



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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PROJECT OVERVIEW AND CONCEPT

(Delivered by Senator the Honorable Martin Joseph,
Minister of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago)

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Conceptual Overview

The conceptual basis for the work undertaken by the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism over the past three years to implement “Cooperation Initiatives for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas” is clearly reflected and reinforced in the commitment made by Member States of the Organization of American States in Article 23 of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted in Mexico City in October, 2003.

The strengthening of CICTE as well as other mechanisms of bilateral, subregional and hemispheric cooperation will bolster our commitment to the free movement of people and to the facilitation of trade, even as Member States continue to identify and fight new terrorist threats – none the least of which is the threat to critical infrastructure.

It was therefore in pursuit of this strategic hemispheric counter-terrorist intent that in February 2005, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was pleased to introduce and highlight the need for CICTE to be proactive, by intensifying its efforts to disrupt the capacity of terrorist networks to threaten the ability of individuals to travel and move safely between, and recreate in Member States of the OAS. In doing so, Trinidad and Tobago was mindful that although tourism and recreational facilities in the Americas had not yet become targets for terrorist action, during the period 2001 to 2004, the frequency of terrorist attacks on hotels and other tourist amenities in South East Asia and the Middle East had increased substantially. More specifically, thirty-two (32) such incidents had accounted for approximately five hundred (500) deaths and serious injury to one thousand seven hundred and sixty (1760) persons.

It must also be noted that in proposing this tourism security initiative, Trinidad and Tobago fully appreciated the critical significance of the tourism sector and its infrastructure to the economic and social prosperity and well-being of the citizens of every country in the Americas. In this regard, this counter-terrorism measure was designed to safeguard the immense contribution that the tourism and recreational services sector makes to sustainable development, global competitiveness, and national income and employment generation in many Member States throughout the Hemisphere.

The affirmation expressed by Member States in Operative Paragraph 17 of the Declaration of Port of Spain, adopted at the Fifth Regular Session of CICTE (CICTE V), and reiterated in Resolution 2137 adopted at the OAS General Assembly in June 2005, to establish, implement and comply with security standards and practices including those related to tourist and recreational facilities, was therefore an accurate and proactively targeted strategy to confront a new and emerging terrorist threat to the critical infrastructure of the tourism and recreational services sector in the Americas.

Critical Infrastructure Protection is one of the three principal contexts of the Inter-American Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security (ITRS) Programme, which was originally

proposed by Trinidad and Tobago. Specifically, the original concept for the ITRS recommended as one of its three programme elements, the introduction of a tourism and recreational facility security infrastructure compliance code to make the physical environment or, **PLANT**, more resilient to terrorist attacks. This focus on enhancing the physical security resilience of hotels, stadia, museums and other recreational facilities responds to the generally acknowledged description of such structures as soft targets.

The other programme elements of the ITRS, when originally proposed, were intended to improve the security and resilience of the **PROCESS and PEOPLE**. Specifically, these elements were:

- The development of security standards (to address the Process Environment); and,
- The delivery of certified and specialized security training.

Introduction of Security Infrastructure Compliance Code

To date, the introduction of a tourism and recreational facility security infrastructure compliance code has been facilitated in those CARICOM Member States where the Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Pilot Project was implemented, by the completion of the following capacity-building activities:

- Training a cadre of thirty-six (36) public sector security and law enforcement officials capable of applying best practices to conduct security surveys and risk assessments at tourism and recreational facilities.
- Establishment of National Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Assessment Panels comprising officials capable of applying best practices for the conduct of security surveys and risk assessments;
- Development of Standardized Baseline Assessment Formats to be used as guidelines by the respective National Security Assessment Panels with the necessary adjustments to suit the specific needs of individual Member States.

Based on Trinidad and Tobago's bilateral and sub-regional cooperation on other Critical Infrastructure Protection projects, it is recognized that the institutional capacity to immediately introduce security infrastructure compliance codes at the national level already exists in some Member States. Such Member States may therefore wish to proceed independently with such measures to improve the resilience of their tourism and recreational critical infrastructure to withstand terrorist attacks.

Trinidad and Tobago also wishes to again place on record its support for the increased emphasis that has been given to Critical Infrastructure Protection, particularly since the introduction of the ITRS proposal, as an essential context for cooperation to ensure the success of the hemispheric fight against terrorism. The subsequent adoption of the "*Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism*", in March 2007 and the inclusion

of Critical Infrastructure Protection as a major Programme Area on the CICTE Work Plan with effect from 2008 manifest the commitment of this organization to proactively identify and confront emerging terrorist threats.

Development of Tourism and Recreational Facility Security Standards

During the two Consultative Forums conducted in Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados in January and March, 2006 respectively, the need to cater to the peculiarities of specialized niche markets in the tourism and recreational services sector was highlighted. The development of specific security standards was therefore very cautiously considered and eventually not recommended. It was alternatively determined that the development of Draft Guidelines and Requirements for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities would be sufficient to enable individual Member States to implement those security measures that they considered necessary to secure the operational and administrative processes that are typically found in their respective tourism and recreational services sector.

In accordance with the commitment made by Member States in Operative paragraph 2 of Resolution CICTE/RES. 1/06, the CICTE Secretariat should continue developing Guidelines and Requirements for the implementation of the Tourism Security Programme, which has now been included in the CICTE Work Plan, taking into account the results of the Pilot Project as appropriate.

These Guidelines and Requirements should also be made available as a source of reference for Member States that may give consideration to the development and implementation of such security standards and request technical assistance from the CICTE Secretariat.

Delivery of Certified and Specialized Security Training

The delivery of specialized security training was the most extensively developed element of the Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Pilot Project that was implemented in the participating CARICOM Member States. The two Consultative Forums mentioned earlier enabled very accurate determination of the training needs for the Member States that were included in the Pilot Project. Further, the methodology that was followed to ensure that the training delivered met the objectives that were targeted was very comprehensive and involved input from public and private sector security personnel as well as representatives from non-governmental and other civil society organizations.

This element of the security of tourism and recreational facilities is designed to improve the competence of those public sector law enforcement officers and private sector security officers, supervisors and managers who will be required to coordinate their efforts in response to a terrorist or even criminal threat to a tourism or recreational facility.

The results of this specialized training have been evaluated and published by the CICTE Secretariat. These results confirm the relevance of the Tourism Security Programme and the success with which it was implemented. The requirement for the CICTE Secretariat to deliver additional training courses as well as the independent follow on requests for training that were entered into by individual CARICOM Member States emphasize the critical capability, capacity and competency gap that was filled through the implementation of the Pilot Project.

As the CICTE Secretariat has confirmed in its report, the Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Programme, and more specifically its specialized training component, is unique in the hemisphere and based on the methodology followed in the Pilot Project can be adapted to suit the specific and peculiar needs of the tourism and recreational services sector in all OAS Member States.

CWC 2007 – Major Event Security Context

The support received from OAS member States for the implementation of the Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Pilot Project cannot be discussed without reference to the preparations that were undertaken by CARICOM Member States for hosting the 2007 Cricket World Cup Tournament (CWC 2007). Recognized as one of the largest international sporting events after the Olympic Games and World Cup of Football, the CWC 2007 served to highlight another security context in which the value and relevance of Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security is unquestionable.

From its conception, the applicability of tourism and recreational facilities security to large-scale/major events was always recognized. CWC 2007 was therefore the ideal situation in which the value of the security of tourism and recreational facilities could be confirmed.

Based on the testimonials that have been already reported during CWC 2007, as well as those that will be presented today, it is clear that the security of large scale/major events is inextricably linked to the security of tourism and recreational facilities.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has recognized the value of building on the benefits derived from the Pilot Project of the Programme for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities.

The lessons learned from participation in the Pilot Project have already been captured to ensure that those traditionally soft targets, such as hotels and other tourist attractions and amenities are hardened, in terms of the security of their physical plant, operational and administrative processes and personnel, to render them more resilient to any terrorist or criminal attack.

Conclusion

The tourism and recreational services sector presents the ideal environment for the adoption of a multidimensional approach to security. A terrorist threat at a hotel can simultaneously create physical, political, economic, social, health and environmental security impacts. In countries with weak counter-terrorist capability, limited institutional capacity and low levels of tactical competency

to address such threats, as well as a tourism sector that is pivotal to the economic and social well-being and prosperity of citizens and visitors alike, represents an unacceptable risk. Even in countries that possess the necessary counter-terrorist capabilities, institutional capacity and adequate tactical competency, the neglect of the vulnerabilities that typify critical infrastructure in their tourism and recreational services sectors expose unsuspecting citizens and visitors to unnecessary risk.

The Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security Pilot Project reduced both the level of unacceptable and unnecessary risk in the CARICOM Member States that benefited from its implementation.

Like Trinidad and Tobago those countries would be well advised to strengthen the implementation of each of the elements of their tourism and recreational facilities security programme. Similarly those Member States that have not yet benefited from this initiative should seize the opportunity provided through this forum for the expansion of a programme for Tourism and Recreational Facilities Security throughout the Hemisphere. In doing so they will uphold the commitment made in the Declaration of Port of Spain three years ago, to intensify their efforts to disrupt the capacity of terrorist and other criminal networks to threaten the ability of their citizens and visitors to travel and move safely between, and recreate in Member States of the OAS.