



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW
GROUP (SIRG)
First Regular Meeting of 2021
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**Summit Implementation Review Group
First Regular Meeting of 2021**

**Opening remarks by Mr. Dale Eppler,
National Summit Coordinator of the United States of America**

Thank you for your participation in this the first meeting in 2021 of the Summit Implementation Review Group, and the first virtual SIRG meeting ever.

My name is Dale Eppler and I am honored to serve as the National Summit Coordinator for the United States and chair of this SIRG.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all here today to continue the important discussions necessary to ensure the Summit process remains inclusive and meaningful.

The United States is proud to again demonstrate our commitment to our hemisphere by hosting the Ninth Summit of the Americas and to work together with you - our partners - to advance sustainable economic growth with equity, defend democratic values and improve security across the Americas.

I know many of you are wondering about the date, location and theme of the Ninth Summit.

What I can share is that we plan to hold the Summit in 2022, and look forward to hosting an in-person meeting with leaders and other participants from across the region.

The Summit process, including consultations and discussions like those we will have today with civil society and private sector stakeholders and tomorrow among our governments, will provide useful insight to inform our decision on the theme and objectives of the Ninth Summit.

The Ninth Summit will take place in a very different context from when we gathered in Lima in 2018. The world is still working to get a global pandemic under control, and the region's communities and economies will need to rebuild and recover.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which our leaders called for at the 2001 Summit of the Americas in Quebec City. The commitments enshrined in the Charter remain just as relevant today as they were 20 years ago, and it is all the more urgent we fulfill them.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption. The Government of Peru, in selecting “Democratic Governance Against Corruption” as the theme of the Eight Summit of the Americas, drew global attention to the fact that corruption remains a challenge to democracy, governance, and economic growth in our region.

With this in mind, today’s thematic dialogues and the involvement of our civil society and private sector stakeholders will serve to strengthen our preparations for the Ninth Summit and allow for a unique perspective during a singular moment for the region and the world.

Before we get started today, I want to express my ongoing appreciation for the follow up and continued engagement of former Summit host and vice-chair of the SIRG, Peru for its leadership in the Summit process.