

INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)

MEETING OF EXPERTS TO EVALUATE THE
RESULTS OF THE PILOT PROJECT ON SECURITY
OF TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
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RESULTS AND EVALUATION OF THE PILOT PROJECT

**PRESENTATION BY SUPERINTENDENT IVOR BLAKE,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY,
IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR, SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS**

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Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of St. Kitts and Nevis is pleased to join with the other delegates in congratulating the Government of Peru on the assumption of the chairmanship of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and to commend the Government of Panama for its able leadership of the CICTE during the past year.

I wish on behalf of the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, to place on record profound appreciation to the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) under the aegis of the Organization of American States, for its vision and contribution to the enhancement of the capacity building capabilities of member states within the context of regional security.

The delegation of St. Kitts and Nevis welcomes these sessions as it allow us not only to engage in interactive dialogue on areas of mutual interest but provide a forum for reporting on the outcome of our efforts at the hemispheric and national levels. I must commend the CICTE for implementation of a previous recommendation for the strengthening of a feedback mechanism which will allow member states who are beneficiaries of assistance to report on the outcome of projects and initiatives spearheaded by the CICTE.

I must commend the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for identifying the training under the Pilot Project as part of the strategic initiative in the fight against terrorism during their chairmanship of the CICTE. Their recommendation of the pilot project speaks to the foresight and the keen understanding of the global realities with which we have to contend. I refer the global threats such as terrorism which continue to challenge global stability and we are cognizant of the fact that as small vulnerable states with resource constraints, our efforts to secure our varied interests could be greatly impeded.

Considering the importance of tourism to the small developing states of the Caribbean, we will agree that this training exercise was a proactive approach to safeguard the sustainability of our small economies. This project in our view focuses on the development of our capabilities to secure what is for us our major income generating assets, while improving our own ability to save lives.

Indeed, St. Kitts and Nevis was pleased to accept the offer by CICTE to be part of the Pilot Project whose objective was to strengthen the security infrastructure of the Tourism and Recreational Facilities of participating member states through training.

Mr Chairman, St. Kitts and Nevis recalls the Fourth Meeting of CICTE, in Bogota Colombia when Mrs. Astona Browne, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Immigration and Labour, formalized the Federation's willingness to be part of the Pilot Project. Although she is unable to join us today due to prior engagement, we would not miss the opportunity to speak on the positive outcome and impact of the Pilot Project to us as a small developing state. We are fully cognizant of the importance of security to our own survival. It is no coincidence that governments in the region view security as the 4th pillar for functional

cooperation in the Caribbean Community and we all understand that security is that critical thread that will strengthen and sustain our own economic, social and political development.

Time does not permit me to go into details but from a general perspective, the initiatives outlined in the security initiatives identified in the Work Program of CICTE are very relevant and opportune, in our view, as they adequately address the global and regional security realities confronting our countries at this time. The Pilot Project provided the avenue to develop our skills set and knowledge base, especially as it relates to our own ability to secure our tourism and recreational facilities infrastructure.

It can be said that the phenomenal success of the pilot project draws on the collective security requirement needs of the region. In the case of St Kitts and Nevis, the Federation was in the throes of implementing its new adaptation strategy as it moves from a sugar producing economy to a service oriented economy with the closure of the operation of the 300 year old sugar industry. A critical component of this initiative was security. Moreover we were also one of the host countries of the major event of the century so far for the Caribbean, the hosting of CWC 2007 where security was prominent in securing a successful outcome and a legacy that we will cherish for a lifetime. Hence we appreciated the importance of training opportunity of the Pilot Project.

The construction of the sporting stadiums (cricket and athletic) in my country are major developments in our tourism sector and are all relevant to the government's development thrust. The success of the recently concluded Cricket World Cup in 2007 was largely due to the preparatory initiatives undertaken throughout the region by the respective host countries ably assisted by friendly countries and international organisations. The training of its security personnel was pivotal to this process. The contribution of the CICTE has therefore been recorded as part of the outcome of this landmark event for the region. St. Kitts and Nevis wishes to single out its own peculiarity, as far as this is concerned, especially being the smallest member state of the hemisphere.

With our major economic thrust being in the very areas that are provided for by the Pilot Project we had no doubt of the relevance of the training in sensitizing us to our security needs and in strengthening the capacity of the security personnel to deliver when the need arises.

Mr Chairman, the training received by our public and private security agencies, has undoubtedly positioned us to successfully bid and undertake the hosting of the **2008 CARIFTA Games** which will be held in St Kitts this Easter in a spanking new sporting complex just outside of the city of Basseterre. It is expected that over 850 athletes and officials from 26 countries within the region including host St. Kitts and Nevis will attend this meet. The confidence placed in our country and our capacity to deliver on the deliverables can be attributable to the input of the Pilot Project providing the depths of personnel and organisational structure of our security mechanisms. The training helped to strengthen the skills and capacity of law enforcement professionals in particular and security practitioners in general throughout the country. The intention was to provide Member States with lasting capabilities and improve their general security operations through the establishment of an indigenous assessment capacity.

As you would have heard articulated earlier, there were three Levels of training conducted under the Pilot Project: Level I targeting Basic Security Personnel, Level II – Supervisors and middle managers and Level III targeted at mid to senior level managers. A total of twenty four (24) officers from St Kitts and Nevis participated in the training. These comprised of the following agencies:

- Royal St Christopher and Nevis Police Force
- St. Kitts and Nevis defence Force
- St. Kitts Air and Sea Ports Authority
- Nevis Air and Sea Ports Authority
- Ross University Security Services
- Four Seasons Resort Loss Prevention
- St. Kitts Marriott Resort Loss Prevention
- St. Kitts Tourism Authority Security Unit

In St Kitts and Nevis the target group of the training under the Pilot Project was broad based, involving not only government agencies but private security entities- including hotel establishments as well, thus impacting on the total security infrastructure of the Federation. This has been manifested in the policy and mechanisms developed as standard operating procedures in the conduct and of major public events with respects to all aspect of the management and execution of security and public safety matters and in the renewed energies as demonstrated with better coordination and cooperation of all security agencies both public and private.

The various levels of training in our view were necessary and demonstrated a clear understanding of the existing global threats and the need to target the requisite personnel, agencies and resources to strengthen our collaborative efforts and the necessity to ensure that all levels of management were seized of their respective responsibilities.

The training of such a wide group highlighted the standardisation of procedures, interoperability and awareness from a global perspective. It was important to highlight the sectors that comprised the tourism industry; the growth of global and Caribbean tourism; that the Caribbean is one of the world's largest tourism regions and the fastest growing, the importance of the cruise sector to the Caribbean thus the importance of the sector to the regional economies. The economic and social impact to the region should a terrorist or other major criminal incident occurs. Experience from past incidents around the globe that was directed at tourism demonstrated our own vulnerability. It brought into sharp focus just how connected members of the security community are in reality.

As far as the training in recreational facilities were concerned, practical exercises were also conducted on interviewing skills, hostage negotiation in a crisis situation, utilisation of skills and techniques used in the communication and interview/interrogation. The students were engaged in developing search plans, assembling a search team and conducting an actual search of a designated venue and grounds as well as access points to the venue.

I wish to refer to some major events that have directly benefited from the experience of the training under the Pilot Project in St Kitts and Nevis:

- Music Festival
- International Cricket matches
- Other sporting events
- National Carnival
- Nevis Culturama Festival
- 2008 CARIFTA Games

I wish to reiterate that this training program is relevant and to my knowledge one of very few that addresses tourism and recreational facilities security in the region. The program, as developed, focused on personnel from an array of tourism sub-sector industries –law enforcement, maritime, aviation, hotels/resorts, sports venues, etc., all of which comprises the

industry. Bringing them together as a group served to demonstrate how they would interface with each other in their respective areas in times of emergencies. They were exposed to topics that are normally given to law enforcement however it was stressed how important a role they play in the scheme of things. Example, crime scene – when a crime occurs law enforcement will be responsible for conducting the investigation and identifying the person(s) responsible, they were shown that regardless of their position –maritime, aviation, hotels, their role is to protect that crime scene until the police arrive. In addition, they are in a position to identify witnesses, provide access control information, etc. that will aid law enforcement in their work. The same is true on bomb threat planning and management and interviewing techniques.

In summary the benefits of this training programme provided:

Capacity Building – Enhancing the security awareness and skills of all stakeholders which enables them to be in a better position to adequately address and manage their areas of responsibility. From the expertise provided by the facilitators the recipients have gained valuable knowledge and skills which they were able to transfer to their colleagues on their return to their respective agencies. **Interoperability** – having all the security community training together provided valuable experience for the trainees highlighting the benefits of inter-agency cooperation and coordination.

The Government of St Kitts and Nevis recognizes the importance of capacity building through human resource development in impacting its efforts to combat crime and has identified key areas in which training, coupled with the requisite technology can be an effective tool in our efforts towards achieving this objective. Government is confident that it can draw on the support of International Organisations such as the Organisation of American States through CICTE and friendly governments such as Canada and the United States of America to assist in our capacity building through training and in the other areas of capacity strengthening that enables our security personnel to handle security challenges with renewed confidence and efficiency as we build on our efforts to create an environment that is safe and secure for our citizens and visitors alike.

Thank You!