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## INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE)

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### REMARKS BY THE CHAIR OF CICTE 2010 - 2011

(Delivered by Hon. Tommy Turnquest, M.P.  
Minister of National Security of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas,  
at the First Plenary Session, held on March 17, 2010)



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*OPENS BY MAIL ONLY*

*THE HON. TO M.M.P. PURNELL, M.P.  
MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY OF  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE B.A.M.S*

*ON BEHALF OF*

*THE INTER-AMERICAN CO-MUNITIES ASSOCIATION OF THE  
CARIBBEAN OF AMERICANS (C.A.A.)*

*C.A.A. ADMINISTRATION*

*WASHINGTON, D.C.*

*WB.D. 17 MARCH 2010*

Colleague Ministers;  
Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives of the Member States to the OAS;  
Distinguished Representatives of the Permanent Observer Missions to the OAS;  
Mr. Gonzalo Gallegos, Secretary of CICTE;  
Distinguished National Points of Contact of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism;  
Special Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honour for me as Chair, and on behalf of the Government and people of my country, The Bahamas, to open this Tenth Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE).

I am also pleased, on behalf of my Government, to recognize the important contribution of the Government of the Republic of Mexico to the work of CICTE, as Chair of the Ninth Regular Session. I commend the outgoing Chair, in particular, for his commitment, exemplary leadership skills and wise counsel, which ensured the success of the Session.

The Bahamas Delegation was greatly assisted as Vice-Chair by the support and advice provided by Mexico, and for which we now express our sincere appreciation. We also benefitted from the goodwill and collaboration of all OAS Member States, particularly on the theme we proposed for CICTE X, "Public-Private Partnerships in the Fight against Terrorism". We look forward to the continued support of all, including the CICTE Secretariat, in accomplishing the objectives we set during The Bahamas term as Chair.

The subject matter that is of concern to this Committee, terrorism, is among the greatest threats to our world today. Terrorist events in countries around the world, including bombings of commercial centers, tourism facilities, critical transportation networks, utilities and infrastructure clearly demonstrate the grave challenge from which no state can consider itself immune.

Terrorism destroys lives, damages and destroys property, creates conflict and undermines economic and social progress. This is why there is a compelling global consensus against terrorism in all its manifestations, why terrorism remains a critical issue for the United Nations Security Council, and why the international community has adopted a broad range of treaties to counter terrorism and the threat of terrorism.

Our traditional approach to terrorism has been that it is a critical security matter, and is therefore the responsibility of the state. Recent attacks by terrorists, however, show that their willful and wanton destruction is intended to inflict maximum damage, in terms of lives and property, and they are not concerned about whether what they destroy is public or private. In fact, much of the property that is damaged is privately owned.

There is, consequently, a growing appreciation that the traditional approach to countering terrorism does not create a sufficient space for the business community and other civil actors, whose interests can be devastated by acts of terrorism. It also does not take into account the information, knowledge, experience and resources that the private sector can bring to bear on efforts to counter terrorism, and the potential threat from terrorist activities.

Increasingly the realization that there is significant value in public-private sector partnership is encouraging Governments to establish such partnerships, as a critical countermeasure from which states and the private sector can mutually benefit in the fight against terrorism and to guard against potential terrorist threats. Such partnerships heighten public interest, raise awareness, build mutual understanding, and allows for private sector input in Government's anti-terrorism policies and programmes. Public-private sector partnership also helps to broaden the resource base, both financial and human, in the fight against terrorism.

Under the leadership of the state, public-private sector partnerships are having a positive impact in many states in areas including security for major events, crisis management, capacity building, and protection of infrastructure, including critical economic infrastructure. Much of these activities are benefitting significantly from technological advances.

My country is committed to building public-private partnerships, in particular, to underpin security in our tourism industry, which is critical to the economy and stability the country, as it is for many of the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). One of our most important partners is that with The Bahamas Hotel Association (BHA), whose Mission includes the security of the tourism industry.

The Government of The Bahamas has partnered with the BHA to help develop strategies and policies to help it to carry out its responsibility that includes securing vital tourism infrastructure. The installation of Close Circuit Television (CCTV) is one such strategy. The BHA is providing resources, together with Government, to monitor by CCTV areas in our capital, Nassau, particularly areas that tourists frequent.

We expect that the CCTV system would be extended in our most populous islands, introducing not only an important crime fighting capacity, but also providing the means for guarding against potential terrorism.

I encourage Members of this Committee, established to "promote and develop cooperation among member states to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism", to use this Tenth Regular Session of the Committee for cooperative dialogue and exchange of ideas on public-private partnership, as a way forward in combating terrorism, and of being vigilant against terrorist attacks.

As Chair, I would encourage us all to ensure that our dialogue is frank and broad-ranging. I encourage Member States that have taken significant steps in this area to share information at this hemispheric level on the measures you are taking regarding public-private sector partnership, how such partnerships have been established, including the areas in which they have been established, how they have been organized, and how they could be strengthened.

I would encourage dialogue on the accomplishments and challenges of public-private sector partnerships, the lessons that have been learnt through these partnerships, and based on the sharing of best practices, what might go into creating effective partnerships, and strategies and policies to create and manage them.

Importantly, we must ensure that our initiatives here advance the global consensus against terrorism, and regional and international efforts in the anti-terrorism area, including those of the

United Nations Security Council, and that they accord with the international conventions against terrorism.

It now gives me great pleasure, and it is an honour for me as Chair, to officially open this Tenth Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism, under the theme, "Public-Private Partnerships in the Fight against Terrorism".

I thank you.