

Press Release

Organization of American States



INSULZA: "IF TERRORISM IS INTERNATIONAL, THEN COLLABORATION MUST ALSO BE INTERNATIONAL" **August 10, 2006**

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza, today reaffirmed the urgent need for all OAS member states to work together in a common front against international terrorism. Insulza made his remarks at OAS headquarters as the Dominican Republic deposited the legal instruments to ratify the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.



"If terrorism is international, then collaboration must also be international. We must all participate to combat this threat, and I believe that in the Americas we are all participating," said Insulza. He thanked Ambassador Roberto Alvarez, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the OAS, who presented the treaty's ratification on behalf of his government.

The Secretary General also underscored the need to remain one step ahead in battling the scourge of terrorism. "It is not enough to combat terrorism; we must stay ahead of its activities to be able to impede them," Insulza said. He emphasized the important work of the OAS Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (known by its Spanish acronym CICTE), which has been developing coordination measures among member states "to prevent dangerous actions and risks that are always latent in the region."

The Dominican Ambassador highlighted his government's commitment to strengthen its judicial system against terrorism, intensify the exchange of information and experiences, and use any opportunity to reinforce cooperation among entities involved in the fight against terrorism.

During the brief ceremony, which was also attended by the Chair of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Henry Illes of Suriname, Alvarez talked about a national anti-terrorism law being debated by his nation's Congress. "The Dominican Republic will be able to count on more suitable cooperation mechanisms and instruments to prevent, combat and eliminate the threat represented by transnational organized crime and thus consolidate and apply different agreements in this area," the Ambassador said.

With this ratification, 20 states are party to the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism, which was adopted in 2002 during the OAS General Assembly in Bridgetown, Barbados. Other member states to ratify the treaty recently include Ecuador, two weeks ago; Grenada, in May; and Guatemala, in March.

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[➤ The government of the Dominican Republic deposits the instruments of ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.](#)

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Reference: E-172/06

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