



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)  
Sixth Regular Meeting of 2022  
September 15, 2022  
Virtual format



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## FINAL REPORT

The Sixth Regular Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) in 2022 was held on a virtual format on September 15. Within the framework of this first regular meeting of the SIRG in the implementation phase of the IX Summit of the Americas, the Notional Calendar and Working Procedures of this new phase was considered, offers and institutional recommendations of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) for the implementation and follow-up of the adopted mandates were presented, and information was provided on the activities carried out to strengthen civil society participation in the Summits of the Americas Process and as part of the preparatory phase of the IX Summit.

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, United States National Summits Coordinator and Chair of the SIRG meeting, welcomed the national coordinators of the Summits Process and representatives of the JSWG institutions. The list of participants was published as document [GRIC/O.6/doc.34/22 rev. 1](#).

### **Opening remarks by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Coordinator for the Summit Process**

The Chair of the meeting, Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, thanked the delegations for their dedication and collaborative work, which enabled the adoption of the five documents by the leaders of the Hemisphere. He said that the documents on health, energy, climate, digital transformation, and democratic governance put forward agendas for addressing the challenges facing the region. In that regard, he reminded delegations that the implementation of those commitments was the fundamental purpose of the SIRG. He also said that the meeting would focus on the follow-up plans for the IX Summit, a process that would entail working with other actors and JSWG entities.

### **Remarks by the OAS General Secretariat, delivered by Ambassador James Lambert, Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs**

On behalf of the OAS Secretary General, Ambassador James Lambert commended and thanked the Chair for conducting a regional dialogue that had culminated in a successful IX Summit. He also thanked the States, and the National Summits Coordinators in particular, highlighting their participation in the process of negotiating the mandates. He commended the JSWG entities for their great interest in providing technical guidance for identifying priorities for the Summit agenda and for their input to the SIRG. He also noted the commitment of the Summits Secretariat to supporting the Chair and continuing to strengthen the participation of the JSWG entities and civil society and social actors in the Summits Process. He said that the mandates adopted in Los Angeles were a framework for action to address the most pressing problems in the Hemisphere, such as threats to democracy, the climate crisis, and the lack of equitable access to economic, social and political opportunities, and added that that meeting marked the beginning of a coordinated follow-up process. He stressed that the

second ministerial-level meeting of the SIRG, to be held on the occasion of the fifty-second regular session of the OAS General Assembly in Lima, represented an opportunity to seek convergence on agendas to address the needs of the region, and he underscored the importance of the Declaration on Migration announced by the Chair in Los Angeles, with the aim of developing a common language to manage migratory flows in the Americas. The remarks of the Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs were issued as document [GRIC/O.6/INF.11/22](#).

### **1. Presentation of the Notional Proposed Calendar and Working Procedures within the framework of the implementation of the IX Summit of the Americas**

Mr. O'Reilly announced that with the comments of the delegations, a calendar and working procedure would be finalized for adoption at the Ministerial-Level Meeting of the SIRG to be held in Lima on the occasion of the General Assembly. He recalled for the benefit of the delegations that the implementation formats would be determined by the nature of the documents adopted at the IX Summit, given that some established mandates for future negotiations and others already detailed specific actions.

For the democracy document, the Chair proposed the formation of an ad-hoc group to coordinate and report on implementation. Regarding the digital transformation document, he proposed that follow-up efforts be focused on existing mechanisms such as meetings of CITELE and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). For the Action Plan on Health and Resilience, he suggested the creation of a technical group to negotiate the document and finalize it before mid-year. Finally, for both the green future and energy documents, he proposed the creation of ad-hoc groups to share best practices and consider possibilities for cooperation and policy coordination.

Mr. O'Reilly said that all those groups would meet at least quarterly and would report to the SIRG, which would guide the groups and be responsible for monitoring and promoting the implementation of the mandates from the IX Summit. He also mentioned that the participation of the various stakeholders in the Summits Process would be promoted at all meetings. Mr. O'Reilly's remarks were published as document [GRIC/O.6/INF.14/22](#).

### **Comments by delegations**

The National Summits Coordinator of Jamaica, Ambassador Janice Miller, said that her delegation had no objections to the proposed calendar and expressed appreciation for the information provided regarding upcoming meetings, particularly the Ministerial-Level Meeting of the SIRG. Regarding working procedures, she asked if the Chair, in collaboration with the Summits Secretariat, could provide a matrix table indicating the actions that would require follow-up and a schedule of working group meetings. She also inquired about the responsibilities of the ministers in charge of the issues addressed, in particular whether they would work on negotiation or reporting.

The Deputy National Coordinator of Panama, Mr. Giancarlo Soler Torrijos, hailed the success of the IX Summit and said that the documents adopted were being shared and discussed at national institutions.

Mr. Alvaro Salcedo of the Peruvian delegation welcomed the proposal to implement the commitments adopted at the IX Summit, as well as the proposed format of quarterly meetings. He also

welcomed the decision to include technical staff from ministries in the talks and asked that the process be accompanied by civil society and youth. He asked whether implementation would be addressed in a similar way to the pre-Los Angeles negotiation, i.e., with the co-chairs, or whether the United States would chair all the groups.

Guyana's National Summit Coordinator, Ambassador George Talbot, concurred with Jamaica on the need for a matrix table and calendar. He also expressed his support for the start of negotiations on the Action Plan on Health and Resilience. Regarding the Ministerial Level Meeting of the SIRG, he inquired about the agenda, although he understood that one of the objectives would be the adoption of the Calendar.

The National Coordinator of Trinidad and Tobago, Ambassador Anthony Phillips-Spencer, highlighted what he considered to be the three priorities for the Caribbean and how they tied in with the Summit documents: energy security; access to finance, including climate finance; and food security. He also noted his delegation's interest in the Chair's comments on the promotion of inter-parliamentary dialogue.

The National Coordinator of Chile, Ambassador René Mauricio Hurtado Navia, asked that clear deadlines be established so that States had time to prepare proposals, especially considering the efforts involved in establishing ad-hoc groups, with technical bodies that might already be working on the same issues in other forums. He also inquired how the data and good practices to be shared would be gathered, on the way in which stakeholders would be invited, and about the procedure for the participation of technical bodies. He also supported Jamaica's statement regarding the matrix tables and the calendar.

The National Coordinator of Canada, Ambassador Hugh Adsett, mentioned the usefulness of technical groups, although he seconded the Jamaican delegation's statement regarding the need for a calendar. He also requested the development of rules of procedure on the document creation format and suggested a clear statement that the meetings to be held would not reopen documents that had already been agreed upon but would address their implementation.

For his part, the Deputy National Coordinator of Uruguay, Ambassador Gustavo Álvarez, requested the distribution of a document indicating the proposed implementation activities within the framework of the working groups to be discussed at the ministerial-level meeting of the SIRG.

Ambassador Luz Elena Baños Rivas, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS, referred to the diversity of documents that had emerged from the IX Summit and inquired about the follow-up on the four documents that had been signed at the Summit but not negotiated in the SIRG. She also mentioned the financing difficulties for current mandates within the OAS. In that regard, she called for the Summit mandates to be prioritized and harmonized, and for the ways in which they would be financed to be evaluated, while noting that part of the work of the JSWG could focus on the management of resources for that purpose. She then noted that, although it had been negotiated on the understanding that the Summits Process and the OAS were not one and the same, several Summit mandates would be implemented within the framework of the OAS. Finally, she reiterated Mexico's commitment to meeting all the commitments, and requested that the format for institutional involvement from the point of view States be defined.

The Deputy National Coordinator of Bolivia, Ambassador Héctor Arce, consulted on the implementation mechanism envisaged for the documents and seconded the comments of the Mexican delegation on the work within the framework of the OAS. He also addressed the mandate of the IX Summit on electoral observation missions and stressed the importance of meeting it.

The National Coordinator of Brazil, Ambassador Christian Vargas, requested clarification regarding what the Chair had said about the negotiation of four action plans, since, with the exception of the health document, the others already seemed to be action plans in themselves. Also, on the question of the implementation itself, he broached the need to discuss implementation mechanisms. Regarding the establishment of technical groups, he asked that their objectives be made clear, and considered that it might be better for the SIRG to facilitate specific meetings or initiatives involving national authorities to generate synergies. In that connection, he provided an example for the case of energy, where national energy planning authorities could meet, exchange best practices, and prepare a technical report on the current situation and measures already implemented, without necessarily establishing a working group. He stated that adjustments to the document should continue to be made in order to achieve a roadmap that could be agreed upon at the Ministerial-Level Meeting of the SIRG. Finally, he proposed that the SIRG conduct a survey of the documents already agreed upon in order to identify collective actions and work on them.

The Interim Representative of Paraguay to the OAS, Mr. Raúl Mariano Martínez Villalba, said that they had no objections to the Chair's proposal and that, although they shared Brazil's vision of making additions to the document, he stressed the importance of adopting the schedule and working procedure at the ministerial-level meeting of the SIRG.

The Deputy National Coordinator of Argentina, Minister Mariana Mantecón Fumadó, requested additional information on the proceedings of the negotiations. Regarding the health document, she supported the creation of a technical group and, regarding the other documents, expressed that they had doubts as to which mandates were to be implemented, particularly given that there were mandates that were already being addressed in other forums. In that regard, she proposed that the documents adopted be reanalyzed to identify those paragraphs that represented possibilities for cooperation.

The National Coordinator of the Dominican Republic, Deputy Minister of Multilateral Foreign Policy, Ambassador Rubén Silie, highlighted the success of the IX Summit and listed various national policies carried out in the area of digital transformation. Lastly, he underscored the importance of initiating a synchronized implementation process and supported Brazil's suggestion regarding reporting by the ad hoc groups and the Chair's proposal to hold quarterly meetings.

The SIRG Chair, Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, thanked the delegations for their remarks and recalled that neither the SIRG nor the Summits Process took place within the OAS, but rather promoted coordinated work with the Organization. He also noted that certain initiatives were announced at the IX Summit that in some cases included part of the members. He then explained that the follow-up format would reflect the different nature of each document, and that not all of them would fall within the scope of work of the OAS.

On Jamaica's query regarding the role of ministers in the working groups, he said that they would be responsible for taking note of those processes and designating their experts to attend the discussions.

With regard to other multilateral forums where the topics of the documents were already being addressed, he emphasized that the objective was not to duplicate efforts but to have experts working on these topics report on their work and contribute to the implementation of approaches to global challenges, including the possibility of raising levels of ambition at the regional level.

With regard to the objective of the next Ministerial SIRG, he reiterated that the intention was to adopt a Notional Calendar and, in that regard, announced that it would be updated in line with the comments of the delegations, while mentioning that it should be regarded as an open document. He also said that the Chair would work to include a greater level of detail in the document before submitting it at the Ministerial-Level Meeting of the SIRG, and he asked delegations to present their comments in writing within the next 10 days with a view to their incorporation in the Schedule.

Finally, absent additional comments from the delegations, Mr. Kevin O'Reilly considered the document adopted, and mentioned that it was a basic procedural framework on which work would continue.

## **2. Offers and recommendations by JSWG institutions for implementation of the commitments of the IX Summit**

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly introduced this agenda item by noting that the JSWG played a key role in the Summit Process, as was reflected in the preparations for the IX Summit. He also stressed that its institutions had renewed their commitment to coordination and support in this implementation phase, as reflected in the declaration they had signed in Los Angeles in June. He then invited the JSWG delegations to speak.

On behalf of the OAS as Chair of the JSWG through the Secretary General, Mr. Luis Almagro, the Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs, Ambassador James Lambert, expressed the satisfaction of the JSWG for its participation in the preparation of the IX Summit and reiterated its readiness to continue assisting in the implementation stage, as evidenced, he said, by the Joint Declaration of the JSWG signed on the occasion of the IX Summit. He emphasized that the entities had increased the levels of coordination since the VIII Summit with the signing of the interinstitutional memorandum. He underscored the usefulness of the Group, reflected in its high-level meetings convened by the Secretary General of the OAS, Mr. Almagro, in coordination with the Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Dr. Carissa Etienne, in the context of the health emergency. He also stressed that the institutions had crosscutting technical expertise encompassing all five themes of the Summit, as did the OAS, which had programs and technical capabilities in all areas. He also expressed his willingness to assist in addressing migration and economic cooperation issues.

Mr. Fabrizio Operti, Manager of the Integration and Trade Sector of the IADB, reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to support the countries in advancing the implementation of the mandates of the IX Summit by harnessing the Bank's technical expertise and offers of assistance. He also referred to regional integration and the close relationship with the IADB through the Summits Process, while highlighting the benefits of trade integration for economic growth. In that regard, he stressed the pragmatic and realistic nature of the documents of the IX Summit and the recommendations of the Americas Business Dialogue on integration.

The Assistant Director of PAHO, Ms. Mary Lou Valdez, mentioned that the health document contained three regional priorities that had already been identified by PAHO member states, as well as at the regular session of the OAS General Assembly held in 2021: resilience through preparedness, resilience in productive and supply capacity, and resilience of health systems and societies. She also addressed documents arising from the IX Summit that were part of PAHO's priorities, such as the Declaration on Migration and Protection, the "In Her Hands" Initiative and "Americas RISE for Health." Lastly, she said that PAHO was ready to provide technical assistance to the States.

Raquel Artecona, Officer in Charge of the Office of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Washington, D.C., highlighted the closeness of the mandates of the IX Summit to the work of the entity. She also reaffirmed the commitment of ECLAC and its new Executive Secretary to supporting the fulfillment of the mandates. Then, she provided details of the work that ECLAC was already carrying out on the topics of the documents from the IX Summit: regarding the document on digital transformation, she pointed out that it was acting as technical secretariat of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, whose next meeting would be held in November 2022 in Uruguay, as well as the Regional Technical Forum of Energy Planners, which would meet in December that year. With regard to the energy transformation mandates, she highlighted ECLAC's work on lithium exploitation.

Mr. José Antonio Ardavín, Head of the Latin America and Caribbean Division of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Global Relations Secretariat, agreed with the need for the JSWG to facilitate the implementation of the mandates and avoid duplication. He said that the OECD, as an organization dedicated to the analysis, comparison, and exchange of public policy best practices and with a strong presence in the Hemisphere, had priorities that broadly aligned with those of the IX Summit, such as productivity, social inclusion, governance, and environmental sustainability. Lastly, he referred to the OECD ministerial meetings and the existence of mechanisms for dialogue between JSWG institutions and proposed organizing a common schedule of events to promote synergies. He also made available the OECD's experience in identifying best practices.

In addition, he announced that the OECD would provide details of how they could contribute to the implementation and advanced some points: in terms of democracy, he proposed to expand surveys on citizens' confidence in their governments; on energy and environmental issues, he mentioned the new environmental sustainability pillar of the Organization and a ministerial meeting to be held on the subject; on health issues, he announced that they would present a document on the region; finally, on digital transformation, he highlighted the *toolkit* created jointly with the IADB and the recommendations on artificial intelligence and broadband connectivity.

Dr. Darran Newman, Advisor to the Vice-President of Operations of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) emphasized that they were working with the countries of the region to achieve the implementation of the commitments. She also stressed that, in general, the commitments were in line with the Bank's lines of work, in particular, with respect to energy efficiency, value chains, and climate finance. She also touched on the importance of private sector investment in development. Regarding the green future document, she said that the CDB was already working on issues of conservation and restoration of climate resilience, as well as protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems and agriculture. Finally, she reiterated the commitment of the CDB to assisting States, as reflected in the Joint Declaration of the JSWG signed at the IX Summit.

Ms. Maaret Cañedo, from the Resource Mobilization and Partnerships area of the International Labor Organization (ILO), emphasized that they were also aligned with what was expressed in the documents, particularly with regard to the eradication of child labor and forced labor, promotion of dialogue, and social justice. She also highlighted the role of the ILO in promoting the civil society participation in issues of decent work, professional fulfillment, non-discrimination, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly for women, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, and historically marginalized groups in the promotion of social dialogue. Lastly, she made available the ILO's experience and expertise in energy transformation and the future of work.

Ms. Margaret Zeigler of the delegation of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) mentioned that the green future document contained a specific recommendation for IICA on strengthening the role of stakeholders in the agricultural sector, and the invitation to put forward its recommendations at a meeting of Ministers of Agriculture. She emphasized that they were already working on the matter and that they would incorporate climate finance institutions for the agricultural sector. She also announced that the meeting would focus on food security in a climate-friendly manner.

Mr. O'Reilly thanked the JSWG entities for their support of the Summits process, noted that he would appreciate receiving further written input, and invited SIRG delegations to comment on the presentations.

### **Comments by delegations**

The National Coordinator of Canada, Ambassador Hugh Adsett, thanked the JSWG for their observations and recommendations and highlighted the inclusive nature of the negotiation process for the IX Summit documents. He also thanked Ambassador Lambert and María Celina Conte of the Summits Secretariat for their efforts in this regard, particularly with regard to the participation of women's organizations in the Summits Process.

### **3. Report of the Summits Secretariat on activities to strengthen the participation of civil society and social actors in the Summits of the Americas Process and as part of the preparations for the IX Summit of the Americas**

Ms. María Celina Conte, Director of the Summits Secretariat, said that the Summits Process was a democratic exercise in which the aspirations of the citizens of the Hemisphere were expressed, and therefore the participation of civil society organizations and social actors was key. She then mentioned some of the mechanisms promoted by the Summits Secretariat to facilitate the participation of those actors, such as preparatory talks aimed at promoting the exchange and formulation of recommendations on national and regional priorities, the creation of subregional thematic working groups to present recommendations on Draft Political Commitments in the Hemispheric Dialogue, and the co-organization, together with the host country of the IX Summit, of the Civil Society Forum and the Dialogue with High-Level Government Representatives. She also highlighted the project supported by the Government of Canada on strengthening women's organizations in the Summits Process, among other issues. Her remarks were published as document [GRIC/O.6/INF.12/22](#).

The SIRG Chair, Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, thanked the director and the Summits Secretariat for their support in the IX Summit Process. He also stressed that, given that social inclusion and

accountability would be core themes of the coming General Assembly, the priorities presented by civil society would continue to be of great importance for the work of the States.

#### **4. Concluding observations and close of the meeting**

There being no additional comments, the Chair thanked the delegations for their participation. He also thanked the JSWG entities for their presence and their role in the implementation of Summit mandates and highlighted the efforts of the Summits Secretariat in support of the Chair. Before concluding, he announced that the Cities Summit would be held in Denver, Colorado, in April 2023, and that he looked forward to working with delegations for that event.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.