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

TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR PERIOD OF SESSIONS OEA/Ser.L/X.2.22

July 27, 2022 CICTE/INF.8/22

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CLOSING REMARKS BY MRS. ALISON AUGUST TREPPEL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE),

AT THE TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR PERIOD SESSIONS

JULY 27, 2022

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**presented by Ms. Alison August Treppel,**

**Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism**

Thank you all so much for participating in and contributing to this intensive, yet informative session. It’s been wonderful to see many of your faces on the screen throughout the course of the day, but after three virtual annual meetings, I do hope that next year we will be able to see each other across the table.

Regardless, please know that whether virtually or in person the Secretariat will continue to work with you all to promote the mission of this important Committee to the best of our ability. And with your recent approval of our Work Plan for the year ahead, I can anticipate that it will be a busy year for sure.

In particular, I do believe that, as we continue to re-engage in a post-pandemic world, and confront numerous geo-political and economic challenges, we will absolutely need to focus greater efforts on better securing our region’s supply chain, and on mitigating the impact of costly cyber incidents and attacks. And now that we are once again traveling and beginning to congregate in large spaces, we also need to bolster our efforts to secure air travel, tourist destinations and event locales. Our work plan and the resolutive paragraphs you have just approved clearly reflect those priority areas.

But the Secretariat will continue advance all of our programmatic areas, including strengthening all aspects of border management, preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism finance, and ensuring that our region is taking all efforts necessary to prevent CBRN materials from falling into the hands of malicious actors.

Of course, all this good and important work is only possible because of CICTE’s incredible team, which I have been privileged to lead now for nearly 6 years. You don’t always get to see or hear from those who work behind the scenes, but please trust me when I say that every result and every accomplishment you have heard about today is because of their work, commitment and dedication to the goals of this Committee. I am truly honored to work with each and every single one of them.

I am also proud that our work contributes to the strategic objectives of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, which is now in the very capable hands of my new boss, Luis Oliveira, who graciously helped inaugurate our session today. As one of SMS’s longest-serving staff members, please know that I am committed to not only ensuring that the work of CICTE responds to the region’s evolving terrorist threats, but also that it is well aligned with the Organization’s broader security agenda.

Before I conclude, I just wanted to make a brief reference to a separate, yet related event coming up. The meeting of consultation of States Party to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism will take place in just six short weeks. The Group of Experts meeting, which will be a technical preparatory type meeting will take place in person, at OAS Headquarters on September 8-9. The high level, Ministerial meeting will take place virtually, using this same Kudo platform on Monday, September 12.

States Party, signatory states and invited guests will come together for the first time in twenty years to celebrate the adoption of this landmark convention, to reflect on its implementation over the past 2 decades, and to define the road ahead.

Both the Convention and this Committee are integral parts of the Inter-American architecture to prevent and counter terrorism. And so, much like your participation here today, we hope all will participate actively and enthusiastically in those September meetings.

With that, I’d like to thank the Government of Guyana, and in particular Mr. James Singh, for his astute leadership of the Committee over the past year. I hope that we can continue fostering the kind of proactive, practical cooperation measures that Mr. Singh so enthusiastically pursued over the past year.

And, of course, we look forward to supporting the Government of Mexico, and the Government of Argentina, in guiding the work of this Committee in the year ahead as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. We have had the pleasure of working closely with Mexico in recent years, particularly on the issues of maritime security, cybersecurity, and more recently violent extremism, and I am confident that all of our programming areas will continue to thrive under their leadership.

My thanks again for your support of this Committee and its Secretariat. Please continue to follow us on our social media accounts and on our webpage to stay informed of our activities, our strategic partners and any CICTE-related updates. We definitely want to keep you apprised of the good work we are doing.

Finally, a quick note of thank to the great interpreters and the conferences support team for helping us to cross the finish line today.

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