

**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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REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRE ADDOR-NETO,  
SECRETARY FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

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Mr. Chairman;  
Distinguished Representatives of the Member States;  
Esteemed invitees;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to address you at the conclusion of such a fascinating dialogue, replete with invaluable information and far-reaching ideas. It augurs well for the Hemisphere that initiatives such as the Pilot Project on the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities have been implemented and are to be expanded for the benefit of all Member States of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.

The Organization of American States challenges itself to address the topic of security of the Hemisphere from a multidimensional, multifaceted perspective. It is a bold approach in that it encompasses every possible sector covering political, social, economic, health and environmental aspects.

In response to this challenge and recognizing the breadth of its scope, the Secretary General considered it necessary to establish, a year ago, the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security. Within that Secretariat is the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism which was responsible for coordinating and supporting the implementation of the Pilot Project.

While the Pilot Project seeks essentially to prevent and combat terrorism in the tourism and recreational sector, it also achieves a much larger goal: that of fighting crime and violence. This is one of the major objectives of the OAS General Secretariat as it endeavors to respect the OAS Charter principle to “strengthen the peace and security of the continent”.

Nations must invest in fighting crime and violence in society because crime and violence are inherently morally reprehensible. But crime and violence must also be denied because they threaten development –the economic and social growth, well-being and stability of nations, sub-regions and regions. Terrorist acts are defined as offenses in the legislation of CICTE Member States, and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism refers to various kinds of terrorist acts as offenses, as defined in the universal legal instruments against terrorism of the United Nations. In addition, the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (the Palermo Convention) can be used to prosecute crimes that are not legally recognized by states as terrorist acts.

Crime and violence anywhere in our nations, particularly in the tourism sector can make our shores unstable and therefore unattractive to outsiders –investors, tourists, and returning nationals. This special emphasis on tourism has to be balanced with a global view on public security –we do not want only those who live beyond our shores to be safe while the local population is terrified. National public security is both desirable and imperative. We must therefore, avail ourselves of every opportunity to thwart the efforts of those who would deny the democracies that we have steadily built

in this Hemisphere. The objectives of the Pilot Project are, therefore, of utmost relevance to strengthening the security of the Member States.

I congratulate you on your decision today to recommend to the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism that it instruct its Secretariat to further develop that Pilot Project so that it can continue to provide Member States with technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of security for tourism and recreational facilities. It is a significant security building- block that, from the reports presented today, will undoubtedly greatly benefit the Member States and the region as a whole.

Before closing, I must place on record our appreciation to all those who assisted the CICTE Secretariat in the development, implementation and funding of the Pilot Project. Your contributions were essential for its success ---a success which is evident from the endorsement it has received at this Meeting of Experts.

I thank you.