



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
Third Regular Meeting of 2009
February 23-27, 2009
Padilha Vidal Room
1889 F Street NW, DC 20006
Washington D.C.

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REPORT OF THE MEETING

1. PREPARATIONS

At the second 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 Third SIRG for 2009, deliberations would begin on the following areas, 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 February 18, 2009, the most recent revision of the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, (GRIC/ DC-V/doc.1/08 rev 6) was circulated to all National Coordinators, and Permanent Missions, as the working document for the Third 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 sent to the Member States on January 23, 2009.

HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING

The Chair called for a closed meeting with Heads of Delegation to discuss the methodology for the SIRG meetings.

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 meeting’s agenda (GRIC/03/doc.2/09 rev.1) for the consideration of the delegates. There having been no objections or amendments to the agenda it was approved.

3. OPENING SESSION

The Chair opened the session by giving a brief outline of the work methodology for the Second SIRG. He informed that the first reading of the three themes, Human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability of the Draft Commitment of Port of Spain was completed last meeting and the theme on Public Security was revisited as well as a total of 50 paragraphs of the original draft Declaration were read. The Chair also informed that 42 paragraphs were approved, 11 were in the Working Group, 8 were discussed by the Working Group and were sent back to the plenary, 5 were being considered by the Plenary in consultations and 6 new paragraphs were proposed and were subject to the consideration of the Plenary. He also indicated that the Third SIRG the deliberations would focus on paragraphs 51-66 and he expressed the hope of completing the first reading of the draft declaration by Wednesday February 26, 2009. The Chair further informed that on Thursday February 27, the paragraphs on Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability would be addressed with a view to concluding them by February 27, 2009. Ambassador Rodriguez further informed that on Tuesday February 24, a representative from Civil Society would present the report from the South American Forum for Civil Society. He acknowledged the presence of the Secretary General of the OAS, Mr. Jose Miguel Insulza and gave him the floor for his presentation.

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 indicated that his recent visit to Trinidad and Tobago, where he met with the Prime Minister and other Ministers involved in the Summit, was productive and stimulating. He also informed that the preparatory work for the Summit was well on track and that everything would be ready in time for April 17, 2009. The Secretary General described the facilities as excellent and indicated that the Summit Village was well prepared. He reminded delegates that the responsibility on how the facilities were used would be theirs.

The Secretary General opined that the issue concerning the length of the Declaration delays and setbacks would be addressed with a view to providing a text in time for the Summit. He indicated that cynicism about the time should be set aside so that a text would be ready for the leaders in a timely manner to enable them to take decisions prior to the meeting of the G20. The Chair thanked Mr. Insulza for his sentiments about the facilities and indicated that his visit was a welcome one. He also informed that the Secretary General also met with International Representatives based in Port of Spain.

b) Remarks by Ambassador Luis Alberto Rodríguez

Ambassador Rodriguez indicated that in the interest of time he would circulate his presentation rather than reading it as was customary.

The complete text of Ambassador Luis Alberto Rodriguez's statement can be found at http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG_022309/remarks_lar_en.doc

4. FIRST PLENARY SESSION

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 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 also indicated that paragraphs with bracketed text would be opened only for comments on the bracketed text and that grammatical issues would be dealt with by a style committee. He further informed that effective immediately, no new paragraphs would be accepted and only those which had been submitted prior to the meeting would be discussed. He indicated that this would be the methodology for all subsequent SIRG meetings.

The Chair opened the floor for the reading of paragraphs 51-66 by the Director of the Summit Secretariat.

5. SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 51-66 (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 51-66. At the end of the session the Chair summarized the proceedings and informed of the following: that paragraph 51 was approved, 51bis was pending consultations by Barbados and the United States, that since Venezuela, Brazil, United States and Nicaragua had different views on the issues of corrupt individuals and officials in paragraph 52 they would need to meet to come up with compromise language; paragraph 53 would be sent to the Working Group. The Chair also informed that the Working Group was still deliberating on paragraphs 14, 15, 16, 21bis.

6. THIRD PLENARY SESSION

a) Presentation on the South American Civil Society Forum

The Chair informed participants that the meeting would begin with a brief presentation by a Representative of Civil Society in the Southern Cone, Ms. Ramirez, on the recommendations emanating from the South American Forum which took place in Peru on February 6-7, 2009. Ms. Ramirez thanked the delegations for giving her opportunity to present the recommendations to them at the SIRG. She indicated that the Participants recommended that special attention should be paid to crime, the treatment of women, security, and the Afro descendants situation. She also stated that the Civil Society organizations were of the view that they could play a great role in combating crime if mechanisms for such cooperation could be created. Ms. Ramirez also informed that the participants also recommended that an advisory Board should be established within the OAS so that it could inform member states of what is happening in the field. It was also recommended that Government should finance that initiative as part of a follow up mechanism. She opined that the follow up process can only be effective if is coordinated at a high level and if an evaluation and monitoring system is established. Ms. Ramirez concluded by reiterating her gratitude for the opportunity to present the recommendations to the SIRG. The Chair thanked her for the presentation and indicated that Civil Society was always welcome at the meetings of the SIRG.

The complete text of this presentation can be found at http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG_022309/cs_en.doc

b) Negotiations on the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 51--66 (Strengthening Public Security, Strengthening Democratic Governance and strengthening the Summit of the Americas, follow up and Implementation Effectiveness)

In returning to the negotiations of the Declaration of Commitment the Chair indicated that he would like to complete the remaining 10 paragraphs on Governance by the end of the day. He reminded delegations that yesterday he had informed that paragraph 51 was approved 51bis was pending consultations by Barbados and the United States, 52, was also pending consultations by Brazil Venezuela, The United States , and Nicaragua, paragraph 53, was sent to the Working Group. He also informed that the remaining 10 paragraphs on strengthening Public Policy, democratic Governance and the summit of the Americas follow up and implementation effectiveness. He further informed that once the delegations have deliberated on paragraphs 54, 55, 55bis, 56, 56bis, 56ter, 57 then they would have completed the document. He recommended that if delegates maintain the agreement that they would refrain from listing items in the paragraphs, the appropriate language could be readily found to complete the document.

7. FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 51-66 (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 51-66.

At the closing of the session the Chair summarized by informing delegations that respect to the governance issues Paragraphs 54, 55, 56, 56bis, 56ter, were approved, 515is was pending the consultations by the United States and Bolivia and El Salvador, and that 57 was approved ad referendum Venezuela and Nicaragua. He also indicated that with regard to the issues on strengthening the Summit of the Americas, follow up and implementation Effectiveness, paragraphs 58, was approved ad referendum Bolivia and Nicaragua. 59, 60, 63 61, 62, were approved and paragraphs 61, 62 and 64 were pending consultations. The Chair also informed that paragraphs 40bis, 44bis 44ter, 55 and 52 would be brought back to the plenary for further deliberations.

With regard to the outstanding paragraphs in Human Prosperity, the Chair indicated that paragraphs 3, 5,8,11, 20, 24, 25 and 28 have been sent back to the plenary and paragraph 22 has been reformulated by the National Secretariat. The Chair concluded by reminding delegations that only bracketed issues will be addressed.

8. FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 51-66 (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 51-66. The Chair indicated that the session would begin with paragraph 65 with the additional language proposed by Argentina.

9. SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Negotiations on the draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain paragraphs 51-66 (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 51-66.

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. Small groups were formed for consultations with a view to arriving at compromised language.

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 Chair indicated that he would be calling on the groups which were consulting to present their reports. The delegate from Venezuela, who had requested time to consult on Paragraphs 3, 5, 8, 11, reported that she was still in the process of consultations with her authorities. Barbados reported that with regard to paragraphs 14 and 15 she had began discussions with one of the key delegations which unfortunately was not present at the session. She further indicated that delegations appear to be awaiting feedback from their authorities and needed some more time. The Barbadian delegate also informed that her delegation was in a position to approve paragraphs 51 and 51bis. The Bolivian delegate indicated that he was still consulting with the United States on Paragraph 55bis, 61 and 62.

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 Chair decided to convene an informal closed meeting of Heads of delegations only. At that meeting the Chair took the decision to adjourn the Third Regular meeting of the SIRG.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.30 p.m.