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

TWENTY-FOURTH REGULAR PERIOD OF SESSIONS OEA/Ser.L/X.2.24

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WORK PLAN 2024–2025

OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM

(Approved at the fourth plenary session held on April 25, 2024)

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**I. Introduction**

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) presents the workplan for the period 2024-2025. During this period, the Committee’s Secretariat will provide the necessary technical support for carrying out the Committee’s regular session, the meeting of the Working Group on Confidence-Building Measures and Cooperation in Cyberspace, as well as discussions on CICTE-related issues to be held within the framework of the OAS political bodies.

The Committee’s programs will focus on providing support to OAS member states that require it in the following priority areas: cybersecurity; disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004); security of air, land, and sea borders; protection of vulnerable targets and crowded spaces, including tourist destinations and major events; and prevention of terrorism, including violent extremism and terrorist financing.

In addition, the Secretariat will continue efforts to support the development or strengthening of information-sharing tools and/or good practices around the Committee’s topics of competence. It will also continue to encourage inter-agency coordination with other specialized international agencies to strengthen capacity to respond to current and emerging challenges.

All programs of the Committee’s Secretariat have a regional scope, with specific activities that can be implemented in several Member States, as required, depending on needs and availability of resources.

**II. Main programs**

1. ***Cybersecurity***

Purpose:

Support Member States in their efforts to prevent, mitigate and recover from cyber threats and/or attacks through the development of policies and regulatory frameworks, the strengthening of technical capacities, international cooperation and the dissemination of cybersecurity expertise.

Proposed activities:

* Technical and legislative assistance to develop, update and implement national cybersecurity strategies and/or legislation as required.
* Organization of workshops, courses and meetings on international cyber diplomacy, laws and standards to support the strengthening of the capacities of government officials of Member States and their participation in international discussions on cyber security.
* Strengthening the capacity of the Computer Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) of the region to prevent, confront and recover from cyber incidents, mainly through the CSIRTAméricas network and the “CSIRTAméricas academy”, a platform through which virtual courses on essential aspects of incident management are offered.
* Organization of regional and international courses, exercises and/or events to strengthen cyber incident response capacity, facilitate the exchange of good practices and promote national, regional and international cooperation on cybersecurity, such as the Cybersecurity Summer Bootcamp, the International Cyber Ex, and the Cybersecurity Symposium and the Global Cyber Expertise Forum (GFCE).
* Implementation of initiatives aimed at the development of the cybersecurity workforce in Member States, including the professional development of young people from disadvantaged areas and the development of national cybersecurity education frameworks.
* Implementation of activities aimed at closing the gender gap in the cybersecurity agenda of the region, including the development of research, training programs and mentoring fairs.
* Implementation of activities aimed at providing practical tools to protect the digital identity, privacy and personal data of internet users in the Americas.
* Development of publications and/or technical documents to promote greater awareness of cybersecurity issues, including a new edition of the report on the state of cybersecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank.

1. ***Disarmament and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)***

Purposes:

Promote a universal, legitimate, and non-discriminatory regime for the disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, and in particular support Member States in the effective implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) through technical and legislative assistance.

Proposed activities:

* Organization of outreach activities (awareness of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, threats, international instruments and obligations, among others).
* Strengthening the network of 1540 (2004) regional points of contact.
* Training for government officials, laboratory personnel, life sciences scientists, and academics in biosafety and biosecurity through two massive open online courses (MOOCs) that will be available to all Spanish-speaking countries in the region.
* Carry out research on biosecurity threats in the region, using specific cases.
* Legislative assistance for strengthening internal regulatory frameworks in line with resolution 1540 (2004).
* National biosafety and biosecurity training for laboratory personnel.
* Peer review exercises.
* Public and customs sector awareness on safeguards for the safe use, storage and transport of chemical and toxic materials in the strategic trade regime.
* Technical and legislative assistance for the strengthening of effective measures to secure chemicals and toxins in the strategic trade regime.
* Technical publications on topics of relevance to the region.
* Public and private sector awareness on emerging semiconductor-associated technologies in the strategic trade regime.

1. ***Security of air, land and sea borders***

**Maritime security**

Purpose**:**

Support Member States in strengthening maritime and port security capacities through specialized activities at the national and regional levels, in close coordination with other specialized international agencies such as the International Maritime Organization.

Proposed activities:

* Support the development and implementation of maritime security strategies, at the national and subregional levels.
* Facilitate the exchange of information, good practices and international cooperation between governments, the private sector and civil society, as well as with other international and regional organizations in the field of maritime and port security.
* Organization of national, subregional and regional workshops and conferences on a wide range of maritime security topics, including the development of maritime security committees, maritime risk assessments at the national level, and the development of maritime security strategies.
* Implementation of initiatives aimed at reducing the gender gap in the maritime sector.
* Preparation and dissemination of reports on regional trends and challenges in maritime and port security, including port facility security.

**Aviation Security**

Purpose**:**

Support the strengthening of institutional capacity to comply with standards and practices recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Civil Aviation Convention, especially Annex 17 – Security: protection of international civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference, and other recommendations to protect international civil aviation from possible acts of terrorism.

Proposed activities:

* Training of personnel with operational responsibility and other key actors from aviation security to identify and mitigate internal and external threats to the civil aviation sector. This includes strengthening capabilities to address internal threats at airports, low- and high-tech threats, Portable Air Defense Systems/*Man-Portable Air-defense Systems* (MANPADS), and national access controls, among others.
* Raising awareness of authorities in the aviation security sector about internal security threats and facilitate the exchange of good practices to mitigate those threats and foster a safety culture.
* Training of personnel with operational responsibility and key actors for aviation security on ICAO recommended standards and good practices, with particular attention to access control requirements.
* Training of customs authorities, cargo inspectors and other relevant actors in the identification and mitigation of risks to the air cargo supply chain.
* Exchanges of good practices and lessons learned through regional and/or hemispheric workshops for public policy makers in the aviation sector.
* Maintenance of a network of national focal points to promote greater cooperation and to promote the exchange of information and good practices between aviation safety authorities.
* Strengthening a gender perspective in aviation security policies.

**Cargo and container security**

Purpose**:**

Support Member States in strengthening cargo security mechanisms and their means of transport, particularly customs procedures, control, inspection and interdiction of cross-border cargo and its means of transport.

Proposed activities:

* Development of virtual introductory courses in cargo security at land borders.
* Development of biosafety courses for customs and border security officers on how to protect against a future endemic or pandemic.
* Donation of tactical and personal protection equipment.
* Development of virtual subregional and regional forums on customs and cross-border goods security.
* Establishment of a regional roster of experts who can serve as national and international trainers in support of this program, while strengthening the professional profile of officers and fostering regional coordination and cooperation.
* Support the design and implementation of biosafety protocols applicable by customs and other cross-border goods control agencies at national land, air and sea access points.
* On-site technical assessment and analysis missions at land, air and sea borders to identify vulnerabilities and strategies to optimize inspection and control processes for cargo and their means of transportation.
* Strengthening the interdiction capacities of customs, law enforcement and other security agencies operating in key free trade zones.
* Development of publications on the current state of cargo and container security in the hemisphere, including recent trends and possible supply chain vulnerabilities.
* Awareness-raising initiatives and training courses on gender gaps and challenges, strategies and tools for the empowerment of female officers of such agencies.

**Supply Chain Security**

Purpose:

Support the strengthening of supply chain security, mainly through the “Authorized Economic Operators” program to ensure and, at the same time, facilitate international trade, in accordance with the guidelines provided for in the World Customs Organization’s SAFE framework.

Proposed activities:

* Development of national assessments and work plans for customs agencies to strengthen inter-agency cooperation and coordination with other government border control agencies.
* Organization of activities related to the identification of legal loopholes or inter-institutional obstacles, with a particular focus on commercial operators in Free Trade Areas (Free Trade Zones).
* Raise awareness among customs officers and other government agencies, as well as commercial operators, about threats of weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism; strengthening communication among them; and raising awareness about the special benefits for certified trade operators under the Authorized Economic Operators Program.
* Promote the exchange of good practices in supply chain security and thus contribute to securing and optimizing the regional and global supply chain.
* Training for the private sector on the Authorized Economic Operator program to identify challenges, possible solutions, opportunities and benefits in coordination with chambers of commerce, trade facilitation agencies and international subregional or global organizations.
* Conducting validation exercises around the priorities of national customs administrations in relation to economic and/or commercial operators operating in free zones.

***D. Protecting Vulnerable Targets and Crowded Spaces***

Purpose:

Support Member States in strengthening 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.

Proposed activities:

* Support the development of national tourism security strategies.
* Organization of courses, workshops and other initiatives to support Member States in planning for the security of major events in the region.
* Documentation of the practices and lessons learned during the security planning for a major event.
* Maintain the national focal points networks for the security of major events and tourism security.
* Updating the electronic version of the major event security planning model.
* Compilation of recommendations and key findings on gender perspective for tourism security and major events.
* Update of the Manual of Public-Private Partnerships for the Security Planning of Major Events.

***E. Prevention of terrorism***

**Preventing terrorist financing and proliferation**

Purpose:

Support Member States in countering terrorism and its financing through the implementation of legislative frameworks in line with their legal obligations, international standards and effective systems for preventing and detecting money laundering and terrorist financing.

Proposed activities:

* Provision of technical and legislative assistance to update domestic legal frameworks on money laundering/counter-terrorism financing in line with relevant international instruments and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations.
* Support the development of effective systems for the implementation of targeted financial sanctions and systems for domestic listing, in accordance with international legal instruments.
* Capacity-building of national officials and institutions on special investigative techniques, prosecutions and other tools in accordance with international standards in this area.
* Specialized training of analysts from financial intelligence units, officials from regulatory/supervisory financial institutions and representatives of the private sector to promote cooperation between the different actors involved in the investigation and prosecution of cases of money laundering, terrorist financing and financing of the proliferation of weapons of destruction at the national and regional levels.
* Conduct virtual workshops and forums for government officials and private sector members on emerging terrorist financing threats, as well as methods of detection, prevention and judicial investigation, as appropriate.
* Conduct a study on the links between transnational organized crime and terrorism, in collaboration with the Department against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

**Preventing violent extremism that can lead to terrorism**

Purpose:

Support Member States in their efforts to prevent violent extremism that can lead to terrorism, particularly through strengthening national capacities and regional cooperation.

Proposed activities:

* Identification of experts and institutions specialized in the prevention of violent extremism that can contribute to hemispheric dialog within the framework of CICTE and, eventually, form a network of experts from the region in this area.
* Organization of forums, seminars, workshops and other face-to-face and virtual activities to facilitate better understanding of the phenomenon of violent extremism and its manifestations, as well as the threat it presents and the need to prevent it.
* Participation in specialized meetings and multisectoral dialogs on current and emerging trends in the prevention of violent extremism and multilateral efforts to develop and implement prevention frameworks.
* Facilitate the exchange of information and experiences to prevent and respond to violent extremism challenges, particularly recruitment, propaganda and radicalization (online and offline).

**Inter-American Network Against Terrorism**

Purpose:

Facilitate the exchange of timely information to prevent and counter terrorism in the region, as well as to strengthen cooperation between designated individuals and institutions. The Network is made up of the (voluntary) participation of Member States and has a secure directory of institutional contacts, designated by Member States, which is available 24/7 days a week.

Proposed activities:

* Organization of virtual quarterly/biannual meetings and at least one face-to-face meeting to facilitate the exchange of information and good practices among Member States that are members of the Network.
* Exchange of experiences with other multilateral organizations with similar networks.

**III. Project portfolio**

The list of projects under way for 2024 is as follows:

Cybersecurity

* Support to the OAS and its Member States to prevent, combat and   
  mitigate cybersecurity threats in the Americas (2020–2024). Donor: Canada.
* Closing the gender gap in the cybersecurity agenda of the Americas and the Caribbean (2022-2026). Donor: Canada.
* Creating a career in cybersecurity. Phase VII (2024). Donor: CITI Foundation
* Support to continue strengthening cybersecurity capabilities in OAS   
  Member States (2020-2024). Donor: United States.

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, phase 2 (2024–2027). Donor: European Union.
* Assist LAC region to develop strong legal and regulatory frameworks for strategic trade control with a view towards regulating transfers of WMD, related materials, and dual-use items (2024–2025). Donor: United States.
* Establishing Institutional Mechanisms to Safeguard Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC), High Consequence Pathogens (HCPs), Synthetic Biological Materials (SBMs) and Related Bioscience Infrastructure (2024). Donor: United States.
* Countering Proliferation Financing Threats and Vulnerabilities in the Western Hemisphere (WHA) Region (2004). Donor: United States

Cargo and Container Security

* Strengthening Cargo Security in the Americas (2024-2027). Donor: Canada.

Aviation Safety

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

Crowded Spaces Security

* Improved crime prevention policies and international cooperation for the protection of crowded spaces and other vulnerable targets (2024-2027). Donor: Canada.

Inter-American Network Against Terrorism

* Inter-American Network against Terrorism (2020-2025). Donors: United States and Chile.

Preventing violent extremism

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

**IV. Outreach: communications, consultation, cooperation**

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

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

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