



Organization of
American States



INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)

THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
March 8, 2013
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L/X.2.13
CICTE/INF.6/13
15 March 2013
Original: Spanish

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE CHAIR
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM 2012-2013,
HIS EXCELLENCY JOSÉ RODRIGO VIELMANN DE LEÓN, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALA TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

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I have the pleasure to report that the Secretariat has implemented capacity-building and training programs in member states through over 155 activities that contributed to the training of 9,946 officials in the areas of border control, legislative assistance and combating terrorism financing, critical infrastructure protection, strengthening strategies against emerging terrorist threats, and international coordination and cooperation.

I wish to thank all member states and the permanent observers that contributed human and other resources to the Secretariat of CICTE for the implementation of last year's CICTE Work Plan. The Secretariat received over US\$5 million in specific funds to carry out these activities. The Chair wishes to thank all delegations for the dynamic support demonstrated in 2012 when we sought to ensure minimum financial and human resources for the work of the Secretariat in the budget for the regular program of the OAS.

I also wish to mention the contributions from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States made through temporary staff secondments or financing allocated to the Secretariat.

The Chair considers it important to note that the Secretariat of CICTE has only four staff members from the Regular Fund of the Organization, clearly an insufficient number. I urge you to reflect on what this means in terms of workload in connection with the activities comprising their duties. The number of permanent staff members of the Committee must be increased. Continuity and a high level of professionalism are needed, which is achieved, as in almost all areas of human endeavor, with talent and proper and sound training, but also with experience. CICTE cannot allow itself the luxury of operating based on temporary secondments of personnel, who have responsibility for essential tasks that are the very object and purposes of the organization. It must be given an adequate structure and financing, the austerity that should also characterize the activity of institutions such as CICTE notwithstanding.

I wish to take a moment here to congratulate Secretary Neil Klopfenstein and his entire team for the achievements of the Secretariat he headed during the chairmanship of Guatemala. Let us then review the progress we have made this year and also achieved in recent months in preparation for what is to be done next year.

I would like again to thank all governments of the region that contributed their efforts in organizing the training workshops and crisis exercises. Special recognition to the international organizations, donor institutions, the experts who have shared their expertise with us, and all staff members of the Executive Secretariat that supported national efforts.

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of CICTE, in representation of Guatemala, in 2012, and I conclude my functions by wishing Colombia success in its work and renewing Guatemala's commitment to remain staunch and supportive in combating terrorism with the utmost respect for the basic rights and fundamental freedoms.