

THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS



Summits of the Americas Secretariat

Some Considerations

- Summits of the Americas – Definition and History
- What is the Summit of the Americas Process?
- How does the Summit Process function? –Main actors
- What has been accomplished through the Summits Process?
- What is the status of preparations for the Fifth Summit?



Definition of the Summits of the Americas

It is a high-level Forum where *Heads of State and Government* of the 34 democratic countries in the Hemisphere deliberate and agree on the main challenges confronting the region.

More than just a single event, **the Summit of the Americas is a process** involving the interplay of a variety of actors, including governments, international organizations and civil society, necessary to discern and negotiate those themes and challenges deemed as priorities for the region.

The objectives of this multilateral process are to seek common solutions to those identified priorities and to devise strategies through the drafting of a Summit **Declaration of Commitment** (combination of the past Declaration and Plan of Action).



THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS

Since 1994, four Summits and two Special Summits have been held in six different countries in the region.

The Summits have allowed the citizens of the Americas to have better and more articulated policies regarding combating poverty, judicial cooperation, and economic integration, to name a few.

For more information on the history of the Summits go to:
<http://www.summit-americas.org/eng-2002/summit-process.htm>



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THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS



First Summit (Miami, December 1994) Partnership for Development and Prosperity: Democracy, Free Trade and Sustainable Development in the Americas



Special Summit on Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, December 1996)



Second Summit (Santiago, April 1998) Education, Social justice, Economic Integration, and Political Dialogue.



Third Summit (Quebec City, April 2001) Democracy, promotion of Good Governance and Human Rights protection; Prosperity, and the role of Technology.



Special Summit on Sustainable Economic Growth, increased Distribution of Wealth and Social Development. (Monterrey, January 2004)



Fourth Summit (Mar del Plata, November 2005) "Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance".



Fifth Summit (Port of Spain, April 2009) "Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability"

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*“Securing Our Citizens’
Future by Promoting
Human Prosperity,
Energy Security and
Environmental
Sustainability”*

Trinidad and Tobago

April 17-19, 2009



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How does the Summit Process function?

Main actors



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Main Actors

These key actors serve as the principal channels through which the issues and urgent challenges of the inter-American agenda are identified, discussed, and shaped into what will become the Declarations of the Summits of the Americas.

- Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)
- Host Government (Summit National Secretariat)
- Summits of the Americas Secretariat (OAS)
- Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG)
- Civil Society
- Ministers and High Level Authorities of the Americas (Ministerial Meetings)



Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)

- Core management body of the Summit Process, tasked with negotiating priorities for future Summits and reviewing the implementation of the Summit mandates.

- **National Coordinators** represent each of the 34 democratically elected governments of the hemisphere.

- Responsible for reporting annually on the progress achieved in the fulfillment of the Plan of Action

- Meets at least 3 times a year, with one of their meetings held at the Ministerial level at the OAS General Assembly.



Summits of the Americas Secretariat (OAS)

- Serves as technical secretariat and institutional memory of the Summit of the Americas Process
- Supports the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) – presents reports on JSWG activities
- Chairs the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) and coordinates its activities to implement Summit mandates
- Coordinates with the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS the implementation of Summit mandates
- Promotes and disseminates Summit mandates to Member States, civil society, the private sector, the academia, and the media
- Supports the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC)
- Coordinates with OAS bodies the achievements of ministerial and high-level meetings to the Summit Process and distributes this information to the follow-up mechanisms of the Process
- Maintains and operates the Summits of the Americas Information Network.



Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG)

Comprised of twelve member institutions, whose expertise span the range of Summit and Inter-American issues, the JSWG is a clear indication of how the Summits Process has fostered new levels of cooperation and communication in the region.

The Group's main purpose is to coordinate and report on follow-up activities of their institutions for the implementation of Summits mandates. In addition, the research and expertise of these organizations constitute an invaluable source of information that is used to determine the most important issues facing the citizens of the Hemisphere.



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Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG)



[Organization of American States](#)



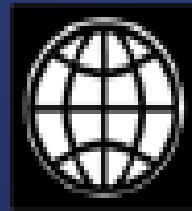
[Inter American Development Bank](#)



[Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean](#)



[Pan American Health Organization](#)



[World Bank](#)



[Inter American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture](#)



[Andean Development Corporation](#)



[Caribbean Development Bank](#)



[Central American Bank for Economic Integration](#)



[International Organization for Migration](#)



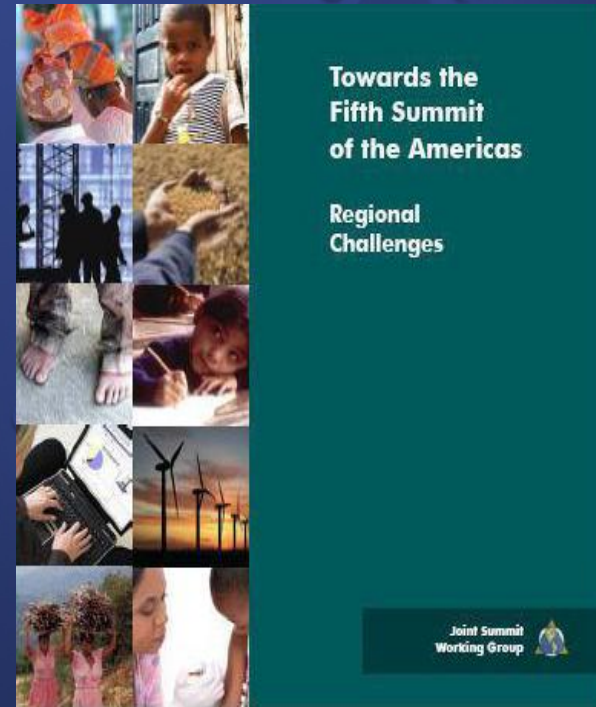
[International Labour Organization](#)



[Institute for Connectivity of the Americas](#)

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Joint Summit Working Group



- Dedicated to achieving greater integration of Summit mandates in their own agendas; technical cooperation and financing actions
- Coordinate efforts to support governments in the follow-up and implementation of Summit mandates

JSWG presents reports to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the National Summit Coordinators.

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Ministerial meetings in the summit Process

Support of Ministerial Meetings to the Summit

Process:

- Works on issues related to the Summits so that the implementation of mandates to emanate are adapted into a Plan of Action in each specific issue
- Review the implementation of Summit mandates
- Evaluating the achievements
- Identifying challenges
- Recommending and developing new commitments through consensual language
- Advancing hemispheric cooperation



Summits of the Americas support to Ministerial meetings:

Giving political endorsement to Ministerial meetings
Ensuring institutionalization and continuity of Summit Process.

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Civil Society as a Main actor Participating in the Summit Process

Civil Society Participation

1. OAS Permanent Council and OAS General Assembly meetings
2. Civil Society Forums and Meetings
3. Introducing Recommendations to Ministerial Meetings and Summits of the Americas
4. Cooperation Agreements to carry out projects jointly with OAS agencies



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IMPORTANCE OF Civil Society PARTICIPATION In the summit process

- Enriches the debate on every topic of the Inter-American agenda
- Facilitates the implementation and follow-up of policies
- Contributes to the dispersion of political agreements
- Minimizes the negative effect of disagreements
- Provides vital information for drafting strategies and programs
- Increases Project sustainability
- Produces better and more efficient results when implementing the policies.



Achievements of the Summits Process

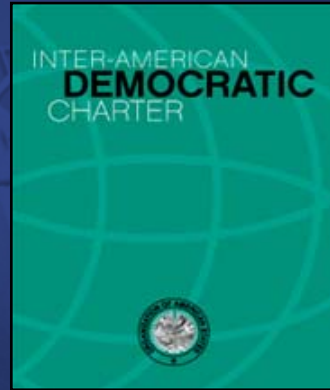
What has been done?



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ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SUMMIT PROCESS

- Inter-American Convention against Corruption (1996)
- Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression (1997)
- Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) (1998)
- Inter-agency cooperation - Natural Disasters (1998)
- Inter-American Democratic Charter (2001)
- Connectivity Agenda for the Americas –ICA- (2002)
- Declaration on Security in the Americas (2003)
- Inter-American Committee on Culture (2003)
- Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices (2005)



Ongoing Process:

- Advances in participation of civil society, private sector and academia

Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and Discrimination

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