominated Mr. Gerardo Bompadre, Alternate Representative of Argentina to the OAS, as Rapporteur of the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE. The Delegation of the United States seconded this nomination and moved that the election be by acclamation. The Rapporteur was elected unanimously. Mr. José Ignacio Tobella, head of the Argentine delegation, expressed his government's appreciation for the election of the Argentine representative.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

The Second Plenary Session began on Thursday, March 1, at 9.30 a.m.

Ambassador Arístides Royo expressed his appreciation for the confidence placed in Panama to chair CICTE for this period and stated, among other things, that the safe, protected, and efficient operation of global trade and transportation infrastructure, installations, and institutions contributes to prosperity, competitiveness, and development of both Panama and the international community.

He added that Panama has developed a new approach to security that emphasizes the security of global transportation and trade, and with that in mind the government has adopted the "Panamanian Initiative for Secure Trade and Transportation." Panama is aware that in an increasingly globalized economy a terrorist attack leading to the closure of a key inter-oceanic passage or port could cost thousands of lives and severely affect the economy of many countries. He also affirmed Panama's commitment to continue strengthening the initiatives already approved by the Committee, to promote programs that put them into practice, and, in compliance with the Declaration of Panama, to focus on the protection of critical infrastructure. He proposed consideration of a series of additional initiatives, specifically:

- An international conference on secure trade and transportation, to be held annually in Panama;
- A regular forum for CICTE and inter-American civil society to educate and raise awareness about protection of critical infrastructure;
- A coordination forum for CICTE, APEC and other intergovernmental organizations from beyond the region; and
- A training program for judges and prosecutors on the application of international instruments for combating terrorism.

Dialogue of Heads of Delegation

The Dialogue of Heads of Delegation was held during the second and third plenary sessions.

For the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE, the topic chosen for the dialogue was: “Critical Infrastructure: Policies, regulations, and hemispheric cooperation.”

Three experts made presentations on this topic:

The first speaker, Ambassador Park Sang-Ki of the Republic of Korea, Chair of the “Counter-Terrorism Task Force” (CTTF) of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC), discussed the Task Force’s experience in protection of critical infrastructure. Ambassador Park Sang-Ki’s presentation focused on the Task Force’s efforts to protect critical infrastructure tied to international trade. He reported on the adoption of counter-terrorism action plans (CTAP), which include the initiative for Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) and the protection of ships, cargo, international aviation, materials and installations concerned with weapons of mass destruction, the international financial system, and the energy, cybernetic and health sectors.

Among the pending challenges for the CTTF are closer association with the private sector, identification of priority critical infrastructure, and greater coordination at the regional and international levels. Finally, he suggested closer interaction and cooperation between the CTTF and CICTE.

The second expert was Mr. Robert Stephan, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Infrastructure Protection of the United States, who discussed the vital role of critical infrastructure in global counterterrorism efforts. He briefly described his government’s position on the issue and referred to the important role that the OAS and CICTE can play, and the responsibilities being assumed with the adoption of the Declaration of Panama.

Among other aspects, Mr. Stephan stressed that protection of critical national infrastructure, as well as the key global systems and networks that support it, is essential for security, public health and safety, economic vitality, and the standard of living, and produces domino effects beyond the affected sector and the physical location of the incident. He said that when we speak of critical infrastructure we refer to those assets, systems and networks, physical or virtual, that are vital for our countries, whose destruction or damage would have a debilitating effect on national security, the national economy, public health and safety, or any combination of these factors. To a greater or lesser extent the assets, systems, and networks of our critical infrastructure are vulnerable and terrorists are well aware of it.

Protection of critical infrastructure in the context of threats and vulnerabilities is a real challenge. He then pointed to the benefits of the Declaration of Panama, which upon approval will be a valuable framework within which governments can develop sustained leadership on the subject and contribute to a comprehensive strategy on critical infrastructure for the whole region.

He suggested that it would be important for the Member States to develop a common conceptual framework and establish contact points among experts and officials of the various countries. He added that the private and business sectors have an important role to play. Any OAS effort will require a high level of cooperation and coordination between the public and private sectors.

He highlighted areas reflected in the Draft Declaration of Panama and suggested a series of concrete actions:

- Define, identify, and evaluate the vulnerability of our most critical installations, systems, and networks;
- Create and implement comprehensive national policies and programs;
- Develop hemispheric and global standards, guidelines, and criteria for protection;
- Facilitate the exchange of best practices for the protection of critical infrastructure, as well as programs for the evaluation of vulnerabilities;
- Conduct joint training programs and exercises;
- Promote national and regional education, training, and awareness-building in the area of critical infrastructure protection; and
- Develop mechanisms for the real-time exchange of information on terrorism, and create a hemispheric warning and alert system.

The third presentation, titled “International cooperation in the fight against terrorism,” was delivered by Ambassador Javier Rupérez, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council.

Ambassador Rupérez discussed the principles behind the initiatives for prevention of and reaction to terrorism by the Security Council’s Counter-Terrorism Committee. He pointed out that the fight against terrorism demands a global commitment, and prevention is the key element for defeating it. He explained the importance of having a legal, administrative, and operational framework with two main thrusts: to reduce or eliminate terrorism’s operational capability, and to bring terrorists to justice, which are the essential prerogatives of every country’s government authorities. He suggested that in order to combat terrorism it is also necessary to eliminate its ability to use violence on citizens to force them to make decisions.

He said that the states are not alone in their battle against terrorism. The international community has approved 13 universal conventions on terrorism, complemented by regional and subregional instruments.

Ambassador Rupérez underscored that it is important for the better prepared countries to assist those whose counter-terrorism structures are weaker. He said the UN General Assembly recently adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. He noted that the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee has prepared a directory of best practices (available on the UN web page), which has links to models for compliance with Security Council Resolution 1373. Regarding critical

infrastructure, he said that its security is vital, particularly in the case of the Panama Canal, where the cooperation of all is required to protect it. He called the Declaration of Panama an exemplary model of recognition of the importance of international cooperation. He explained that organizations such as the European Union have also begun work in this area, and to make recommendations on it. He ended by saying that the security of all is a shared security, because there is no distinction between national and international terrorism. Globalization of the threat demands a constant exchange of information in order to make an effective response.

In the Dialogue as such (held during the Second and Third Plenary Sessions), the following delegations spoke: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

In general terms, those statements had a series of common elements, of which the following should be mentioned:

- There was a reiteration of the condemnation of all acts of terrorism, whatever their source and motivation, which are unjustified, hamper the full enjoyment of human rights, threaten international peace and security, and impact democratic values and principles.
- They recalled the commitment to attack terrorism with the broadest possible cooperation and full respect for the obligations of domestic and international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law.
- Support for international cooperation and the exchange of information in the fight against terrorism.
- Support for the efforts of the CICTE Secretariat and its work to promote cooperation, assistance, and training in areas of interest to the OAS Member States in the fight against terrorism.
- Provision of information on national experiences and developments during the last year in the fight against terrorism.
- Domestic action taken to adopt counter-terrorism legislation related to the fight against terrorism and to incorporate international standards on terrorism in the domestic legal framework.
- They underscored the significance and timeliness of the dialogue topic suggested by Panama for the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE.
- Actions taken to protect critical infrastructure, including those related to cyber-security, port and airport security, security of means of communication and the energy sector, among others, and possible ways in which CICTE could move forward to strengthen hemispheric cooperation in this area.
- They urged greater cooperation and coordination with other international organizations that have already made progress in this field.
- They stressed the pivotal role of the exchange of information and best practices to prevent, discourage, and respond to attacks against critical infrastructure.

The Second Plenary Session was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

The Third Plenary Session commenced at 3:20 p.m. on March 1st, with a resumption of the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation.

At the end of the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation, the Delegation of Brazil made a technical presentation on information and communication security, focusing on the organization and administration of information security in Brazil.^{4/}

1. Consideration of the Draft Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the face of Terrorism

The delegates then considered the Draft Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the face of Terrorism (document CICTE/doc.5/07). The Chair recalled that during the preparatory process for this regular session a text had been discussed on the basis of a draft prepared by Panama, with full and active participation of the Member States. The Chair said that as a result of those discussions a consensus was reached on the document and he thanked the delegations and the former CICTE Chair (Colombia) for their great effort and commitment to submit a consensus text to the plenary of the Committee. The Chair proposed approval of the Draft Declaration, first offering the floor to the delegations.

The Delegation of Venezuela asked for the floor to state its reservation, on principle, to the approval of the Declaration of Panama. The Delegation requested that the reservation be reflected as a footnote to the Declaration and be explained in the Rapporteur's report. The reservation to be included in the Declaration of Panama reads as follows: "The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on grounds of principle, reserves its approval of the Declaration of Panama on Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the face of Terrorism, believing that it lacks elements that would allow a comprehensive treatment of the question of terrorism. The grounds on which our position is based are set out in the document attached to the Minutes of this meeting and in the Rapporteur's Report."

After that statement the Chair of CICTE again proposed adoption of the Draft Declaration, which the Committee did by acclamation. It was agreed to add the footnote introduced by the Delegation of Venezuela to the "Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the face of Terrorism" (document CICTE/DEC. 1/07).

The document that explains Venezuela's position is an Appendix to this report, as requested by that Delegation.^{5/}

2. CICTE Work Plan 2007-2008 and establishment of a working group to consider the CICTE Work Plan

The Chair recalled the delegations' discussions during the preparatory sessions on the CICTE Work Plan and the agreement to establish a working group to review it in depth after the current regular session. In this regard he proposed and it was decided:

4. Published as document CICTE/INF. 12 /07.

5. Appendix I.

- i. That the current CICTE Work Plan continue in force until the next regular session in 2008;
- ii. To establish a working group on the CICTE Work Plan, open to all delegations and chaired by the Committee's Chair;
- iii. That the working group shall meet at the Headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat in Washington, D. C., as part of the preparatory process for the next regular session;
- iv. To direct the CICTE Secretariat to prepare a preliminary Work Plan in consultation with the Committee's Chair, based on the mandates of the current Work Plan, and the written suggestions and comments submitted by the delegations for consideration by the working group; and
- v. That the delegations wishing to do so may submit written comments and suggestions on the new Work Plan to the Secretariat by April 1st, 2007.

The Third Plenary Session was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

The Fourth Plenary Session, held on the morning of Friday, March 2nd, considered the following matters:

1. Report on the Fifth Meeting of National Points of Contact to CICTE

The Secretary of CICTE, Dr. Fuller, summarized the proceedings and results of the Fifth Meeting of National Points of Contact to CICTE, which took place on February 28, 2007 before the Opening Session. She said that the meeting afforded a fruitful exchange of ideas between the Secretariat and the delegations on several topics of interest, among them how to improve the flow of information between the Secretariat and the National Points of Contact (NPCs), agreeing on objectives and the organization of future NPC meetings, the timely updating of information on the NPCs, and in general, how to improve CICTE's Work Plan.^{6/}

2. Remarks by the Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS, Ambassador María del Luján Flores

The Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS gave a historical summary of the evolution and creation of various international legal instruments dealing with terrorism. She emphasized that terrorism is an extremely serious attack on human rights and an ominous international threat to democracy, peace, and security that knows no boundaries is not limited to one country or region.

She noted that the Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the face of Terrorism reiterates the Member States' commitment in the fight against terrorism, mindful of full respect for the obligations of domestic and international law. She said that CICTE, as the natural policy forum for terrorism-related issues, facilitates the formulation of joint responses, and the Work Plan carried out by the Secretariat makes it possible to carry out training and technical assistance programs in the area. She said that once the Permanent Council receives the opinion of CICTE on the "Recommendations for the Protection of Human Rights by OAS Member

6. Published as document CICTE/doc.13/07 corr. 1.

States in the Fight against Terrorism,” prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, it will be able to consider drafting terms of reference for the protection of human rights and basic freedoms for consideration by the General Assembly

3. Date and venue of the Meeting of Experts on the Program for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago proposed and the delegates agreed that the Meeting of Experts to Evaluate the Pilot Phase of the Program for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas be held in 2008 before the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE, at the Headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat in Washington, D.C.

It was agreed to reflect that decision in this Rapporteur’s Report.

4. Consideration of the OAS General Assembly mandate set forth in the resolution “Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism” [AG/RES.2238 (XXXVI-O/06)]

The Chair proposed that each Member State submit to the Chair its comments on the document prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, “Recommendations for the Protection of Human Rights by OAS Member States in the Fight against Terrorism” (CP/doc. 4117/06), and that a consolidated text of those comments be transmitted to the Permanent Council through its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs. He also recalled that it is necessary to report to the next session of the General Assembly on compliance with this mandate, and he therefore suggested that the comments be submitted as soon as possible.

The Committee approved the methodology proposed by the Chair and decided that the Member States should submit their comments to the Chair as soon as possible, preferably by April 1st, 2007.

It was agreed to reflect that decision in this Rapporteur’s Report.

5. Consideration of the following documents:

i. **Draft Resolution on the Date and Venue of the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE**

The Delegation of Peru presented for the Committee’s consideration a draft resolution proposing that the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE be held at the Headquarters of the General Secretariat of the OAS in Washington, D.C., during the first quarter of 2008, on a date to be determined by the Chair of CICTE in consultation with the Member States during the preparatory process for the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE.

The Committee approved the resolution.^{7/}

7. Published as document CICTE/RES.1/07.

ii. Vote of Thanks to the People and Government of Panama

The Delegation of Peru took the floor, on behalf of all of the delegations, to express appreciation for the hospitality extended by the Government and people of Panama to the participants at the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE, and to congratulate them for its success. He also thanked Ambassador Aristides Royo for his excellent handling of the work of the meeting. The Delegation of Peru proposed that this gratitude be reflected as a formal decision of CICTE, and to that end presented a draft resolution entitled “Vote of Thanks of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism to the People and Government of the Republic of Panama,” which was approved unanimously.^{8/}

6. Rapporteur’s Report

The Rapporteur read a summary of his report, reflecting the topics considered, the presentations made, and the decisions adopted by CICTE at its Seventh Regular Session.

The Fourth Plenary Session was adjourned at 11:50 a.m., and was followed immediately by the Closing Session.

A complete list of the official documents distributed for this meeting was published as CICTE/doc.8/07.

CLOSING SESSION

The Assistant Secretary for Multidimensional Security of the General Secretariat of the OAS, Ambassador Alexandre Addor-Neto, expressed appreciation on behalf of the Secretary General for Panama’s hospitality and support for this meeting, especially through First Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs Samuel Lewis Navarro and the Chair of CICTE, Ambassador Aristides Royo. He also thanked the team from the CICTE Secretariat and the OAS General Secretariat. He stated that the security of the states depends on the security of each human being, and Panama offers an example in protection of critical infrastructure.

The Chair of CICTE thanked all of the delegations for their presence and participation, and thanked the CICTE Secretariat and OAS for their work to make the meeting possible. He also expressed appreciation for the role played by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry –especially Ms. Delia Villamontes– and by the Panama Canal Authority.

He said, among other things, that he wished there had been more time to discuss some topics in greater depth (among them the causes of terrorism, as some delegations had suggested). He emphasized that international cooperation is indispensable to prevent and fight terrorism, and said that international partnership is important in this area. Urging action on the new initiatives proposed by the Chair, he formally closed the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE.

The Seventh Regular Session of CICTE was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

8. Published as document CICTE/RES. 2/07.

Finally, I would like to record my appreciation to all those who contributed to and helped with the preparation of this Report. In this regard, I would like to mention the CICTE Secretariat, especially Pablo Martínez, Rómulo Dantas, Gillian Bristol, and Carol Fuller, and the delegation of Argentina, whose assistance and suggestions were particularly invaluable.

Gerardo Bompadre
Counselor, Alternate Representative of Argentina to the OAS
Rapporteur of the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE

APPENDIX



**RESERVATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA ON
THE “DECLARATION OF PANAMA ON THE PROTECTION OF CRITICAL
INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE HEMISPHERE IN THE FACE OF
TERRORISM”**

The Government of Venezuela ratifies its firmest commitment to confront and combat terrorism, whatever its origin or motivation, because it is an attack against human dignity and a threat to international peace and security.

Venezuela, consistent with this principle, ratified the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism in 2004. On that occasion we said categorically that we are a peace-loving people. We also said, and we repeat today even more strongly, that sovereignty and free decisions of countries are inalienable principles, and there can be no cause whatsoever that would justify violating them.

In addition, we are fully convinced that the struggle against activities committed by terrorist groups must take place in the framework of complete respect for the norms and principles of international law, set forth in the United Nations Charter and the Charter of the Organization of American States, as well as in international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

To be consistent with its commitment to comply with these principles, Venezuela registers its position of not being able to join in the approval of this Declaration, because we feel that the true fight against terrorism is carried out by strengthening cooperation in the area of mutual legal assistance to extradite or try those responsible for terrorist acts.

As you all know, Venezuela has requested the extradition of the terrorist Luís Posada Carriles, a request that has been permanently denied by the government of the United States. The fight against terrorism cannot be serious when shelter and protection is afforded the most notorious terrorist in the hemisphere.

We are also concerned because there has not been a discussion on the definition of terrorism—a definition that takes into account the new realities in the world and the hemisphere. Terrorism today must be seen in a multidimensional and comprehensive manner. Terrorist acts are committed when people are denied their right to life.

Poverty, inequity, and exclusion are factors in the great social injustice that prevails today; this is the worst terrorist act committed in the hemisphere and the world.

It is therefore not enough to merely condemn terrorism, without understanding that the underlying motivation for these acts is often the permanent assaults on sovereignty and self-determination suffered by many countries.

Similarly, it is very important to deplore, as does resolution 42/159 of the United Nations General Assembly “the continuation of all terrorist acts, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, which spread violence and terror, may result in loss of human lives and material damage and jeopardize the normal functioning of international relations.”

In the light of the provisions of the abovementioned resolution, our government suggests to the Organization of American States (OAS) the need to define “TERRORISM” versus “RESISTANCE.” It should be noted that the abovementioned resolution convenes an international conference under UN auspices to define terrorism and differentiate it from peoples’ struggles for national liberation.

The loss of innocent human lives in the name of combating terrorism cannot be justified, or regarded as collateral damage, or inherent in the true struggle against terrorism. Venezuela, on the contrary, considers that respect for life is the basic principle governing human rights.

Finally, the Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela requests that this document be included in the minutes of this meeting, and in the Rapporteur’s Report.