



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
Third Regular Meeting of 2023
October 30, 2023
Washington, D.C.
(Hybrid format)

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FINAL REPORT

The Third Regular Meeting of 2023 of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) was held in Washington, D.C. in a hybrid format on October 30, 2023. The meeting addressed progress in the implementation of the mandates adopted at the Ninth Summit of the Americas and the efforts implemented by the participating states, the entities of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), and civil society organizations and social actors.

1. Welcome remarks by the Chair of the SIRG, Ambassador Francisco Mora, National Coordinator of the United States for the Summits Process

Ambassador Francisco Mora, U.S. National Summit Coordinator and Chair of the SIRG meeting, welcomed the national coordinators for the Summits Process, deputy coordinators, permanent representatives to the Organization of American States (OAS), representatives of the JSWG institutions, and the Summits Secretariat.

Announcing that it would probably be the last SIRG meeting with the United States as chair, he thanked the delegations for their continued commitment during the implementation phase of the Ninth Summit and acknowledged the support of the JSWG institutions and the Summits Secretariat during that phase, as well as the dedication of the civil society, private sector and youth representatives. He also thanked Peru for its legacy as Chair of the Eighth Summit and announced the willingness of the United States to support the Dominican Republic in preparing for the Tenth Summit. His remarks were published as document [GRIC/O.3/INF.29/23](#).

2. Remarks by Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Mr. Luis Almagro, noted the importance and uniqueness of the Summits of the Americas as a crucial platform for reaching political consensus and addressing the most pressing challenges in the Hemisphere. He thanked the government of the United States for its leadership of the Ninth Summits Process, highlighting the mandates adopted by consensus in key areas such as health, democratic governance, our green future, the energy transition, and digital transformation.

The Secretary General highlighted ongoing achievements and collaborations, including partnerships between institutions such as the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to strengthen health systems, and the hemispheric initiative on water and agriculture of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). He recognized the active participation of civil society, youth, the private sector and women's organizations

in the Summits Process and he highlighted the inclusiveness of the Ninth Summit, especially with the innovative Cities Summit. The Secretary General emphasized the importance of strengthening the connection between the Summits Process and inter-American ministerial processes and hailed the success of recent ministerial meetings in key areas. Lastly, he thanked the United States and pledged to continue to support and strengthen the Summits Process in collaboration with the new Chair, the Dominican Republic. His remarks were published as document [GRIC/O.3/INF.30/23](#).

3. Presentations by civil society and social actors on their work during the Ninth Summit follow-up and implementation phase

- Presentations by representatives of the Citizen Forum of the Americas

Mrs. Mercedes De Freitas, referring to the mandates on democratic governance, emphasized the need to ensure protection for social leaders, while promoting the inclusion of diverse social groups in all areas of public life. She stressed the importance that states make progress in strengthening the systems involved in the fight against corruption and impunity, as well as of ratifying regional and international agreements. In that regard, she underscored the importance of the role of civil society in monitoring the ebbs and flows of progress in that area. She also highlighted the fact that technology makes it possible to bring the citizen closer to the management systems, an indirect consequence of digital transformation.

In his remarks on the mandates related to digital transformation, Mr. Marcos Urupa highlighted the opportunities and risks associated with artificial intelligence in the region. He stressed the importance of addressing ethics in the development of artificial intelligence and mentioned an IDB study on the use of these technologies in Latin America, despite none of them being produced in any Latin American country. He urged countries to be proactive when it comes to innovation and to foster the development of proprietary technologies that respect the diversity and context of Latin America. He emphasized the importance of legal frameworks, highlighting the UNESCO ethical principles, which address proportionality, security, privacy, inclusive governance, accountability, transparency, human oversight, sustainability, awareness, and equity in the use of artificial intelligence. The principles are intended to prevent ethical risks and ensure that the benefits of artificial intelligence are accessible to all. The presentations of Citizen Forum of the Americas were published as document [GRIC/O.3/INF.35/23](#).

- Presentations by representatives of Americas Business Dialogue

Ms. Patricia Wu gave a presentation on the implementation of the mandates on health and resilience, in which she reported on the progress of the Americas Rise for Health Initiative. She commented that this is a cutting-edge mechanism that incorporates civil society, the private sector, regional and international institutions, and states, joining efforts to implement the mandates of the Ninth Summit of the Americas on health and resilience. She said that it was an initiative that could be implemented in the short term since it proposed specific actions and projects on trade and investment, regulatory improvements, sustainable health systems, ethics, digital health, etc. She said it was an innovative and creative initiative that sought to implement the commitments adopted in a consensual manner.

Ms. Gaelle Burkhart's presentation focused on the implementation of the mandates on clean energy adopted at the Ninth Summit of the Americas. She mentioned the crucial contribution of the private sector in mobilizing the necessary investments in the transition to renewable energy sources. He stressed the need for innovative approaches, systems and policies that facilitate the private sector to make the investments required to meet these mandates. Americas Business Dialogue aims to maintain an ongoing dialogue between the public and private sectors and thus facilitate the identification of priorities, opportunities, and challenges on the path to clean energy. By building on existing foundations, the aim is to achieve a transition that generates positive impacts, such as job creation, improved opportunities, economies of scale, and reduced capital costs, among other benefits.

- Presentations by representatives of the Young Americas Business Trust

Ms. Erika María Galeano Cañete highlighted the importance of international partnerships in supporting young migrants and refugees. She noted the collaboration between Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) and USA for IOM, which had resulted in the initiative Innovation Challenge: Youth in Motion, a project aligned with the mandates of the Ninth Summit of the Americas. This challenge aims to accelerate innovative ideas to promote the socioeconomic integration of migrants and refugees, thus contributing to the objectives of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection issued at the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles. Ms. Galeano urged the participation of member states, the private sector, and multilateral organizations in strengthening those initiatives and reducing the gaps associated with migrant status.

Mrs. Katherin Méndez, for her part, highlighted the importance of environmental protection and youth empowerment. She highlighted the key role of youth dialogue in the exchange of ideas and cooperation to address environmental challenges. Ms. Méndez underscored the positive impact of initiatives such as the Eco-Challenge, which had supported more than 22,000 sustainable enterprises in the region. She presented the InnovAction Challenge 2.0, a new version of the TIC Americas program for 2024 that was designed to foster entrepreneurship and environmental resilience with a focus on vulnerable groups. The program seeks to address energy efficiency and rational energy use, in line with the commitments adopted at the Ninth Summit of the Americas.

Mr. Edgar Maestre highlighted the actions and plans implemented by the YABT in relation to the Ninth Summit of the Americas. He mentioned YABT's participation in significant events, such as the Second Summit for Democracy and the First Cities Summit of the Americas. Maestre noted the youth consultation process and the reports presented, including the Young Americas Dialogue on the occasion of the fifty-third regular session of the OAS General Assembly. He also referred to the preparations for the Seventh Young Americas Forum at the Tenth Summit of the Americas, highlighting the collaboration with the host country, the Dominican Republic. Finally, he announced the upcoming challenges—InnovAction Challenge 2.0 and Youth in Motion—as part of the TIC Americas program. The YABT presentations were published as document [GRIC/O.3/INF.36/23](#).

4. IX Summit of the Americas Implementation: reports on the status of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups, implementation of Summit commitments, and Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) participation and feedback

- Presentation by the Chair

Ambassador Francisco Mora, United States National Coordinator, gave a detailed presentation on the status of the ad hoc technical groups established as follow-up mechanisms for the implementation of the mandates of the Ninth Summit of the Americas. As of the date of the SIRG meeting, 13 technical group meetings had been held:

- 3 on Our Sustainable Green Future,
- 2 on the Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance,
- 2 on Accelerating the Transition to Clean, Sustainable and Renewable Energy, and
- 6 on Health and Resilience.

The three meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on **Our Sustainable and Green Future** focused, respectively, on the protection of environmental defenders, recognizing their valuable role in protecting our planet's natural resources; sustainable shipping practices and the preservation of fragile coastal ecosystems, for which challenges were addressed and strategies formulated for mitigating their environmental impact; and climate-smart agriculture, addressing innovative solutions and sustainable practices to improve the resilience of agriculture in the face of climate change.

These meetings had provided an important platform for exchanges of best practices and knowledge among participating nations. They had served as a catalyst for the formulation and effective implementation of national plans in line with the objectives of Our Sustainable Green Future. They had also played a key role in fostering collaboration and coordination among countries in this area by promoting joint initiatives and cooperation to collectively address environmental challenges that transcend borders.

The two meetings on the **Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance** focused, on the one hand, on the challenges to democratic governance and the promotion of human rights within the inter-American system and, on the other, on efforts to combat disinformation. A third meeting scheduled for November was expected to focus on protection of the human rights of people of African descent.

These meetings enabled delegations to present the progress, obstacles, and work carried out by the countries in the region, all aimed at the comprehensive implementation of the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance.

The Ad Hoc Technical Group on **Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition** met on two occasions: the first meeting focused on presenting the JSWG institutions' programs for financing the energy transition and discussing the creation of enabling environments for clean-energy investments; the second focused on the development of green hydrogen and its potential in the region as an example of a clean energy technology that could be expanded in the region.

These meetings were key to raising awareness of the various financing and technical programs available, facilitating contacts and connections to access these programs, exchanging best practices and knowledge related to the development and implementation of national plans in this regard, and coordinating joint actions.

The Ad Hoc Technical Group on **Health and Resilience** met periodically between February and 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 resulted in a Draft Action Plan that focuses on the repercussions 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 the global health and resilience commitments adopted by states. 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 draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience was approved at the SIRG Meeting at the Ministerial Level held in Washington, D.C, in June 2023.

The Chair indicated its interest in the ad hoc technical working groups continuing their collaboration with the Dominican Republic during its tenure as Chair of the SIRG to ensure continued collective action on the issues on the agenda of the Ninth Summit of the Americas. The presentation of the chair was published as document [GRIC/O.3/INF.32/23](#).

- Implementation reports by delegations

The delegation of Canada highlighted the work and leadership of the United States in the Ninth Summits Process. Canada recognized the importance of follow-up on the commitments made and highlighted the development of five action plans to strengthen democratic governance, build resilient health systems, accelerate the transition to clean energy, reduce the effects of climate change, and benefit citizens through digital transformation.

Canada underscored its active participation in the ad hoc technical groups since June 2022, noting the learning from diverse perspectives and identifying innovative solutions to regional issues. The country expressed satisfaction with the inclusion of civil society, youth, and the private sector in the process, recognizing their crucial role in the implementation of the agreements.

In particular, Canada highlighted the contribution of women's organizations at the Summit by presenting recommendations on key issues and stressing the importance of promoting women's rights and gender equality. In addition, Canada recognized the work of the Summits Secretariat, pledged to collaborate fully in the preparations for the next Summit, and advocated an open, respectful, and unifying approach to strengthen the Hemisphere. The remarks of Canada were published as document [GRIC/O.3/INF.33/23](#).

- Interventions by JSWG institutions

The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) reaffirmed the institution's commitment to the Summits of the Americas process, especially the implementation of the political commitments of the Ninth Summit. He stressed the importance of aligning the progress of the JSWG entities with the implementation of policy commitments and of identifying areas of complementarity and joint work with other actors. He mentioned the willingness of the IDB to participate in the preparations for the Tenth Summit and highlighted its role in coordinating the Americas Business Dialogue, which involved more than 400 companies and business associations. He concluded by

underscoring the importance of maintaining a channel of communication with the private sector, civil society, and youth, and expressed the IDB's willingness to support and coordinate the participation of various sectors in the achievement of political commitments and the formulation of policy recommendations.

The representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) highlighted the role of the organization as a source of knowledge and promoter of analytical policy dialogue for the countries of the region for almost 75 years. He referred to current challenges, such as climate, social, educational, and economic issues, as well as the growing debt of many countries. In the post-pandemic context, he urged not only damage mitigation but also the promotion of transformative actions for development, with a focus on policies to stimulate productive transformation and public and private investment. He stressed the need for policy coordination, institutional improvement, macroeconomic momentum, the building of welfare states, strengthening of care systems, protecting the rights of vulnerable populations, and addressing the environmental emergency. ECLAC confirmed its support for the commitments of the Ninth Summit and offered its support to the OAS and the Summits Secretariat.

The representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) acknowledged the leadership of the United States and the OAS, as well as the commitment of the participating states to implement the mandates of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, especially the Action Plan on Health and Resilience. He highlighted the alignment of these documents with regional health priorities and detailed progress in three key areas: strengthening of health systems, regional vaccine production capacity, and public health emergency preparedness. He noted that PAHO supports regional efforts to address common health challenges in the Americas. The PAHO statement was published as document [GRIC/O.3/INF.37/23](#).

The representative of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) gave a brief summary of the progress and achievements to date in collaboration with more than 150 international, regional and national partners in three of the priority thematic areas: green future, health and resilience, and digital transformation. With regard to a sustainable green future, IICA implemented some 40 initiatives aimed at achieving a more sustainable, climate-resilient, low-carbon agricultural sector. Those initiatives played a crucial role at COP27, providing a space for member countries to highlight the positive performance of their agricultural sectors in the fight against climate change. With regard to health and resilience, IICA implemented more than 74 initiatives related to Sustainable Development Goal 3, including the recent Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas in May 2023, where "One Health" was agreed upon as a concept that seeks to optimize animal, plant, human, and environmental health. In the area of digital transformation, the representative detailed more than a dozen initiatives to promote the digitization of agri-food systems and reduce the digital divide in rural areas. He highlighted key achievements, such as the organization of the two Digital Agriculture Weeks in 2022 and 2023, the establishment of an Agtech network with entrepreneurs from 12 countries in the Americas, capacity building for young people in resilient and digital agriculture, and the implementation of a precision production model in Panama that increased profitability and cut greenhouse gas emissions. The statement of IICA was published as document [GRIC/O.3/INF.38/23](#).

5. Remarks by Ambassador Rubén Silié, Vice Minister of Multilateral Foreign Policy of the Dominican Republic, host country of the Tenth Summit of the Americas

The Dominican Republic, as host country for the Tenth Summit of the Americas, underlined the high value placed on multilateral forums in the region. It acknowledged that differences existed but emphasized that areas of concurrence were more important in today's global reality. It highlighted the region's stability, its key role in the third industrial revolution and sustainable energy production, its water resources and contribution to food security.

It acknowledged the leadership of the United States in implementing the political commitments and the work of the five ad hoc technical groups. It recalled that the Dominican Republic chaired the working group "Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition" during the preparations for the Ninth Summit and noted that in March 2024, the ministerial meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) would take place in Punta Cana in line with the mandates adopted in that connection at the Ninth Summit. It referred to the importance of the Cities Summit in Denver and pledged to continue working for more sustainable, resilient and equitable societies. It recognized multilateralism as key to progress and expressed the Dominican Republic's commitment to an inclusive Summit that promoted regional cooperation for sustainable development. It pledged to continue integrating all social sectors and to organize successful forums. It concluded by expressing awareness of the consequential importance of the Summit's work and willingness to overcome challenges through collaboration. Vice Minister Silié's remarks were published as document [GRIC/O.3/INF.31/23](#).

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

The United States, as outgoing Chair of the Summits Process, thanked the Dominican Republic for taking up the leadership of the process and reiterated the support and commitment of its delegation to the incoming Chair.

The delegation of Peru expressed its appreciation and endorsement for the work of the United States during its tenure as Chair of the Summits Process and referred to the continuity in the efforts led by Peru during the Eighth Summit. It stressed that significant milestones had been achieved as a result of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, such as the establishment of the Action Plan on Health and Resilience and the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance. It stressed the importance of the active participation of civil society, young people and the business sector, as well as the valuable contribution of the JSWG, which enriched the process and legitimized it with their contributions.

Peru reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the agreements, especially the follow-up of the Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance against Corruption and renewed its offer of collaboration to the next Chair of the Summits Process, the Dominican Republic, as evidenced in a coordination meeting with the team from the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In that regard, the country expressed its willingness to continue contributing to the success of the process and maintaining a high sense of commitment and active participation in the follow-up of agreed commitments and plans.

The delegation of Panama, in line with the Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance, stressed the importance of ensuring the integrity of widely disseminated information and of addressing the challenge of balancing the right to freedom of expression and information quality and integrity. Panama highlighted steps taken to expand access to information and combat misinformation, including the 2017 electoral reform and training at the community level, especially for indigenous women.

In addition, Panama shared the progress made in its energy transition agenda by establishing strategies for a sustainable energy and electricity sector. It highlighted the roadmap for the national carbon market, the purchase and sale of emission reduction units, and the approval of the green hydrogen strategy in July 2023, demonstrating its commitment to phasing out fossil fuels. Panama recognized the role of the Dominican Republic as host country of the next Summit of the Americas and expressed its willingness to share best practices and support initiatives to improve quality of life within the framework of international cooperation and the inter-American system.

The delegation of Costa Rica recognized the diversity of voices represented, including civil society and social actors, and highlighted the joint collaboration in advancing towards sustainable development. It emphasized the importance of cooperation between countries, the private sector, civil society, and academia to overcome challenges. It referred to its active participation in the ad hoc technical groups. It also highlighted its commitment to address regional issues and its offer of collaboration to address challenges such as those associated with migration.

The delegation of Costa Rica also highlighted the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas and identified its five key areas. It also endorsed the Cities Summits Process and stressed the importance of dialogue at the regional and local levels for improving public health, addressing environmental challenges, and ensuring safety in collaboration with various sectors.

Costa Rica reaffirmed its willingness to strengthen advocacy capabilities in the Summits Process and the implementation mechanisms, as well as supporting the Dominican Republic's proactive and constructive leadership in the next cycle of the Summits Process. The remarks of Costa Rica were published as document [GRIC/O.3/INF.34/23](#).

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m. on October 30, 2023.