



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)  
Second Regular Meeting of 2022  
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PRESENTATION BY THE OAS  
ON THE POLITICAL COMMITMENTS OF THE NINTH SUMMIT

(Ambassador James Lambert, Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs)

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, US National Summit Coordinator

Distinguished National Summit Coordinators

Permanent Representatives to the OAS

Representatives of the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group

Mr. Chair, I would like to begin this presentation by greeting the Member States and thanking them for participating in the preparatory process for the Ninth Summit of the Americas, whose motto is “Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future.”

For all Summit actors, it is imperative to move forward together in addressing the region’s shared priorities at a critical juncture.

This Second Regular Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) will enable the working group chairs, established in the framework of preparations for the Ninth Summit, to provide an overview of the comments received from the delegations to the draft Political Commitments, and the progress made during the initial discussions of the working groups following the methodology proposed by the Chair. This meeting will also enable us to receive comments from the bodies of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) on these political commitments: the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas, Our Green Future, Accelerating the Transition to Clean Energy, the Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation, and, finally, the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance.

The OAS appreciates and supports the efforts made by the US Delegation to present concrete commitments, which have made it possible for us to focus on proposing goals and determining the means to achieve the proposed objectives.

The OAS General Secretariat has provided written comments to the Summit Secretariat, which are available to the delegations and working groups.

I would like to briefly refer in general to these contributions.

We recommend that the Member States **support and advance the initiatives identified as priorities by the Networks and Meetings of Ministers**, as this facilitates the work of implementing and following up on the commitments adopted at the Summit of the Americas, utilizing and strengthening networks already supported by the international agencies that form part of the JSWG, such as channels for follow-up and mechanisms for implementation.

This is the case of the **Inter-American Digital Government Network** (Red GEALC from the Spanish), of which the OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) hold the Technical Secretariat, and the **Inter-American Government Procurement Network** (RICG from the Spanish), of which the OAS is the Technical Secretariat, in support of the IADB and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF).

With regard to these networks, one topic to be addressed is the statement [“Digital Transformation Beyond Borders”](#), adopted by the digital government authorities at their 2021 Annual Meeting in Panama, which prioritized moving forward on the technical and regulatory aspects of **digital signatures** and **interoperability** as enablers of cross-border actions, formalities and services. In addition, the countries recently signed a statement on public contracts as a strategic area for creating greater public value and better access to citizenship rights ([see in Spanish here](#)). Through this statement, the procurement directors of countries in the region undertook to work on **strengthening public procurement systems and to treating this as a cross-cutting issue** covering various areas, as it affects the health sector, the green economy and digital transformation.

Finally, one aspect we wish to make available to Member States is the use of science and transformative technologies to train and certify young people and underserved populations with the skills for future work through the OAS Youth Academy on Transformative Sciences and Technologies.

### **Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance**

It is also extremely important to follow up on the commitments made at the Eighth Summit of the Americas. The Lima Commitment called for developing an **Inter-American Open Data Program to Prevent and Combat Corruption**. Advancing towards this goal set at the 2018 Summit will require recognizing this Program and moving it forward, including a commitment to implementing it, in order to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat corruption in the region.

The **strengthening of electoral bodies** is another issue that we, as an Organization, wish to bring to the attention of the Member States. It is imperative to protect these electoral bodies by demanding respect for their autonomy and independence, rejecting all attempts to co-opt and discredit them for the furtherance of vested interests.

Similarly, I would like to highlight the **importance of media integrity**. Quality information is essential to quality democracy. Having media that contribute positively to democracy requires that we foster a better-informed citizenry that can recognize and defend democratic principles and practices in the Hemisphere by promoting media productions that respect the basic principles of ethical journalism: truth and accuracy, independence, fairness and impartiality, humanity and accountability.

**Accelerating the Transition to Clean Energy and Our Green Future**

Since its establishment in 2009 at the Summit of the Americas, the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), supported by the OAS-SEDI as its Technical Secretariat, has served as a vehicle to call upon governments and the private sector to come together in promoting investments for energy transition, renewable energy, and clean energy. The ECPA will support the countries of the Hemisphere as they embark upon their speedy transition to clean energy. It will operate as a mechanism for governments to work with each other, with businesses and with the civil society to build synergies, collaborate on common interests and establish new partnerships or strengthen existing ones. Along the same lines, this Alliance will support governments in identifying flagship initiatives with the potential to accelerate net zero energy transitions that receive funding.

Similarly, discussions of each of the political commitments over the coming weeks are expected to emphasize access for women, girls, and groups in vulnerable situations and historically marginalized, as a way to strengthen democratic practices, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Finally, in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat and institutional memory of the Summit Process, through the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, the OAS reiterates its ongoing commitment to and support of the Chair and the States participating in the Summit process in the preparatory phase of the Ninth Summit and in the follow-up and implementation of the commitments and mandates deriving from it.

This is no small effort, so we hope that these two days of work will make it possible to achieve greater convergence on the proposed agenda. Our Secretary General has instructed the Secretariats regarding the significance of this Ninth Summit of the Americas for the hemispheric agenda. They can count on the OAS to assist them in this process.

Thank you very much.