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

TWENTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION OEA/Ser.L/X.2.23

May 17-18, 2023 CICTE/doc.8/23

Mexico City 20 September 2023

 Original: Spanish

**REPORT ON THE TWENTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

(Prepared by the CICTE Secretariat)

**Introduction**

 The twenty-third regular session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) was held in Mexico City on May 17 and 18, 2023, using a hybrid format.

 The central topic for the regular session was “Trends, challenges, and practices in preventing and addressing terrorism and violent extremism that could lead to terrorism.”

 The meeting also considered and adopted the Committee’s annual report and its work plan for the 2023-2024 period.

 The meeting was attended by delegations from OAS member states and representatives of permanent observers. Representatives of international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, and special guests also participated.

 The meeting documents are available online at:

[OAS:: CICTE: Twenty-third regular session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (oas.org)](https://www.oas.org/en/sms/cicte/sessions/regular/2023/documents.asp)

**Inaugural ceremony**

 The inaugural ceremony of the twenty-third regular session of CICTE was held on May 17.

 The ceremony was attended by Ambassador Luz Elena Baños, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS, in her capacity as Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism; and by Mr. Luis Fernando Lima Oliveira, the OAS’s Secretary for Multidimensional Security, representing the General Secretariat.

 Also in attendance were Mr. Raffi Gregorian, Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism; and Mr. Irving Palacios, Technical Secretary of Mexico’s High-Level Specialized Committee on Disarmament, Terrorism, and International Security (CANDESTI).

 The speeches made by Ambassador Baños, Secretary Lima Oliveira, and Mr. Gregorian from the United Nations were distributed to the delegations as information document [CICTE/INF.4/23](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CICTE01636T03.docx).

**First plenary session**

 The first plenary session was held on May 17. On that occasion, the delegations dealt with the following items:

1. **Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda for the twenty-third regular session**

The draft agenda was submitted for the member states’ consideration and was adopted without modifications. The approved agenda was distributed as document [CICTE/doc.2/23 rev. 1](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/english/HIST_23/CICTE01633e03.docx).

1. **Consideration and adoption of the draft schedule of the twenty-third regular session**

The draft schedule was submitted for the member states’ consideration and was adopted without modifications. The approved schedule was distributed as document [CICTE/doc.3/23 rev. 2](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/english/HIST_23/CICTE01634e03.docx).

**Second plenary session**

 The second plenary session was held on May 17 and 18. During the session, the delegations considered the following item:

1. **Topic: “Trends, challenges, and practices in preventing and addressing terrorism and violent extremism that could lead to terrorism”**

The central topic of the regular session was addressed in accordance with the concept note, which was distributed as document [CICTE/INF.2/23](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/english/HIST_23/CICTE01626e03.docx). Four thematic panel sessions and a segment focused on strategic partnerships were held.

**Panel session 1: Trends, challenges, and practices in preventing and addressing terrorism and violent extremism that could lead to terrorism**

The first panel session featured presentations by the following specialists:

* Sharri R. Clark Ph.D., Senior Advisor for Cyber and Countering Violent Extremism, Bureau of Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State.
* Kelly Eubank, Senior Policy Advisor, Canada Centre for Community Engagement and Prevention of Violence, Public Safety Canada.
* Nicola Mathieson Ph.D., Research Director, Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET), and Research Fellow, International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR), King’s College London.
* Alejandra Pérez, Technical Expert at the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT), who spoke on issues related to ethnically or racially motivated terrorism financing.

Ms. Clark’s presentation was distributed to the delegations as information document [CICTE/INF.9/23](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CICTE01641T03.docx). The presentations by Ms. Eubank, Ms. Mathieson, and Ms. Pérez were distributed to the delegations as information document [CICTE/INF.5/23](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CICTE01637T03.docx).

The first panel session was moderated by Mr. Roberto A. De León Huerta, Coordinator for Political Affairs and Peacekeeping at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.

A video message from Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh, Chair of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the UN, was shown at the conclusion of the first panel session. The video message can be seen at [pre-recorded video message](http://scm.oas.org/Pdfs/2023/CICTE01637T01-6.mp4).

The delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Guatemala spoke about the session’s central topic and the importance of strengthening hemispheric cooperation in this area. The texts of the remarks made by Argentina and Guatemala were distributed as information document [CICTE/INF.8/23](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CICTE01640T03.docx) and are also available on the meeting documents web page.

**Panel session 2: The human rights perspective in preventing terrorism and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism**

The second panel session featured presentations by the following specialists:

* Ambassador Georgina Guillén, Director General of Foreign Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica.
* Hilary Anderson, Senior Specialist, Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), OAS.

The presentations by Ambassador Guillén and Ms. Anderson were distributed to the delegations as information document [CICTE/INF.5/23](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CICTE01637T03.docx).

The second panel session was moderated by Mr. Gerardo Rodríguez Sánchez Lara, Director of the Department of International Relations and Political Science, University of the AmericasPuebla, *Colectivo de Análisis de Seguridad con Democracia* (CASEDE), Mexico.

The delegations of Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, and the United States shared comments on the panel session’s central theme.

**Panel session 3: Diplomacy and international cooperation to strengthen security policies and policies to prevent terrorism and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism, in the context of major sports events**

The third panel session featured presentations by the following specialists:

* Alfonso Zegbe, Executive Director for Strategy and Public Diplomacy, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.
* Maj. Fabiam Aquileo Galán Palacios, National Police of Colombia.
* Lt. Col. Rafael Cares Sepúlveda, Carabineros of Chile.
* Callixtus Joseph, Regional Crime and Security Strategy Coordinator, CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS).
* Helmut Spahn, Director of Security, FIFA.

The presentations made during this panel session were distributed to the delegations as information document [CICTE/INF.5/23](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CICTE01637T03.docx).

The third panel session was moderated by Mr. Duccio Mazarese, Program Officer, United Nations Institute for Crime and Justice Research (UNICRI).

The delegations shared comments on panel sessions 3 and 4 after the conclusion of both segments.

**Panel session 4: The impact of sports in the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism**

The fourth panel session featured presentations by the following specialists:

* Juan Sebastián Bayona, Director of Cultural Affairs (a.i.), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.
* J. Simon Rofe Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds.
* Isabella Echeverri, Save the Dream Ambassador, professional association footballer, Colombia.
* Abraham Múñoz, CEO, Educación para Compartir, Mexico.
* Massimiliano Montanari, CEO, International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS).

The presentations made during this panel session were distributed to the delegations as information document [CICTE/INF.5/23](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CICTE01637T03.docx).

The fourth panel session was moderated by Ms. Paola Fernández, Program Manager, Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE).

The delegations of Argentina, Chile, and the United States offered comments on the central themes of panel sessions 3 and 4.

**Strategic partnerships to prevent terrorism and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism**

The segment on strategic partnerships included a presentation by Mr. Danilo Gelman, Director of Operations of the Latin American Jewish Congress.

The delegation of Argentina gave a statement on this segment’s topic.

**Third plenary session**

 The third plenary session was held on May 18. At the third plenary, the delegations dealt with the following items:

1. **Presentation of the decisions taken at the First Meeting of Consultation of the States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism**

Ambassador Gustavo Adrianzén, Permanent Representative of Peru to the OAS and Chair of the First Meeting of Consultation of the States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, sent a video message covering the decisions adopted at that meeting.

1. **Efforts made by member states during 2022 to prevent and counter terrorism**

The delegations of Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Paraguay, Suriname, and the United States spoke about their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism during 2022.

1. **National coordination mechanisms to prevent and counter terrorism**

This segment included presentations by the following government specialists:

* Irving Palacios, Technical Secretary of the High-Level Specialized Committee on Disarmament, Terrorism, and International Security (CANDESTI), Mexico.
* Ambassador Ramón Quiñónes, Director for Security and Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic and CICTE National Contact Point. His presentation was distributed to the delegations as document [CICTE/INF.6/23](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CICTE01638T03.docx).
* James Singh, Head of the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit of Guyana and CICTE National Contact Point. His presentation was distributed to the delegations as document [CICTE/INF.6/23](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CICTE01638T03.docx).
* Raúl Torres, Head of the Anti-Terrorist Coordination Area at the Ministry of the Interior of Spain.

The session was moderated by Ms. Alison Treppel, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.

**Fourth plenary session**

 The fourth plenary session was held on May 18. At the fourth plenary, the delegations dealt with the following items:

1. **Consideration and adoption of the Annual Report of the CICTE Secretariat on activities carried out in 2022**

Ms. Alison August Treppel, Executive Secretary of CICTE, presented the member states with a summary of the Committee’s main achievements over the past year.

Ms. Treppel’s presentation was distributed as information document [CICTE/INF.7/23.](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CICTE01639T03.docx) The delegations considered and approved the Annual Report of the CICTE Secretariat. The report was distributed as document [CICTE/doc.4/23 rev. 2](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/english/HIST_23/CICTE01635e03.docx).

The delegations of Chile, the Dominican Republic, and the United States addressed the meeting and thanked the CICTE Secretariat for its support.

1. **Consideration and adoption of the 2023-2024 CICTE Work Plan**

The Deputy Executive Secretary of CICTE, Ms. Violanda Botet, presented the member states with a summary of the work plan proposed for the coming year. Her presentation was distributed as information document [CICTE/INF.7/23](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CICTE01639T03.docx).

The delegations considered and adopted the 2023-2024 Work Plan proposed by the CICTE Secretariat. The work plan was distributed as document [CICTE/doc.5/23 rev. 1](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/english/HIST_23/CICTE01642e03.docx).

1. **Presentation of the report on the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation and Confidence-building Measures in Cyberspace**

The delegation of Mexico, in its capacity as Chair of the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation and Confidence-building Measures in Cyberspace, presented the meeting report. The report was distributed as document [CICTE/GT/MFCC/doc.5/22](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/english/HIST_23/CICTE01572E05.docx).

The delegation of the Dominican Republic thanked Mexico for presenting the report and requested that it be distributed as an information document for the delegations at this regular session of the Committee.

1. **Consideration and approval of the paragraphs for the draft omnibus resolution on multidimensional security**

The Chair of CICTE presented, for the member states’ consideration and approval, the proposed text to be forwarded to the Committee on Hemispheric Security for inclusion in the omnibus resolution on multidimensional security.

The delegations approved the proposed text and agreed to convey it to the Committee on Hemispheric Security for inclusion in the draft omnibus resolution to be considered by the next regular session of the OAS General Assembly.

The text of CICTE’s proposals for the omnibus resolution was distributed as document [CICTE/doc.6/23 rev. 2](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/english/HIST_23/CICTE01643e03.docx).

1. **Date and place of the twenty-fourth regular session**

The delegations agreed that the twenty-fourth meeting of CICTE would be held during the first half of 2024.

1. **Election of officers**

The delegation of Canada proposed that Chile be elected to serve as Chair of CICTE for the 2023-2024 period. Chile was elected by acclamation.

Mexico, as the current Chair of CICTE, reported on the interest expressed by the delegation of Ecuador to serve as Vice Chair of CICTE for the 2023-2024 term. Ecuador was elected by acclamation.

1. **Other business**

The Chair asked if there were any other matters to be considered by the meeting.

The delegation of the Dominican Republic requested information on the meeting of the Inter-American Counterterrorism Network to be held parallel to the twenty-third regular session of CICTE. The delegation also said that it was important for the CICTE Secretariat to channel communications through the countries’ ministries of foreign affairs and permanent missions to the OAS.

In reply, the Executive Secretary of CICTE said that the planned meeting of the Inter-American Counterterrorism Network was to be held in accordance with a series of previously determined criteria and was by invitation only. With regard to the CICTE Secretariat’s communications with the member states, the Executive Secretary noted that in keeping with the Committee’s Statute, all communications must be channeled through the national contact points and that, for this reason, a courtesy copy was sent to the relevant mission.

There being no other matters for consideration, the Chair closed the fourth plenary session and proceeded with the closing session of the twenty-third regular session of CICTE.

**Closing session**

 The closing session of the twenty-third regular session of CICTE was held on May 18.

 Mexico was represented by Ambassador Luz Elena Baños, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS, and Mr. Roberto A. De León Huerta, Coordinator for Political Affairs and Peacekeeping at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs. The OAS General Secretariat was represented by Ms. Alison Treppel, Executive Secretary of CICTE.

 Secretary Treppel thanked the host country for its generosity and efforts in hosting the twenty-third regular session; she also thanked the attending delegations and the entire technical team.