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FINAL REPORT

Mr. Kevin O' Reilly, National Coordinator of the United States of America for the Summits Process and Chair of the meeting, welcomed the National Coordinators for the Summits Process, representatives of participating states, and the entities pertaining to the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG). The list of participants was published as document [GRIC/O.2.doc.53/21 rev.1](#).

1. Opening remarks by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, National Summits Coordinator of the United States

The remarks by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, Chair of the SIRG and National Summits Coordinator of the United States were published as document [GRIC/O.2/INF.16/21](#).

The Chair of the SIRG thanked all the delegations for taking part in the Second Regular Meeting of the SIRG in 2021 and for their willingness to ensure that the Summits Process continues to be inclusive and meaningful. He stressed that the United States wants to bring the region together to address shared challenges and advance shared priorities. For that matter, the Chair expressed that he looked forward to discussing the proposed theme and stated that he hopes to announce the date and location of the IX Summit on the margins of the OAS General Assembly in November 2021.

He ended his remarks by thanking the Government of Peru for hosting the VIII Summit and for their role as Vice Chair of the SIRG, and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat for organizing the Meeting.

2. Ninth Summit of the Americas Notional Calendar, consideration, and comments

Presentation of the IX Summit of the Americas Notional Calendar by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, National Summits Coordinator of the United States

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly presented for the consideration of the SIRG the IX Summit of the Americas Proposed Notional Calendar. The Chair of the meeting explained that the United States plans to host the IX Summit in the summer of 2022, and that leading up to it, they plan to host at least two ministerial

SIRG meetings: one on the margins of the OAS General Assembly of 2021 and the second just prior to the IX Summit, while hosting several Regular SIRG meetings.

The Chair of the SIRG reiterated that the value of the Summits of the Americas is that they bring together not just leaders but also the people of the Americas to work together to address the challenges and opportunities the Hemisphere faces. He therefore explained the United States will work to ensure that the SIRG can hear from civil society and the private sector throughout the whole Summit Process.

Seeing no comments or observations from delegations, the IX Summit of the Americas Notional Calendar was approved. It was published as document [GRIC/O.2/doc.52/21rev.1](#).

3. Implementation of the Lima Commitment

a. Remarks by the Government of Peru, Ambassador Maria Cecilia Rozas Ponce de Leon, Director-General for Multilateral and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The intervention of Ambassador María Cecilia Rozas Ponce de Leon was published as document [GRIC/O.2/INF.17/21](#).

In her presentation, Ambassador Rozas Ponce de Leon highlighted that the outcomes of the VIII Summit constituted a decisive response by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas against corruption. She also showed how the Online Platform of the Mechanism for Follow-Up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment served as a tool for citizens to follow-up the progress of countries and announced that Peru is working with the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to transfer the Mechanism's software to ensure its continuity. Similarly, Ambassador Rozas Ponce de León congratulated member states on their efforts to report their progress and underscored the importance of continuing to update this information. She also underscored civil society's involvement, which showed itself to be a concept that went beyond rhetoric with practical initiatives such as the Citizen Corruption Observatory.

Ambassador Rozas Ponce de León stated that one of her country's foreign policy priorities was the fight against corruption. She therefore expressed her appreciation to the Chair for having incorporated into the Concept Paper the impact of the Lima Commitment for the region.

b. Presentation on the Citizen Corruption Observatory by Mr. Andres Hernandez of Transparency - Colombia

The presentation by Mr. Andres Hernandez were published as document [GRIC/O.2/INF.18/21](#).

Mr. Hernandez highlighted that the Citizen Corruption Observatory developed a methodology to analyze the implementation of the Lima Commitment, which is based on regulatory and practice indicators. He announced that the average score obtained was 1.17 out of 3.00. Mr. Hernandez highlighted that this value responds to the achievement of legislative developments on the one hand while, on the other, challenges remain in terms of the creation of public policies and practical tools that guarantee compliance with the commitments.

Mr. Andres Hernandez indicated that the Observatory found the Lima Commitment to be a key instrument to promote the fight against corruption due to its combination of innovative and more traditional tools. However, he stressed that progress continues to be insufficient. Finally, he announced that national level reports would be launched with the complete regional results by the end of October 2021.

Comments by delegations

The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for Multilateral Foreign Policy Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Ambassador Ruben Silie Valdez, explained that the fight against corruption constitutes a main objective of his government, for which they view as important strengthening the implementation of the Lima Commitment. He highlighted that the strengthening of transparency in the use of public funds goes hand in hand with technology because it helps make processes more efficient and raises awareness among public servants about the need to adhere to ethical standards. In this sense, he stressed that the Dominican General Budget Office increased the frequency of the publication of expenditure reports. Secondly, he emphasized the effort made by state institutions to train staff to behave consistently with ethical guidelines and provided the example of the Directorate of Compliance and Sanctions in the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications.

Ambassador Ruben Silie Valdez highlighted that his government co-designed a national open data policy with civil society. Also in relation to open data, he highlighted that his government is aware of the role of human capital, which is why they trained officials in the Introduction to Open Data course within the framework of the Inter-American Open Data Program to Prevent and Combat Corruption. Likewise, he underscored the creation of a Cabinet for Transparency, Prevention and Control of Public Spending, and the initiatives of the General Directorate of Government Ethics and Integrity. He also addressed the creation of a nonpartisan Attorney General's Office, which has had the approval of the different parties and civil society.

On the other hand, he called for greater inclusion in the field of technology and to close the digital divide, especially in the field of education. To this end, the creation of the Digital Cabinet was highlighted, together with the strengthening of the Personal Data Protection Law. He also underscored the importance of propping up small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to achieve a sustainable development and explained that his government is channeling credits for them, privileging those led by women in tenders.

He concluded by highlighting that these and other points are shared through the Summits of the Americas Secretariat monitoring platform with the aim of contributing to regional synergy in the fight against corruption. He added that they are aware that the only way to combat this social scourge is through the incorporation of all the sectors which are affected.

The National Summits Coordinator of Guatemala, Ambassador Carlos Ramiro Martinez, highlighted that his government is determined to implement the Lima Commitment. He addressed several good practices his government presented within the framework of the thirty-sixth Plenary Session of the MESICIC that was held on September 2021: the public-private dialogue and cooperation table on customs matters with the Superintendency of Tax Administration; raising awareness about the code of ethics for personnel of the Superintendency; implementation of an ethical compliance management system under ISO standards; the code of ethics of the Comptroller General of Accounts;

and the development of the Fifth Open Government Plan (2021-2023). He also mentioned that The Bahamas and Australia are evaluating Guatemala within the framework of the review mechanism for the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and explained that every concern expressed in the examiners' desk review is being addressed.

Pertaining to other anti-corruption bodies, Ambassador Carlos Ramiro Martinez stressed that the Presidential Commission against Corruption has received 366 corruption alerts by September 2021, all of which have been fully addressed. Additionally, in terms of prevention, he explained that this institution developed proposals for legal instruments to prevent illicit acts in the public administration and recommendations related to access to information and active transparency.

The National Coordinator of Nicaragua, Ambassador Luis Alvarado, highlighted that the fight against corruption constitutes a transcendental issue for his government. Also, he stressed that anti-corruption efforts necessarily involve fighting hunger and poverty. Conversely, he explained that corruption generates poverty, lack of justice and that it discourages investment, and that for this reason, it is important to move towards a change in administrative culture that allows for an efficient public administration, with administrators applying transparent and objective rules. At the same time, in relation to the Lima Commitment, Ambassador Luis Alvarado explained that Nicaragua does not approve it, nor any other document that emanates from the VIII Summit of the Americas since the country did not participate in its negotiation.

The Interim Representative of Paraguay to the OAS addressed the work his country is carrying out to implement the mandates of the Lima Commitment, particularly with regards to public information. He stressed that access to information contributes to the quality of the democratic system. In this sense, the Interim Representative of Paraguay to the OAS mentioned that the National Anticorruption Secretariat performs monthly verifications of all obligations public bodies have pertaining to the provision of public information and explained that these data were compiled in a transparency compliance panel and available in open formats. He announced that in October 2019, Paraguay launched an information access panel, which allows citizens to evaluate the levels of compliance with transparency regulations. Finally, he added that Paraguay had been analyzed within the framework of the MESICIC and that it had received the corresponding report.

The National Summits Coordinator of Suriname, Ambassador Miriam MacIntosh, underscored her country's commitment to the fight against corruption. She said that Suriname is preparing and adapting existing legislation to ensure the fight against corruption is rendered more effective. She also announced that her country is appointing a special prosecutor to speed up and work on the specific corruption cases and that the new government created a presidential commission against corruption, which aims at addressing the cases which need to be followed up on. She concluded her intervention by announcing that Suriname is close to ratifying the UN Convention against Corruption.

The Deputy National Summits Coordinator of the United States, Mr. David Silverman, acknowledged that corruption in the Hemisphere continues to make economic inequality worse and weaken institutions, with the pandemic exacerbating these weaknesses. He also stated that the United States shared the concern of a democratic backsliding trend and agreed the efforts in the fight against corruption needed to be redoubled, fostering inclusive growth, and bolstering democratic institutions.

Secondly, Mr. David Silverman highlighted that the Biden-Harris administration considers fighting corruption a top priority and that the agencies of the Government of the United States use a

range of tools to promote transparency and accountability, combat impunity, build capacity and leverage their engagement in international forums to combat corruption and strengthen citizen engagement. In this sense, Mr. David Silverman explained that the United States was the first country to criminalize foreign bribery, and that they have managed to recover and return over 1.5B USD in stolen public assets in the past two years.

Thirdly, Mr. Silverman mentioned that in June 2021, President Biden released a national security study memorandum on the fight against corruption, making it a core national security priority. He added that they are reviewing how the US government and its partners can coordinate and resource efforts to better fight this scourge.

Regarding the US foreign policy on these issues, Mr. David Silverman outlined several actions the US Government is carrying out. Firstly, he highlighted that they put forth their candidacy to host the 2023 UN Convention against Corruption Conference. Secondly, he highlighted that during June 2021, the US Congress launched a Congressional Caucus with the intent of fighting global corruption and kleptocracy. Thirdly, he announced that in December, the US President will host the Summit for Democracy and explained that this Summit represents an opportunity for governments, the private sector, and civil society to put forward their ideas, hold themselves accountable to previous commitments while initiating others to fight corruption, defend against authoritarianism and promote respect for human rights.

Finally, he announced that the US plans to host the IX Summit with great humility, not knowing all the answers but with openness about their efforts to overcome their challenges at home while working with partners to support democracy and human rights abroad. He added that they look forward to continuing to work with the Chair and SIRG colleagues in the implementation of the Lima Commitment and in reasserting their commitment against corruption at the IX Summit.

Ms. Sara Cohen, National Summit Coordinator of Canada and Director-General of South America and Inter-American Affairs of Global Affairs Canada, confirmed that the fight against corruption through an ongoing work to implement the Lima Commitment is priority for the region. She warned that corruption undermines the rule of law, contributes to inequality, and enables organized crime while hampering democracy and respect for human rights. Ms. Sara Cohen argued that, therefore, combatting corruption is key to promote trust in public institutions, ensure respect for the rule of law, promote fair treatment of citizens, and maintain a rules-based international order.

The Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs of the OAS, Ambassador James Lambert, thanked the Chair for his observations and for the comments made by various delegations about the tracking that they are continuing to do on the Lima Commitment. He also congratulated the Chair for the inclusive approach in the Summits Process and highlighted that the participation of civil society and the JSWG is key in helping States fulfill their commitments.

Secondly, Ambassador Lambert underscored the establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Hubs in each of the participating Summit countries when he addressed Transparency – Colombia's presentation on the Citizen Corruption Observatory.

Thirdly, he announced that they will continue to update the reports received by States on their commitment going forward towards the Ninth Summit. Accordingly, he reminded participating countries that there are still opportunities to include best practices for the region.

At the same time, Ambassador Lambert noted that several of the mandates apply not only to countries but also to JSWG institutions, particularly regarding the assistance to member states. In this regard, he explained that the coordination of the inter-American system is an important outcome of the VIII Summit, one which will be brought forward and put at the Chair's disposal. He outlined the efforts that have been made to strengthen the functionality of the JSWG, including the signing of an updated Memorandum of Understanding, and the inclusion of new members like the OECD.

4. Presentation of the Proposed Summit Theme Concept Paper

Remarks by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, National Summits Coordinator of the United States for the Summits Process

The intervention of Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, National Summit Coordinator of the United States, was published as document [GRIC/O.2/INF.19/21](#).

The Chair of the SIRG highlighted that the United States intends for the Summit to deliver concrete responses to peoples' most pressing needs. He stated that they had heard the calls for action in conversations with other governments and dialogues with the private sector, civil society, and the JSWG.

He announced the proposed theme for the IX Summit: "Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future" which was presented in the Concept Paper for the Ninth Summit of the Americas, published as document [GRIC/O.2/doc.51/21](#). He highlighted that the United States sees those three elements: sustainability, resilience and equity as cross-cutting, guiding their Summit agenda across four priority areas: Health, Recovery, and Resilience; Our Green Future; Equitable Growth and Prosperity; and Strong and Inclusive Democracies.

Comments by delegations

Ambassador María Cecilia Rozas Ponce de Leon of Peru stressed that her country shares the vision of building a future by addressing sustainability, resilience, and equity, among other challenges imposed by the pandemic. Before commenting on the proposed priority areas, she addressed the need to have the ordinary citizen at the center of state efforts.

Regarding the priority area of Health, Recovery, and Resilience, she underscored the importance of improving technological capacities to control the spread of diseases, with special attention to strengthening primary medical care capacities. She commented on the need to achieve stronger cooperation between governments and work on biotechnology transfer and explore ways to generate vaccine production centers in the region. Finally, she stressed that more work should be done on improving the global health system, whose shortcomings were exposed by the pandemic.

Pertaining to the area of Our Green Future, Ambassador Maria Cecilia Rozas Ponce de Leon underscored that cooperation is key to achieve climate resilience. She stated that the balance between adaptation and mitigation must be ensured through financing, and that multilateralism can contribute decisively. She also stressed that economic recovery must converge with environmental conservation.

Regarding Equitable Growth and Prosperity, in line with the Buenos Aires Declaration, adopted in the framework of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) of 2021, she requested to develop people-centered strategies. She stated that these should be aimed at promoting and formalizing employment and providing for social justice, equity, productive employment, decent work, and sustainable development. Likewise, Peru considers that recovery from the crisis should be inclusive, sustainable, and resilient, in accordance with the Global Call for a People-Centered Recovery, adopted at the 2021 International Labor Conference.

Pertaining to the area of Strong and Inclusive Democracies, she celebrated that the IX Summit assumes and expands the commitments established in Lima and asked that the safeguarding of the Inter-American Democratic Charter be reaffirmed. She also announced that Peru will continue to promote the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism of the Lima Commitment.

The Permanent Representative of Honduras to the OAS, Ambassador Luis Fernando Cordero, explained that the priorities set out in the Concept Paper coincided with those of the President of Honduras. He also underscored the need to transform health organizations and systems, particularly seeing the inequity reflected in the distribution of vaccines to developing countries.

Concerning the area of Our Green Future, he indicated that this is one of the most important priorities for the region and addressed climate change's impact on Honduras. He explained that the country has faced not only a pandemic, but also two highly destructive hurricanes with significant human and economic losses. He added that if climate change is not acted upon, there will be no growth or prosperity, and democracies will be threatened.

Ms. Sara Cohen, National Summit Coordinator of Canada, showed her support for the proposed theme for it, as well as for the four priority areas identified in the Concept Paper. Firstly, she highlighted that the Hemisphere must take an inclusive approach to address the needs of those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, including women, indigenous people, LGBTQ+ people, people of African descent, migrants, and other vulnerable populations. Secondly, she called for explicit referencing to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across the four priority areas in the Concept Paper. Thirdly, Ms. Cohen welcomed the initiative of the host to bring perspectives of civil society and the private sector because they support including diverse voices in all aspects of the Summit Process.

On environmental issues, she highlighted that the COVID-19 crisis is exacerbating pre-pandemic challenges, including climate change, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss. Ms. Cohen underscored that Canada's commitment to international climate and biodiversity action has been strengthened in the face of the pandemic and that they will bring it to the discussion in the IX Summit. She stressed that countries must develop higher levels of ambition to reduce emissions and incorporate biodiversity action into pandemic recovery plans.

Ms. Cohen also recognized that inequality and marginalization persist through the Hemisphere, and that addressing these challenges is key to an inclusive recovery. She explained that digital inclusion would help reduce barriers to education, employment, access to healthcare and to government services.

Concerning the protection of democracy, Ms. Cohen highlighted that with the celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, countries must recognize that despite the progress seen in the past two decades, there is more which can be done to defend democratic principles, including crisis response and medium- and longer-term actions that ensure the proper

foundations for recovery. She also explained that democracy is not limited to elections; it involves inclusive and accountable governance through independent institutions and promotion and respect for human rights and the rule of law. Ms. Cohen added that countries need to ensure that all the members of society have an opportunity to be heard and listened to. Consequently, she highlighted that the SIRG process offers an opportunity to dialogue on how to best deliver on the expectations of citizens.

The National Summits Coordinator of Guatemala, Ambassador Carlos Ramiro Martinez, argued that the efforts to develop and distribute vaccines had borne fruit thanks to multilateral cooperation, which has promoted the strengthening of health systems. He also thanked the National Coordinator of the United States for the relevance of the proposed topic and highlighted that it encompasses the most recurrent concerns of recent years.

Pertaining to climate change he explained that the country is recognized as one of the territories with the highest risk of vulnerability and that despite this, they continue to work to rehabilitate infrastructure and production.

On growth and prosperity, he underscored the importance of implementing recovery-oriented actions focused on cooperation and assistance to the region. He also highlighted that Guatemala is executing a plan for economic recovery, which aims to generate new sources of income, and that it is part of a multisectoral call to put together a national agenda on economic recovery.

Ambassador Martinez concluded by underscoring the importance of commemorating the Twentieth Anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. He stressed that representative democracy is the basis of the rule of law and the constitutional regimes and reiterated his country's commitment to the exercise of democracy as one of the pillars on which the Inter-American System builds the foundations for the prosperity of the Hemisphere.

The Vice-Chancellor and National Summits Coordinator of the Dominican Republic, Ambassador Ruben Silie, celebrated the choice of the topic. He highlighted that it encompasses priorities the Dominican Government shares. In this sense, he reiterated his country's commitment to stopping the pandemic and working for recovery, emphasizing addressing structural gaps such as inequality, climate change, and technological adaptation to achieve a more resilient Hemisphere.

The National Summits Coordinator of the Dominican Republic commented on the positive impact of the dynamics entailed in integrating the different social actors to identify needs and argued that this allows the scenario of the IX Summit to be a propitious opportunity to establish a commitment attached to the social realities of the States, in which the affected parties are involved.

The National Summits Coordinator of Panama, Ms. Carla Ines Avila, addressed her country's efforts to achieve the implementation of the Lima Commitment. Firstly, she highlighted that the National Authority for Transparency and Access to Public Information created an ethical commitment for public employees, promoted open government principles and provided training on access to information for civil society.

In relation to the Concept Paper, she stressed that it would allow the Heads of State and Government to work on the challenges facing the region and that it emerged from consultations with both civil society and the private sector. At the same time, she stated that it is important to include in

the priority areas the issue of gender and equity as well as vulnerable groups. She also requested to continue working on fair and equitable access to vaccines.

Ms. Avila also indicated that the fight against climate change and the promotion of a green future can only be carried out if considering the principle of common but differential responsibilities, together with the contribution by developed countries with technology and financing.

The National Summit Coordinator of Jamaica, Ambassador Janice Miller, highlighted that her country remains committed to working with its partners to implement the mandates of the Lima Commitment. She outlined that several initiatives have been undertaken to promote gender equality and social justice and provided the example of Jamaica's national policy for gender equality.

Turning on to the Concept Paper, Ambassador Miller showed her country's support for the proposed theme and noted that it considers the views and perspectives of countries, institutions, the JSWG, and non-government actors. She indicated that strengthening the capacity of their health systems through public-private partnerships, access to vaccines and accelerating economic growth were all national priorities, particularly because the Caribbean had been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. She also considered the transition to greener energies as key to achieving energy efficiency as well as the need to limit the rise of temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Ambassador Gustavo Tarre Briceño, National Summits Coordinator and Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the OAS, expressed his delegation's support for the identified topics and Summit agenda. At the same time, he suggested adding to the theme the word 'inclusive' to the theme's title.

Ambassador Tarre explained that although the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic had already been analyzed, its consequences are compounded by recent natural disasters and an unprecedented regional situation derived from the migratory crisis in Venezuela, caused by hunger, unemployment, lack of medicines, the violation of human rights, insecurity, among others. In this sense, he underscored the importance of addressing the "migration crisis" in the next Summit.

The Deputy National Summits Coordinator of Argentina, Minister Rosa Delia Gomez, stressed that the slogan largely reflects the countries' observations, putting into words the urgency of hemispheric cooperation, and expressing the spirit of the present times and a shared vocation for the future. She highlighted that the priority areas of the Concept Paper are an excellent starting point to reach the necessary agreements to face the profound impact of the pandemic.

Pertaining to health, she explained that it is necessary to strengthen capacities and make tools accessible to everyone, so that future events find States more prepared, with fluid cooperation between health authorities and regulatory bodies.

Concerning the environment, she requested agreeing to commitments that consolidate efforts made in multilateral forums and ensure policies to go beyond the goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius. She also emphasized the need to ensure an energy transition that aims at significantly reducing emissions.

Regarding economic recovery, she stated that it is important to focus on employment, the solidity of companies -particularly SMEs- rules for fair trade, without neglecting social policies when

required. She also highlighted that it is key to adjust the international financial architecture to ensure access to financing in conditions of equity.

Pertaining to democratic institutions, the Deputy National Summits Coordinator of Argentina addressed the need to ensure the rule of law, the validity of civil liberties, full respect for human rights, the deepening of actions in the fight against corruption and the search for transparency and justice. In this sense, she thanked Peru for their work as former Chair of the SIRG and assured that Argentina would continue to work with their technical authorities to contribute to the mechanisms' platforms.

On the other hand, she highlighted that Argentina is interested in working on cross-cutting issues, such as the role of women in societies and the search for equality, knowing the differentiated impacts of the pandemic on women and on diversities. Similarly, she argued that intersectionality and respect for human rights should be at the core. Finally, she stressed that during the Summit Process, terminologies and wording will be refined to produce a text in a form acceptable to all States.

The National Summits Coordinator of Brazil, Minister Maximiliano Barbosa Fraga, stated that the Concept Paper contains several highly relevant elements. He specifically mentioned the joint responses of the region to the pandemic, development, democracy, strengthening ties between countries of the continent, regional value chains, trade, and investment. He concluded by saying that in preparation for the next Summit, countries can deepen and refine the documents, and he reiterated Brazil's willingness to continue working in this sense.

Ambassador Fernando Velasco, National Summit Coordinator of Chile, recalled that, after the First SIRG of 2021, Chile submitted its thematic priorities and that in this regard, he is pleased to see the topics they proposed being incorporated directly or indirectly. Therefore, he expressed his country's support for the proposed theme and the established priorities.

The National Summits Coordinator of Guyana, Ambassador George Talbot, highlighted that Guyana views the theme as an appropriate response to common issues discussed in other preparatory meetings and believes that it captures important focus areas. He supported the emphasis put on health, in particular the need to strengthen the region's capacities in pandemic preparedness. He added that it is important that the Americas are better equipped to respond to future crises.

He also recognized other relevant aspects such as food security, to which he believes critical attention should be paid, especially for the Caribbean, which has seen its food security threatened due to the pandemic. He added that the region faces a major challenge in the quest for equitable growth and prosperity, which is partly reflected in the debt burden many countries face. Finally, he highlighted the question of trade and environment, which is also key to recovery.

Ambassador Anthony W.J. Phillips-Spencer, National Summit Coordinator and Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the OAS, assured of Trinidad and Tobago's continued commitment and expressed that if at any point they are expected as a formal coordinator to support any of priority areas given the proposed inclusive approach, they would be ready to do so.

The Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the OAS, Ambassador Carlos Játiva, stated that his country supports the Summits Process and emphasized that they have already made observations on the need to shift to a sort of greater coordination between what the OAS and the Summits Process do and evaluate the possibility of going to annual presidential meetings, as in the United Nations' case.

Concerning the Concept Paper, Ambassador Játiva highlighted that it is a valuable and interesting document that can be the subject of further consultation, despite the fact that it is approved ad referendum.

Firstly, pertaining to the future of the Hemisphere after the pandemic, he highlighted the mentioning of effective coordination that guarantees equity and inclusion and added that it should focus on solidarity.

Secondly, he called for addressing the situation of middle-income countries, in particular the need to reconsider formulas that determine what constitutes a middle-income country, without being limited to the criteria of growth or GDP. In this sense, he called for the recognition of new criteria, such as preparedness for external shocks and competitiveness. Also concerning growth and prosperity, he argued that it is important to address the issue of migration, in particular the case of Venezuela.

Thirdly, regarding the green development of economies, he emphasized that President Lasso created a Ministry of the Environment which he turned into an ecological transition one. He stated that this reflects not just terminology, but a duty of the current generation to guarantee an environmentally safe future, trying to introduce green energy at all levels, including in countries like Ecuador, an exporter of fossil fuels.

Finally, regarding democracies and the Twentieth Anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, he stressed that for Ecuador, the Charter is the most important instrument of the region to monitor and avoid ruptures to the democratic order. He clarified that it is not possible to speak of democracy when phenomena such as tax evasion continue to exist.

The National Coordinator and Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the OAS, Ambassador Luis Alvarado, and stated that the consideration of the Concept Paper remains ad-referendum for the Nicaraguan Government.

The Concept Paper for the Ninth Summit of the Americas was published as document [GRIC/O.2/doc.51/21](#). It is important to mention that this document did not require to be adopted; it was presented by the Chair of the SIRG in order to feed the discussion and deliberation of States regarding the proposed theme and priorities for the next Summit.

Comments by JSWG Institutions

The Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs, Ambassador James Lambert, thanked the Chair on behalf of the JSWG for the careful reflection of the paper produced. He highlighted that they see that many of the thoughtful comments of the institutions were picked up in the Concept Paper.

Mr. Jose Antonio Ardavin, Head of Latin America and Caribbean Division of the OECD, highlighted that the topics the United States put forward are very relevant and stated that the OECD can certainly contribute to them. He explained that his institution has been working already in many of the aspects included in the Concept Paper and provided several examples.

Ms. Beverly Best, Foreign Affairs Director of IICA indicated that she sees the theme as appropriate for the upcoming Summit. At the same time, she stated that the question of food systems

was not as well articulated as it could be. Ms. Beverly Best highlighted that agri-food systems affect the entire economy, the environment, and social aspects. She concluded by underscoring IICA's willingness to ensure due consideration is given to that matter in the Concept Paper.

The Director of External Relations of PAHO stressed that his institution agrees on prioritizing health in Concept Paper and on the need to promote greater regional coordination to respond to emergencies. In this sense, he shared the launch of the Regional Platform to Advance the Manufacturing of COVID-19 Vaccines and other Health Technologies in the Americas, which aims at promoting regional integration so that the Hemisphere is better prepared for future events.

Dr. Ciro Ugarte, Director of Health Emergencies, also spoke on behalf of PAHO. He exposed some of the key concepts discussed by the Ministers of Health in the Acting Council of PAHO and the resolution on resilience and health systems in COVID times. He highlighted that the consequences of COVID will last for many months and explained that COVID impacts not only the patient but also the social network

He argued that vaccine distribution required integrity and solidarity. In this sense, he announced that they are working on a global treaty to improve equitable access to vaccines and supplies. Similarly, he explained that transparency, timely sharing of information and bio samples was essential. He concluded his remarks by stating that there is a need for a multi-sectoral and government approach, given that the pandemic impacts all dimensions, and not just health.

Mrs. Raquel Artecona, Officer in Charge of the ECLAC Office in Washington, D.C., stated that the Concept Paper incorporates the concerns expressed at the previous SIRG Meeting and that it is relevant to the region's problems. She indicated that sustainable, resilient, and egalitarian development is precisely the area of work of ECLAC. Finally, she announced that ECLAC has released the Plan for Self-Sufficiency in Health Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

UNDP Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Linda Maguire believes the Concept Paper reflects the richness of the discussion. She commented specifically on the fourth item, stating that democratic processes need to effectively respond to people's needs and deliver inclusive results. Ms. Maguire concluded her remarks by saying that countries should count on the support of UNDP, and that they are happy to share their experiences in transparency and accountability.

5. Final considerations, other business, and adjournment of the meeting

The Chairman of the SIRG stated that they would not have gotten as far as they did without the assistance of the former National Summits Coordinator of the United States, Mr. Dale Eppler. He also expressed his gratitude for the close attention that delegates paid to the Concept Paper.

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly commented on the recent realization of a census in the United States, which showed that there are approximately 6.5 million more women and girls in the country than men and boys. He stated his delegation deeply values the observations regarding the necessity in representative democracies of embracing concepts of gender equity and inclusion and declared that this was not a call for everyone to remember to bring people from the margins of society and include them in their work. He explained that, instead, these groups are the majorities in societies, and that women and girls have taken the burden of many of the setbacks which were experienced during the pandemic. Similarly, Mr.

O'Reilly said he hopes they adequately capture the focus on human dignity, on indigenous communities, the poor, and the rural communities, because most of them have had to face the most serious consequences of COVID. In this sense, he recalled IICA's remarks about food security and the ability to have fair and equitable access to these resources. Finally, he stated that the United States would work hard to ensure that the responsibilities taken on in 2018 are considered.

There being no further comments by the delegations, the Chair of the SIRG and National Summit Coordinator of the United States thanked them for participating. He also thanked the JSWG institutions for their role in preparing and following up on the mandates; and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat for its efforts to implement the Lima Commitment. Finally, Mr. O'Reilly stated he looked forward to continuing to work with them to craft an agenda that is both ambitious and action-oriented.

At 12:24 p.m., on October 7, the Chairman of the SIRG declared the meeting closed.