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

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WORK PLAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE

AGAINST TERRORISM FOR 2022-2023

(Approved at the third plenary session held on July 27, 2022)

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**I. Introduction**

The CICTE Secretariat submits the draft work plan for the period 2022-2023 in order to continue supporting the member states on priority themes and strengthening their ability to respond to a variety of current and emerging issues. The working methodology will be virtual, in-person, or hybrid to the extent feasible given health conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the period covered by this work plan (approximately September 2022 – December 2023), the Committee Secretariat will provide the technical support needed to conduct the First Consultative Meeting of the States Party to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, the Committee’s regular meeting, the meeting of the Working Group on Confidence- and Cooperation-Building Measures in Cyberspace, as well as discussions held on CICTE topics in the context of the political bodies of the OAS.

The Committee’s programs will focus on providing support to the member states as required in the following priority areas: cybersecurity, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, prevention of violent extremism that can lead to terrorism, air, land, and sea border security, crowded spaces security, technical assistance against the financing of terrorism, and protecting critical infrastructures against terrorist attacks and other emerging threats.

In addition, the Secretariat will continue its efforts to support the development and strengthening of information-sharing tools and/or good practices on issues within the Committee’s purview. It will also continue to encourage inter-institutional cooperation with other international organizations specializing in this area in order to bolster the ability to respond to current and emerging challenges.

All the programs of the Committee’s Secretariat are regional in scope, with specific activities that may be implemented in the various member states as required, depending on needs and available resources.

**II. Principal programs**

1. ***Cybersecurity***

Purpose:

To support member states’ efforts to develop public policies in the area of cybersecurity; to strengthen institutional capacities to protect critical infrastructure and to deal with and/or recover from cyber threats and attacks, to include information-sharing and warnings via the *CSIRTamericas.org* platform*;* and to promote awareness and international and regional cooperation in this field.

Activities proposed:

* Courses on international cyber diplomacy, laws, and standards to support the strengthening of capacities among government officials of the member states and their effective participation in international discussions on cyber security.
* Support for developing and/or updating national cyber security strategies.
* Forums on critical infrastructure that will analyze the main cyber security threats and best practices for protecting those infrastructures, including attack trends in the region and COVID-19’s impact on cyber security threats.
* Training sessions for the Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) Centers on the management of cyber security warnings, as well as automating the flow of information so as to allow these centers to establish protocols for preventing, addressing, and recovering from cyber incidents.
* Sessions on Security in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), an event co-organized by Spain’s Cyber Incident Response Team (Equipo de Respuesta a Incidentes Cibernéticos) of the National Cryptology Center (Centro Criptológico Nacional - CCN-CERT) and National Cyber Security Institute (Nacional de Ciberseguridad de España - INCIBE) with the support of the CICTE Secretariat.
* Cybersecurity Summer Bootcamp, a specialized international training program on cyber security for policy-makers, security forces and corps, tax authorities, and technical specialists of the CSIRT.
* Cyber Security Symposium that will bring together experts and professionals in the industry, the main focus of which will be to promote the development of national capacities in cyber security and a culture that reinforces the work done by the OAS throughout the Hemisphere.
* International Cyber Exercise, a competition intended to strengthen the capacity to respond to cyber incidents and cooperation among the participating countries. This initiative is coordinated by the OAS, the National Cyber Security Institute of Spain (INCIBE), and the National Center for Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security (CNPIC) of Spain.
* Crisis management communication workshops on how to effectively communicate the decisions made by bodies charged with the handling of cyber incidents.
* Workshops on cyber security for women to promote an exchange with governmental representatives to identify the major advances made to adopt legal frameworks addressing abuse and violence against women on line.
* Technical training on cyber security tools and trends for law enforcement officers. This will be conducted in partnership with Meta (Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram), FBI, and Microsoft, who will facilitate specific sessions on their tools and opportunities for collaboration with law enforcement.
* Creating a Career Path in Digital Security Program that provides training on cyber security and professional development coordinated with the OAS member states and the Citi Foundation.
* Cyberwomen Challenge, a two-day event focused on inspiring more women to enter the cyber security industry.
* The Optimizing Cyber Security program, the objective of which is to build a replicable and scalable mechanism that helps the countries to design a road map for accelerating their cybernetic maturity following Oxford University’s Cyber Security Capabilities Maturity Model methodology.

1. ***Strengthening of weapons of mass destruction non-proliferation regimes, including implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)***

Purposes:

To promote a universal, genuine, and non-discriminatory regime for disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as their delivery systems, and in particular to support the member states in the effective implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) through technical and legislative assistance to strengthen regulatory frameworks, internal control mechanisms, and exports and dual-use materials control lists.

Activities proposed:

* Dissemination activities (knowledge in the field of non-proliferation of WMD, threats, instruments, and international obligations, inter alia).
* Strengthening of the points of contact network on Resolution 1540 (2004) in the region.
* Training for government officials, laboratory personnel, scientists, and academics in biosafety and biosecurity through two massive open on-line courses (MOOC) that will be available to all Spanish-speaking countries in the region.
* Research on the status of biosafety and biosecurity with the specific cases approach in the region.
* Legislative assistance to strengthen internal regulatory frameworks in line with Resolution 1540 (2004).
* National training sessions on biosafety and biosecurity for laboratory personnel.
* Peer review exercises.
* Raising public and private sector awareness regarding the threats of weapons of mass destruction, particularly among those engaged in foreign trade operations in free zones.
* Technical publications on issues of relevance for the region.

1. ***Prevention of violent extremism***

Purpose:

To support the member states in their efforts to promote hemispheric dialogue, regional cooperation, and to strengthen capacities for preventing violent extremism that may lead to terrorism, as established in the mandates of the OAS General Assembly and the CICTE and in line with relevant international instruments.

Activities proposed:

* Identification of experts and institutions specializing in the prevention of violent extremism, which may contribute to hemispheric dialogue in the CICTE context and potentially form a network of the region’s experts.
* Organization of forums, seminars, workshops, and other activities to facilitate greater understanding of the phenomenon of violent extremism and its manifestations, as well as the threat it poses and the need to prevent it.
* Participation in specialized encounters on the study of current and emerging trends in the area of preventing violent extremism.
* Support on sharing of information and experiences to prevent and respond to the challenges that extreme violence poses and particularly on recruitment, propaganda, and radicalization (on- and off-line).
* Support for development/strengthening of technical capacities for preventing and addressing violent extremism.

1. ***Border security (air, land, sea)***

**Maritime protection**

Purpose:

To support the strengthening of maritime and port security capacities through specialized activities at the national and regional level, with a targeted methodology, in consultation with the stakeholders involved in the development of port protection capacities and in close coordination with other specialized international organizations such as the International Maritime Organization.

Activities proposed:

* Support for the development and implementation of maritime protection strategies at the national and subregional level.
* Facilitation of the sharing of information, best practices, and international cooperation among governments, the private sector, and civil society, as well as with other international and regional organizations on the subject of maritime and port security.
* Organization of national, subregional, and regional workshops and conferences on a wide range of maritime protection topics, including the development of maritime protection committees, maritime risk assessments at the national level, and the development of maritime protection strategies.
* Implementation of initiatives intended to reduce the employment gap for women working in the maritime sector.
* Preparation and dissemination of reports on regional trends and problems in maritime and port security, including the protection of port facilities.

**Aviation security**

Purpose**:**

Support for strengthening installed capacity for compliance with the standards and practices recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Convention on International Civil Aviation, particularly Annex 17 – Aviation Security: protecting international civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference, and other recommendations for protecting international civil aviation from possible acts of terrorism.

Activities proposed:

* Training of personnel with operational responsibility and key actors for the security of civil aviation regarding the identification and mitigation of internal and external threats in the civil aviation sector. This includes strengthening capacities to deal with internal threats at airports, high- and low-tech threats, Man-Portable Air-defense Systems(MANPADS), and national access controls, inter alia.
* Raising the awareness of subregional authorities in the aviation security sector regarding internal threats to security in this sector in order to facilitate the sharing of good practices intended to mitigate threats and promote a culture of security.
* Training for personnel with operational responsibility and key actors in aviation security on the standards and good practices recommended by the ICAO, with particular attention to access control requirements.
* Training for customs authorities, cargo inspectors, and other relevant actors on the identification and mitigation of risks in the air cargo supply chain.
* Sharing of good practices and lessons learned in the context of aviation security through a hemispheric workshop for those in charge of the aviation sector’s public policies in the region.
* Establishment of a network of national focal points for aviation security, for the purpose of promoting more effective coordination and the exchange of information and good practices between police authorities and national, regional, and international organizations.
* Strengthening of gender perspective standards in aviation security policies.

**Cargo and container security**

Purpose**:**

Support the member states in strengthening cargo and transport methods security mechanisms, particularly customs procedures, control, inspection, and interdiction of cross-border shipments and their means of transport.

Activities proposed:

* Development of virtual introductory courses on cargo security at land borders.
* Development of biosafety course for customs and border security officials on the appropriate use of the equipment needed to address the pandemic.
* Donation of personal protective equipment for five member states.
* Development of subregional and regional virtual forums on the subject of customs and security of cross-border goods.
* Creation of a regional list of experts to serve as national and international instructors certified on the subject to support this program and other initiatives in the region, strengthening in turn the professional profile of officials and encouraging regional coordination and cooperation and the exchange of good practices and lessons learned.
* Support for member states as requested regarding the design and implementation of biosafety protocols to be applied by customs and other agencies controlling cross-border goods at national land, air, and maritime points of access.
* On-site analysis and technical evaluation missions at land, air, and maritime borders to identify vulnerabilities and strategies for optimizing processes to inspect and control cargo and their means of transport.
* Strengthening of the interdiction capacities of customs, law enforcement, and other security agencies operating in key free zones.
* Development of publications on the current security status of cargo and containers in the Hemisphere, recent trends, and possible vulnerabilities in the supply chain.
* Initiatives on raising awareness and training courses regarding gender gaps and the challenges, strategies, and tools for the empowerment of women officials in those agencies.

**Supply chain security / Authorized Economic Operator**

Purpose:

To support the strengthening of supply chain security through authorized economic operators that generate certainty for customs officials and facilitate trade for companies, consistent with the guidelines considered in the SAFE framework of the World Customs Organization.

Activities proposed:

* National evaluations and development of work plans for identification of technical assistance to customs, as well as for strengthening cooperation and inter-institutional coordination with other border control government agencies.
* Activities related to the identification of legal gaps or inter-institutional obstacles, with particular attention to commercial operators in the free trade areas (free zones).
* Subregional training workshop for customs and other government agencies to increase understanding of the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear terrorism, to close capacity gaps at all levels, to improve communication within agencies, and/or consider granting specialized benefits for certified trade operators under the rules of the Authorized Economic Operators Program.
* Subregional workshop of the Authorized Economic Operators Program to share best practices in supply chain security and to help ensure and optimize the regional and global supply chain.
* Promotion of Authorized Economic Operators certification among free zone economic operators.
* Virtual training for private sector entities in the beneficiary states to identify challenges, possible solutions, opportunities, and benefits in coordination with chambers of commerce, trade facilitation agencies, and subregional or global international organizations.
* Validation exercise regarding the priorities of national customs administrations with respect to economic and/or commercial operators developing their operations in free zones.

***E. Crowded spaces security, including tourist destinations and large events***

Purpose:

To help strengthen existing capacities, inter-institutional coordination, and hemispheric cooperation to protect vulnerable targets and crowded spaces, including tourist destinations and large events, from possible terrorist threats.

Activities proposed:

* Support for the development of national tourism security and large event security strategies.
* Specialized training for the implementation of tourist and large events security protocols, as well as the standardization of biosafety protocols.
* Consolidation of the national focal points network of the large events security and tourism security program.
* Redesign of the knowledge management system of IPO Américas, a regional initiative launched in 2007 by the OAS and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute to strengthen cooperation among the OAS member states in the context of large events security.
* Updating of the large events security planning model – IPO Manual and Public-Private Partnerships Model for Large Events Security Planning.
* Design of the large events security planning model – electronic version
* Compilation of recommendations and key findings on the gender perspective for tourism and large events security.

***F. Technical and legislative assistance against the financing of terrorism***

Purpose:

To support the member states as requested in combating terrorism and its financing through the implementation of a legislative framework consistent with their legal obligations, international standards, and effective prevention and detection systems in the area of money laundering and terrorism financing.

Activities proposed:

* Provision of technical and legislative assistance to the member states as requested for updating their internal legal frameworks in the area of money laundering/terrorism financing in accordance with related international instruments and the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
* Assistance to OAS member states in developing effective systems for the implementation of targeted financial sanctions and systems for the development of domestic lists, in accordance with international instruments.
* Support for the development of capacities of national officials and institutions on special investigative techniques, prosecution, and other tools consistent with international standards in this area.
* Specialized training of analysts in financial intelligence units, officials of financial regulatory/supervisory institutions, and representatives of the private sector to promote cooperation among the different stakeholders involved in the investigation and prosecution of money laundering and terrorism financing cases at the national and regional level.
* Facilitation of the exchange of information, best practices, and international cooperation among the member states as an essential element in combating terrorism financing.
* Conduct of workshops and virtual forums directed to government officials and members of the private sector on emerging threats in the area of terrorism financing, as well as detection, prevention, and judicial investigation methods, as applicable.
* Publication on the links between transnational organized crime and terrorism, in collaboration with the Department against Transnational Organized Crime and the Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute of the United Nations (UNICRI).

***G. Inter-American Network against Terrorism***

Purpose:

To facilitate the exchange of timely information to prevent and counteract terrorism in the region, as well as to strengthen the links of cooperation among designated persons and institutions. The network is formed with the (voluntary) participation of the OAS member states and has a secure access directory of institutional contacts designated by the member states, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Activities proposed:

* Organization of virtual quarterly meetings and at least one in-person meeting if health conditions permit, to facilitate the exchange of information and good practices among the member states that make up the network.
* Exchange of experiences with other multilateral organizations that have similar networks.
* Organization of a high-level regional meeting promoting the Inter-American Network against Terrorism, in which the regional leadership role of the CICTE in combating terrorism can be emphasized.

**III. Outreach: communications, consultations, cooperation**

The CICTE Secretariat will continue to hold periodic consultations with relevant authorities in the OAS member states for the programing and implementation of its activities. It will also continue to work closely with the Permanent Observers at the OAS.

The CICTE Secretariat will continue to strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms with the United Nations system and its specialized agencies, as well as with other international and regional organizations. It will also maintain its links of cooperation with civil society organizations, the private sector, and other strategic partners.

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