



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
Second Regular Meeting of 2021
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PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED SUMMIT THEME CONCEPT PAPER
(Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, National Summit Coordinator of the United States)

I am pleased to present the concept paper for the Ninth Summit of the Americas, distributed as document [GRIC/O.2/doc.51/21](#), and begin today's formal discussion on the United States' proposed theme and priorities for the Ninth Summit.

We know governments and stakeholders alike have high expectations for this Summit, which will bring our region together at a time of significant uncertainty and concern for the security and prosperity of our collective future.

Just as the Summit and SIRG were originally convened to develop and deliver hemispheric solutions to hemispheric challenges, we intend for the Summit to concretely respond to peoples' most pressing needs and create new opportunities in 2022.

We heard loud and clear calls for action across several priority areas in our conversations with many of you and your governments, as well as during numerous dialogues with private sector and civil society stakeholders and members of the Joint Summit Working Group.

And we know that for our countries to truly emerge from the global pandemic, we need to rebuild our economies and institutions in a resilient and inclusive manner better than they were before.

It is with this in mind that we propose "Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future" as the Ninth Summit's theme.

We see those three elements – sustainability, resilience, and equity – as the cross-cutting elements guiding our Summit agenda across four priority areas:

First – Health, Recovery, and Resilience, which addresses the impacts of COVID-19 and calls for greater coordination and collaboration to strengthen health systems and build back better to prevent the next pandemic;

Second – Our Green Future, which confronts the climate crisis and promotes the development of social and physical infrastructure for greater sustainability and resilience;

Third – Equitable Growth and Prosperity, which tackles increasing regional inequality and fosters the actions necessary to help employers, employees, educators, and youth create a more equitable and inclusive future; and

Fourth – Strong and Inclusive Democracies, which acknowledges the strain placed on governments and societies by the pandemic and the importance of demonstrating democracies can still listen to and deliver for people, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized.

I would like to again thank your governments, as well as the civil society and private sector stakeholders in your countries, and the Joint Summit Working Group, for the feedback that helped us identify these priorities and the over-arching theme for the Ninth Summit.

We are grateful for your partnership and appreciate the opportunity to work with your countries to move beyond just words and establish ambitious, action-oriented outcomes our leaders can deliver through the Ninth Summit.

In addition to your views on the proposed Summit theme and priorities, I would like to invite members of the SIRG to share your ideas for the types of concrete actions or commitments you believe we can achieve as a region on these priorities through this Summit process.