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

TWENTY-THIRD REGULAR PERIOD OF SESSIONS OEA/Ser.L/X.2.23

May 17-18, 2023 CICTE/INF. 2/23

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CONCEPT PAPER

TWENTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE

INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM

"Trends, challenges, and practices in preventing and addressing terrorism

and violent extremism that is conducive to terrorism"

May 17 and 18, 2023

 Mexico City, Mexico

The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) will hold its twenty-third regular session in Mexico City on May 17 and 18, 2023, as agreed in resolution [CP/RES. 1216 (2419/23] and as stipulated in General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2986 (LII-O/22), “Advancing Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach.” The proposed focus of the regular session is as follows: **"Trends, challenges, and practices in preventing and addressing terrorism and violent extremism that is conducive to terrorism."**

**Background**

For more than two decades, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) has been a pioneer in addressing current and emerging issues in preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism. An example of this is the adoption of the Declaration "Strengthening Hemispheric Efforts to Address and Counter Violent Extremism that is conducive to Terrorism," adopted by the Committee during its Eighteenth Regular Session in May 2018.

The OAS General Assembly resolutions on "Promoting Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach" adopted between 2020 and 2022 recognized in various ways the usefulness of promoting discussions at the regional level on the importance of preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism, with the aim of strengthening hemispheric cooperation and capabilities to address this threat to international peace and security. These mandates have been reflected in the concrete lines of action proposed and implemented by the CICTE Executive Secretariat in its respective Annual Report for 2022 and Work Plan 2023-2024.

In addition, during the first Meeting of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, which took place in September 2022, the States reiterated the need to take measures to improve regional coordination and cooperation in order to reduce the impact of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations. Among the recommendations made by the States Parties are specific aspects aimed at preventing, mitigating, and combating the scourges of terrorism and violent extremism online.

**Rationale**

Terrorism and violent extremism are complex and evolving threats that do not distinguish between borders, religion, or ethno-racial origin. They are neither isolated nor static phenomena, so their constant evolution brings with it a multiplicity of challenges that demand comprehensive prevention, response, and mitigation strategies.

The transition from radicalization to violence is an imminent threat all over the world. Individuals and/or terrorist or extremist groups may emerge and grow in different territories, taking advantage of marginalized groups or of the discontent experienced by a variety of individuals or groups in a society. Terrorists or extremists may also at any time nurture public fears associated with particular junctures - such as the COVID-19 pandemic and other issues - to incite violence.

The populations of OAS member states have been victims of small, medium, and large-scale terrorist acts. Paradoxically, addressing violent extremism conducive to terrorism could still be considered relatively new in the spectrum of multidimensional security issues that are usually at the forefront of discussion at the regional level. Therefore, the theme proposed by the Chair aims to strengthen hemispheric dialogue on the phenomenon of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and its various manifestations, from an integral and holistic perspective that prioritizes prevention, knowledge of the progress made in the past five years at the regional level, the exchange of information on specialized tools and available mechanisms -including sports- and the identification of concrete possibilities for hemispheric cooperation.

This will take into account the progress made at the global level within the framework of the United Nations and, in particular, the proposals put forward a no in the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, the *Christchurch Call to Action*, the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1989 (2011), 2253 (2015), the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the UN General Assembly resolution: Measures to eliminate international terrorism, the mandates of the OAS General Assembly, and other advances. Efforts to prevent terrorism and violent extremism shall also take into account, as a cross-cutting theme, discussions on international human rights standards, including the implementation of a gender perspective, in efforts to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

**Proposed topics for discussion**

Panel 1: Trends, challenges, and practices in recruitment, propaganda, and violent radicalization conducive to terrorism.

Panel 2: The human rights perspective in efforts to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

Panel 3: International cooperation during major events for the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism.

Panel 4: The impact of sport on the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism.

**Format**

Hybrid, with in-person participants from member states, as well as virtual participation through the KUDO platform for those who prefer it.

**Expected Outcomes**

Expected outcomes for this meeting include:

1. The holding of the Twenty-third regular session of CICTE.
2. Generation of an opportunity for dialogue that addresses current, emerging, and cross-cutting issues related to preventing and addressing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.
3. Identification of areas of support to deal with the changing nature of the scourge of terrorism and, in particular, violent extremism and its various manifestations.
4. Boosting the impact of existing programs-projects in the area of CICTE and hemispheric cooperation.
5. Strengthening the capacities of the National Coordination Mechanisms to Prevent and Counter Terrorism, in order to improve strategies for detecting existing and potential threats to peace and security in the Hemisphere.

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