

**INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)**

MEETING OF EXPERTS TO EVALUATE THE  
RESULTS OF THE PILOT PROJECT ON SECURITY  
OF TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES  
March 4, 2008  
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OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM,  
AMBASSADOR ARÍSTIDES ROYO,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PANAMA  
TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



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Your Excellencies, permanent representatives of the member states to the Organization of American States;  
Your Excellency, the Honorable Senator Martin Joseph, Minister of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago;  
Distinguished delegates;  
Special guests;  
Experts from the member states;  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to declare open this Meeting of Experts to Evaluate the Outcomes of the Pilot Project on Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities. I am pleased to welcome you most heartily to the Organization of American States. To the special guests and experts who have traveled to come here, welcome to Washington, D.C.

This Meeting of Experts marks the culmination of a period of security training activities, focused on the fight against terrorism, which began in 2006 under the chairmanship of Trinidad and Tobago.

We acknowledge Trinidad and Tobago's leadership and its major support throughout the process. Likewise we are grateful to the other CARICOM states that facilitated implementation of the Pilot Project and participated in it. We would also like to thank the United States for its financial contribution and technical support for the Pilot Project.

We are meeting today pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism in 2006 at its Sixth Regular Session, in Bogotá, Colombia. The Committee decided to "include in the CICTE Work Plan 2006 actions related to improving the security of tourism and recreational facilities in the Americas," and to "continue developing Guidelines and Requirements for the implementation of a Program for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas taking into account the results of a Pilot Project ...." In addition, it convened "a meeting of experts, to be held within the framework of the OAS, to evaluate the results of the said Pilot Project and to further assess the requirements for the security of tourism and recreational facilities in the Hemisphere ...."

The Pilot Project was implemented in 2006 and early 2007, as part of the preparatory work for the Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean. It underscored the fact that cooperation among states is essential and demonstrated our commitment as member states of CICTE to work together to protect our peoples from the threat of terrorism. We recognize that we are a single community--one that is facing the same challenges and sharing the same desires for peace, security, and integrity--and that we

should support one other by contributing our respective strengths, experiences, and knowledge.

Increasing security in the tourism sector as provided for under the Pilot Project guarantees the peaceful enjoyment of social and sporting events and promotes confidence in both citizens and visitors. Security in the tourism sector is an extremely important aspect of the hemispheric struggle to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism.