



Virtual Dialogue: Preventing and Countering Extremism and Terrorism in the Caribbean June 8-9, 2021



Concept Note

Conference Title	Preventing and Countering Terrorism in the Caribbean
Objectives	<p>The overall objective of the OAS – CARICOM IMPACS Workshop on Counterterrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism is to strengthen the capacity of the mutual Member States of the OAS and CARICOM to implement the provisions of the OAS and CARICOM Counter-Terrorism frameworks, including the CARICOM Counter Terrorism Strategy, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and the CICTE Declaration “Strengthening Hemispheric Efforts to Address and Counter Violent Extremism that is conducive to Terrorism”.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the Workshop are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide a platform to help increase awareness on violent extremism and terrorism of high-level decision makers, including CICTE national points of contact; representatives of Ministries of National Security and/or Police responsible for implementing the CT Strategy and plans of actions; b. Raise awareness of the evolving terrorist landscape, the legal and institutional architecture in place to help address those threats, and opportunities for creating greater resiliency and preparedness; c. Facilitate dialogue and the exchange of experience between OAS/CARICOM Member States and other countries, regions and institutions on strategy implementation; d. Enhance peer learning and experience sharing among CARICOM Member States at different levels of PVE/CT programme implementation; and e. Strengthen support for OAS and CARICOM efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.
Outcomes	<p>At the end of the Conference, the Meeting participants will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase their awareness of the evolving terrorist landscape, the legal and institutional architecture in place to help address those threats, and opportunities for creating greater resiliency and preparedness. b. Have a better understanding of the provisions of CT/PVE instruments and the obligation of Member States to implement it.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Strengthen their understanding of trends and patterns of measures in CT/PVE. d. Be exposed to regional, hemispheric and international instruments and support measures to aid the implementation of CT/PVE Policies and Plans at the National, regional and hemispheric levels. e. Draft recommendations for strengthening CT/PVE actions at the national and regional levels.
<p>Current context</p>	<p>The CARICOM Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted at the 29th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Community in February 2018, identifies terrorism as a direct threat to the Region’s socio-political and economic aspirations. It also documents the fact that more than 200 individuals from the CARICOM Member States had travelled to conflict zones in Syria and Iraq to fight for terrorist groups, as at the beginning of 2018. The regional strategy has the following five key pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing Violent Extremism; • Denying Terrorists the Means and Opportunity to Carry Out their Activities; • Disrupting Extremist and Terrorist Activities and Movements in CARICOM; • Improving Preparedness and Defences against Terrorist Attacks; • and Responding Effectively to Terrorist Attacks and Promoting a Culture of Resilience and Peace. <p>The CARICOM CT Strategy promotes the need for international cooperation as a key action point for the exchange of information to support prevention and countering terrorism.</p> <p>The Organization of American States, through the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), is the custodian of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, a legally binding instrument adopted by OAS Member States in 2002 to foster dialogue and strengthen cooperation among national authorities to prevent and counter terrorism. In subsequent years, OAS Member States have approved a number of resolutions and declarations to further bolster national and regional efforts to address the evolving terrorist threat landscape, including violent extremism.</p>



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	<p>In particular, through the 2018 Declaration “Strengthening Hemispheric Efforts to Address and Counter Violent Extremism that is conducive to Terrorism”, OAS Member States committed to redouble efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism from a comprehensive and multidimensional approach, with full respect for human rights and the rule of law, including through increased awareness at all levels of the threats posed by violent extremism, the exchange of best practices and lessons learned to counter violent extremism, as well as through greater research and data collection on the drivers of violent extremism that is conducive to terrorism.</p>
<p>Proposed Participants</p>	<p>The workshop will bring together high-level decision makers from CARICOM Member States, including CICTE national points of contact; representatives of Ministries of National Security and/or Police; expert and industry practitioners and regional/international institutions.</p> <p>Registration will be required.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p>The virtual workshop will consist of interactive discussion sessions.</p>
<p>Implementing Agencies</p>	<p>OAS-CICTE and CARICOM IMPACS</p>