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**PRESENTATION BY SHERRY TROSS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS
SECRETARIAT, ON THE NATIONAL REPORTS OF MEMBER STATES ON PROGRESS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF SUMMIT MANDATES**

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Permanent Representatives, National Coordinators & Deputy National Coordinators,
Delegates,

I am pleased to address this meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) on the subject of national reports of member states on progress in the implementation of Summit mandates.

One of the main functions entrusted to this group by the Heads of State and Government is derived from the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile which calls for the SIRG to meet on a periodic basis to monitor the follow-up process and assess the degree to which the Summit mandates have been fulfilled. In the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, Member States indicated their intention *“to continue to provide annual national reports to the OAS on the actions and progress made towards achieving the specific objectives set at the Summits of the Americas,”* and instructed *“the General Secretariat of the OAS, in accordance with its central role in supporting the implementation of Summit mandates and in coordination with the members of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), to provide a comprehensive report to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), annually, on the actions and progress made at all inter-American Ministerial Meetings towards supporting Summit objectives.”*

At the December 2010 meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group, Ambassador Luis Alfonso Hoyos Aristizabal, Chair of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), reported on the actions and progress made at all inter-American Ministerial Meetings towards supporting Summit objectives. This report was circulated to all Member States as document GRIC/O.2/doc.8/10. Throughout the course of the SIRG meetings programmed through April 2012, and as was presented by the Chair of the SIRG in the Work Plan, the SIRG will be receiving reports from the different inter-American ministerial meetings to be held before the Sixth Summit.

Today’s presentation therefore will focus solely on the progress reported by Member States over the course of the past year.

As Member States are aware, two years ago, the Summits Secretariat introduced the Summit Implementation and Follow-Up System (SISCA) with the aim of facilitating follow-up and streamlining the process for the presentation of national reports. Based on feedback received from Member States, in recent months, the Summits Secretariat undertook a review of the system and has been working with the Department of Information Technology to redesign the system to improve its user-friendliness and its functionality in accordance with recommended adjustments. A prototype of the redesigned system was shared with Member States on March 24th at a meeting of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC). The updated version of SISCA will enable reporting by theme, allow users to be able to identify the mandates that relate to the specific theme on which they are reporting, and simplify the process of inputting information in the system in order to make the process less time and labor intensive. The new system now includes a report function designed to facilitate the extraction of information once it has been entered. This functionality, we believe, will also facilitate the drafting of national reports thus reducing or eliminating the current duplication of effort which requires Member States to draft a report and separately input information into the system. The revamped system is also designed to facilitate the standardization of presentation of national reports.

National reports on advances and achievements of Member States on the implementation of Summit mandates are of vital importance for the Summits process. They represent the primary source for demonstrating that Summit mandates and commitments are being advanced through actions and initiatives both at national and hemispheric levels that lead to real results.

Therefore, Chair, with your permission, I wish to take this opportunity to urge Member States to submit their National Reports at the earliest possible opportunity in anticipation of the upcoming Meeting of the SIRG at the Ministerial Level to be held within the framework of the forty-first regular session of the General Assembly.

In terms of reporting on Summit mandate implementation, from 2010 to date, 11 Member States have submitted national reports. This has been done in two ways -- hard copies and/or information entered into the online follow up system.

The National Reports received over the course of this period are very comprehensive and cover a wide range of initiatives and themes, including public security, women's participation and inclusion, and actions to prevent violence against women. Member States have reported on national initiatives to fight hunger and grant citizens access to an adequate nutrition, and have highlighted important initiatives on poverty reduction, access to education, energy sustainability and the responsible management of the environment, among other programs. In addition to these programs, however, the Fifth Summit produced several regional and bilateral initiatives and cooperation agreements. Some of these will be addressed in the next agenda item during the presentations of the Joint Summit Working Group.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I wish to share with Member States that, with the goal of improving awareness on Summit mandate implementation and successes, the Secretariat has been preparing and distributing a news brief twice a month with the goal of highlighting Member State fulfillment of Summit-related initiatives as well as showing measurable results and the real impact of these programs on people's lives. The news briefs are adapted from information taken from national reports submitted by Member States or reports of the Joint Summit Working Group. Recent briefs have featured important initiatives being undertaken by Mexico, Peru, Guyana, Haiti as well as by JSWG members. Additionally, the Summits Secretariat would wish to share that, as in previous Summits, the information contained in

national and Joint Summit Working Group reports will be packaged in a publication that we hope to distribute broadly, and that will highlight key areas of fulfillment of mandates since the last Summit of the Americas in 2009. The Summits Secretariat will continue to consult with Member States on this and other related matters in its ongoing efforts to report on Summit mandates, and actions and impacts thereto related.

The Secretariat will continue to engage and collaborate with the different areas of the Organization responsible for the holding of ministerial meetings, and with Member States to continue to ensure that Summit mandates and objectives are an integral part of the discussions during the different ministerial and sectoral meetings, and that these discussions ultimately allow for both backwards and forwards linkages between ministerial processes and the Summit.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, the Summits Secretariat will continue to work closely with Member States in the ongoing reporting and implementation phase of the Summit process. I look forward to the feedback and discussions from Member States on this item.

Thank you.