



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)  
Second Regular Meeting of 2009  
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Organization of American States  
Washington D.C.

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## **REPORT OF THE MEETING**

### **1. PREPARATIONS**

At the First Regular meeting of the SIRG for 2009, which was held in Washington D.C. , the Chair, Ambassador Luis Alberto Rodriguez, National Coordinator and Special Envoy for the Americas, of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, had indicated to member states that at the Second SIRG for 2009, Deliberations would begin on the following areas, “Strengthening Public Security, Strengthening Democratic Governance and Strengthening the Summit of the Americas, follow up and implementation effectiveness” (paragraphs 47bis -66) and then continue, in the Working Group, with the pending paragraphs from the Energy Security, and Human Prosperity Pillars as well as Environmental Sustainability.

On January 27, 2009, the most recent revision of the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, (GRIC/ DC-V/doc.1/08 rev 5) was circulated to all National Coordinators, and Permanent Missions, as the working document for the Second SIRG for 2009. A copy of the Compendium of Proposals Presented by Member States on the Environmental Sustainability Section of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain GRIC/D.C.-V/doc.3/08 rev. 1./08 was also sent to the Member States on January 27, 2009.

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Chair, Ambassador Luis Alberto Rodriguez, reiterated his gratitude to the Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) for assistance in convening the Second Regular meeting of the SIRG for 2009. He then presented the agenda for the meeting GRIC/01/doc.2/09 rev.2 for the consideration of the delegates. There having been no objections or amendments to the agenda it was approved. The Chair

### **3. OPENING SESSION**

The Chair opened the session by giving a brief outline of the work methodology for the Second SIRG. He informed that three quarters of the Draft Declaration, including the new paragraphs introduced by delegations have been discussed. The Chair also informed that 29 paragraphs were approved, (7 by the Working Group, 7 which were presented to the Plenary for consideration, 5 which were reformulated by the National Secretariat, and 10 by the Plenary). The Chair stated that the last three sections of the draft Declaration, “Strengthening Public Security, Strengthening Democratic Governance and Strengthening the Summit of the Americas Follow up and Implementation Effectiveness” would be the focus of the Second SIRG for 2009. He further stated

that the deliberations would begin with Public Security, followed by a review of pending paragraphs, and a presentation by the Young Americas Forum the following day. The Chair acknowledged the presence of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Mr. Jose Miguel Insulza and offered him the floor.

a) Welcoming Remarks by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States

The Secretary General extended a warm welcome to the participants and expressed the hope for a successful Summit of the Americas. He informed that the issues of Public Security were extremely important to him personally and he was happy to see that it was included as one of the issues in the Declaration. He also stated that a copy of his prepared speech which contains all the issues governing Public Security and which was delivered in Mexico at the First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas will be circulated to the participants of the SIRG. He indicated that this was being done in the interest of time and also would allow member States to take their own decisions on this issue.

The complete text mentioned by the Secretary General can be found at [http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG\\_0109/remarks\\_insulza\\_en.doc](http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG_0109/remarks_insulza_en.doc)

b) Remarks by Ambassador Luis Alberto Rodríguez

Ambassador Rodriguez, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, thanked the Secretary General for his remarks and also took the opportunity to express his gratitude to the OAS for the strong technical support the National Secretariat continued to receive during the negotiations.

The Chair reminded delegates that they were a mere 66 days away from the Fifth Summit of the Americas and that it was necessary to review what progress had been made to date in the emerging Draft Declaration. He stated that he was concerned that the Declaration did not appear to be what is so desperately needed to inspire hope and improve the quality of life of the citizens of the Hemisphere. He opined that the draft Declaration in its present state had lost the spirit of the theme of the Summit which was presented to delegations on July 24, 2008. The Chair stated that the negotiations were being conducted in a very hesitant and safe manner with countries not willing to assume new commitments and happy to reiterate old ones. He also stated that there were inconsistencies in the negotiation mode of the countries, where they would embrace the past in some instances and depart from it in some others. He urged countries to be guided by the clear and present need to refocus development priorities and to shape a collective vision for the Hemisphere around strategic actions and clearly defined targets that have a genuine chance of being pursued and implemented. In this regard he recommended that three important questions be asked for each paragraph, sentence and commitment. These were 1) is there any implementation action from this text, 2) will it lead to any tangible and measurable progress for our citizens and 3) is it appropriate for leaders to focus on these issues? The Chair informed that there were several paragraphs in the current document that do not stand the test of these questions.

The Chair stated that the subject issues which were slated for discussion at the second SIRG of the year have always been of great concern for the region given the fact that globally 81% of all

cocaine seizures occur in the Americas and over 58 million illegal drug users reside there. He also stated that with respect to Democratic Governance the challenges faced were manifested in the outcomes of a poll conducted last year where 70% of people in Latin America believed that their government represented only the interest of a few rather than the majority and only 44% stated that they had confidence in their government.

The Chair also indicated that all countries agree that follow up and implementation is a central issue for the Summits and that although words are an expression of commitment they must be followed by action which is urgently required. He stated that the task must not be left to government and institutions alone but that all actors must play their part to effectively execute the Summit commitments and mandates. He concluded by calling for an acceleration of the pace of the negotiations but warned that it should not be done by sacrificing the substance of the Draft Declaration.

The complete text of Ambassador Luis Alberto Rodriguez's statement can be found at ([http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG\\_020909/remarks\\_lar\\_en.doc](http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG_020909/remarks_lar_en.doc))

#### 4. FIRST PLENARY SESSION

##### a) Overview of the methodology of the SIRG

In opening the First Plenary Session, the Chair reiterated the outline of the methodology proposed by the National Secretariat for the deliberations. He informed that the methodology would remain the same as in previous meetings and that the Director of the Summits Secretariat would introduce each paragraph. The Representative of Argentina requested the floor and raised the issue of the Meeting of Workers which had become the norm at various SIRG meetings and which provided the workers with the opportunity to express their rights and their concerns about issues which affected them. The Representative requested that the Mandates given at the Panama General Assembly of the OAS and other assemblies be observed and that the date time for a Workers meeting as well as the invitations should go out to the Labor Representatives. The Representatives of Brazil, Canada and Venezuela took the floor in support of the Argentine Representative and reiterated the call for the National Secretariat to begin planning for such a meeting.

The Chair in responding indicated that the National Secretariat had no mandate to convene such a meeting and that the mandate to do so was given to the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) which has not given the necessary information to the National Secretariat. The Secretary General informed that COSATE has always been involved in the General Assembly of the OAS and that their involvement has been as a result of the implementation of the mandates for their inclusion, by SEDI. He indicated that the OAS would look into the situation and clear up any misunderstanding on this issue. The Chair indicated that once the situation was cleared up then the meeting of the Workers would appear in the Third Bulletin which will be circulated by the National Secretariat in early March.

The Chair instructed that paragraphs that were not approved in Plenary would be submitted to the Working Group for consideration. The Chair, like in previous meetings, reiterated that where extensive changes or new texts were being proposed, the Member States would orally present them to the meeting, and submit their text to the Summit Secretariat for translation and distribution. The

Chair stated that on completion of the discussion on a paragraph, it would be read in its entirety, for final approval. He also indicated that members of the Joint Summit Working Group would be called upon for any clarification required, during the negotiations.

Ambassador Rodriguez reiterated that if final approval could not be obtained he would propose that the National Secretariat provide a modified text for consideration or that a working group be formed to address the matter. He indicated that this would be the methodology for all subsequent SIRG meetings.

The Chair opened the floor for the presentations of the three institutions invited to speak on “Strengthening Public Security, Strengthening Democratic Governance and Strengthening the Summit of the Americas Follow up and Implementation Effectiveness”.

b) Presentations on Public Security, and Strengthening Democratic Governance

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES:

The Chair gave the floor to the Representative of the Organization of the American States (OAS), Mr. Dante Caputo, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for Political Affairs, who informed the delegates that they should not equate voting a necessary condition, to democracy which is the best system under which power can be organized with the aim of transforming rights that are written to realities. He opined that even though there was a voting process but the rights to education, to life, to work, to security among others, did not exist then this would not be democracy. He stated that Democracy was an effective instrument to achieve civil, political and economic citizenship.

Mr. Caputo indicated that Latin America had come a long way and that one would not find today, a politician or a citizen who would publicly say that free and fair elections are not necessary. He informed that in the last decade 14 Presidents were not allowed to finish their term now the citizenry is insisting that they complete their mandates. He further informed that public debate has contributed to the democratic culture in the Region and that some issues which were openly accepted have now become taboo, for example no one would say that extreme poverty is a condition with which one can agree. Those of the right and the left have now been able to reach a consensus on the methods for keeping inflation in check. He cautioned that although there have been measurable political reforms these have not been based on reality. He concluded by stating that the issue of Democratic Governance must be measured in terms of what presently exist and what is realistic.

PRESENTATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SECURITY OF THE OAS:

The Director of the Department of Public Security, of the OAS, Mr. Christopher Hernandez-Roy informed delegates that many studies have shown and many international institutions have agreed with the finding that as insecurity increases so do the calls for hard line responses which can erode democracy and ultimately development. He stated that the “Security, Development, Democracy” link has been understood by institutions like the World Bank, the IDB and OECD who have currently included security as an integral part of their development work. Mr. Hernandez Roy also reminded delegates of the seriousness of the security situation in the region. He informed that the region has the second highest homicide rate of any region on earth. He recommended that

delegates should read the report of the Secretary General of the OAS on Crime and Violence in the Americas, which was presented to the First Meeting of Ministers of Public Security of the Americas (MISPA) in Mexico City in October 2008. He stated that this report contained a detailed analysis of the serious problems facing the region and provided recommendations for addressing them.

Mr. Hernandez-Roy indicated that although the Summits of Nuevo Leon and Mar del Plata contained security related language in their respective Declarations it was the Quebec City Summit which gave the issue the importance it warranted. He recommended that the Fifth Summit should take note of the recommendations which emanated from the MISPA and should approve and endorse it so that it would have the necessary strength to undergo its critical tasks. The Director also recommended that the Security Section in the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain be renamed "Multi dimensional Security" in keeping with current nomenclature for the acceptance of the many linkages of security.

A complete text of the Presentation of the Director of Public Security of the OAS can be found [http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG\\_020909/remarks\\_hernandez\\_en.doc](http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG_020909/remarks_hernandez_en.doc)

#### PRESENTATION OF THE INTER AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

The Chair introduced the Representative of the IDB, Ms. Natalie Alvarado who took the floor and expressed the hope that their presentations would assist the delegates in their deliberations. Ms. Alvarado reiterated that the issue of Public Security had become an integral part of their development work and that in the last decade they have continued to work closely with other institutions in developing a strong citizen security sector through training, publications, program and project evaluations, as well as community targeted activities. She informed that the Bank placed a greater emphasis on crime prevention and in this regard has developed a number of laboratories for "Good Government for Security". These labs were designed to facilitate the various regional reform policies and to disseminate information throughout the region.

The Representative indicated that the Bank has identified 4 areas in which it would work in conjunction with the Ministers of Justice of the Region. She informed that these were 1) designing innovative interventions in the public security area, 2) adapting the Bank's support to each country to the basis of its specific background and current demands, 3) supporting security public policies' implementation and 4) emphasizing sub national governments participation in the prevention area. Ms. Alvarado concluded by stating that the Bank placed great importance on citizen participation in security maintenance and that the Bank has the task of getting governments to recognize that organized crime transcended the skills of the police and that news and better technologies must be used.

#### c) Comments by Member States:

The Chair thanked the presenters for their contribution to the Summit process and then offered the floor to delegates for their comments. The countries who took the floor thanked the Chair and the presenters and indicated that the information presented would be very useful for their deliberations. The Chair also indicated to Mr. Hernandez-Roy that some of the issues which he

indicated were not present in the Draft Declaration could be found in the reformulated Paragraphs 47bis – 50.

d) Negotiations on the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 47bis-66 (Environmental Sustainability)

Ambassador Rodriguez informed Participants that the working document for the meeting was (GRIC/ DC-V/doc.1/08 rev 5) and that he would begin with paragraph 47bis which he requested the Director of the Summit Secretariat to present. The negotiations of paragraphs 47bis-66 began.

## 5. SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 47bis-66 (Strengthening Public Security, Strengthening Democratic Governance and strengthening the Summit of the Americas, follow up and Implementation Effectiveness)

The delegations continued their deliberations on paragraphs 47bis-66.

## 6. THIRD PLENARY SESSION

a) Presentation by Global Rights

The Representative of Global Rights thanked the Chair and the participants for affording him the opportunity to present the Santo Domingo Declaration which emanated from the second inter American Afro-descendants forum. The participants of that Forum called on member States to adopt a policy of inclusiveness with respect to issues on human prosperity, as well as committing to combating racism, discrimination and intolerance. The Group also urged member states to take actions that contribute to sustainable development and the reduction of global warming. The Representative reported that the Forum was of the opinion that member States should establish mechanisms for dialogue between governments and civil society through an ad hoc Civil Society Consultative Counsel in the Summits of the Americas Secretariat. They also stated that this mechanism would be charged with the monitoring and evaluation of the progress on Summit Mandates.

The Forum also called on member states to create an Afro Descendants Inter American Institute, which will be charged with coordinating the research needed to help improve the economic and social conditions of Afro Descendants in the Hemisphere. The Participants of the Afro Descendants Forum reiterated that Member States in their establishment of policies and programs should promote the inclusion and visibility of Afro descendants as one of the essential components in the planning of OAS activities. The Representative stated that the Forum urged member states to speed up the approval process of the draft Inter American Convention against Racism and all forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, currently being negotiated within the Committee of Judicial and Political Affairs of the OAS.

A complete text of the Presentation of the Representative of Global Rights can be found [http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG\\_020909/global\\_rights\\_en.doc](http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG_020909/global_rights_en.doc)

b) Presentation by the Young Americas Forum

The Chair informed participants that the meeting would begin with a brief presentation by the representatives of the Young Americas Forum, Ms. Valerie Lorena and Brett Lashley who would present a brief report on the Youth Forum of the Americas Consultation Process. Ms Lorena thanked the Chair and the delegations for giving the young people the opportunity to present their ideas and opinions on the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain. She indicated that the ideas emanated from a number of dialogues which took place in Trinidad, Paraguay, Mexico and Dominican Republic, during August to December 2008. Ms Lorena informed that the young people called *inter alia* for the provision of programs that provide the youth with the necessary training for the creation of work, development of universal education and programs through which they could make a contribution to the development of the region.

Mr. Lashley of the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) also indicated that at the youth Fora the participants indicated that new policies on recycling should be adopted and promoted as a way to consume fewer resources and generate less waste. He also informed that young people overwhelmingly agreed to the proposal for greater investment in alternative fuel sources and renewable energy such as wind and solar. Mr. Lashley also informed that the youth recommended a new approach to education, through integrating topics on the environment and energy use in the education system. He indicated that the young people were of the view that this would help in making new policies on environmental sustainability inclusive and effective.

Mr. Lashley also indicated to the Participants that YABT would be holding a Youth Forum of the Americas in Port of Spain from April 14-16, 2009. He further indicated that this would provide the youth with the opportunity to be engaged in the Summit Process through workshops, networking events, roundtable discussions and cultural expositions.

c) Negotiations on the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 47bis-66 (Strengthening Public Security, Strengthening Democratic Governance and strengthening the Summit of the Americas, follow up and Implementation Effectiveness)

The delegations continued their deliberations on paragraphs 47bis-66.

## 7. FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 47bis-66 (Strengthening Public Security, Strengthening Democratic Governance and strengthening the Summit of the Americas, follow up and Implementation Effectiveness)

The delegations continued their deliberations on paragraphs 47bis-66.

## 8. FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 47bis-66 (Strengthening Public Security, Strengthening Democratic Governance and strengthening the Summit of the Americas, follow up and Implementation Effectiveness)

The Chair indicated that originally the plan was to deliberate on the pending paragraphs however since the discussions on Security were not complete they would continue with this issue. The delegations continued their deliberations on paragraphs 47bis-66 with a focus on Public Security.

## 9. SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 47bis-66 (Strengthening Public Security, Strengthening Democratic Governance and strengthening the Summit of the Americas, follow up and Implementation Effectiveness)

The delegations continued their deliberations on paragraphs 47bis-66. At the close of the session the Chair indicated that the status of the negotiations was as follows; paragraph 47bis was sent to the Working Group, paragraph 48 was sent to the National Secretariat for formulation, paragraph 49 was approved ad referendum consultations by Brazil and Bolivia, (the delegation of Brazil noted for the record that crimes associated with the use of technology, including cyber crime, was not internationally agreed language and that Brazil will continue to use National policy for this issue), paragraph 49bis was pending consultations, the first part of paragraph 49ter was approved and the second part was sent to the Working Group, paragraph 50 was approved ad referendum Brazil.

The Chair further informed that the two paragraphs presented by Brazil on Trafficking and Money laundering were still being discussed. He also stated that the paragraph presented by St Kitts and Nevis, were being discussed with Canada, Uruguay and Chile in order to arrive at some compromise language. He informed that the delegation of Guatemala would be presenting a paragraph on youth violence and that Colombia would be presenting a new paragraph 48 for consideration by the delegations.

With regard to the work of the Working Group the Chair informed that Paragraphs 41, 42, 43, 44bis, 44 will be returned to the Plenary for approval. He also informed that the paragraphs on the Environment have been reformulated and were ready for presentation. He indicated that he would attempt to cover all areas before beginning the deliberations on the issue of Democratic Governance.

## 10. SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 1-47 (Human Prosperity, Energy Security, and Environmental Sustainability)

The delegates returned to paragraphs 1-47 for deliberations on the pending paragraphs in these areas.

#### 11. EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 1-47(Human Prosperity, Energy Security, and Environmental Sustainability)

The delegates continued their deliberations on the pending issues in paragraphs 1-47.

#### 12. NINTH PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 1-47(Human Prosperity, Energy Security, and Environmental Sustainability)

The delegates continued their deliberations on the pending issues in paragraphs 1-47.

#### 13. TENTH PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 1-47(Human Prosperity, Energy Security, and Environmental Sustainability).

The delegates continued their deliberations on the pending issues in paragraphs 1-47.

#### 14. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised under this agenda item.

#### 15. CLOSING SESSION

The Chair thanked the participants and encouraged them to continue working in the spirit of cooperation. He observed that because it was important to give everyone a chance to air their opinions time became limited and consequently he was not able to complete the document as he had originally planned. He informed that there were a total of 20 paragraphs left for discussion. He summarized the work accomplished as follows: paragraphs 47bis, 48, 49, 50 were approved, paragraphs 49bis was pending consultations by Bolivia, the first part of paragraph 49ter was approved and the second part was sent to the Working Group for further deliberations. The Chair also stated that the new paragraphs introduced by Brazil on Trafficking and money laundering, as

well as the paragraph on gangs submitted by Central America were approved, the St Kitts' Paragraph was approved ad referendum the United States. The Chair further informed that under Environmental Sustainability paragraphs 41,42,43, and 44 were approved.

With regard to the Working Group the Chair gave a summary of the outcome of the Group as follows: Paragraph 20 will be returning to the Plenary for approval, paragraphs 32, 33, 34, 35 under the theme of Energy Security were pending consultations. Under the theme of Environmental Sustainability the Chair informed that paragraphs 40, 40bis and 47 were pending consultations, 44ter and 44bis had been reformulated by the National Secretariat, 46 was contingent on paragraph 40. With regards to the theme of Human Prosperity, the Chair indicated that paragraphs 3, 5, 8, 11, 24, 25, 28 had been redrafted by the Working Group and would be returning to the Plenary for approval, as well as paragraph 22 which had been reformulated by the National Secretariat,. He also indicated that paragraphs 14, 15, 16 were awaiting the outcome of the consultations by the delegates.

The Delegation of Ecuador informed that they would be introducing a new paragraph on Aging at the next SIRG. The delegate from Paraguay also reminded the Chair informed that paragraph 7bis was still pending consideration. He was informed that the paragraph had been sent to the Working Group for discussion. The delegate from Canada enquired on the methodology for addressing the agenda of the next SIRG. He was informed by the Chair that the discussions will begin with the theme of Governance. The Chair further informed that the next SIRG would be on February 23-27 and that the agenda and the Bulletin would be distributed on February 13, 3009.

In wrapping up the Chair thanked the interpreters and the OAS Secretariat for their support, and apologized for any inconvenience caused by the hiccups experienced during the meeting. He further requested the cooperation of the delegates in providing the information requested on the size of their delegation for the Summit and those who may have special transportation needs. He informed that a formula had been devised for the accommodation of the delegations as well as for the 1,000 members of the international media expected at the Summit. He further stated that all information on the Summit would be found in the Third bulletin which will be distributed in early March.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.30 p.m.