



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
Sixth Regular Meeting of 2008
December 10-12, 2008
Hotel Royal Decameron Salinitas
El Salvador

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**WELCOME REMARKS BY MR. EDUARDO CALIX, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF EL SALVADOR**



Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

**Speech by Vice-Minister Eduardo Cáliz
at the Inauguration of the 6th SIRG
Hotel Decameron
December 10-12, 2008**

I am most grateful for this opportunity to share with you the new perspective that the nations of the Americas have for undertaking the implementation of these Summits.

First, of all, I would like to offer you a warm welcome to this nation that has this year, Mr. Chairman, been the host of a great number of hemispheric events that we have been able to share with familiar faces – events held in San Salvador and also here in Sonsonate, in this same building, to draft the contributions that went together to produce the Declaration of Principles and Commitments of the Ibero-American Summit held in San Salvador on October 29-31 of this year.

But, since we are at this preparatory meeting for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, which is to take place next year, I would like to extend to you all the warmest of welcomes once again.

I would like to underscore the commitment that all the countries represented here have toward the Summits of the Americas process, which began in 1994 and will, in 2009, have served for 15 years as a privileged forum for the Hemisphere's Heads of State and Government to converse, to establish positions, and to agree on topics of importance for the entire Hemisphere, based on the respect and democratic values that have always characterized these gatherings.

El Salvador applauds the initiative of Trinidad and Tobago as Pro Tempore Chair in seeking to expand the participation and involvement of the member states, by requesting that several technical SIRGs be held in different countries of region and by making us a part of this important initiative. That serves to further democratize the process of substantive consultations regarding the Declaration of Port of Spain.

We reiterate the willingness of El Salvador to work closely with and support the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to ensure that the Fifth Summit of the Americas is an outright success and facilitates a frank debate on the Hemisphere's economic, social, and political priorities. The Summits Process is the compass that guides the inter-American system and enables us to conduct a systematic evaluation of our progress with the commitments assumed at earlier Summits, and to review the current situation, and that enables us to propose concrete steps for tackling the new crises that are now the focus of attention for the entire global community and it offers us the opportunity to overcome them and to make our region a better place for those who live in it.

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And so, our country accepts with pride, responsibility, and commitment the honor of having been chosen to host the 6th technical meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group on December 10-12, 2008, following on from the previous events hosted by Barbados and by Antigua and Barbuda.

Trinidad and Tobago did well in selecting the topic for the April meeting of our Heads of State and Government: “Securing Our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability” – a topic of great current relevance in our region.

The conclusions emerging from this consultation process – which, in one way or another, has been the central axis of the next Summit and which has seen a great number of exceedingly rewarding consultation efforts – have been used as the basis for drafting a transparent and inclusive conceptual document, which has come together to become the draft Declaration that we are to negotiate today and that we will improve with the contributions that each of you offer.

We also hope that the Meso-American Subregional Forum for Civil Society and the Meso-American Subregional Forum for the Private Sector, held in El Salvador in preparation for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, will contribute extensive recommendations to enrich the SIRG’s negotiations regarding the three pillars of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain.

We trust that our nations will be able to reach consensus-based agreements to support the initiatives taking place within the framework of international cooperation with the middle-income countries, which complement our national efforts toward the timely attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in the fight against poverty and exclusion.

Other topics that demand our attention, and that are no less important, are energy cooperation, to explore and promote the development of alternative, clean, sustainable energy sources; hemispheric security and migration; food security; cooperation for the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters – all these will fill out our agenda as we work toward the Declaration we hope to achieve.

Esteemed colleagues here with us today:

We expect every success from this sixth meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group. It will enable the member countries to continue consolidating their positions on important topics on the hemispheric agenda and to make further progress with negotiating this Declaration on the basis of broad consensuses that will allow us to agree on practical proposals and coordinated actions for tackling regional and global challenges.

I would like, once again, to welcome you to the Salvadoran nation, which receives you with open arms and wishes each and every one of you the best possible stay here.

Thank you very much.

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