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WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE AD HOC TECHNICAL GROUPS IN THE  
FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF THE  
NINTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

(Presented by the Chair of the SIRG)

## 1. Background

This report covers the main progress achieved through the Ad Hoc Technical Groups established by the SIRG at the Ministerial Level as part of the follow-up and implementation phase of the Ninth Summit of the Americas. The Ninth Summit took place in the city of Los Angeles in June 2022. Under the theme “Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future,” the Hemisphere’s Heads of State and Government adopted five (5) consensus-based documents, which were conceived of as political commitments and contain two hundred and nine (209) mandates.<sup>1/</sup>

- The document *Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas* sets guidelines for a plan of action on which to reach consensus looking toward the Tenth Summit, and to be implemented by 2030.
- The *Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation* addresses digital ecosystems and connectivity, digital and open government, cybersecurity, economic growth, and competitiveness. It encourages the development of national digital innovation strategies with a focus on women and groups in situation of vulnerability, promotes convergence between existing regional initiatives and the strengthening of digital infrastructures, and aims to modernize the provision of public services and promote open data. In the area of cybersecurity, it seeks to encourage international cooperation and information exchanges. It supports strengthened cooperation in e-commerce, entrepreneurship, the development of smart industries, and financial inclusion.
- The document *Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition* seeks to promote energy efficiency and integration—paying particular attention to women and groups in situation of vulnerability—and to implement action plans for mitigating the effects of methane gas, work on the implementation of emission mitigation targets, and design national plans for accelerating the energy transition. It aims to promote the dissemination of technologies, funding to promote low-emission energy systems, good management practices in the mining sector, and the setting of targets for the expansion of renewable energy.

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1. The documents of the Ninth Summit of the Americas are available at: <http://summit-americas.org/documentosixcumbre/documentsixsummit.html>.

- The *Our Sustainable Green Future* document is intended to address the climate crisis by conserving and restoring ecosystems, reducing emissions from land use, harnessing the role of the oceans in climate change mitigation, and promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns. It works to ensure equal opportunities among affected populations by fostering scientific cooperation and education, increasing financing and investment, and encouraging the development of low-emission economies. It commits to strengthening the protection of human rights defenders involved in environmental matters.
- The *Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance* establishes mandates on democracy and human rights, sustainable development, anticorruption efforts, and citizen participation. It seeks to strengthen dialogue mechanisms by supporting the Inter-American Democratic Charter and analyzing and addressing challenges to democracy. It fosters measures and conditions to guarantee more universal participation in the electoral process, and it recognizes the importance of electoral observation missions, along with the principles that should govern them, including the protection of observers. It aims to protect freedom of the press, freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly, and freedom of expression, and to counteract the spreading of false information. It promotes the protection of human rights defenders and the rights of women, indigenous, tribal, Afrodescendent peoples, and other vulnerable or marginalized populations.

The Ad Hoc Technical Groups were established through the document “Ninth Summit of the Americas Implementation: Notional Calendar and Working Procedures,” adopted at the Second SIRG Ministerial Meeting of 2022, held in October in Lima, on the occasion of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS). The document provides for the creation of five (5) Ad Hoc Technical Groups, comprising government experts, to support the implementation of the Ninth Summit’s mandates. In addition to the participation of experts appointed by the governments of the Ninth Summit, it includes the participation of experts from Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) member institutions, as well as the inclusion of recommendations made by stakeholders, including civil society and social actors, private sector representatives, and youth representatives.<sup>2/</sup>

The Ad Hoc Technical Groups allow governments to share the work they have undertaken in the implementation of the Ninth Summit’s mandates. Their specific objectives vary according to the nature of the document in question:

- Ad Hoc Technical Group on Health: Reach a preliminary agreement on the Draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas.
- Ad Hoc Technical Group on Our Sustainable Green Future: Promote the exchange of best practices and expertise for the formulation and implementation of national plans, and the coordination of joint activities and national implementation follow-up.

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2. “Ninth Summit of the Americas Implementation: Notional Calendar and Working Procedures,” document GRIC/M.2/doc.21/22 rev. 1. Available at: <http://www.summit-americas.org/GRIC2022/documentos%20GRIC%20Ministerial%202/Notional%20Calendar%20and%20Working%20Procedures%20ENG.pdf>.

- Technical Group on Clean Energy: Monitor progress towards the energy transition, share best practices, and coordinate regional and national efforts.
- Technical Group on Democratic Governance: Coordinate and report on implementation and joint activities, and identify obstacles to be overcome focusing on the pillars of the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance
- Technical Group on Digital Transformation: Encourage the use of existing mechanisms and follow-up activities focused on the pillars of the Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation.

According to the Working Procedures, the Ad Hoc Technical Groups are to report to the SIRG, which in turn will provide guidance and take charge of following up on and supporting the implementation of the Summit mandates. Accordingly, with the exception of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Health and Resilience, following the Ad Hoc Technical Groups' final meetings, their co-chairs and the SIRG Chair will prepare reports for consideration by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The first reporting exercise on the status of the Technical Groups took place at the First Regular SIRG Meeting of 2023, held on April 6.<sup>3/</sup>

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat, as the technical secretariat of the Summits Process, has been providing technical assistance and advice to the Chair and the governments in organizing and reporting on the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups with the participation of the states and the JSWG entities, and it has also facilitated the participation of civil society and social actors and made their recommendations available to the delegations.

## **2. Meetings**

To date, eleven (11) meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups have been held. The Ad Hoc Technical Group on Our Sustainable Green Future has held two (2) meetings: the first focused on the protection of environmental defenders, and the second on sustainable shipping and the preservation of coastal ecosystems. Two (2) other meetings took place under the aegis of the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance; the first focused on the challenges to democratic governance and the promotion of human rights within the inter-American system, and the second centered on efforts to combat disinformation. The Technical Group on Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition met on one occasion to present the JSWG institutions' energy transition programs and to discuss creating enabling environments for clean energy investments. The Technical Group for the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas met on six (6) occasions, four (4) of which were for negotiations. The remaining two (2) were devoted to the presentation of the Chair's proposal of the Preliminary Draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience, and to dialogue with representatives of civil society and social actors, including the youth and the private sector, on the preliminary draft. The Technical Group on Digital Transformation will convene in the latter half of 2023.

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3. The Chair's report was published as document [GRIC/O.1/INF.32/23](#), and the meeting's Final Report as document [GRIC/O.1/doc.98/23](#).

### **a. Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas**

The Ad Hoc Technical Group on Health and Resilience met periodically between early February and early June 2023 to reach a preliminary agreement on the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas. The meetings and negotiations of the Ad Hoc Technical Group were chaired by Dr. Nelson Arboleda, Director of the Office of the Americas at the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The Draft Action Plan focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and on strengthening the capacity and resilience of the region's health systems to cope with future outbreaks of infectious diseases and other health situations. The document recognizes the sociocultural, economic, environmental, and structural challenges facing the Americas, as well as on the global health and resilience commitments that states have assumed. It comprises five parts, each with several sections: (1) promoting equitable access to health services and products, (2) invest in health systems, (3) strengthen emergency preparedness, (4) address non-communicable diseases, and (5) leverage technology appropriately.

The Preliminary Draft Action Plan was distributed on behalf of the Chair at the end of January 2023 and presented at the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Group. Following the first meeting, the Chair invited the delegations to submit comments on the document. Based on the comments received, the Summits Secretariat consolidated the revised version of the Preliminary Draft Action Plan, which was then considered at the Technical Group's second meeting. This meeting was followed by three (3) additional negotiation meetings. This was followed by a dialogue with representatives of civil society and social actors (coordinated in subregional thematic groups by the Summits Secretariat), youth (coordinated by the Young Americas Business Trust), and the private sector (coordinated by the Americas Business Dialogue). Finally, an additional negotiation meeting was held to settle the pending preliminary agreements and to incorporate the contributions presented at the previous meeting.

Negotiations for the Preliminary Draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas were concluded at the sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on June 1, after which the preliminary draft was submitted to the SIRG for consideration. After being discussed by the delegations at the Second Regular Meeting of the SIRG of 2023, held on June 12 under the leadership of Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, the Chair of the SIRG and National Summit Coordinator of the United States, the Draft Action Plan was submitted for the consideration and approval of the Foreign Ministers at the First SIRG Meeting at the Ministerial Level. The Ministerial Meeting of the SIRG adopted the Action Plan on June 23, 2023, on the occasion of the OAS General Assembly in Washington, D.C.

The dialogue among the delegations also benefited from the input of Summit Process stakeholders. In particular, the JSWG played an important role: the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) provided valuable comments, which were taken up by the delegations to improve the language of the negotiated text. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) also shared contributions.

Similarly, at the dialogue session between the delegations and representatives of civil society and social actors, youth, and the private sector (through the subregional thematic groups, the YABT, and the ABD, respectively), the representatives made concrete contributions towards the negotiation document. The ABD highlighted, among other issues, the need for venues for dialogue with the private sector and the promotion of regulatory convergence and of measures to stimulate investment,

knowledge exchanges, and the strengthening of the sector's governance. The YABT focused on promoting mental health, sexual and reproductive health, health training, youth initiatives, and references to girls and young people. The spokespersons of the subregional thematic groups focused their attention on ensuring equitable access to health services while respecting privacy, promoting dialogue on health issues among the states, sexual and reproductive rights, care for vulnerable groups, and various other topics.<sup>4/</sup>

## **b. Our Sustainable Green Future**

The Technical Group on Our Sustainable Green Future met on two (2) occasions to facilitate the exchange of best practices and know-how for the formulation and implementation of national plans in this area, and to coordinate joint activities.

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Group addressed the protection of environmental defenders, as described in paragraph 1.f. of the applicable document. It was held on January 24, 2023, and was chaired by Ms. Monica Medina, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and Ms. Jane Nishida, Assistant Administrator, Office of International and Tribal Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Alliance for Land, Indigenous, and Environmental Defenders (ALLIED) civil society coalition was invited to present on the subject. It described both killings and non-lethal attacks against defenders and the failure to investigate or prosecute such incidents. It recommended meaningful and iterative consultations with defenders, civil society, and the private sector; working with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to develop whole-of-government national action plans harmonized with the Escazu agreement; tracking attacks; strengthening protection mechanisms; prioritizing the investigation and prosecution of attacks against defenders; and creating positive narratives about defenders.

Key member organizations of the JSWG also gave presentations. The Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights of the OAS's Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (REDESCA-IACHR) warned about the difficult situation faced by human rights defenders and, at the same time, noted the fact that the inter-American system was a pioneer in the protection of the human right to a healthy environment. It highlighted Resolution 3/21 on the climate emergency, adopted by the IACHR and REDESCA, and its incorporation of a rights-based approach to the climate emergency.<sup>5/</sup> In turn, ECLAC's Sustainable Development Policy Unit gave a presentation in its capacity as the secretariat of the Escazú Agreement on Access to Information and Justice in Environmental Matters. It emphasized that this agreement was the first to incorporate provisions for the protection of rights in environmental matters and spoke of the three-pronged approach of the Agreement's article on environmental defenders, which focuses on ensuring safe environments, strengthening prevention and protection measures, and generating response measures.

During the dialogue that followed the governmental experts' presentations, they described their efforts to strengthen the protection of environmental defenders nationally and the cooperation tasks they had undertaken. They highlighted the existence of a voluntary fund for implementation of the

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4. Link to the list of documents with the contributions presented at the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Health: [http://scm.oas.org/doc\\_public/SPANISH/HIST\\_23/CMBRS02563T02.docx](http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/SPANISH/HIST_23/CMBRS02563T02.docx).
  5. Link to Resolution 3/21: [https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/2021/resolucion\\_3-21\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/decisions/pdf/2021/resolucion_3-21_ENG.pdf).

Escazú Agreement and they also underscored the need for public consultations for the prioritization of state actions or prior to the implementation of projects with an impact on communities and the environment. They spoke of good practices in public consultation legislation and policies, and of the willingness to share experiences and lessons learned. They also agreed on the need to avoid duplication of efforts at the international level. In response, some delegations focused on the challenges of coordinating actions at the national level due to the different powers of local governments. Other delegations addressed efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent deforestation, as well as the need for more funding.

The second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Our Sustainable Green Future focused on paragraphs 3.c and 3.d, which deal with green shipping and the protection of coastal ecosystems. It was held on March 1, 2023, in Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of the Our Ocean Conference. It was co-chaired by the delegations of the United States and Panama, led by Ms. Sue Biniatz, Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change at the U.S. Department of State, and Ms. Maxine Burkett, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Fisheries and Polar Affairs at the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State, together with Ms. Diana Laguna Caicedo, Panama's Vice Minister of the Environment, and Ms. Rosilena Lindo Riggs, Panama's Undersecretary of Energy.

Technical experts from the Panama Canal Authority and the Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero-Carbon Shipping were invited to the session on green shipping. The Panama Canal Authority's Interinstitutional Coordination Management highlighted the Canal's contribution to the reduction of transportation emissions, its efforts to achieve carbon-neutral operations, and its conservation of surrounding ecosystems. The Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center warned that emissions from the maritime sector could continue to grow if current trends continued. It therefore recommended promoting energy efficiency, the production of alternative fuels, the creation of global regulations to level the playing field, and providing support for pioneers throughout the value chain to achieve carbon neutrality in maritime transport, all of which are pillars for achieving neutrality in the sector by 2050.

Following the presentations, the delegations exchanged comments with the experts and they spoke of the initiatives that had been undertaken—including within the framework of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)—to reduce ship and ocean pollution. They discussed the development of national strategies for green hydrogen and for the climate-change resilience of logistics sector infrastructure, and the establishment of public budgets that incorporate climate change variables. They also addressed the Clydebank Declaration on the decarbonization of maritime transport, the creation of national and international green corridors, and their compatibility with the multilateral trade regime. They also stressed the need to promote greater collaboration between governments and industry and to include local and indigenous communities in the transition to zero-emission transport. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities was also discussed, along with the need for financing to adapt infrastructure and technologies in order to reduce the sector's emissions.

Technical experts from Conservation International were invited to the session on the protection of coastal marine ecosystems. During the session, Conservation International spoke about the role of blue carbon ecosystems in carbon sequestration and the vital need to inventory and protect them. The organization said that between a quarter and half of those ecosystems had been lost, while highlighting the region's leadership in protection strategies. It noted that nature-based solutions can contribute to the care of water sources for generating hydrogen power while also allowing carbon dioxide capture and biomass production.

The delegations discussed these issues and presented their governmental initiatives for assisting mitigation and adaptation. They first spoke about efforts to increase the percentage of marine protected areas. They showcased national blue carbon policies and strategies, focusing on institutional coordination, ecosystem management and rehabilitation, economic appraisal and funding, capacity-building, and raising awareness about their importance. Other delegations stressed the importance of strengthening national research campaigns and generating public information. Another central theme was the various efforts to inventory blue carbon and the willingness to strengthen external capacities in that area. Other delegations focused on nature-based solutions and their impact on the energy sector.

Among the agencies of the JSWG, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) highlighted its commitment to promote nature-related financing and the integration of natural capital and biodiversity into its operations, as well as the actions of the Natural Capital Laboratory. Similarly, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted its work to support states in protecting maritime areas and their biodiversity, and the assistance provided in relation to nationally determined contributions and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### **c. Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition**

The meeting of the Technical Group on Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition focused on funding for clean energies. Held on March 9, 2023, it was chaired by Mr. Mark Wells, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

The JSWG was actively involved. Presentations were given by the OAS, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and all the multilateral banks that belong to the JSWG. The OAS's Technical Coordination Unit of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) gave a presentation on the close linkages between energy and security. It also stressed that the achievement of technical goals requires political agreements, crystallized in the case of the ECPA at its ministerial meetings. It then announced that the Sixth Ministerial Meeting was to focus on clean energy sources, universal energy access, energy efficiency, regional energy integration, and resilience. In turn, the OECD warned about the development of policies that run contrary to decarbonization plans, such as fossil fuel subsidies, and it noted that barely a quarter of the region's countries have carbon neutrality commitments for 2050. It reported on its Clean Energy Finance and Investment Mobilisation Programme (CEFIM), the aim of which is to provide technical assistance and capacity-building and to reduce the technical barriers impeding clean energy investments.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the World Bank also provided updates on their clean energy financing programs. The bank experts also presented an overview of the region's energy mix, noting that the region's leadership in the use of renewable energies was due to the preponderance of hydroelectric power. They spoke about projected energy participation trends, as well as the persistent challenges facing the transition, which are largely on account of the transportation sector. They added that there were also challenges in terms of energy efficiency. They stressed the importance of greater coordination between the design of promotional policies and the establishment of regulatory frameworks and business plans. Another point of agreement was the need to provide legal certainty and to implement solid and lasting regulatory and fiscal frameworks. Efforts to promote private sector participation in the transition plans were also highlighted.

In turn, the private sector, represented by AES Corporation, gave a presentation on the criteria used by the sector in evaluating clean energy investment opportunities—such as respect for the rule of law, progressive regulatory policies, processes for the issuance of permits, and access to liquidity—and on creating the conditions for attracting investment.

The delegations stated that the promotion of clean energy not only contributes to limiting the rise in temperatures, but also offers opportunities for development and greater energy security. They spoke about national energy strategies for promoting cleaner energy sources, the gradual replacement of more polluting forms of energy, disincentives for carbon-intensive energy projects, and universal access to electricity, and they emphasized the key role of international cooperation and capacity-building in those undertakings.

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

The first meeting was co-chaired by the United States Government and the Governments of Canada and Costa Rica, represented by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, the U.S. National Summit Coordinator and SIRG Chair, Ambassador Hugh Adsett, Deputy National Coordinator of Canada, and Ambassador Alejandra Solano Cabalceta, National Coordinator of Costa Rica. It was held on March 28, 2023, on the occasion of the Second Summit for Democracy, under the theme “Confronting challenges and advancing human rights: upholding our commitment to democracy in the inter-American system.”

As Chair of the JSWG, the OAS was represented by the Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs, Ambassador James Lambert, and the Secretary for Strengthening Democracy, Francisco Guerrero. Ambassador Lambert highlighted previous exchanges on democratic resilience within the framework of the Summit Process and spoke about aspects of the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance, such as strengthening regional mechanisms to address democratic challenges, regional cooperation in support of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the right to vote. In turn, Secretary Guerrero underscored the Ninth Summit's commitment toward strengthening political dialogue in order to address democratic challenges and promote cooperation in support of the Charter. In that regard, he said that multilateralism should be leveraged in defending democracy in the region.

Representatives of specialized civil society also gave presentations on the state of democratic governance in the region and shared their recommendations. The Due Process Foundation warned about interference in the judiciary, the stigmatization and criminalization of opponents, the exacerbation of polarization by executive branches, the closure of venues for civic engagement, the growing role of the armed forces, and the questioning of international justice systems. Highlighting the mechanisms available within the framework of the OAS, the Foundation called for use to be made of those existing capacities to preserve democracy and to adapt electoral observation mechanisms to judicial selection processes. The use of existing mechanisms was also supported by the Carter Center, which also underscored the need for political will for those institutions to perform their functions.

The main areas of agreement identified by both the delegations and specialized civil society focused, first, on the challenges posed to democracy by disinformation. Second, they underscored the need for democracies to provide answers to the problems of inequality and citizen insecurity.

Some delegations noted that democracy was not limited to the holding of elections, but also to the recognition of individuals' rights, the separation of powers, and good governance, in order to ensure equal opportunities and upward social mobility. They also drew attention to the need for better tools to



provide early warnings of threats to democracy. They addressed issues related to the strengthening of electoral systems and identified electoral observation missions as tools for the consolidation of democracy. They also spoke of the role of digital technologies in protecting human rights, ensuring affordability, and promoting pluralism, freedom of expression, the fight against climate change, and inclusive economic growth.

They also noted that under mandates 12 and 12.m of the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance, the Heads of State and Government are committed to continue to comply with the mandates of the Eighth Summit by actively participating in the Lima Commitment Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism.<sup>6/</sup> Not only does this commitment ensure continuity with respect to the guidelines established in Lima in 2018, it also facilitates the provision of adequate follow-up to the fight against a scourge facing the region's democracies.

The second event under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Technical Group focused on ensuring the integrity of information and counteracting disinformation in electoral processes. Co-chaired by the Government of Canada and co-sponsored by the Government of Chile, it was held on the occasion of the fifty-third regular session of the OAS General Assembly in Washington, D.C. The Government of the United States participated in its capacity as Chair of the Summits Process, and was represented by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, its National Summit Coordinator, and by Ms. Kerri Hannan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs for Public Diplomacy, Policy, Planning, and Coordination at the Department of State. The JSWG entities also participated, including—on the OAS side—presentations by Ambassador James Lambert, Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs, Mr. Francisco Guerrero, Secretary for Strengthening Democracy, and Mr. Pedro Vaca, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. Ms. María Celina Conte, Director of the Summits Secretariat, moderated the second part of the meeting.

The first part was moderated by Mr. Christopher Hernandez-Roy, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and involved a debate among regional experts, civil society organizations, academics, and social actors specialized in disinformation and electoral systems, including Chequeado, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and the Communications Faculty of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. Panelists discussed problems caused by disinformation and the impact new digital tools, such as AI, can have on the spread of disinformation and the electoral process. The second part was moderated by Ms. Conte, Director of the Summits Secretariat, and focused on the contributions of participating states and stakeholders in the Summits of the Americas process on best practices to ensure the integrity of information and counter disinformation at election times. Delegations discussed the importance of ensuring voters have verifiable and truthful information and countering disinformation going into elections. Delegations also discussed the importance of protecting freedom of expression and the need to work closely with the private sector, including social media companies. Closing remarks were provided by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, National Summit Coordinator of the United States and Chair of the SIRG, and by Ambassador Hugh Adsett, Deputy National Coordinator of Canada and Permanent Representative to the OAS.

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6. Link to the online platform of the Lima Commitment Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism: [compromisodelima.reee.gob.pe/compromiso/Consulta/Verificar](http://compromisodelima.reee.gob.pe/compromiso/Consulta/Verificar). Currently, at the request of the Government of Peru, the Mechanism's software is being transferred from the Peruvian Foreign Ministry to the GS/OAS, as the technical secretariat of the Summits Process.

#### **e. Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation**

To date, no meetings of this Ad Hoc Technical Group have been held. They are expected to take place in the second half of 2023.

### **3. Best practices**

At the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups, in consideration of the objectives of the Notional Calendar and Working Procedures for the Ninth Summit's follow-up and implementation phase, the delegations presented good practices for making progress with the implementation of the adopted mandates. To facilitate this undertaking, the Summits Secretariat invited the delegations to share those practices by way of the Standard Form for Presentation of Information on Best Practices.<sup>7/</sup> These and all future forms will serve as inputs for the Summits Secretariat's preparation of a publicly accessible online database. The creation of a repository of best practices will enable the systematic and accurate compilation of states' efforts to implement the mandates.

To date, the delegations of Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Panama have presented good practices using the standard form. All the best practices address mandates contained in the Our Sustainable Green Future document. The topics they cover include prior consultation and consent, environmental damage, economic appraisal tools, conservation and sustainable use of forests, emissions reduction programs, support for communities and indigenous peoples in the use of woodlands, and coordinated work with the private sector to promote good corporate sustainability practices.

### **4. Conclusion**

The model adopted for following up on and implementing the mandates of the Ninth Summit within the framework of the SIRG, through the establishment of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups for each of the documents adopted at the Ninth Summit, has to date allowed for a fluid and enriching dialogue and exchanges between the national experts designated by their governments and experts from institutions of the JSWG, with inputs from representatives of civil society and social actors, the private sector, and youth. The process is also identifying good national-level practices that are suitable for replication. The working dynamics have been similar in all the Technical Groups, despite the differences in their objectives.<sup>8/</sup>

The participation of the states has, in almost all cases, been through experts from ministries and specialized agencies with jurisdiction over the issues addressed. This not only implies a high-level technical exchange, but also contributes to the generation of knowledge networks in the region. Similarly, the discussions among the experts have been enriched by presentations from JSWG entities and contributions from specialized civil society, including social actors such as young people and the private sector.

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7. Document published as [GRIC/O.7/INF.1/22](#).

8. The Technical Group that operates differently is Health and Resilience, where the objective of producing an Action Plan requires a more negotiation-oriented approach.

The central themes of the meetings held to date, defined by the chair and co-chairs, reflect the Ninth Summit documents and several of the Hemisphere's priorities. The meetings on Our Sustainable Green Future addressed such topics as the protection of environmental defenders, the protection of coastal ecosystems, and sustainable maritime transportation. In connection with those issues, the delegations highlighted the work carried out through existing venues, the policies already implemented, and their best practices. They also stressed the need to promote the exchange of technical know-how and to secure funding.

The meeting on energy addressed mechanisms for dialogue and international financing, as well as the creation of favorable investment climates. The presentations made by the JSWG institutions provided the states with a wealth of simultaneous information on the energy transition programs being undertaken by the multilateral banks operating in the region.

The meetings on democratic governance addressed the challenges facing the region and the issue of disinformation. Those topics had already been identified as important challenges at previous dialogues and exchanges, and the recommendations for dealing with them presented by specialized civil society were particularly notable.

Finally, the health meetings reached preliminary agreement on the mandate adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas regarding the development of a regional Action Plan on Health and Resilience. The plan arose in the post-pandemic context and entails promoting equitable access to health services, favoring investments and the use of technology, strengthening emergency preparedness, and tackling noncommunicable diseases. It was prepared by the Chair and the participating states, whose discussions were enriched by contributions from the JSWG and civil society and social actors, including young people and the private sector.

Another defining feature of the follow-up and implementation phase through the Ad Hoc Technical Groups has been and continues to be the extensive participation of Summit Process stakeholders. In addition to the participating states, the organizations that make up the JSWG have been actively participating through their experts, providing technical inputs to enrich the debate, and making their capacities available to the states to continue supporting national efforts to implement the Summit mandates. Representatives of specialized civil society, including women's organizations, the private sector, and youth, were also able to share their recommendations with the delegations.

With regard to the actions carried out, it is expected that future meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups on the Ninth Summit's topics will be organized for the participating states, with the participation of different Summit Process stakeholders.

The documents and reports of all the Ad Hoc Technical Groups' meetings are available on a web site prepared by the Summits Secretariat that is accessible to the participating states.