



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
Third Regular Meeting of 2023
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REMARKS BY OAS SECRETARY GENERAL

(Luis Almagro)

Ambassador Francisco Mora, National Summits Coordinator of the United States and Chair of the Summit Implementation Review Group;

National Summits Coordinators;
Permanent Representatives to the OAS;
Representatives of the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group;
Attending representatives of civil society and social actors:

The Summits of the Americas represent a unique opportunity to forge a regionwide consensus at the highest political level in search of solutions to the Hemisphere's most pressing problems and challenges and to take decisive action in favor of our peoples.

I am honored and pleased to address you at the beginning of this Third Regular Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG, chaired by the Government of the United States).

I thank Ambassador Mora, the Chair of the SIRG, and I duly note the leadership of the United States Government throughout the process for the Ninth Summit since it began in July 2020, a process with which we have continued to engage most closely, particularly through our Summits of the Americas Secretariat.

One year and four months after the Ninth Summit took place in Los Angeles, the time is right to showcase a number of aspects of that process, in which—under the leadership of the United States—its different stakeholders have been participating.

The mandates of the Ninth Summit, which were adopted by consensus through five Political Commitment documents—addressing the topics of health and resilience, democratic governance, our green future, the energy transition, and digital transformation—reiterate our region's priorities; during the recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, these priorities will become even more evident and providing solutions to them and responding to our citizens' demands will become increasingly urgent.

I would like to remind the states of the importance of continuing to file periodic reports on their actions in pursuit of the Summit's mandates, since this makes their efforts more visible, especially to the public, and underscores the importance of the Summits Process in defining and advancing the regional agenda. And I cannot miss the opportunity to highlight, among the efforts made, the early adoption of the Plan of Action on Health and Resilience for the Americas adopted at the Foreign Ministers' SIRG last June under the leadership of Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The work and contributions of the institutions of the JSWG in the Ninth Summit's five areas have manifested themselves through cooperation programs, technical and financial assistance, and other efforts, in several cases involving the participation of various JSWG institutions.

I would like to make a quick reference to the partnerships forged by CAF and PAHO for strengthening health systems in such critical areas as climate change and food security. Similarly notable is IICA's hemispheric water and agriculture initiative, which seeks to work with partners such as the IDB, ECLAC, the World Bank, and CAF to attain regional water security by proposing innovative solutions that address a range of issues, such as the availability and quality of water and soils, the level of development of agricultural infrastructure, exposure to droughts and floods, the sustainable use of groundwater resources, and the institutional capacity of the stakeholders involved.

I will also take this opportunity to highlight the active participation of civil society representatives and social actors—including young people, the private sector, and women's organizations—in the Summits Process. Their reflections and recommendations benefited all phases of the Ninth Summit Process, and they continue to do so in the current phase with their social audit actions that contribute to the accountability process.

I also underscore the major efforts made by the United States to make the Summit the most inclusive to date, with innovations such as the Cities Summit, which was held in Denver and was a great success.

Likewise, I will take this opportunity to highlight the importance of strengthening the links between the Summits of the Americas Process and the inter-American ministerial processes, many of which take place within the OAS, so that Summit priorities can be better integrated into those ministerial processes and effective mechanisms can be identified for better coordinating their implementation and strengthening the architecture of the Summits Process.

We celebrate the success of the recent OAS, OECD, and IICA ministerial meetings focused on pursuing mandates related to the Ninth Summit's themes of Our Green Future and Clean Energy. From within the OAS, we will continue along that path at the next meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) in the Dominican Republic in March 2024.

The new cycle towards the Tenth Summit will soon be taken up by the Government of the Dominican Republic, whom we thank for taking the lead in directing a renewed hemispheric agenda. Recently, the Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs, James Lambert, and the Director of the Summits Secretariat, María Celina Conte, undertook a mission to the Dominican Republic to meet with Foreign Minister Álvarez and his team in preparation for their assumption of the chair of this Process. The General Secretariat will be pleased to provide the advice and support required by the Dominican Republic for a successful and innovative Tenth Summit of the Americas.

Over these past three years, collaboration with the U.S. Department of State has been key and I cannot fail to acknowledge former National Summits Coordinator Kevin O'Reilly for his leadership, as well as Ambassador Brian Nichols and the United States Summits team led by David Silverman and Jennifer Showell.

I conclude by reiterating my appreciation of the leadership the Government of the United States has shown as chair of the Ninth Summit Process, and I underscore the ongoing commitment of the General Secretariat, through the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, to continue to provide the technical support and advice required by the chair of the Summits Process and the member states at all stages of the process and, at the same time, to continue strengthening the participation and coordination of the JSWG institutions and the participation of civil society and social actors in the Summits Process.

Our work is ongoing and permanent and we always hand over the record to those who follow us, and that will be so in this case, since the next Summit will take place after my time in office has concluded.