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

TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION OEA/Ser.L/X.2.21

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ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE) TO THE FIFTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Approved at the fourth plenary session held on October 8, 2021)

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TO THE FIFTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Approved at the fourth plenary session held on October 8, 2021)

**I. Introduction**

The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE for its acronym in Spanish) is an entity of the Organization of American States (OAS) and, in accordance with Article 53 of the OAS Charter, was established by the General Assembly in 1999 to promote and develop cooperation among Member States to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism, consistent with the principles of the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. This Annual Report is presented in accordance with Article 91.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States, Article 17.h of the CICTE Statutes and Article 11.e of its Rules of Procedure.

**II**. **Legal and political framework**

**Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism**

The Inter-American Convention against Terrorism was adopted in Bridgetown, Barbados on June 3, 2002, and entered into force on July 10, 2003. The Convention is a legally binding instrument whose objective is to enhance regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism through the exchange of information on border control measures and law enforcement, the designation of national points of contact, the provision of technical assistance and mutual legal assistance. The OAS General Secretariat is the custodian of the Convention. To date, 33 OAS Member States have signed the Convention and 24 have deposited their instrument of ratification.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Annual Meeting**

The Twentieth Regular Session of CICTE was held on September 25, 2020, in a virtual format under the leadership of Canada as Chair and the Dominican Republic as Vice Chair, with the support of the CICTE Secretariat. During the session, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the work of the Committee and recognized its contributions in support of Member States´ efforts to counter terrorism in the region.

In addition, OAS Member States approved the Annual Work Plan of the CICTE Secretariat and elected the Dominican Republic and Guyana to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, respectively, for the period 2020-2021. Member States also approved the text to be included in the omnibus resolution on multidimensional security. All documents of the regular session are available on the website of the CICTE Secretariat, link:

<http://www.oas.org/en/sms/cicte/sessions/regular/2020/documents.asp>

**Meetings of OAS political bodies**

CICTE’s Executive Secretary participated actively in the sessions of the political bodies of the OAS, in particular the Permanent Council and the Committee on Hemispheric Security, when issues within the Committee's competence were discussed.

**Inter-American Day against Terrorism**

The OAS General Assembly, through the Declaration "The Threat of Terrorist Groups to International Security and the Full Enjoyment of Human Rights" [AG/DEC. 101 (XLIX-O/19)], established June 3 as Inter-American Day against Terrorism. This date coincides with the day on which the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism was signed.

In 2020, the Secretariat supported OAS Member States in commemorating the first Inter-American Day against Terrorism. To this end, the Secretariat - with the support of the Department of Press and Communications - presented an institutional video on the work carried out to support Member States’ efforts to counter terrorism. The Executive Secretary also participated in the Permanent Council meeting held on June 19 to commemorate the first Inter-American Day against Terrorism.

**III. Main programs**

In accordance with the Work Plan approved by OAS Member States for the period 2020-2021, the CICTE Secretariat took a pragmatic and sensitive approach to the global situation generated by the pandemic. By adjusting project implementation and introducing flexibility in order to respond to current and emerging challenges, the Secretariat was able to provide continued support to Member States. The Secretariat also coordinated efforts with other international organizations specializing in the field to promote synergies and avoid duplication.

The Committee's programs focused on providing support to Member States that requested it in the following priority areas: cybersecurity; implementation of resolution 1540, particularly aspects related to biosecurity and biosafety; prevention of violent extremism; security of air, land, and maritime borders; security of crowded spaces; and technical assistance against the financing of terrorism. In addition, a special effort was made to support the development or strengthening of tools for the exchange of information and/or best practices in the Committee's areas of competence.

During 2020, the CICTE Secretariat began implementing a three-year program to strengthen biosecurity and biosafety in Latin America, in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The Secretariat also continued to support OAS Member States in their efforts to strengthen mechanisms for responding to cyber incidents, expanding knowledge, and raising awareness of cybersecurity through various initiatives. It also carried out a series of virtual dialogues on the importance of preventing violent extremism and moved forward with the implementation of the Inter-American Counterterrorism Network.

This report includes a summary of the main results obtained in each of the priority areas of work during 2020. It also includes a consolidated list of events and publications produced by the various priority program areas of the CICTE Secretariat during the year.

**Cybersecurity**

The cybersecurity program continued to support the development and implementation of cybersecurity policies and strategies, capacity building, and the generation and dissemination of specialized knowledge in this area.

As part of the activities carried out in 2020, the cybersecurity program supported Ecuador in the development of its National Cybersecurity Policy, and supported Jamaica in the review of its National Cybersecurity Strategy. It also participated in meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on cybersecurity issues and the UN Group of Experts that is conducting a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime.

The Working Group on Confidence Building Measures in Cyberspace held an informal meeting in November 2020 to brief Member States on progress made in cyberspace and international law, as well as regarding updates to the list of confidence-building measures.

The hemispheric network for Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), CSIRTAmericas.org, which began operating in 2017 to facilitate cooperation and coordination among CSIRTs in the Americas, currently has 26 CSIRTs from 18 Member States. The Network held workshops on technical skills and digital forensic tools for use in investigations, crisis communication and diplomacy.

The cybersecurity program also continued its efforts to strengthen cybersecurity capabilities. Activities such as the Cybersecurity Symposium, the *Cyber Women Challenge,* the *Cybersecurity Summer Bootcamp*, specialized courses, and exchanges of experiences were carried out with the participation of more than 3,000 people.

The Cybersecurity Symposium was held from September 28th to October 9th in virtual format. It had more than 1,500 people participating in in the open sessions and approximately 400 in the closed sessions from 35 different countries of the world. The Symposium addressed, among other topics, digital investigation, cyber incident response, development of national strategies on cybersecurity, public safety, and networks. Institutional partners such as Amazon Web Services, *CitiBanamex*, Microsoft, FIRST, INTERPOL, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers *(*ICANN) and Cyber4Dev also participated.

The Cyber Women Challengeincluded the participation of more than 500 women from 10 countries in the region (including Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay) who received specialized training in cybersecurity. This initiative, carried out in collaboration with TrendMicro, is aimed at strengthening women's technical skills and promoting their inclusion in the cybersecurity field.

The annual edition of the Cybersecurity Summer Bootcampwas held online from July 20-30, 2020 with the support of the *Instituto Nacional de Ciberseguridad* (*INCIBE*) of Spain. Over 1,000 participants attended the preliminary sessions. The closed sessions had between 500 and 800 participants. The event addressed, among other topics, incident response, development and implementation of national cybersecurity strategies, cybersecurity awareness and digital research.

The specialized courses offered during the year included the fifth edition of the "Creating a career path in cybersecurity" program, which trained 225 students in five countries of the region (Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, and the Dominican Republic). This initiative is aimed at promoting cybersecurity training and fostering professional preparation for students from low-income communities.

In addition, the virtual program “Cybersecurity Leadership and Strategy” was launched with Florida International University, which certified 35 participants from 12 OAS Member States. Three virtual sessions of the Hague Course on the Application of International Law to Cyber Operations were also held with the participation of 91 government officials and foreign ministries of the region.

In addition, under the auspices of the Governments of Spain and Estonia, the cybersecurity program collaborated in the organization of an activity to exchange experiences and best practices among authorities from Latin America, Estonia, and Spain. The visit to Estonia and Spain took place from January 27 to 31, 2020. Seventeen officials from various countries, including Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, and the United States, participated in this activity.

In collaboration with Cisco and Citi Foundation, the cybersecurity program launched the Cybersecurity Innovation Fund, an initiative of the Cybersecurity Innovation Councils, of which four sessions were also held under the auspices of Chile, Colombia (twice) and Mexico. This initiative provides a platform through which key government authorities, the private sector, civil society, and academia can collaborate to drive innovation, raise awareness, and expand best practices in cybersecurity throughout the region.

The program also published the following five reports on cybersecurity in the region:

-  "Cybersecurity Report 2020 - Risks, Progress and the Way Forward in Latin America and the Caribbean". July 2020. CICTE/OAS Secretariat and Inter-American Development Bank.

-  "Cybersecurity Considerations for the Democratic Process for Latin America and the Caribbean." August 2020. CICTE/OAS Secretariat and United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

-  "*Cybersecurity Capacity Review Federative Republic of Brazil*" August 2020. CICTE/OAS Secretariat, *Center for Global Cybersecurity Capacity-* University of Oxford*,* Department of Information Security of the Office of Institutional Security of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil, Government of the United Kingdom.

-  "Cybersecurity Education - Planning for the Future Through Workforce Development. " September 2020. CICTE/OAS Secretariat and *Amazon Web Services.*

-  "*Estado de la Ciberseguridad en el Sistema Financiero Colombiano”.* October 2020. CICTE/OAS Secretariat and *Asociación de Entidades Bancarias y Financieras de Colombia*.

It also conducted 11 webinars to raise awareness on various topics, including secure telework and cybersecurity for families. In addition, in partnership with *Amazon,* three events were held in connection with the White Paperentitled "Data Classification". During these events, discussions were held with government and civil society representatives in Central America, Mexico, and Colombia on regional strategies for improving data classification processes.

Key institutional partners with whom the program worked closely during the year included the Open-ended Working Group on Cybersecurity Issues and the UN Group of Experts, the Inter-American Development Bank, the *Instituto Nacional de Ciberseguridad de España*, INTERPOL, Amazon Web Services, Citi Foundation, Cyber4Dev, Cisco Systems inc, FIRST, Global Partners Digital, ICANN, Microsoft, TrendMicro, Florida International University and the University of Oxford - Center for Global Cybersecurity Capacity.

**Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)**

The program to support implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in OAS Member States continued to strengthen institutional capacity to comply with this resolution and focused its efforts on the biological aspects of the resolution. This area continues to have significant gaps in the region, according to the *Comprehensive Review* of resolution 1540 (2004) conducted in 2016, through which the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the framework of the United Nations Security Council is evaluated.

The situation created by the pandemic has highlighted the challenges that countries face to implement and/or reinforce biosecurity and biosafety measures. As part of its strategy to strengthen compliance with the resolution, virtual activities were introduced to ensure continued compliance with program objectives. These activities include remote technical and legislative assistance, as well as awareness-raising workshops, training sessions and even massive online courses for the beneficiary countries of the program.

The program launched two projects to strengthen the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Americas: "Strengthening biosecurity and biosafety in Latin America in line with the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery" for 8 beneficiary countries (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay), and the other project "Strengthening strategic trade regimes for Latin America and the Caribbean" for 2 beneficiary countries (Panama and the Dominican Republic).

Based on the two projects, the program obtained the following results:

-  Coordination and information gathering with CICTE national points of contact, national points of contact for the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) and the exchange of formal notes for the initiation of the project with 7 beneficiary countries.

-  Strengthening of the network of national points of contact on resolution 1540 (2004) in the region by renewing the credentials of officials from 8 beneficiary countries.

-  Compilation of institutional contacts with responsibility in the biological area of 6 beneficiary countries.

-  Survey on the methodology implemented for the export control list of 6 beneficiary countries.

-  Compilation of current national regulations and analysis of draft biosafety and biosecurity regulations of 5 beneficiary countries.

-  Establishment of partnerships and joint work with academic institutions, international organizations, and civil society to support project implementation.

-  Development and negotiation of research initiatives with academic institutions to generate solutions, support, and training

-  Elaboration of the strategy for the promotion, awareness-raising, and dissemination of non- proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The program actively participated in several events and meetings related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including the following:

- Signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding with Parliamentarians for Global Action and coordination meeting, Washington, D.C., February 24, 2020.

-  Workshop on chemical safety and national plans of action, organized by Stimson Center, Washington, D.C., March 3-4, 2020.

-  Virtual meetings of the Global Partnership Working Group (GPWG), CBRN Working Group (CBRNWG), Chemical Security Working Group (CSWG), Biosecurity Sub- Working Group (BSWG), GP Nuclear Radiological Security Working Group (NRSWG) held between June and December 2020 under the chairmanship of the United States.

-  National workshop with the Government of Bolivia and the 1540 Committee Group of

Experts on October 27, 2020 on resolution 1540 (2004) and its status of implementation in Bolivia.

-  Virtual conferences for implementers of the Export Control and Related Border Security Program (EXBS), Office of Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism (WMDT) and Office of Non-proliferation and Disarmament Fund (NDF) of the U.S. Department of State. December 2-3, 2020.

The main institutional partners with whom the program worked closely during the year included the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU), the European Commission, the Stimson Center, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and the European Commission, the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU), the European Commission, the *Stimson Center,* Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and the University of Maryland through its National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START).

**Prevention of violent extremism**

The CICTE Secretariat supported discussions at the regional level on the importance of preventing and countering violent extremism that can lead to terrorism, with the aim of strengthening hemispheric cooperation and capabilities to address this threat, as recognized by the OAS General Assembly in its resolution 2950 (L-O/20) entitled "Promoting Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach".

During 2020, the CICTE Secretariat organized three virtual dialogues on the importance of preventing violent extremism that can lead to terrorism, which facilitated a greater understanding of the nature of this phenomenon and its manifestations, as well as the exchange of experiences in this area.

The virtual dialogues conducted during the period covered by this report were as follows:

* Virtual Dialogue: "Prevention of violent extremism". July 30. Organized by the CICTE Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Mexico and with the support of Canada as Chair of the Committee.
* Virtual Dialogue "The use of the Internet in the spread of violent extremism: challenges and best practices." September 18. Organized by the CICTE Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Mexico and with the support of Canada as Chair of the Committee.
* Webinar: "Preventing violent extremism: good practices of youth engagement through sport". November 12. Organized by the CICTE Secretariat - in collaboration with the Government of Mexico, with the support of Canada and in partnership with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and *Save the Dream.*

Each virtual dialogue was attended by senior officials from the United Nations system and its specialized agencies, including the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UN CTED) and the United Nations Office of Counter- Terrorism (UNOCT).

These activities were carried out in follow-up to the Declaration "Strengthening Hemispheric Efforts to Address and Counter Violent Extremism that can Lead to Terrorism" approved during the XVIII Regular Session of the Committee in 2018. The dialogues were also part of the Secretaria’s efforts to support its Member States in the context of COVID-19.

The dialogues provided a space to discuss the phenomenon of violent extremism, its different manifestations, and the various existing approaches for its prevention. The organization of these dialogues made it possible to identify the level of interest in the topic--more than 250 people from various countries of the region--as well as some of the challenges in addressing the prevention of violent extremism in the region.

The challenges identified include the need for a better understanding of the nature of the phenomenon, current and emerging challenges, the importance of having evidence-based knowledge, the need to take into account specific regional/national context, as well as the availability of experts/institutions with knowledge and experience in the field.

**Border security**

**Maritime security**

The maritime and port security program continued to strengthen maritime and port security capabilities through specialized activities at the national and regional levels, using its own methodology, in consultation with key stakeholders involved in the development of port security capabilities.

During 2020, the program successfully completed the Operational Assessment of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority (SVGPA). The assessment included systems, processes, safety, security, cargo operations and existing ferries in port institutions, to formulate recommendations for strengthening them in line with international best practices in the field.

The program carried out the first two phases of the development of the Regional Maritime Security Strategy for the Eastern Caribbean and 7 National Maritime Security Strategies for the countries of that region. This work included the establishment of working groups in each of the seven countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), spaces for dialogue and information exchange among various agencies, workshops on methodology and risk and hazard assessment. The last phase of this initiative will be carried out in 2021.

The virtual events carried out by the program during the year were as follows:

* Webinar "Port Security Management in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic". May 19. The event was attended by maritime and port authorities from Colombia and Peru, in addition to the participation of more than 400 people.
* Webinar "Pandemic - frontiers on the front line". May 5. This event was held in conjunction with the other programs of the Committee Secretariat working on border security and was attended by more than 150 people.

The program actively participated in several events and specialized meetings, including the following:

* Roundtable discussion on global implications of terrorist travelers in the maritime domain. Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) - Maritime Security and Terrorist Travelers Initiative. July 21 and 28.
* Webinar on "Cyber threats in the maritime and port sector". International Maritime Business School (IMBS). July 25.
* Technical Table No. 17 on "Port Disruption Technologies". Colombian Prosecutor's Office. September 18.
* Annual meeting of the National Maritime Industry Interagency Advisory Group. U.S. National Maritime Intelligence Office (NMIO). September 30.
* Expert Webinar on "Maritime Security and the fight against Terrorism". UNCCT, UNOCT and UN CTED. October 27th.
* Coast Guard Virtual Regional Meeting. Regional Security System (RSS). October 26 and 28.
* Technical Table No. 19 on "Port Control". Prosecutor's Office of Colombia. November 5.

The main international and regional organizations and partners with which the program worked closely during the year included the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Regional Security System (RSS), Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), U.S. National Maritime Intelligence Office (NMIO), United Nations Counterterrorism Center, UNOCT, UN CTED, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), International Maritime Business School (IMBS).

**Aviation security**

The aviation security program did not implement activities during 2020 due to lack of funding.

**Cargo and container security**

The cargo and container security program continued its efforts to strengthen security mechanisms for cargo and its means of transport and the security procedures of customs and border security agencies.

During 2020, the program provided a forum for regional dialogue to exchange experiences and share policies and protocols for the security of cargo and cross-border goods. It also promoted international cooperation and the exchange of information at the regional level.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program adjusted implementation of its activities and modified its programming to include a greater number of virtual activities such as webinars, conferences and online courses while resuming face-to-face work in the field.

Program activities focused on raising awareness of the impact of COVID-19 on customs processes and procedures, including inspection and control of vessels and containers, and on learning about the new initiatives undertaken by the countries of the region to facilitate the swift movement of goods, thus avoiding a slowdown in the economy at the national and regional levels.

The program conducted three webinars:

* Webinar "Pandemic - frontiers on the front line". May 5.
* Webinar "Border management and trade facilitation during the pandemic". July 22.
* Webinar "Border Security and Customs during the Pandemic". October 6. Organized by CICTE Secretariat in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the *Agencia Tributaria Española* and New Zealand Customs.

Each of the webinars had an audience of more than 150 participants from the region, including government officials and private sector representatives.

In collaboration with strategic allies such as PAHO and other international and regional organizations, the program initiated a process to develop a series of biosecurity protocols applicable to the flow of land cargo in OAS Member States. These protocols will be developed jointly with the agencies of each beneficiary State and will include contributions from experts in the field and officials of cooperating governments.

The program worked actively throughout the year with international organizations, regional organizations, and partners from the private sector, civil society and academia, including the General Secretariat of the Andean Community of Nations (SG/CAN for its acronym in Spanish), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the WCO, PAHO, the *Agencia Tributaria Española*, New Zealand Customs, and the General Secretariat of the Central American Economic Integration System. (SG/SIECA for its acronym in Spanish).

**Supply Chain Security / Authorized Economic Operator**

Although it did not have funding in 2020, the supply chain security program collaborated with other border security programs of the CICTE Secretariat to organize the following virtual events:

* Webinar "Border management and trade facilitation during times of pandemic". July 22.
* Webinar "Border Security and Customs during the Pandemic". October 6.

These webinars highlighted the importance of introducing COVID-19 measures in the customs environment, taking into account reduced staffing and reduced contact. They also highlighted the usefulness of simplifying and optimizing supply chain security through the Authorized Economic Operator program.

The program also worked in 2020 to strengthen engagement with other regional and subregional organizations. These include:

* the Secretariat of the Central American Economic Integration System to promote supply chain security through its coordination with the private sector agglomerated in the Economic Integration Consultative Committee (CCIE for its acronym in Spanish).
* the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Trade Facilitation and Border Management project to coordinate initiatives to promote the Authorized Economic Operator program in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.
* the Secretariat of the Andean Community of Nations to coordinate initiatives to strengthen the effective implementation of the Mutual Recognition Agreement signed by Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

**Security of crowded spaces, including tourist destinations and major events**

The crowded spaces program continued its efforts to enhance existing capabilities, interagency coordination, and hemispheric cooperation for the protection of vulnerable targets and crowded spaces, including tourist destinations and major events, from potential terrorist threats.

After nearly a year of an unprecedented situation generated by COVID-19, many OAS Member States with tourism destinations and/or who will be hosting major events, have begun to resume operations in some capacity despite the numerous challenges remaining.

These challenges include limitations on holding large-scale events due to health restrictions; travel or additional requirements related to COVID-19; risk assessments and management in the post-COVID-19 era; and the varying levels of standardization of biosecurity protocols in the region, among others.

During 2020, the crowded spaces program worked closely with the OAS Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) with a view to standardizing biosecurity protocols in Member States. It also continued to support capacity building in tourist destinations and hosts of major events, as well as in the development of crisis management plans, comprehensive security, and public-private partnerships. In addition, it held several virtual meetings with international experts from multiple sectors and webinars to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices.

The program conducted the following webinars during 2020:

* Webinar "Tourism security in times of COVID-19". April 8.
* Webinar "Pandemic: frontiers on the front line". May 5. The event was held in coordination with CICTE Secretariat programs on border security.
* Webinar "Biosecurity protocols for tourism reactivation" June 19.
* Webinar "Major events: redefining the road ahead in the times of COVID-19". July 23.
* The event was held in collaboration with UNICRI and UNITAR.
* Webinar "Preventing violent extremism: good practices in youth engagement through sport". November 12. The event was held in collaboration with the Government of Mexico, UNICRI, UNITAR and Save the Dream*.*

UNICRI continued to be the main strategic partner of the program; however, the program also worked closely with CARICOM IMPACS in the Caribbean region, given the importance of tourism in that region, and with UNITAR in various webinars.

**Legislative and technical assistance against terrorist financing**

The technical and legislative assistance program to counter the financing of terrorism continued to support Member States that requested assistance in this area.

During 2020, the program continued implementation of the project on targeted financial sanctions and domestic listing systems in Panama and Paraguay, as well as the project on money laundering and terrorist financing threats and vulnerabilities in the Tri-Border area (Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay). The programming of both projects was adjusted to a virtual format due to the pandemic generated by COVID-19. In addition, the new challenges posed by the pandemic in relation to the financing of terrorism were included as a theme in the activities.

Over the course of the year, the program held a national workshop in Panama on combating the financing of terrorism: targeted financial sanctions and domestic lists, including special judicial investigation techniques. The workshop was held in Panama City from January 28-30 with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A national workshop on the fight against the financing of terrorism, legislative aspects and judicial investigation was also held in Paraguay. The workshop was held February 11-13 in Asuncion with the support of Paraguay's Secretariat for the Prevention of Money Laundering (SEPRELAD for its acronym in Spanish).

The program also held three webinarson terrorist financing and its implications in the new context of the pandemic. The three webinars were held on August 24, 26 and 28 with the support of SEPRELAD-Paraguay and were aimed at participants from Paraguay. In addition, the program organized a sub-regional webinaron international and legal cooperation on money laundering and terrorist financing in the Tri-Border area on December 15.

Among the main results of the program were the technical support provided to Paraguay for the approval of relevant legislation on the financing of terrorism, targeted financial sanctions and domestic listing processes; the training of more than 500 public and private sector representatives from Panama and Paraguay on the implementation of targeted financial sanctions and domestic listings; and the workshop on international and legal cooperation on money laundering and the financing of terrorism in the Tri-Border area.

During 2020, the program worked closely with the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT), the Regional Bureau of the International Criminal Police Organization of INTERPOL, the Financial Intelligence Units, the Judiciary, and the Public Prosecutor's Office of the countries involved in the projects.

The program participated as a guest expert in the virtual course for Caribbean countries "Caribbean Basin Security Initiative: Financial Crimes Virtual Technical Working Group Caribbean 2020" on "Financial Crimes TWG Conference" held on September 28. The course was organized by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the US Department of State, the US National Center for State Courts, and the CARICOM IMPACS Technical Working Group. It also participated in the virtual plenaries organized by GAFILAT on June 17 and from November 30 to December 3.

**Inter-American Counter-Terrorism Network**

The CICTE Secretariat made progress in implementing the Inter-American Counter-Terrorism Network, an initiative open to the voluntary participation of all OAS Member States.

During 2020, results achieved included the design of the platform; the designation of focal points by those Member States already agreeing to form part of the Network; and the holding of the first virtual meeting of the Network’s focal points and alternate focal points in December 2020 in order to present the prototype of platform. It is estimated that the platform will be operational in early 2021.

During the year, meetings were also held to exchange experiences with the Council of Europe and INTERPOL, both of which have their own 24/7 networks. As part of this exchange of experiences, the CICTE Secretariat participated as an observer in the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Council of Europe’s Counter-Terrorism Committee, held in virtual format on November 17 and 18.

The importance of this initiative as a tool to facilitate the exchange of information to prevent and counter terrorism in the region has been mentioned in various international forums, including the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

**IV. Major donors**

The execution of the CICTE Secretariat’s programs and projects depends to a large extent on contributions of specific funds from OAS Member States, permanent observers, other organizations and partners from the private sector and academia. (See Annex 4 - Consolidated List of Donors and Institutional Partners).

The main financial contributors to the CICTE Secretariat's program and projects during 2020 were as follows:

* Member States: Canada, Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, United States of America, and Uruguay.
* Permanent observers: Estonia, Israel, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and the European Union.
* International or regional organizations: Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Inter- American Development Bank (IDB) and Global Forum on Cyber Expertise*.*
* Private sector: Amazon Web Services, Citi Foundation, Cisco Systems.

**V. Communications, consultations, and inter-institutional cooperation**

**Communications**

The CICTE Secretariat continued to strengthen its communication and outreach strategy. During 2020, the Secretariat regularly updated the CICTE webpage www.oas.org/cicte. In addition, it developed an active presence in social media through the institutional accounts: @oea\_cicte and @oea\_cyber.

**Consultations**

The CICTE Secretariat continued its periodic consultations regarding programming and execution of activities with the pertinent authorities of OAS Member States. It also continued to work closely with Permanent Observers to the OAS.

**Inter-institutional cooperation**

The CICTE Secretariat strengthened existing cooperation mechanisms with the United Nations system and its specialized agencies, as well as with other international and regional organizations. It also maintained cooperative ties with civil society organizations, the private sector, and other strategic partners. A consolidated list of institutional partners with which the Committee's Secretariat worked during 2020 is included in Annex 4 of this report.

1. **Annexes**

Annex 1: Consolidated list of high-level international meetings (in chronological order)

Annex 2: Consolidated list of webinars or virtual forums held (in chronological order)

Annex 3: Consolidated list of publications (in chronological order)

Annex 4: Consolidated list of donors and major institutional partners (in alphabetical order)

**Annex 1: Consolidated list of high-level international meetings**

The following is a selection of the main high-level international events in which the CICTE Secretariat participated during 2020. The list is in chronological order.

* III Hemispheric Ministerial Conference on Combating Terrorism. Bogotá, Colombia. January 19-20, 2020. **\***
* Visit of policymakers from OAS Member States. Exchange of experiences and best practices in cybersecurity sponsored by the Governments of Spain and Estonia. January 27-31, 2020. \*
* Second Substantive Session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group (OWEG). United Nations. New York, February 10-14, 2020. \*\*\*
* International Conference "Cybersecurity, emerging technologies and 5G networks". CICTE/OAS Secretariat and Dominican Institute of Telecommunications (INDOTEL for its acronym in Spanish). Santo Domingo, February 20-21, 2020. \*\*\*
* Virtual meetings of the Global Partnership Working Group (GPWG), CBRN Working Group (CBRNWG), Chemical Security Working Group (CSWG), Biosecurity Sub- Working Group (BSWG), GP Nuclear Radiological Security Working Group (NRSWG). Junio-diciembre de 2020. \*\*\*
* Virtual Week against Terrorism -2020. United Nations. July 10, 2020. Participation of the Executive Secretary of CICTE. \*
* GAFILAT Virtual Plenaries. June 17 and November 30 to December 3, 2020. \*\*\*
* Roundtable discussion on global implications of terrorist travelers in the maritime domain. Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) - Maritime Security and Terrorist Travelers Initiative. July 21 and 28, 2020. \*\*\*
* Webinar on "Cyber threats in the maritime and port sector". International Maritime Business School (IMBS). July 25, 2020. \*\*\*
* Expert Webinar on "Maritime Security and the fight against Terrorism". UNCCT, UNOCT and UN CTED. October 27, 2020. \*\*\*
* Coast Guard Virtual Regional Meeting. Regional Security System (RSS). October 26- 28, 2020. \*\*\*
* Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Council of Europe. Virtual format. November 17-18, 2020. The CICTE Secretariat participated as an observer. **\*\*\***
* Roundtable to build strategic alliances between regions of entities in charge of counter- terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism. Organized by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center. Virtual format. December 8-10, 2020. **\*\***
* United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Virtual Open Briefing on "The Threat of Terrorism in Latin America and the Caribbean". Virtual format. December 14, 2020. Participation of the Executive Secretary of CICTE. **\***

**\*** Participation of the Executive Secretary of CICTE

**\*\*** Participation of the Deputy Executive Secretary of CICTE

**\*\*\*** Participation of CICTE Secretariat officials

**Annex 2: Consolidated list of webinars or virtual forums conducted**

(in chronological order)

Webinar "Telework - How to protect sensitive information and your digital life?". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat with Trend Micro*.* March 19.

Webinar "How to protect our infrastructure and digital assets from cyber threats?". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat and Mundo Hacker Academy*.* March 27

Webinar "How to stay protected on social networks and have control of our security?" Organized by the CICTE Secretariat and Facebook. April 8

Webinar "Tourism security in times of COVID-19". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat. April 8

Webinar Basic concept of cybersecurity for work. Organized by the CICTE Secretariat and Amazon Web Services*.* April 14

Webinar "Cybersecurity, privacy and digital rights". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat, the Rapporteurship on the Right to Freedom of Expression of the Inter- American Commission on Human Rights and *Citizen Lab.* April 17

Webinar "Pandemic: frontiers on the front line". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat. May 5

Webinar "Conversation with young people on digital adaptation". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat. May 8

Webinar "Port security management in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat. May 19

Webinar "Cybersecurity and work". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat. June 12.

Webinar "Biosafety protocols for the reactivation of tourism". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat. June 19.

Webinar "Women in cybersecurity". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat. June 30.

Webinar "Border management and trade facilitation during times of pandemic". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat. July 22nd.

Webinar "Major events: redefining the way forward in the times of COVID-19". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat, UNICRI and UNITAR. July 23.

Virtual Dialogue "Prevention of violent extremism". July 30. Organized by the CICTE Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Mexico and with the support of Canada as Chair of the Committee.

Webinars on terrorist financing and the implications of the fight against it in the new context of the pandemic. Organized with the support of SEPRELAD- Paraguay. August 24, 26 and 28

Virtual Dialogue "The use of the Internet in the spread of violent extremism: challenges and best practices." September 18. Organized by the CICTE Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Mexico and with the support of Canada as Chair of the Committee.

Webinar "Border Security and Customs during the Pandemic". October 6. Organized by the CICTE Secretariat in collaboration with the World Customs Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the Spanish Tax Agency, and New Zealand Customs.

Webinar "Preventing violent extremism: good practices in youth engagement through sport". November 12. Organized by the CICTE Secretariat - in collaboration with the Government of Mexico, with the support of Canada and in partnership with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and *Save the Dream.*

Webinar "Cybersecurity for Women". Organized by the CICTE Secretariat. December 9.

**Annex 3: Consolidated list of publications**

(in chronological order)

**"Cybersecurity Report 2020 - Risks, Progress and the Way Forward in Latin America and the Caribbean.**” July 2020. CICTE/OAS Secretariat and Inter-American Development Bank. Available in Spanish and English.

Link: <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/2020-Cybersecurity-Report-Risks-Progress-and-the-Way-Forward-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean.pdf>

**"Cybersecurity Considerations of the Democratic Process for Latin America and the Caribbean."** August 2020. CICTE/OAS Secretariat and the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Available in English and Spanish.

Link: <http://www.oas.org/en/sms/cicte/docs/ENG-Cybersecurity-Democratic-Process-LAC.pdf>

**“Cybersecurity Capacity Review Federative Republic of Brazil”.**August 2020. CICTE/OAS Secretariat, Center for Global Cybersecurity Capacity- University of Oxford, Department of Information Security of the Office of Institutional Security of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil, Government of the United Kingdom. Available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Link: <http://www.oas.org/en/sms/cicte/docs/ENG-CYBERSECURITY-CAPACITY-REVIEW-BRAZIL.pdf>

**"Cybersecurity education - Planning for the Future Through Workforce Development".** September 2020. CICTE/OAS Secretariat and Amazon Web Services*.* Available in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

Link: <http://www.oas.org/es/sms/cicte/docs/White-Paper-Cybersecurity-Education.pdf>

**"State of Cybersecurity in the Colombian Financial System"*.***October 2020. CICTE/OAS Secretariat, Asociación de Entidades Bancarias y Financieras de Colombia. Available in Spanish.

Link: <https://www.asobancaria.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/20201014-ASOBANCARIA-2020_compressed.pdf>

**Annex 4: Consolidated list of donors and major institutional partners**

(in alphabetical order)

**\*** Countries or institutions that made a financial contribution - specific funds for the implementation of the CICTE Secretariat's programs.

**Member States**

* Canada **\***
* Colombia \*
* Chile \*
* Dominican Republic \*
* Mexico \*
* Panama \*
* United States \*
* Uruguay \*

**Permanent Observers**

* Estonia **\***
* European Union **\***
* Israel
* Spain
* The Netherlands **\***
* United Kingdom **\***

**International organizations, regional bodies**, **and international forums**

* 1540 Committee of the United Nations Security Council and its Group of Experts
* Andean Community of Nations (CAN for its acronym in Spanish)
* Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
* CARICOM IMPACS
* Central American Economic Integration System (SG/SIECA for its acronym in Spanish)
* Council of Europe
* Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT for its acronym in Spanish)
* Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF)
* Global Forum on Cyber Expertise
* Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
* International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
* International Maritime Organization (IMO)
* Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
* Regional Security System (RSS)
* United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
* United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office (UNOCT)
* United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
* United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
* United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
* World Bank
* World Customs Organization (WCO)
* World Trade Organization (WTO)

**Academic sector**

* Florida International University (FIU)
* International Maritime Business School (IMBS).
* Oxford University - Center for Global Cybersecurity Capacity
* National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) of the University of Maryland

**Private sector**

* Amazon Web Services
* Association of Banking and Financial Institutions of Colombia (Asociación de Entidades Bancarias y Financieras de Colombia)
* Citi Banamex
* Citi Foundation \*
* Cisco Systems inc.
* FIRST
* Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
* Microsoft
* Trend Micro
* Civil Society
* Global Partners Digital
* Latin American Jewish Congress
* Save the Dream
* Stimson Center

**Others**

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)

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1. "Inter-American Convention against Terrorism". Department of International Law - Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the OAS General Secretariat. List of signatures and ratifications available at: http://www.oas.org/juridico/spanish/firmas/a-66.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)