

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

EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION  
March 5 - 7, 2008  
Washington, D. C., United States

OEA/Ser.L.X.2.8  
CICTE/doc.9/08  
7 March 2008  
Original: English

**ORAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF  
THE MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE RESULTS OF THE PILOT PROJECT ON  
THE SECURITY OF TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

(Delivered by the Secretariat on behalf of the Chair of the Meeting of Experts)

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The Meeting on the Results of the Pilot Project on the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities was held on March 4, 2008 pursuant to the resolution of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, CICTE/RES. 1/06, “Cooperation Initiatives for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas”, adopted at its Sixth Regular Session.

The Meeting was chaired by Panama in its capacity as Chair of CICTE, and attended by representatives of the following Member States: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

Opening Remarks were delivered by Ambassador Aristides Royo, Permanent Representative of Panama to the Organization of American States and Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE).

The Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, extended a warm welcome to the participants. He noted that crime and violence are an increasing challenge for Member States and that terrorism is part of that challenge. He reiterated the General Secretariat’s commitment to assist the Member States in meeting these challenges through technical and capacity-building programs based principally on their realities and needs.

Senator The Honorable Martin Joseph, Minister of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago and former Chair of CICTE (2005-2006) gave an **Overview of the Project**. He described the Pilot Project as a counter-terrorism measure designed to safeguard the immense contribution that the tourism and recreational services sector makes to sustainable development, global competitiveness, and national income and employment in many Member States. Minister Joseph concluded that the tourism and recreational services sector presents the ideal environment for the adoption of a multidimensional approach to security and the opportunity to intensify Member States’ 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 Members States.

Colonel Antony Anderson, Commander of Operations of the CARICOM Operations, Planning and Coordination Staff (COPACS) made a presentation on **the Impact of Training under the Pilot Project from the Regional perspective**. Colonel Anderson emphasized that the strength of the Security architecture/structure set up for the Cricket World Cup 2007 was in the combination of state (public) and private security sectors. He pointed out that hotel and recreational facilities security was fundamental to National Security. He attributed the training in the Pilot Project with increasing the awareness of officers at all levels which in turn helped them to reliably feed into intelligence networks set up for the event.

Dr. Carol Fuller, Secretary of CICTE, reported on the **Execution and Results of the Pilot Project**. In her report she summarized the methodology utilized in developing the project and stated that the project had a dual purpose: first, to test the concept and applicability of specialized tourism and recreational facility security training; and secondly, to provide technical assistance and build the capacity of Member States who were in preparation for a major event. She emphasized that the lessons learned from the project and Secretariat's evaluation have indicated where adjustments need to be made to the training and that in any future training, the Secretariat will include a pre-training evaluation component to determine the specific realities and needs of different sub-regions and countries. The Secretary concluded that the Secretariat will continue to consult with experts in the United Nations and individual countries and promote international cooperation in this area of important training needs.

### **Results and Evaluation of the Pilot Project**

There were four presentations under this segment of the agenda. Two presentations by governments which participated in the Pilot Project –Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis; and from the private sector participants from Jamaica and Bahamas.

**Superintendent Ivor Blake, St. Kitts and Nevis:** He stated that the benefits from the Pilot Project training were in: capacity-building, enhancing awareness by all stakeholders and improved management of responsibilities, transfer of knowledge to colleagues, operability; and inter-agency cooperation and coordination. He reported that the training left St. Kitts and Nevis with a valuable legacy that has been utilized at many major events since the Cricket World Cup 2007. In conclusion Superintendent Blake emphasized the important role that this capacity-building exercise played in enabling the security personnel of St. Kitts and Nevis to face the security challenges with renewed confidence and efficiency as they seek to create an environment that is safe and secure for both citizens and visitors.

**Ms. Yvett Burnett, Barbados:** Explained the government of Barbados's National Tourism Policy and key safety and security initiatives. Ms. Burnett reported that the Barbadian participants in the Pilot Project found that the training increased their awareness of the types of threats facing the tourism industry; exposed them to new sources of information; prepared them to respond in the event of a crisis, and decreased the level of vulnerability to terrorist activity.

**Mr. Don Moss, Manager of Security and Surveillance of Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island:** Mr. Moss highlighted the security challenges of small island states which have borders but no defined physical barriers. He stated that the main concern of the private sector was the ability to adequately respond to an act of terrorism occurring anywhere within the Caribbean that would quickly bring tourism communities back to normal functional capability. He emphasized that it was essential to establish security procedures and measures that take into account this peculiar vulnerability and to ward off a possible terrorist attack. He reiterated that without adequate training, decisions and responses to crisis situations would be based upon fears, prejudices and misconceptions, however because of the Pilot Project training, the security officials now have a theoretical basis on which to make decisions. He said that following the chain of command is not always possible and that quick and decisive action by officers in the field on patrol and at the gate are the ones that count. He concluded that the cost of not being prepared with security measures can result in economic disruption, not only in one country but in neighboring countries.

**Eldon Bremner, General Manager, Jamaica Pegasus Hotel:**

Mr. Bremner informed that Jamaica immediately implemented the lessons learned upon the conclusion of the training and that follow-up training sessions were conducted for other security officials in hotels in Jamaica based on the Pilot Project. He highlighted that the training was tested by two incidents which occurred during the World Cup Cricket: death of the Pakistan national cricket team coach, Bob Woolmer, and a fire at the Pegasus Hotel. He commented that due to the Pilot Project, the security staff was able to manage these two incidents commendably.

**Evaluation by Member States' Experts on security requirements for tourism and recreational facilities in the Hemisphere**

The afternoon session began with comments by delegations on these reports. The delegations of Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Honduras, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and United States intervened. Overall, the delegations stated that the Pilot Project would be useful and necessary to enable Member States to better secure their tourism and recreational infrastructure. The delegation of Brazil offered its expertise to those states that may so wish. The expert presenters and the Secretariat clarified some points raised.

The Delegation of Honduras informed the Meeting about its initiative to strengthen security in the tourism sector, particularly through the development of a tourism policy which includes the establishment of a special police unit, which operates in all major tourist sites throughout Honduras.

A brief presentation was made by a representative of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Research Institute (UNICRI) which works closely with the CICTE Secretariat on providing training for security at major events. Mr. Brian Powrie also informed about the International Permanent Observatory (IPO) regional network which was developed to gather information about major events. He noted that all CICTE Member States have been invited to participate by appointing National Focal Points.

**Conclusions and Recommendations**

Having heard the presentations, the Meeting agreed to submit a single recommendation to CICTE at its Eighth Regular Session, which I am pleased to read:

“That CICTE instruct its Secretariat to continue providing technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States, as appropriate, on the security of tourism and recreational facilities, taking into account the results of the Pilot Project and the specific realities and needs of the tourism sector in the Member States.”

The meeting closed with remarks by Ambassador Alexandre Addor-Neto, Secretary for Multidimensional Security.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to submit for the Committee's consideration this recommendation and ask that it be approved.

Thank you.