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

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Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

(Agreed during the second preparatory meeting held on April 5, 2024)

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1. **Introduction**

The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) 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 with the purpose of promoting and developing cooperation among Member States to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism. This Annual Report is submitted 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.

1. **Legal and political framework**

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

The Inter-American Convention against Terrorism was adopted in Bridgetown, Barbados on 3 June 2002 and entered into force on 10 July 2003. The Convention is a legally binding instrument aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

The General Secretariat of the OAS is the entity in charge of the custody of the Convention. To date, 24 OAS member states have ratified the Convention.[[1]](#footnote-2) The first Meeting of Consultation of States Parties to the Convention was held on 12 September 2022, as provided for in Article 18 of the Convention.

**Meetings of CICTE and its subsidiary bodies**

 The 23rd Regular Session of CICTE was held on 17 and 18 May 2023 in Mexico City thanks to the generous financial support of the Government of Mexico. The meeting was held in hybrid format. The central theme of the meeting was “Trends, challenges and practices in preventing and addressing terrorism and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism”.

 During the regular session, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism and recognized its 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 Chile and Ecuador to serve as the Committee’s Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for the period 2023-2024.

Member States also approved the text to be included in the omnibus resolution on multidimensional security. All regular session documents are available on the website of the Committee Secretariat, link: <https://www.oas.org/en/sms/cicte/sessions/regular/2023/>

The Working Group on Cooperation and Confidence-Building Measures in Cyberspace, a subsidiary group of CICTE, did not meet during 2023. The Fifth Meeting of the Group is expected to take place in the first half of 2024.

**Meetings of OAS political bodies**

 The Executive Secretariat participated actively in the sessions of the political bodies of the OAS and, in particular, of the Permanent Council and the Commission on Hemispheric Security, when issues within the Committee’s competence were addressed.

**Inter-American Day Against Terrorism**

The OAS General Assembly, through its 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 the Inter-American Day against Terrorism. That date coincides with the day on which the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism was signed.

During 2023, the Secretariat supported OAS Member States in commemorating the Inter-American Day against Terrorism, which took place as part of a session of the Commission on Hemispheric Security, with the participation of the CICTE Presidency.

**Coordination with the United Nations system**

The CICTE Secretariat facilitated coordination of efforts with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540. Of note is the participation of the Chair of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee during the 23rd regular session of CICTE and the active participation of the Chair of the 1540 Committee, as well as experts of the Committee, in the activities organized by the CICTE Secretariat on this subject.

As part of the coordination of efforts between the United Nations global system and the Inter-American system in the field of preventing and combating terrorism, the CICTE Secretariat coordinated closely with the specialized bodies of the United Nations system and, in particular, with the Executive Directorate of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN CTED), the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT), and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) during the year.

The CICTE Secretariat participated in the Third High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies that took place in New York on 19 and 20 June 2023. The Conference addressed as its central theme “Addressing terrorism through reinvigorated multilateralism and institutional cooperation”*.* The Conference was part of UN Counter-Terrorism Week, a bi-annual event involving Member States and specialized institutions in the field, from 19 to 23 June 2023. Within the framework of this meeting, the CICTE Secretariat - together with UN CTED, UNICRI and the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations - organized a side event on the “Nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism in Latin America.”

During 2023, the CICTE Secretariat designated for the first time, focal points for the United Nations Global Counterterrorism Coordination Compact. This initiative facilitates coordination and cooperation between various entities working on the prevention and fight against terrorism at global, regional and national levels.

As part of the existing close collaboration between the CICTE Secretariat and UN CTED, the CICTE Secretariat designated a specialist to participate in the visit of UN CTED – on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee – to Ecuador from 23 to 27 October 2023. These visits are aimed at promoting and facilitating the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019) and other relevant Council resolutions.

1. **Main programs**

In accordance with the Work Plan approved by the OAS Member States for the period 2023-2024, the CICTE Secretariat advanced implementation of projects in virtual, hybrid and face-to-face format. The Secretariat articulated efforts with other specialized international agencies to promote synergies and avoid duplication.

The Committee’s programs addressed the following priority areas: cybersecurity; disarmament and non-proliferation, particularly through the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004); border security (air, sea and land), security in the supply chain; security of crowded spaces; prevention of violent extremism; and technical assistance to prevent terrorist financing. In addition, the Secretariat continued to promote the development of information-sharing tools, the operation of specialized networks, and the exchange of practices and experiences in the Committee’s areas of competence, including the Inter-American Network against Terrorism.

During 2023, the CICTE Secretariat implemented 13 projects in the above-mentioned priority program areas. Specifically, the projects sought to promote capacity building, the formulation of policies or strategies, and the generation of knowledge and exchange of good practices. The full list of projects under way during 2023 is available as Annex 4 to this report. As a result, the CICTE Secretariat offered an estimated 100+ training courses, trained about 8,000 people, produced 7 thematic publications, and maintained 4 specialized hemispheric networks. All Member States benefited from one or more activities offered by the Secretariat.

This report includes a synthesis of the main results achieved in each of the priority areas of work during 2023. It also includes a consolidated list of events and publications by the various program areas of the Secretariat during the year indicated.

**Cybersecurity**

The cybersecurity program contributed to the strengthening of OAS Member States’ capacity to prevent, address and recover from cyber threats through technical cooperation to develop cybersecurity policies, regulatory frameworks and strategies; to strengthen the technical capabilities of computer incident response teams (CSIRTs); and to promote public awareness and knowledge on cybersecurity issues.

As part of the activities carried out in 2023, the Cybersecurity Program supported Barbados in the development of its first national cybersecurity strategy “National Cybersecurity Strategy 2023 – Creating an Enabling Cyberspace.” It also supported Costa Rica, as it did in 2017 with the first version, in the development of the second version of its strategy: “Costa Rica's National CybersecurityStrategy 2023-2027”. In both cases, the cybersecurity program also supported the development of action plans that make possible the implementation of these strategies.

 The Hemispheric Network of Computer Security Incident Response Teams known as CSIRTAmericas facilitates cooperation and coordination among CSIRTs in the Americas. The Network has 46 partner CSIRTs from 21 Member States and more than 350 specialists in the region. In 2023, the CSIRTAmericas Academy was established, which is a virtual training space that offered specialized training in the prevention, detection and response to cyber incidents for more than 345 technicians associated with the Network.

The annual edition of the Cybersecurity Summer Bootcamp 2023 was held in León, Spain from July 3 to 13 in collaboration with the host country’s National Cybersecurity Institute (INCIBE). This activity was attended by more than 300 professionals, including 87 specialists from OAS Member States.

The CICTE Secretariat – with the support of the National Cryptological Center of Spain – Information Security Incident Response Capacity (CCN-CERT) – also collaborated in the organization of the Information and Communication Technology Security Days (“*Jornadas STIC*”) that provided a space for public and private sector leaders to exchange practices and innovations in cybersecurity. The *Jornadas STIC* were held in Madrid from 28 to 30 November and were preceded by the regional version of the event held in the Dominican Republic from 19 to 21 April.

For the first time in person since the pandemic, the annual Cybersecurity Symposium was held in the Bahamas from October 18 to 19, in collaboration with the National CSIRT of The Bahamas, and brought together more than 200 professionals from the region. During the symposium, public and private sector professionals discussed the latest trends in cybersecurity and the exchange of best practices in cybersecurity. Artificial Intelligence was identified as a new tool that can provide great solutions in the world of digitalization but that also poses great challenges as it can be used by cybercriminals to commit crimes.

The CICTE Secretariat participated in the Regional Meeting for Cybersecurity Training organized by the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) and held in Costa Rica on June 5, 2023. GFCE promotes cooperation and knowledge sharing among cyber communities in the Americas and provides practical support to countries in their efforts to strengthen cybersecurity capabilities. CICTE accts as the GFCE regional hub.

The launch of the “SheSecures” initiative took place in August 2023. Through this initiative, which draws on the experience of the previous “Cyberwomen Challenges”, the CICTE Secretariat organizes a cybersecurity competition to promote the technical capabilities and promote the inclusion of more women in this field. The competition was held in 9 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay) and in total more than 1,200 women participated, including students, professionals and ICT specialists.

 A new edition of the program “Creating a professional career in cybersecurity” trained more than 400 university students from 10 countries of the region (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Peru). This program promotes the training and employment of students from low-income communities in careers related to information technology, through technical training in cybersecurity and soft skills. Of the 400 students trained, many of them were awarded paid internships at CSIRTAmericas and those who obtained the best score were awarded scholarships to participate in different Cybersecurity Program, events such as the Symposium or the Summer Bootcamp.

Over the course of the year, master classes on “State Responsibility and Response Options” and “Application of International Humanitarian Law to Cyber Operations” were also held, in which approximately 200 officials from OAS Member States participated. In addition, the course “Law and Standards of International Cyber Diplomacy” was carried out in collaboration with different international organizations. The course was attended by 70 government officials from most OAS member states.

The CICTE Secretariat continued with the implementation of the project “Closing the Gender Gap in the Cybersecurity Agenda of the Americas and the Caribbean” in close coordination with the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and in collaboration with specialized UN agencies. Through the project, approximately 100 public officials from the region participated in seminars on the gender dimensions of cybersecurity during the year.

CICTE also continued to work with the CIM Executive Secretariat on the development of an Inter-American model law for the eradication of online violence. In addition, it organized activities open to the general public on the importance of gender-sensitive cybersecurity. This included a series of monthly seminars called *#CyberChat4All* in which more than 1,215 people participated - and the virtual course “Our networks, our security”, with the participation of 300 people.

Also in terms of gender and cybersecurity, the *#GirlsInCyber* mentoring fair was held in Argentina on September 4, 2023. In this activity, 63 students between 18 and 25 years of age received advice on technical careers and cybersecurity. The event helped to advance implementation of the regional Women in Cybersecurity Empowerment Network (WiCE), which facilitates the exchange of experiences among female cybersecurity professionals.

In collaboration with the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), members of the armed forces of OAS Member States were trained through a virtual course held on March 13 to 16, 2023 to share open-source information through the Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP).

The CICTE Secretariat, through the Cybersecurity Program, also published a “Practical Guide for CSIRTs”, “Challenges and Strategies: Considerations on ransomware attacks in the Americas” developed in collaboration with Amazon Web Services and the “Cybersecurity Workforce Development Report” conducted in collaboration with Cisco.

During 2023, representatives of the CICTE Secretariat participated in several meetings of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) in order to foster regional perspectives to this global process. In addition, the CICTE Secretariat helped organize a briefing by the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security on the Program of Action to Advance Responsible State Behavior in the Use of ICTs. The regional consultation was conducted on 8 June 2023 in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

The CICTE Secretariat provided ongoing support to implement the measures agreed upon by OAS Member States within the framework of the Working Group on Cooperation and Confidence-Building Measures in Cyberspace, a subsidiary group of CICTE, which also provides technical secretariat services. The fifth meeting of the group is scheduled for the first quarter of 2024.

In addition, CICTE continued to implement the scholarship program for women in international security and cyberspace. These fellowships – awarded thanks to the collaboration of the government of Canada – support women’s attendance at the UN OEWG and offer training opportunities to bolster the negotiation skills of women diplomats in the region in line with the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda.

On September 26, 2023, the CICTE Secretariat organized the first internal meeting of the departments of the General Secretariat working on digital security and the protection of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), in accordance with paragraph 36 of AG/RES. 2986 (LII-O/22). Representatives from 14 dependencies of the General Secretariat participated. Among other things, representatives agreed to meet at least twice a year to strengthen internal coordination, efficiencies and effectiveness of programs and actions in this area.

**Disarmament and Non-proliferation**

The CICTE Secretariat continued to support Member States’s implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and focused particular efforts on the biological area.

During 2023, the program continued to implement the project “Strengthening biosafety and biosecurity in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery” in eight countries in the region (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay).

In the area of technical and legislative assistance, support was provided to seven countries for reviewing and updating their legal frameworks as regards to biosafety and biosecurity. Of note was Uruguay’s decision to establish an inter-agency committee as the national authority for the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and resolution 1540, as well as Chile's decision to enact a complementary regulation to the law implementing the Biological Weapons Conventions and the Chemical Weapons Convention. Other countries also advanced draft laws on the matter.

In terms of outreach and education, virtual events were held - in coordination with the University of Maryland’s National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START Consortium) - to raise awareness about biological threats, risks of biological terrorism and the level of biological security in the region. Within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed with the START Consortium, a regional study of threats to biosafety in the region was prepared, as were four specific studies for Chile, Colombia, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

Seven training workshops on biosafety and biosecurity were also held for laboratory staff and health science researchers in participating countries. The workshops were attended by more than 200 people from the public, private and academic sectors. Training workshops were held in: Asunción, Paraguay, 17–21 April; Panama City, Panama, 5–9 June; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 17–21 July; Bogotá, Colombia, 24–28 July; Buenos Aires, Argentina, 7–11 August; Montevideo, Uruguay, 8–11 August; and Santiago, Chile, 4–8 September.

In the area of regional cooperation, two peer review exercises were conducted to review existing regulatory frameworks for biosafety and biosecurity, as well as the status of compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). In 2023, the following exercises were conducted: tripartite exercises between Brazil, Chile and Mexico: Mexico City from 28 to 29 September (first round) and a bilateral exercise between Ecuador and Paraguay: Quito, Ecuador from 13 to 14 November (first round) and Asunción, Paraguay from 12 to 13 December (second round).

Exercises included a series of technical discussions, a review of legal and regulatory frameworks, and visits to places of interest to exchange experiences according to the realities of each host country. Such activities demonstrate regional cooperation on non-proliferation matters and are an example of good practice among the countries involved, as only 7 similar review exercises have been conducted at the international level under resolution 1540. The CICTE Secretariat has accompanied 5 of these 7 exercises.

The CICTE Secretariat also strengthened cooperation in this area with other organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations System, such as the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (ISU), and the 1540 Group of Experts.

Within the framework of the Biological Weapons Convention, the CICTE Secretariat participated in the Annual Meeting of States Parties, which was held from 11 to 13 December at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and coordinated a side event, together with the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN, to present the results of CICTE’s efforts to strengthen regional capacity and cooperation in this area, including the “Peer Review Exercises”.

Additionally, the CICTE Secretariat participated in forums such as the G7’s Global Partnership against the Spread and Proliferation of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, which held working meetings during 2023 under the chairmanship of Japan.

Finally, the CICTE Secretariat also collaborated at a technical level with other entities, such as the Nuclear Threat Initiative and presented its perspective on the threats to biosecurity in Latin America during the Global Biosecurity Dialogue held from November 13 to 15, 2023 in Thailand. The event brought together more than 50 experts in the field to foster global strengthening and cooperation.

**Border Security**

* **Maritime and port security**

Throughout the year, the CICTE Secretariat provided technical support to the National Port Commission of Guatemala in the development of the National Maritime Protection Strategy, with the collaboration of specialists from the International Maritime Organization, Transport Canada, the Seaport Cooperation Program (SEACOP) of the European Union, the Ibero-American Institute of Maritime Law and DOLE International. The Strategy, which is an important tool for identifying and analyzing national maritime threats and for fostering greater inter-agency collaboration and cooperation to address them, was launched in October.

 The CICTE Secretariat's maritime and port security program also participated in various maritime congresses at the regional level and advanced preparation of a new project to bolster maritime and port security in the region.

* **Aviation Safety**

The aviation security program supported capacity building to identify and counter threats to civil aviation. It also fostered greater awareness of the standards and practices recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) relating to the protection of civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference, as provided for in Annex 17 to the International Civil Aviation Convention.

As such, the CICTE Secretariat continued to implement the project “Countering the internal and external threats to civil aviation in Latin America and the Caribbean,” in close collaboration with ICAO, the United States Transportation Administration (TSA), the United States Department of State and other new institutional partners.

During 2023, the program offered three training courses to counter threats to the aviation security ecosystem (CASET). The courses were held in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Guyana in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State’s Man-Portable Air-Defense System (MANPAD) Working Group and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.CASET courses were designed to train key players in the aviation security sector on how to identify and mitigate threats to the civil aviation ecosystem. This includes internal threats, low- and high-tech threats, as well as threats from portable air defense systems.

It also organized a course on air cargo security in Colombia in collaboration with ICAO and a course on Access Control in Barbados in collaboration with TSA. A regional workshop on insider threats was held for Caribbean countries in collaboration with ICAO in Jamaica, with TSA in Chile for countries in South America and with TSA in the Dominican Republic for countries in Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Through these initiatives, the CICTE Secretariat provided specialized training to 190 officials in the field of aviation security.

In addition, in collaboration with ICAO, the program supported capacity building for customs personnel, cargo security inspectors and other relevant public and private sector officials in Colombia in identifying and mitigating risks in the cargo supply chain. This course was part of the CICTE Secretariat's efforts in the field of air cargo security.

This program promoted greater participation of women in the aviation security sector by including modules on gender perspective in select trainings. Four modules on this topic were delivered in Guatemala in May, Jamaica in June, Chile in August and Barbados in September to officers from 21 Member States in total.

The OAS-CICTE National Focal Point Network for Aviation Security, established in 2022, is comprised of participants from 27 OAS Member States and five international/regional organizations, including ICAO, the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office, the Central American Air Navigation Services Corporation (COCESNA) and the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA).

* **Cargo and container security**

The cargo and container security program continued activities to strengthen cargo security mechanisms and their means of transport, with particular focus on procedures for customs and border security agencies.

 Through this program, the CICTE Secretariat offers technical and managerial training courses, as well as inter-agency coordination activities. Training activities cover a wide range of topics, including introductory principles on air cargo safety and inspection, risk identification and analysis, container inspection, and the use of non-intrusive technologies in commercial cargo and container inspection.

A total of 220 customs officers and border security agencies from Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic were trained by the program during 2023:

* Specialized non-intrusive inspection course for customs officers (Veracruz, Mexico, March 2023).
* Virtual and face-to-face introductory course on ship and container inspection (Panama City, Panama, June 2023).
* Multi-agency coordination and technical analysis forum on the security situation of cargo and transport in ports and land borders of Costa Rica (San Jose, C.R., August 2023)
* Introductory course on intermodal cargo and container inspection for customs officers (Mexico City - September 2023).
* Customs Incident Response Exercise with a focus on Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear (CBRN) Materials (Chile and Mexico, August and September 2023)
* Virtual and face-to-face introductory course on ship and container inspection (Costa Rica, September and November 2023)
* Specialized non-intrusive inspection course for customs officers of Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, November 2023)
* Specialized non-intrusive inspection course for customs officers (San José, Costa Rica, December 2023)

The program also implemented various activities under the project “Supporting the efforts of OAS Member States to prevent, investigate and counter criminal activities related to the exploitation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants (PICAD),” which is being implemented in a coordinated manner by five areas of the organization. Under this program, the CICTE Secretariat carried out three Intermodal Cargo Inspection Courses benefiting more than 45 customs and border security officers from Ecuador (Guayaquil, November 2023), Colombia (Cartagena, December 2023) and Guyana (Georgetown, December 2023).

In addition, the Regional Workshop “Women at Borders: Experiences and Challenges” (Peru) was organized in collaboration with the National Superintendency of Customs and Tax Administration of Peru (SUNAT) in their capacity of Regional Vice President of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in July 2023 in Lima, Peru. The Workshop was attended by officials from 23 OAS Member States, as well as authorities from the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the OAS Secretariat of Multidimensional Security. Participants in the workshop established the “Regional Community of Women at the Borders of the Americas and the Caribbean” – the first such initiative in the region – to close the gender gap at all operational levels of customs throughout the hemisphere.

 **Supply Chain Security**

During 2023, the CICTE Secretariat implemented the project “Combating the illicit trade in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials in the Free Trade Zones of Latin America”, with the aim of strengthening the supply chain in the free trade zones in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay. The project also aims to strengthen regional implementation of the Authorized Economic Operator (OAS) program, an initiative based on the World Customs Organization’s Safe Framework of Standards to secure and, in turn, facilitate global trade.

The following workshops were conducted under the project in close collaboration with the customs authorities of each country:

* National Workshop on Strengthening the International Supply Chain (Santiago de Chile, January 2023). This activity was attended by 70 people from the public and private sectors and addressed the certification process of the Authorized Economic Operator program, as well as challenges to illicit trade in special economic zones in the Americas.
* National Workshop on Supply Chain Security in Free Zones (Ciudad del Este, Paraguay, March 2023). This activity was attended by 72 representatives of the private sector who discussed the importance of adopting trade compliance programs by private sector companies operating in free trade zones.
* Subregional workshop on supply chain security and border cities (Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, March 2023). This activity was attended by 15 officials from Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay and Panama and 27 participants from Brazil, to share experiences and good practices regarding supply chain security vulnerabilities, prevention against illicit trade and opportunities through the Authorized Economic Operator program, inter-agency coordination and coordinated border management between customs.
* National workshop on security challenges and opportunities in international trade (Mexico City, May 2023). 47 customs officials, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, and the Financial Intelligence Unit of Mexico participated in this activity to promote security in the supply chain against threats of dual-use materials (CBRN), money laundering, terrorist financing, and risk management.
* Seminar on Coordinated Border Management, OAS Integrated Program and Electronic Commerce Operations (Sao Paulo, Brazil, May 2023). The CICTE Secretariat co-organized this seminar with the Alliance for the Modernization and Logistics of International Trade (PROCOMEX), in partnership with the Recipe Federal do Brasil (RFB), and the Global Alliance. The seminar was attended by more than 500 representatives from the public sector (customs, health and agriculture) as well as the private sector to promote coordinated border management and the Authorized Economic Operator program.
* Specialized Interdiction Course (Asunción, Paraguay – July 2023). In this activity, 15 front-line Paraguayan Customs officials strengthened their skills and knowledge in cargo interdiction, material recognition, inspection techniques and the use of appropriate tools, with a focus on CBRN materials.
* National Workshop on Strategic Trade and Supply Chain Security in Free Trade Zones (Panama City and Colón, Panama – July 2023). With the participation of 26 free trade zone operators and academics, this workshop addressed the main supply chain risks to the private sector in Panama, including security measures for dual-use materials, illicit trade in special economic zones in Latin America, threats of CBRN materials in free trade zones, financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and financing of terrorism, and risks in foreign trade operations.
* Incident response exercise (Valparaíso, Chile – July 2023). During this exercise, incident simulations were conducted with CBRN materials, protocols, good practices, lessons learned and mitigation plans for 17 country officials.
* Incident Response Exercise (Mexico City, September 2023) During this exercise, incident simulations were conducted with CBRN materials, protocols, good practices, lessons learned and mitigation plans for 34 staff members.
* Specialized Interdiction Course (Querétaro, Mexico September 2023). This activity had 17 participants from the Ministry of the Navy of Mexico (SEMAR), who strengthened their skills and knowledge in cargo interdiction, material recognition, inspection techniques and use of appropriate tools, with a focus on CBRN materials.
* National Workshop on Supply Chain Security (Mexico City, September 2023). The workshop was attended by 102 representatives of the private sector and addressed different aspects of supply chain security and the Authorized Economic Operators Program (AEO).

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

The crowded space program continued its efforts to support the strengthening of existing capacities, inter-agency coordination, and hemispheric cooperation for the protection of vulnerable targets and crowded spaces, including tourist destinations and major events, from potential terrorist threats. More than 130 people from the public sector of 28 OAS Member States participated in diverse training activities over the course of 2023.

Specifically, the CICTE Secretariat supported the Government of Chile, as the host country for the XIX Pan American Games and the VII Parapan American Games, in its security planning efforts by training 37 people from various public and private institutions on January 23-27, 2023.

As part of efforts to facilitate information exchange at the subregional level, the “Subregional Workshop on the Safety of Major Sporting Events” was held in Mexico City from March 21 to 23, 2023 in collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Institute for Crime and Justice Research (UNICRI). Twenty-seven people from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic participated in this activity in their capacity as National Focal Points for the Major Event Security Network. The Network is comprised of representatives from 30 Member States.

At the regional level, the “Hemispheric Workshop on Security of Major Events and Tourist Destinations” was organized in Bogotá, Colombia, from July 4 to 6, 2023, in collaboration with UNICRI. The Workshop was attended by 67 officials from 24 Member States (Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay), including National Focal Points of the Major Event Security Network, as well as officials responsible for the security of tourist destinations in each country.

 With the aim of exchanging ideas and good practices in the field of tourism security, the CICTE Secretariat participated in the “III International Congress on Tourism Security and Peace Building” from September 14 to 15, 2023, organized by the National Police of Colombia.

 The CICTE Secretariat shared the results of this program during the “North American National and Regional Security Follow-up Seminar: The Strategic Future between Mexico and the United States” organized by the University of the Americas Puebla (UDLAP) from September 8 to 9, 2023 in Mexico City, as well as during the International Congress “Integral Protection, Major Events and Physical Security of Facilities: Personal and Physical Protection in Human Security” held in Medellín from November 23 to 24, 2023 and organized by the Government of Colombia.

The CICTE Secretariat participated in the international cooperation panel of the “Workshop on the operationalization of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Counterterrorism Watch List Toolkit in the Western Hemisphere” held in Santiago, Chile, November 8-9, 2023.

 Finally, to help Member States better protect crowded spaces from a comprehensive approach, the CICTE Secretariat, together with the United Nations Interregional Institute for Crime and Justice Research (UNICRI), produced the report “Security in Crowded Spaces: A Gender Perspective” and the manual “Public-Private Partnerships: An Approach to Risk Management to Confront Security Threats.”

**Preventing violent extremism**

The CICTE Secretariat continued to promote hemispheric dialogue, capacity building, and cooperation to prevent violent extremism that can lead to terrorism through the organization of three training and experience-sharing activities during 2023.

 The event “Offline Effects of Online Activity: Current Trends and Challenges in Preventing and Combating the Use of Information and Communication Technologies for Terrorist and Violent Extremist Purposes” was held in Mexico City on May 16, 2023, in collaboration with the Government of Mexico, the United Nations Office against Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Latin American Jewish Congress (CJL). The activity was held on the margins of CICTE’s 23rd Annual Meeting and was attended by 41 officials from Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

As part of efforts to promote the exchange of experiences and good practices among experts from the region, the CICTE Secretariat, together with the Latin American Jewish Congress, organized the “Meeting of Specialists on the Prevention of Terrorism and Violent Extremism” in Buenos Aires, Argentina from July 17 to 19, 2023. Nearly 70 officials from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Panama participated in this activity, which sought to identify current trends, challenges and good practices, and also promote regional alliances to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

 The workshop “Building Resilience to Violence: An Introduction to Preventing Violent Extremism” was held at OAS headquarters in Washington, DC on October 5. This activity was organized by the Secretariat of CICTE, the Latin American Jewish Congress and the University of the Americas Puebla and was aimed at diplomatic and consular officials, as well as defense and intelligence attachés of the Missions and Embassies of the Member States accredited in Washington D.C. Around 40 public officials participated in the workshop.

**Countering terrorist financing**

The CICTE Secretariat continued to support Member States in their efforts to strengthen the prevention of and fight against the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In collaboration of the United Nations Interregional Institute for Crime and Justice Research (UNICRI), the Executive Directorate of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Council (UN CTED) and the support of the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations, CICTE organized an event on “The links between organized crime and terrorism”. The event was held at UN headquarters in New York in June 2003 on the margins of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week. This event aimed to facilitate discussion on the implications of the links between organized crime and terrorism in the region, and to foster dialog among agencies charged with combating terrorism.

In October 2023, the CICTE Secretariat participated in the “United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Visit to the Republic of Ecuador.” The visit was conducted by UN CTED to review implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014) and consecutive resolutions.

The CICTE Secretariat also continued to participate in national and regional forums focused on preventing and combating the financing of terrorism, such as the “XLVII Plenary Session of Representatives and Working Groups of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT),” which took place in July 2023 in Panama City, Panama.

**Inter-American Network against Terrorism**

The Inter-American Network against Terrorism is made up of the voluntary participation of OAS Member States in order to exchange alerts/news about terrorist threats 24/7. Representatives of 20 Member States have participated in the Network. During 2023, the first face-to-face meeting of the Network was held in Mexico City, Mexico, on the margins of CICTE’s 23rd annual meeting.

The CICTE Secretariat gave a presentation of the Inter-American Counter-Terrorism Network during the Fifth Meeting of Contact Points of the 24/7 Network on Foreign Terrorist Fighters organized by the Council of Europe in Paris, France in February 2023.

In addition, the CICTE Secretariat participated as an observer in the meeting of the Council of Europe's Single Contact Point Network for the Exchange of Procedural Information on the Legal Capacity of Victims of Terrorism.

1. **Major donors**

The implementation of the CICTE Secretariat's programs and projects depends entirely on voluntary contributions from OAS Member States, permanent observers, other organizations and partners in the private and academic sector. (See Annex 3 – Consolidated list of donors and institutional partners)

 The main financial contributors to the Committee Secretariat’s programs and projects during 2023 were:

* Member States: Canada, Mexico and United States of America
* Permanent Observers: European Union, United Kingdom
* International or regional bodies: N/A
* Private sector: Citi Foundation, Amazon Web Services
* Civil society/academia: Latin American Jewish Congress, University of the Americas – Puebla (UDLAP)

The Organization’s 2023 Program-Budget allocated a total of US$578,000 from the Regular Fund for CICTE staff (US$536,400) and non-staff (US$41,600) costs, which are intended to cover the Secretariat’s operating costs, as well as the preparation and realization of CICTE’s annual meeting and its subsidiary group.

Voluntary contributions from Member States, Permanent Observers and private sector entities for 2023 totaled US$4,954,152 and were earmarked for technical cooperation projects only. In addition, in the course of 2023, indirect cost recovery (ICR) resources were allocated to the CICTE Secretariat in the amount of US$153,600.

Voluntary contributions not associated with any particular project [“unallocated resources”] were also received from the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, which greatly facilitate the Secretariat’s operations.

Finally, the CICTE Secretariat also received significant contributions from the Governments of the United States and Mexico through the appointment of government personnel who serve as associate staff members and make valuable contributions to the work of CICTE.

1. **Communications, consultations and inter-agency cooperation**

**Communications**

 The CICTE Secretariat continued to strengthen its communication and outreach strategy through the [www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/our-structure/gs/sms/cicte](http://www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/our-structure/gs/sms/cicte) website and institutional social media accounts: @oea\_cicte and @oea\_cyber.

**Consultations**

The CICTE Secretariat continued regular consultations with relevant authorities of OAS Member States for the programming and implementation of its activities. It also continued to work closely with the Permanent Observers to the OAS.

**Interinstitutional cooperation**

The CICTE Secretariat strengthened existing cooperation mechanisms with the UN system and its specialized agencies, as well as with other international and regional bodies. In addition, it maintained its cooperative ties with civil society organizations, the private sector and other strategic partners. A consolidated list of institutional partners with whom the Committee Secretariat worked during 2023 is contained in Annex 3 to this report.

**Annexes**

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

Below is a selection of the main international high-level events in which the CICTE Secretariat participated during 2023. The list is in chronological order.

* 5th. 24/7 Network Contact Points Meeting on Foreign Terrorist Fighters. Organized by the Council of Europe. Paris, France. February 21, 2023.
* Meeting of the Council of Europe Network of Single Contact Points for the Exchange of Procedural Information on the Legal Capacity of Victims of Terrorism. Organized by the Council of Europe. Paris, France. February 21, 2023. The CICTE Secretariat participated in this meeting as an observer.
* *1st Global Partnership Working Group (GPWG) meeting under the Japanese G7 Presidency.*  Tokyo, Japan. March 9-10, 2023
* STIC Days. Organized by the National Cryptological Center of Spain (CCN-CERT) Santo Domingo --- Dominican Republic. April 18-21.
* Regional meeting of the *Global Forum for Cyber Expertise (GFCE)* Regional Meeting in the Americas. San Jose, Costa Rica. June 5, 2023.
* Third High Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies. Organized by the United Nations. New York, NY. June 19–22, 2023.
* General Training Course on the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) for staff of national authorities and relevant stakeholders. Organized by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 27-29 June 2023.
* *Cybersecurity Summer Bootcamp 2023*. Organized by the National Institute of Cybersecurity (INCIBE). Leon, Spain. July 3-13, 2023.
* Meeting of experts on the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism. Organized by the Latin American Jewish Congress and the CICTE Secretariat, Buenos Aires, Argentina July 17-19, 2023.
* XLVII Plenary Session of Representatives and Working Groups of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT). Panama City, Panama. 18–21 July 2023.
* North American National and Regional Security: The Strategic Future between Mexico and the United States” follow-up seminar organized by the Universidad las Américas Puebla (UDLAP) from September 8 to 9, 2023 in Mexico City.
* III International Congress on Tourism Security and Peace Building. Organized by the National Police of Colombia. Bogotá, Colombia. 14–15 September 2023.
* IX OAS Cybersecurity Symposium. Organized by the Secretariat of CICTE and the National CSIRT of The Bahamas. Nassau, Bahamas. 17–20 October 2023.
* Regional Training Course for National Contact Points of the Biological Weapons Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean. Event organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation Support Unit. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 25 and 26 October 2023.
* Erlangen Conference 2023 on the commitment of academia to multilateral export controls in relation to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. Event organized by the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) of the Government of Germany. Nuremberg/Erlangen, Germany. 8 and 9 November 2023.
* *2nd Global Partnership Working Group (GPWG) meeting under the Japanese G7 Presidency*. Nagasaki, Japan. November 9–10, 2023.
* *The Global Biosecurity Dialog (GBD)*, 13-25 November 2023, Bangkok, Thailand.
* International Congress “Comprehensive Protection, Major Events and Physical Security of Facilities: Personal and Physical Protection in Human Security”. Organized by the Government of Colombia. Colombia. 23–24 November 2023.
* *Global Conference on Cyber Capacity Building* -GC3B (Accra, Ghana – November 29-30). The conference was organized by the *Global Forum on Cyber Expertise*, *Cyber Peace Institute*, World Bank, World Economic Forum and the Ministry of Digitization and Communication of Ghana. Accra, Ghana. 26 November to 2 December 2023.
* Meeting of States Parties on the Biological Weapons Convention. Organized by the United Nations. Geneva, Switzerland. 11–13 December 2023.

**Annex 2: Consolidated list of publications**

(in alphabetical order)

Publications of the CICTE Secretariat are available on the website:

[CICTE Publications (oas.org)](https://www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/our-structure/gs/sms/cicte/publications)

* Binder, Markus K., Alexandra M. Williams, and Steve S. Sin. “Biosecurity in the Americas: Regional Threat Assessment.” Washington, D.C.: Program of implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, Organization of American States, 2023. Available in Spanish.

[Link to document in Spanish:](https://www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/our-structure/gs/sms/cicte/publications/moduleid/11351/id/796/lang/2/controller/item/action/download)

* Binder, Markus K., Alexandra M. Williams, and Steve S. Sin. “Biosecurity in the Americas: Regional Threat Assessment. Panama case.” Washington, D.C.: Program of implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, Organization of American States, 2023. Available in Spanish and English.

[Link to document in English](https://www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/our-structure/gs/sms/cicte/publications/moduleid/11351/id/798/lang/1/controller/item/action/download)

* Binder, Markus K., Alexandra M. Williams, and Steve S. Sin. “Biosecurity in the Americas: Regional Threat Assessment. Case of Chile.” Washington, D.C.: Program of implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, Organization of American States, 2023.

 [Link to document in English](https://www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/our-structure/gs/sms/cicte/publications/moduleid/11351/id/799/lang/1/controller/item/action/download)

* Binder, Markus K., Alexandra M. Williams, and Steve S. Sin. “Biosecurity in the Americas: Regional Threat Assessment. Case of Colombia.” Washington, D.C.: Program of implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, Organization of American States, 2023.

[Link to document in English](https://www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/ourstructure/gs/sms/cicte/publications/moduleid/11351/id/797/lang/1/controller/item/action/download)

* Practical guide for CSIRTS, a sustainable business. CICTE Secretariat. 2023. Available in Spanish and English.

[Link to document in English](https://www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/our-structure/gs/sms/cicte/publications/moduleid/11351/id/663/lang/1/controller/item/action/download)

* Challenges and Strategies: Considerations on *Ransomware Attacks* in the Americas. CICTE Secretariat and *Amazon Web Services*. 2023. Available in Spanish, English, Portuguese and French.

[Link to document in English:](https://www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/our-structure/gs/sms/cicte/publications/moduleid/11351/id/649/lang/1/controller/item/action/download)

**Annex 3: Consolidated list of donors and key institutional partners**

(in alphabetical order)

\* Countries or institutions that made a financial contribution to program implementation by the Committee Secretariat.

**Member States**

* Canada **\***
* United States of America \*
* Mexico \*

**Permanent Observers**

* European Union **\***
* United Kingdom\*
* Spain

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

* Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
* Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
* World Bank
* Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS)
* United Nations Regional Center for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC)
* 1540 Committee of the United Nations Security Council and its Group of Experts
* General Secretariat of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN)
* Council of Europe Committee against Terrorism
* European Economic Community\*
* Council of Europe
* Executive Directorate of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNCTED)

- EU Cyber Net

- EU Cyber4Dev

* Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF)
* Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE)
* G7 - Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction
* Financial Action Task Force for Latin America (GAFILAT)
* United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
* United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
* United Nations Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
* International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
* United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
* United Nations Office to Combat Terrorism (UNOCT).
* International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
* International Maritime Organization (IMO)
* World Customs Organization (WCO)
* World Trade Organization (WTO)
* Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
* Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
* General Secretariat of the Central American Economic Integration System (SG/SIECA)
* Latin American Economic System (SELA)
* Regional Security System (RSS)

**Academic sector**

* National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

University of Maryland (START)

* Cyber Law International (CLI) \*
* Monterrey Institute of Technology
* National Institute of Cybersecurity
* Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.
* Software Engineering Institute (SEI) - Carnegie Mellon University
* University of Buenos Aires
* Florida International University
* University of the Americas Puebla (UDLAP) \*

**Private sector**

* Access Partnership
* Amazon Web Services\*
* Association of Banking and Financial Institutions of Colombia
* Business Alliance for Secure Commerce (BASC)
* Citi Foundation \*
* Commonwealth Torch Light
* Deloitte
* Facebook
* International Football Federation (FIFA)
* World Economic Forum (WEF)
* Global Digital Partners
* Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
* Microsoft
* Target
* Miter
* PGI

**Civil Society**

* American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN)
* International Center for Sport Safety (ICSS)
* Latin American Jewish Congress \*
* CyberPeace Institute
* EU Cyber4Dev
* Forum for Incident Response Teams
* Get Safe Online
* Global Cyber Alliance
* Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE)
* Global Digital Partners
* ICT4Peace
* LATAM Women in Cybersecurity (WOMCY)
* National Cybersecurity Alliance
* Latin America and the Caribbean Internet Address Registry (LACNIC)
* Stimson Center
* USER

**Annex 4: List of projects under implementation 2023**

Cybersecurity

* Support to the OAS and its Member States to prevent, combat and mitigate cybersecurity threats in the Americas (2019-2024). Donor: Canada
* Support to the OAS and its Member States in addressing the gender gap in the cybersecurity agenda (2022-2025). Donor: Canada
* Creating a Career Path in Cybersecurity. Phase VIII (2024). Donor: Citi Foundation
* Cybersecurity Technical Capacity Building in the Americas (September 2023- May 2024). Donor: United Kingdom
* Cyber Diplomacy Capacity Building for the Americas (September 2023- May 2024). Donor: United Kingdom
* Project: To increase access to knowledge and information on cyber threats and to prevent risks on the regional and international level (2020 - 2024). Donor: United States
* Cyberwomen Challenge (2022-2024). Donor: Amazon Web Services

Disarmament and non-proliferation

* Strengthening biosafety and biosecurity in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. (2020–2024). Donor: European Union
* Combating the illicit trade in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials in the Free Trade Areas of Latin America. (2023) Donor: United States

Cargo and Container Security

* Project: Strengthening Cargo Security in the Americas (2020-2024). Donor: Canada

Aviation Safety

* Countering internal and external threats to civil aviation in Latin America and the Caribbean (2021-2024). Donor: United States

Security of crowded spaces

* Improving crime prevention policies and international cooperation for the protection of crowded spaces and other vulnerable targets (2020-2024). Donor: Canada

Inter-American Network Against Terrorism

* Inter-American Network against Terrorism (2020–2024). Donors: United States and Chile

Preventing violent extremism

* Prevention of violent extremism: addressing recruitment, propaganda and radicalization that could lead to terrorism (2022-2024). Donor: Mexico

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1. “Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.” Department of International Law – Secretariat of Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat of the OAS. List of signatures and ratifications at the link: <https://www.oas.org/juridico/english/sigs/a-66.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)