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First Regular Meeting of 2022
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FINAL REPORT

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, National Summits Coordinator of the United States and Chair of the SIRG meeting, welcomed the National Summits Process Coordinators, the distinguished delegates, the OAS Secretary General and the representatives of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) institutions. The list of participants was published as document [GRIC/O.1.doc.92/22 rev.1](#).

Opening remarks by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summits Coordinator

The remarks by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, Chair of the SIRG, were published as document [GRIC/O.1/INF.25/22](#).

The Chair thanked those present for their participation in the First Regular Meeting of the SIRG of 2022 and announced the official opening of discussions on the Summit Calendar and working procedures, as well as the Draft Political Commitments. He announced that the theme of the next Summit will be: "Building a sustainable, resilient and equitable future." He added that the Summit is expected to respond to the needs and priorities of the people of the Hemisphere and stressed that the United States is committed to bringing the region together to address common challenges.

Remarks by the OAS Secretary General, Mr. Luis Almagro

The words of the Secretary General of the OAS, Mr. Luis Almagro, were published as document [GRIC/O.1/INF.26/22](#).

The OAS Secretary General highlighted several results of the Summit Process, such as the adoption of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Lima Commitment. He also mentioned the regulatory progress derived from the Lima Commitment and highlighted the role of its Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism in strengthening the capacities of the States in coordination with the JSWG.

He also called for more in-depth cooperation on the issues identified by the Summits stakeholders, in order to strengthen the inter-American system's ability to address the challenges posed by the citizens of the region. He also encouraged the Summit Coordinators to consider the recommendations of the JSWG and the ministerial processes.

1. Presentation of the stakeholder forum plans

a. Presentation on the IV Business Summit by Mr. Neil Herrington, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

In his remarks, Mr. Herrington highlighted the critical imperative for the region's public and private sectors to come together to build consensus and develop a policy action plan to drive inclusive, sustainable, equitable, and resilient economic recovery. He also explained that, for the CEO Summit, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce can build consensus around a set of priorities to help drive hemispheric recovery, such as: promoting resilient trade and supply chains; harnessing the power of digitalization to improve transparency, inclusion, and growth; improving the resilience of regional healthcare economics; strengthening regional adherence to the rule of law; accelerating the transition to green energy; and empowering small and medium-sized enterprises.

b. Presentation on the Young Americas Form by the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT)

The presentation by the YABT on the Young Americas Forum was delivered by Ms. Valerie Lorena, and was published as document [GRIC/O.1/INF.28/22](#).

Ms. Lorena addressed the need to involve youth and generate opportunities for youth participation. She listed the group's four main concerns: climate change, COVID-19, collaboration with youth, and combating corruption. Finally, she announced that the Sixth Form will be held in the week beginning June 6 in Los Angeles, as a prelude to the IX Summit of the Americas under the theme "The Youth of the Americas: Partner for Prosperity" and invited SIRG participants to learn more about the Forum's proposals.

c. Presentation on the Civil Society Forum by Ambassador James Lambert, OAS Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs

The presentation on the Civil Society Forum was delivered by Ambassador James Lambert, and was published as document [GRIC/O.1/INF.29/22](#).

Ambassador Lambert noted that since their inception, the Summits of the Americas have promoted the participation of civil society and that the Summits Secretariat has created a series of opportunities for its involvement. He described the activities planned for February to May 2022, in particular, the establishment of Regional Thematic Working Groups and the Hemispheric Dialogue between regional spokespersons and government officials. He also detailed the participation process for the IX Summit and addressed the issue of applications and accreditation.

With respect to the activities to be carried out during the Ninth Summit, he underscored the Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors, which includes an Initiatives Fair and Thematic Workshops. He also explained that the second activity envisaged is the Dialogue between Civil Society and High-level Government Authorities, as well as advancing plans to generate a Round Table of Summit Stakeholders within the framework of the Summit. Finally, he listed the forums that have been institutionalized through the Summits process, including the Civil Society and Social Actors Forum, the Business Summit of the Americas and the Youth Forum of the Americas, and encouraged fostering

the active participation of other actors in the process, including Afro-descendants, women's organizations, and others.

2. Consideration and approval of the tentative schedule and working procedures of the IX Summit of the Americas

Presentation of the tentative schedule and working procedures by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summits Coordinator

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly presented the Proposed Tentative Schedule and Working Procedures for the Ninth Summit of the Americas for consideration by the SIRG. His remarks were published in document [GRIC/O.1/INF.30/22](#).

Mr. O'Reilly stressed that a SIRG meeting is scheduled to take place every three or four weeks until the end of May, and that a SIRG meeting at the ministerial level is planned prior to the IX Summit, on a date yet to be announced. He also announced that in mid-March they expect to host a meeting with the High-Level Authorities of the JSWG.

He further explained that, instead of seeking a consensus statement, they are proposing that the SIRG negotiate five separate commitments in support of the Summit theme. Accordingly, he said they realized that this may mean that the SIRG will move forward with a grand coalition if consensus cannot be reached on some of the compromises. He also explained that informal Thematic Working Groups will be established to refine commitments between SIRG meetings and invited countries to lead or co-lead these groups.

Comments by delegations

The delegations of Venezuela, El Salvador, Peru, Paraguay, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, and Trinidad and Tobago expressed their approval of the proposed timetable and work methodology.

The delegate of Venezuela, Mr. Demóstenes Quijada, reiterated the request made by his National Coordinator at the last SIRG meeting to include the word "inclusive" at the end of the Summit title, since it helps convey the general spirit of the Summit. Likewise, he said that they will request that the issue of the Migration Crisis in the Hemisphere be incorporated as one of the central topics due to its impact on the region.

Ms. Rina Yessenia Lozano, National Summits Coordinator of El Salvador, recognized that it is vital to prepare the matters to be discussed at the Chair's meeting with the High Authorities of the JSWG on March 14, in order to take advantage of that opportunity for debate. At the same time, she expressed her interest in joining the Action Plan Working Groups on Health and Resilience, Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition and the Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation.

Regarding the Draft Political Commitments, Ambassador George Talbot of Guyana requested clarification of the idea not to include specific commitments related to growth and prosperity.

The delegate of Paraguay, Minister Raúl Martínez, mentioned that they are seeking to find opportunities for informal talks, leaving time for the delegations to analyze the documents. He also

asked whether the meetings of the Working Groups are scheduled to take place before the Second SIRG meeting, and whether the Chairs should be approved by the SIRG or appointed by the United States. Finally, he asked if the Working Groups are open to all States.

The Chair indicated that they had established general guidelines for each area of work and noted that, while operating within that framework, the working groups are intended to delve into more detailed proposals. Mr. O'Reilly added that the working groups are open to all SIRG delegations and said that they will be activated after the First SIRG Meeting. Regarding the issue of equity and the documents distributed, the Chair mentioned that they expect this to be a crosscutting concept in all the priorities presented.

The delegate of Colombia, Mr. Mauricio Baquero Pardo, emphasized that the theme chosen is in keeping with the circumstances that had impacted the region in recent years. In particular, he highlighted the ingredients of sustainability, equity, and democracy, while making special mention of Colombia's interest in the Working Group on a Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation. He also thanked the representatives of the stakeholders' forums for their presentations, as he considered the involvement of those actors to be vital in the run-up to the IX Summit.

Mr. Maximiliano Barbosa Fraga, National Summits Coordinator of Brazil, emphasized that the documents distributed provide a good basis for the discussions that are beginning. Regarding the working procedures, he asked whether the Concept Paper discussed at the previous SIRG meeting would be debated and whether the participating countries were expected to support the five projects presented, and he requested more details on how the participation of civil society, particularly that of the private sector, is being organized. He also asked whether the U.S. government or the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is establishing direct contacts with the business sector of the participating countries. In addition, he proposed the creation of a contact point in the host country government and the Summits Secretariat for clarification of procedural issues during this preparation process.

In addition, the National Coordinator of Brazil mentioned that, unlike the other topics, the one related to equitable growth and prosperity had not been transformed into a specific Draft Commitment. In this regard, he considers this section, as well as investment, the fight against poverty, and the references to supply chains and trade, to be of great relevance to the Summit. He requested that these points be incorporated more clearly in the documents, or that a separate document be drawn up to address them.

The Chair explained that the documents distributed for the Second SIRG Meeting had been prepared for discussion rather than approval. He also stated that, given the delays imposed by the pandemic and the short period of time available, there may be issues regarding which there will not be sufficient time to reach consensus, and he added that, if this is not achieved, efforts will be made to find potential broader areas of agreement. Regarding points of contact, he explained that they will work with the Summits Secretariat and consult with their counterparts on this issue.

Ambassador Diego Morejón Pazmiño, National Summits Coordinator of Ecuador, supported the proposed themes and highlighted his country's interest in the topic on Our Green Future, as well as its globally recognized action in support of sustainable development and climate change.

Ambassador Juan Carlos Valle Raleigh, National Coordinator of Argentina, expressed his country's interest in coordinating the Health and Resilience group. At the same time, he stressed that

they had also noted that the only document that was not present was the one related to growth with prosperity and equity. In this regard, he suggested making an additional effort to cover this topic and explained that they do not find it feasible to include it in another axis. He added that the post-pandemic economic recovery is probably the greatest concern of the Americas, which is why the Summit affords an opportunity to address it. Finally, he stated that Argentina's presence at the meeting did not imply recognition of delegations that have not been duly designated by their governments.

The Chair thanked the National Coordinator of Argentina for the priorities indicated and added that the United States shares and recognizes the aspects mentioned. He also noted that it had been a pleasure for his country to work with many governments in the Hemisphere to respond to health challenges with scientific cooperation and vaccine donations and said that they want to continue working in that spirit throughout this Process.

Ambassador Gustavo Álvarez, Deputy National Coordinator of Uruguay, mentioned that his delegation has no problems with the Schedule. He added that his country will express its views on the Draft Political Commitments at a later date, following internal consultations. Finally, he reiterated Uruguay's willingness to take part in the Working Groups.

The delegation of El Salvador reiterated its intention to lead the groups corresponding to the Action Plan on Health and Resilience, Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition and the Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation.

The National Coordinator of Mexico, Mr. Efrain Guadarrama Perez, stated that his delegation views the theme of the IX Summit positively, given that it encompasses current challenges and reflects the Hemisphere's interest in including post-pandemic recovery. Regarding the Draft Commitments, he stated that they will be circulated within his government for comments.

The Deputy National Coordinator of Guatemala, Ambassador Ana Isabel Carrillo Fabián, explained that they wish to participate in all the Working Groups. She also requested more information on how they will operate, whether the meetings will be face-to-face or virtual, and how often they will be held.

The Venezuelan delegation stated that it wishes to join the Working Group on Democratic Governance.

The Chair noted that these groups are expected to remain in virtual format, at least during the initial stage.

The Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the OAS, Ambassador Alejandra Solano Cabalceta, stressed that they agree with the proposed topic. She emphasized that the documents sent seem to them to be sound and explained that they are under internal consultation. Regarding the Working Groups, she expressed her country's interest in participating in the Democracy group, although she mentioned that they would also like to actively contribute to the other groups.

The National Coordinator of Chile, Ambassador Fernando Velasco, said he appreciated the information provided on the IV Business Summit, the Youth Forum, and the presentation by the Civil Society Forum. Likewise, he said that it was essential to maintain these opportunities for participation. Regarding the Draft Commitments, he pointed out that they are being analyzed and that they will

present their observations in writing, although they agree in general terms on their relevance. He expressed his support of the need to include the issue of growth with prosperity and equity.

Ambassador Héctor Arce Zaconeta, from the Bolivian delegation, stated that all the issues raised are fundamental. He also stated that the documents will be evaluated and a decision will be made on them in due course. He stressed that Bolivia defends the principles of defense of human rights, democratic governance and, above all, the self-determination of peoples. Finally, he added that Bolivia does not endorse the presence at the Meeting of delegations that have no legitimacy or representative status.

The National Summits Coordinator of Trinidad and Tobago, Ambassador Anthony W.J. Phillips-Spencer, thanked the OAS Secretary General for his remarks. He pointed out that, at the last General Assembly, several resolutions were adopted that could easily be integrated into the course charted by the Chair. He also expressed his appreciation of the presentations by the stakeholder forums, especially the presentations by young people and the private sector. He added that Trinidad and Tobago had already conducted consultations on the matter with the support of the Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat.

Regarding the working groups, he stated that they welcomed the opportunity to participate in areas in which they have great interest and capacity and requested clarification regarding the groups' leadership roles. Regarding the five drafts, he acknowledged the effort made to ensure that the cross-cutting issues are reflected in the five documents. He cited the example of health and resilience, which accurately reflects the links between health and resilience. At the same time, he suggested broadening it to include the dimensions of resilience, especially social, economic, and environmental factors. He added that that might be a good way to reconcile concerns about including the economic dimension of the recovery.

The Chair emphasized that he expects the working groups to draw on the expertise of the JSWG bodies, relying on them as observers. Regarding the format of the events, he explained that much of the work prior to June will be done virtually and that they hope that closer to the date of the Summit, the events will be face-to-face. As for the working groups, he stressed that they are expected to be conducted in English and Spanish and will be open to all participating countries.

There being no additional comments on the document, the Notional Calendar for the IX Summit of the Americas was approved and published as document [SIRG/O.1/doc.66/22 rev. 1](#).

3. Discussion on the draft political commitment: Plan of Action on Health and Resilience in the Americas

Presentation by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summits Coordinator

The Chair announced that five Draft Political Commitments had been prepared: first, a proposal for a "Plan of Action on Health and Resilience in the Americas," to strengthen health systems and pandemic preparedness; second, "Our Green Future," to address the climate crisis by conserving and restoring ecosystems; third, "Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition," to establish clear definitions and increase trade and investment; fourth, the "Regional Program for Digital Transformation," to adopt common principles and establish the first regional program for digital

transformation; and fifth, the "Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance," which establishes concrete actions to implement the region's shared commitments on democracy, transparency, anti-corruption, and citizen participation. The Chair added that the first four documents describing the actions to be taken by governments after the IX Summit would be approved at the IX Summit.

Mr. O'Reilly also announced that the first draft commitment to be discussed would be the Plan of Action on Health and Resilience in the Americas, which was circulated as document [SIRG/O.1/doc.67/22](#). He noted that these commitments propose that leaders undertake to establish an inter-American plan of action to strengthen the capacity and resilience of health systems and pandemic preparedness and instruct ministers and other relevant authorities to reach consensus on the plan of action for the Tenth Summit. He also stressed that, as part of this plan, it is proposed that leaders adopt a whole-of-government approach to address systemic problems and drive an inclusive recovery that takes into account the intersectional issues faced by vulnerable and historically marginalized communities.

Comments by delegations

The delegations of Peru, El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Barbados, and Guatemala expressed their support for the Draft Political Commitment: "Plan of Action on Health and Resilience in the Americas" presented at the meeting. At the same time, the delegations of El Salvador, Argentina, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Guyana, and Paraguay emphasized that they are conducting internal consultations with a view to providing more information on their position.

Peru's National Coordinator, Paul Fernando Duclós Parodi, stressed that solidarity and equity must be included as plans that support the Health and Resilience Plan, while universal health coverage and access to quality health services, medicines, and vaccines must be the common goal towards which progress must be made in accordance with the United Nations 2030 agenda. He stressed that they believe it is necessary to take into account other central issues such as inequalities in the development of health systems, the impact of poverty as the main factor in the lack of access to services, and the importance of concessionary financing from international financial institutions. He also stressed the importance of cooperation and technology transfer to expand and improve the provision of health services. Finally, he expressed Peru's desire to co-lead the discussions on this issue, as well as that of democratic governance.

Ambassador Wendy Jeannette Acevedo, delegate of El Salvador, agreed on the importance of boosting the training of professionals, providing them with more technological tools, and advancing scientific research. She also offered her support and willingness to head the Working Group. The delegate mentioned several policies implemented by her government to address the COVID-19 crisis, highlighting their recognition by the World Health Organization.

The Trinidad and Tobago National Coordinator requested a broader approach to the impact of the pandemic experience on resilience and acknowledged that beyond the medical challenges to resilience, there are also challenges related to social and economic life. In this regard, the Coordinator stressed that the document could be strengthened by addressing food and nutrition security, antimicrobial resistance, and the need for an integrated regulatory approach to reap the benefits of what has been proposed as a "one health" program.

Ms. Sarah Cohen, National Coordinator of Canada, noted the timeline of the Plan and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supported the idea of people-centered responses to the pandemic, as well as the emphasis on equity, equality, and intersectionality. At the same time, she stated that Canada welcomes the addition of a reference to migrants as a vulnerable group of importance to the region. She also announced that they will work with governments to strengthen language on the need for gender-sensitive action, develop strategies for working with women's rights organizations, and to find ways to highlight the importance of access to sexual and reproductive health care services.

She added that they take note of the proposal to review current development financing mechanisms, while establishing links with international financial institutions and the private sector to strengthen health systems. In this regard, she cited the initiative on *Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond*, led by Canada and Jamaica, and suggested that it could be useful for finding policy options and for drawing up the Action Plan. Finally, she acknowledged the problem that climate change poses for health systems and encouraged debate on building health systems that include climate adaptation measures.

Ambassador Valle Raleigh reiterated Argentina's willingness to chair the Health and Resilience group. At the same time, he stressed that the issue is being addressed within the Health Self-Sufficiency Plan within the framework of CELAC together with ECLAC.

The Chair thanked the National Coordinator of Argentina and noted that the commitment proposal addresses the pandemic and its cross-cutting effects, many of them involving a significant economic and social impact.

Ambassador Janice Miller, Jamaica's National Coordinator, also supported the idea of adopting a broad approach in this document. She supported the emphasis on a people-centered strategy, although she stressed that it should not exclude any group in particular and added that Jamaica will be remitting comments on the matter.

Ambassador Anabel Bueno of the Dominican Republic addressed the main lines of the document, *Assessing Recovery Needs in the Dominican Republic in the wake of the Impacts of COVID-19*, namely: social protection and reduction of inequality gaps, inclusive and transformative social recovery, sustainable economic recovery to accelerate change, environmental sustainability and risk reduction to respond to and learn from the crisis, and governance and digital transformation for resilience. On the other hand, she reaffirmed her country's commitment to promote regional integration and stressed that to overcome the challenges of the pandemic, management for sustainable development, democratic institutions, and respect for human rights are all of key importance.

Ambassador Talbot of the delegation of Guyana supported the need for broader treatment of the resilience aspect of the document, especially with respect to the economic dimension of growth. He called for clearer reflection on the importance of strengthening the entire chain of response to health needs, with a particular focus on the production of vaccines and technologies.

The Chair stressed the importance of working together to coordinate medical supply chains, strengthen cooperation, and increase information sharing. He added that the text prioritizes ambitious

public health goals and improving regional coordination to increase health security, with the aim of achieving greater resilience.

The National Coordinator of Ecuador requested that the countries of the Hemisphere work to achieve equitable distribution of vaccines and increase production capacities of medicines and technologies, reactivate immunization as a public good, and call on international financial institutions to grant concessionary financing. In this regard, he suggested, *inter alia*, promoting talks with PAHO and WHO for the acquisition of vaccines and technologies, creating a regional platform for the production of inputs, promoting technology transfer for the production of vaccines, and generating a repository of access to technologies for COVID-19.

The National Coordinator of Paraguay, Ambassador Carlos Ramiro Martínez, stressed that there were issues with some parts of the document as they exceed the scope of Paraguayan legislation, although he mentioned that they would make some constructive suggestions in this regard.

The Permanent Representative of Barbados to the OAS, Ambassador Noel Lynch, stressed the need to emphasize the pandemic preparedness aspect. In particular, he addressed the issue of antimicrobial resistance.

Ambassador Carrillo Fabián of Guatemala emphasized the need to work on promoting the harmonization and convergence of standards governing health systems in the Americas, examine the financing mechanism aspect of the strategy so as to improve the institutional response, and address human rights and accessibility in all aspects of the Plan of Action. Finally, he emphasized his interest in being part of the thematic group.

The delegation of Colombia stressed that the Health and Resilience Action Plan should be implemented as soon as possible and asked that the 2030 date set in the first paragraph be brought forward. Secondly, Colombia agreed with the idea of making special mention of migrants as vulnerable groups. Finally, with regard to financing mechanisms, they stressed that the issue should address not only resilience, but health security as well, and therefore requested a mention of this term in point c of the third paragraph.

The Chair thanked all delegations and gave the floor to any representatives of the JSWG who wished to present their views on these commitments.

The Deputy Director of the Pan American Health Organization, Ms. Mary Lou Valdez, welcomed the inclusion of health and resilience as one of the pillars of the Summit's agenda. She also stressed that, given the current context, it would be essential to recognize that recovery and resilience can only be achieved if we invest in health. She further stated that the elements included in the Action Plan are a good starting point, especially in terms of expanding production capacity, bolstering pandemic preparedness and response and humanitarian assistance, as well as building resilient health systems.

4. Discussion on the draft political commitment: Our Green Future

Presentation by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summits Coordinator

Mr. O'Reilly presented the Draft Political Commitment: Our Green Future, which was distributed as document [GRIC/O.1/doc.68/22](#). He noted that the document proposes commitments to: promote the "Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use," national commitments on deforestation and conservation, and regional work aimed at eliminating deforestation and conserving ecosystems; decrease the amount of carbon emitted from land use and increase carbon storage, for instance if through support for climate-smart agriculture; harness the power of the ocean and other bodies of water to mitigate climate change, as well as to combat plastic pollution of the ocean; and accelerate adaptation to climate change by implementing national adaptation plans, building resilience, establishing monitoring and evaluation systems, sharing information, and educating the next generation of adaptation policymakers.

The Chair emphasized that the purpose of this commitment is to identify areas in which the Hemisphere can set an example for the world. He also recognized that those most affected by climate change are often the most vulnerable. In this regard, he explained that these commitments underscore the stakeholders' commitment to indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant populations, women and girls, and other disadvantaged communities.

Comments by delegations

The delegations of Panama, Peru, Jamaica, Guyana, Canada, Ecuador, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Guatemala expressed their support for the Draft Political Commitment: "Our Green Future".

Panama stressed that they are ready to work on improving the wording of these initiatives and asked for it to be put on record that they will contribute electronically.

The National Coordinator of Brazil stressed the need for a specific document on development, economic integration, investment, and production chains. At the same time, he proposed that his country present a specific proposal on these issues. Regarding the Our Green Future Paper, he considered that, unlike the energy paper and other documents, it goes into too much detail and appears to exceed the limits established in the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

In addition, he explained that Brazil takes particular issue with paragraphs 1b and 1c: he stressed that they contain goals that go beyond the Summits, with a definition of climate change guidelines that do not seem to be in line with previous conventions. He also introduced the concept of shared but differentiated responsibilities provided for in the Paris Agreement.

He also proposed mentioning the elimination of agricultural subsidies and an increase in the international climate finance available for low-carbon agriculture initiatives. Finally, he stressed the need to increase financial and technological resources for low-carbon economies in the region and to strengthen disaster resilience.

The Peruvian National Coordinator announced that they will actively participate in the negotiation of the document, and at the same time requested that attention be paid to both the proposed goals and the means to achieve them. They supported the principle of shared but differentiated responsibility, as well as the recognition of international cooperation and financing as essential elements for meeting mitigation and adaptation objectives. Finally, he stressed the importance of considering the progress and commitments previously made in specialized multilateral forums, in order to complement rather than duplicate these efforts.

Ambassador Miller of Jamaica highlighted her country's interest in being part of this group. She welcomed environmental risk reduction, biodiversity laws, adaptation and mitigation measures, sustainable waste management and attention to marine debris. She requested the inclusion of action plans related to the ocean and the blue economy. She also commented on the need to incorporate capacity building, financing, and disaster resilience.

The delegation of Guyana noted that it will have to assess the document's consistency with its national priorities, as well as with its international obligations. The delegation referred to the mention of the Glasgow Declaration in paragraph 1 and asked whether all its commitments were clearly in line with that declaration. In relation to paragraph "a" of the same section, they asked whether the commitment on deforestation was too limited, given that there are other areas in which progress could be made. They also requested that the draft include a more substantive focus on financing. Similarly, the delegation of Guyana maintained that the focus on mitigation also seemed limited.

The Canadian National Coordinator appreciated the ambitious goals and scope of the document. She welcomed the references to nature-based solutions, the call to join the Agricultural Innovation Mission for Climate, the reference to the need to involve indigenous peoples and incorporate traditional knowledge into policy making, the establishment of a working group to address plastic pollution in the ocean, and efforts to prevent deforestation and restore ecosystems. At the same time, she announced that Canada will work to strengthen the document with specific references to biodiversity laws. She also expressed her country's commitment to strengthen the language of the document in relation to climate change and women and girls, and their role as agents of change.

The delegation of Ecuador listed various national policies and international agreements to strengthen environmental protection. It also addressed the concept of shared but differentiated responsibilities. Finally, the Ecuadoran delegate expressed his desire to participate in the Working Group.

The National Coordinator of El Salvador remarked that consultations are being carried out with the national body in charge of this area. However, he agreed with the need to stress the preservation of oceans, as well as climate adaptation and resilience, and pointed out that this requires technical and financial support. Finally, he welcomed the incorporation of the issues of deforestation, drinking water, sanitation, and solid waste management.

Ambassador Bueno of the Dominican Republic confirmed that they will submit their considerations on the Draft Commitments and announced their interest in leading the working group on the green future or energy, given their country's experience in these areas. At the same time, she recognized the need to expand funding for adaptation.

The National Coordinator of Argentina announced that they would submit more detailed comments once the Working Group is formed. However, he remarked that it is not possible for them to accept the title of the document "Our Green Future", since the word "green" privileges the environmental dimension over the economic and social dimension of sustainable development, so they believe it should be called "Our Sustainable Future". Likewise, he reiterated that some of the proposed objectives are too ambitious, and even contain initiatives that could have negative economic implications for sustainability. In addition, he mentioned that some paragraphs mention issues that are already being dealt with in other forums and on which there is still no consensus. He therefore suggested sticking to the internationally agreed upon language of existing conventions.

The Colombian delegation argued that the document contains somewhat ambitious content. However, it considered that in the course of discussions it will be possible to arrive at a text that reflects the needs of the States. The delegation also stressed that deforestation, ecosystem conservation, and climate change are key issues for Colombia.

Apart from that, they made some specific comments on the text: regarding point 1c, they suggested adding after "deforestation", the phrase "in a way that contributes to more ambitious mitigation in line with science so as to maintain the global warming target of 1.5 degrees Celsius." Regarding point 1d, they request that the word "eliminate" be replaced with "promote elimination" or "continue to promote elimination", since this is too ambitious a goal that would complicate monitoring. Regarding point 1f, they would like to replace the word "require" with "guarantee" so that the word is not repeated. Finally, for the fourth point, they ask for a reference to disaster resilience.

The delegation of Paraguay undertook to present its considerations on this Draft as soon as possible. However, they did come up with some general considerations: they agreed with the observations made on shared but differentiated responsibilities, the mention of financing and investment, strong political commitments, as well as adoption of practices and revision of regulations.

The Deputy National Coordinator of Guatemala supported the comments on the notion of shared but differentiated responsibilities. She also mentioned that at the Glasgow Summit, Guatemala had requested that Central America be considered as a region highly vulnerable to the impact of natural disasters, and addressed the need to seek expeditious climate financing, as well as the granting of parametric insurance for the reconstruction of infrastructure.

5. Discussion on the draft political commitment: Accelerating the transition to clean energy

Presentation by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summits Coordinator.

Mr. O'Reilly presented the third Draft Political Commitment: "Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition," which was distributed as document [GRIC/O.1/doc.69/22](#).

He stressed that this approach reflects recognition of the growing urgency of addressing climate change, reducing emissions, and creating the new economic opportunities afforded by clean energy economies. Therefore, he stressed the need to effectively establish clear definitions and identify impediments and solutions for clean energy trade and investment by the end of 2022.

Mr. O'Reilly argued that the Americas can set an example to the world by committing to address the climate crisis, building on the achievements of COP26. He also proposed that all countries join the twenty-four countries in the region that have endorsed the Global Methane Commitment. He also explained that the United States will encourage governments to join the 15 countries that already support the "Renewables in Latin America and the Caribbean" (RELAC) initiative.

Comments by delegations

The delegations of Ecuador, Canada, El Salvador, Colombia, Guyana, Peru, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago supported the presentation of the Draft Commitment: "Accelerating the transition to clean energy." Likewise, the delegations of El Salvador, Colombia, Guyana, and Peru emphasized that the document is being consulted with their respective national authorities.

Ambassador Morejón Pazmiño of Ecuador emphasized that comprehensive and sustainable resource management, as well as programs that promote energy sustainability and the development of comprehensive national policies will make it possible to achieve an energy transition. He also underscored the role of joint actions by the public-private sector and multilateral financial institutions in the implementation of projects.

The Canadian delegate underscored her country's interest in working with this group. The delegate also mentioned that the document is in line with Canada's clean energy priorities, including its blue economy strategy and its participation in the "High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy," which includes a focus on financing clean energy, developing clean infrastructure, and capitalizing on COVID-19 recovery strategies.

In addition, Ms. Cohen highlighted the need to include indigenous peoples in this strategy and to mention the exchange of best practices on energy transportation infrastructure and inclusive and equitable urban designs. Similarly, while welcoming the commitment to end public funding for new and unabated coal-fired power generation projects by the end of 2022, she called for this funding to end immediately, adding that funds dedicated to coal-fired power generation should be withdrawn in accordance with the Paris Agreement timeline. At the same time, she acknowledged that oil and gas continue to be key drivers of the global economy, energy security, and clean technology innovation. In that regard, she noted that Canada continues to work with industry partners to advance new technologies to decarbonize the oil and gas sectors. Finally, she proposed working in this forum to ensure, *inter alia*, the development of technologies such as energy storage, and carbon capture and utilization.

The National Coordinator of Brazil reiterated that there seems to be a mismatch between this document and the green future document, especially considering the contribution of energy to the problem of climate change. He also suggested harmonizing the use of the term "energy efficiency" instead of "energy conservation" and "climate change adaptation" instead of "climate resilience". Likewise, regarding paragraph 4, he suggested using the term "mitigation", as well as the use of the phrase "consistent with the Nationally Determined Contributions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" and the use of the expression "to accelerate the process of energy transition to a low-carbon economy." He also said that they had doubts about whether or not to maintain the second part of paragraph 8 and regarding the views expressed in paragraph 10. Regarding paragraph 11, he explained that Brazil is not in the habit of setting binding targets for the expansion of specific forms of energy.

The Deputy National Coordinator of El Salvador emphasized that increasing the use of alternative energies is a national priority and proposed that El Salvador should chair the group.

The delegation of Colombia requested that the third paragraph take into account the fact that not all countries have the same resources to adapt to the changes entailed by ending public financing in such a short period of time. More specifically, the delegation asked for a re-evaluation of the reasonableness of the "end of 2022" deadline. Finally, the Colombian delegate addressed the issue of the Spanish translation of the expression "new and unabated" as "nuevos e incesantes" projects and asked whether this might be an error.

Guyana requested that the economic growth aspect be addressed in greater detail and added that very ambitious commitments have to be considered very carefully by its authorities. At the same time, Guyana stressed that they are not members of the initiative mentioned in the sixth paragraph. Regarding the seventh paragraph, they asked for clarification on whether all mining activities are expected to be powered by renewable energies. Regarding paragraph 9, they requested a broader approach to the allocation of funds. Finally, in relation to the eleventh paragraph, they stated that there would be some consultations regarding offshore renewable energy.

The National Coordinator of Peru considered that the greatest challenge lies in the need to secure the means to underpin an energy transition.

The Delegation of Guatemala expressed interest in contributing to the document.

Finally, the National Coordinator of Trinidad and Tobago said that he would be sending a written version of his comments. He addressed the notion of a just energy transition and stressed that the principle of equity applied to this area, too. He also mentioned that the energy transition implies both economic and environmental resilience. He also reiterated his country's interest in working on this draft commitment. However, he pointed out that there is no specific mention of youth and requested their participation, as well as that of civil society.

6. Discussion on the draft political commitment: Regional program for digital transformation

Presentation by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summits Coordinator

The "Regional Program for Digital Transformation" was circulated as document [GRIC/O.1/doc.70/22](#). The SIRG Chairman explained that this document proposes a succinct set of shared principles, as well as a commitment to establish the first regional digital transformation program by the end of this year.

Mr. O'Reilly stated that COVID-19 and its disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations highlights the importance of bridging the digital divide. He stressed that the future of countries, citizens, and businesses is digital, and that the region's ability to succeed increasingly depends on defining a shared vision of how to exchange information and ensure that people are connected.

The U.S. National Coordinator stressed that a solid foundation can be laid to increase regional competitiveness and connectivity by establishing shared principles in this forum. He explained that ministers could then meet with these shared principles in mind to determine measurable actions to accelerate digital transformation, which in turn would increase innovation, equity, inclusion, government transparency, and ease of doing business.

Comments by delegations

The delegations of Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Guyana, Brazil, Peru, El Salvador, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guatemala expressed their support for the presentation of the document: "Regional program for digital transformation".

The Colombian delegation reiterated its interest in chairing or co-chairing the group and stated that they would send their comments in writing.

Ecuador expressed its willingness to collaborate in the talks on this matter. The delegation added that it attaches great importance to the generation of dynamic and resilient digital ecosystems capable of supporting economies, promoting respect for human rights, increasing competitiveness and investment, and eradicating the digital divide.

Jamaica expressed its willingness to be considered to co-chair this working group and highlighted the opportunity to address this issue with a view to building stronger and more inclusive resilience in the pandemic recovery process. The delegation listed several programs and events that its government is carrying out in this regard, and stressed that education and training, addressing connectivity issues, transforming the way business is done, bridging the digital divide, and transitioning to e-commerce, could be some of the catalysts for growth in the Hemisphere.

The delegation of Guyana announced that it will participate substantially in work done by this group. In addition, the delegation proposed that more sustained attention be paid to closing digital divides, both within and between countries. The delegation also stated that financing, capacity building, international cooperation, and the strengthening and improvement of digital infrastructure are prerequisites for effectively taking on these commitments.

The Brazilian National Coordinator emphasized that the document is in line with his country's initiatives, especially those developed jointly in regional forums of ECLAC, the OAS, and MERCOSUR. In addition, he explained that they will submit further comments in writing, although he referred preliminarily to two paragraphs: regarding the thirteenth paragraph, he warned of a possible duplication of efforts. Regarding the twelfth paragraph, he argued that it would create commitments that are unlikely to materialize, due to the difficulty of creating inter-operable legislation. In this regard, he proposed language about promoting standards and best practices in this area.

The Peruvian delegation remarked that the proposal appropriately addresses the need to evaluate the impact of the digital transformation on the political, economic, and social restructuring of the international system, as it is in line with the need to take advantage of this trend to strengthen growth. They also welcomed the fact that the components presented aim not only to improve the functioning of governments or provide global markets with access to basic services, but also the responsible and ethical use of technology.

Ambassador Acevedo of El Salvador addressed the opportunity to reduce the digital divide in an inclusive and gender-sensitive manner, and to make innovative tools available to governments and individuals in areas such as e-commerce, and financial, health and educational technologies. She also reiterated the need to strengthen cooperation on these issues and expressed her willingness to share her country's experiences.

The National Coordinator of Canada highlighted that the text clearly establishes the principles of digital inclusion and announced that she would like to be part of this group. She referred to the country's chairmanship of the *Freedom Online Coalition* and mentioned how its digital inclusion pillars are in line with the document. She also reiterated the idea of aligning this work with broader frameworks such as the UN Secretary General's Roundtable on Digital Inclusion, as well as with other initiatives that promote citizen participation and online safety. At the same time, she announced that Canada had prepared a playbook for gender equality in the digital age, which contains best practices in this area and offered to share it to inform policy deliberations during the negotiations.

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago expressed its interest in participating in the drafting of the document and said that it would submit its comments in writing. The delegation stressed the relationship between digital transformation and growth, as well as governance and gender equality and equity. In addition, Trinidad and Tobago stressed that it understands that the results of effective digital transformation will generate greater public trust.

The delegation of Guatemala stressed that, in terms of growth and prosperity, it is important to trigger actions aimed at recovery and that the inclusion of digital tools is key in this regard. They explained that such tools can streamline foreign trade and drive growth and that they had ensured the continuation of processes during the pandemic. Finally, the delegation reiterated its intention to work with this group.

7. Discussion on the draft political commitment: Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance

Presentation by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summits Coordinator

Mr. O'Reilly presented the fifth and final Draft Political Commitment, the "Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance", which was distributed as document [SIRG/O.1/doc.71/22](#).

The U.S. National Coordinator highlighted that the document proposes concrete actions to implement the region's shared commitments on democracy, transparent governance, and good regulatory practices, anti-corruption, human rights, rule of law, diversity, social inclusion, and gender, race, and ethnic equity. He also explained that the Action Plan reflects the need to work with civil society and the private sector to implement the leaders' commitments.

With respect to previous commitments on democracy, Mr. O'Reilly noted that governments had already agreed to several, including the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and the Lima Commitment. In this regard, he explained that it is not necessary to promote new declarations, but rather to agree on actions to implement existing obligations, while making better use of existing mechanisms to encourage countries that have not yet met those obligations to comply.

Finally, he proposed that the Plan of Action on Democratic Governance be finalized so that the authorities can approve it during the Ninth Summit and implement it before the Tenth Summit.

Comments by delegations

The delegations of Peru, Canada, Guyana, Panama, Costa Rica, Argentina, Guatemala and Ecuador expressed their support for the Draft Political Commitment: “Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance.”

The Peruvian delegation stressed the importance of further discussion in the Working Group to address these contributions, which in some cases could even involve constitutional reforms. They also expressed their appreciation for the recognition of the Lima Commitment and agreed on the importance of making progress with complying with the measures contained therein. In this regard, they stated that they hope that the Mechanism's Platform will soon be transferred to the Summits Secretariat. They also supported the incorporation of elements of the Political Declaration adopted in June 2021 at the UN Special Session chaired by Peru. They also offered to lead the group and announced that they would seek to highlight the link between democratic governance and the promotion and defense of fundamental rights and freedoms.

The National Coordinator of Canada offered to co-chair the group and stressed that more needs to be done to strengthen democratic principles in the Hemisphere, and that the Summit is an opportunity to continue to do so. In this regard, she stated that the Plan of Action could help address new challenges to democracy, such as emerging technologies or social networks, while maintaining the commitments made in Lima to combat corruption.

The delegation of Paraguay, while reiterating its commitment to democratic principles and unrestricted respect for the rule of law and the promotion of human rights, reported that, after conducting a preliminary review of the text, they noted that there are terms that would be difficult for them to go along with. They stressed that they would do their best to make constructive proposals.

The National Coordinator of Brazil said that they share the essence of Section A of the document, while announcing that they will send their comments regarding the third point since they need to carry out internal consultations. He also suggested that the ninth paragraph incorporate the word "authorities" before "indigenous", and that the expression "cases provided for in the domestic legal system" be added. Regarding the tenth paragraph of Section B, he proposed inserting a new item: "Promote public integrity measures in order to strengthen mechanisms aimed at preventing, detecting, punishing, and remedying corrupt practices, fraud, and irregularities or ethical misconduct." Regarding point 7 of paragraph 14, he said that, if there is to be no other mention of cooperation in the document, the electronic processing of cooperation requests should be highlighted there.

The delegation of Guyana suggested that Rastafarians be included in the list of populations mentioned in the draft commitment. It also requested the addition of the phrase "and other ethnic groups," given that there are multiple groups affected by the disintegration of democracies. At the same time, the delegation requested clarification of the idea behind the proposal to establish a regional mechanism to evaluate new and emerging threats to democracy and on the idea of "alteration or disruption of the constitutional order", mentioned in paragraph 2a. For paragraph 3a they proposed exploring how to include people with disabilities, and, in the ninth paragraph, replacing the word

"governments" with "communities". With respect to paragraph 10c, although they supported the principle, they suggested replacing the OECD recommendations with regional initiatives. Finally, they expressed concern that a proliferation of mechanisms would have budgetary implications.

The Chair responded that certain types of disinformation impair democratic governance and that this issue was one example of new emerging challenges. He also took note of the point on indigenous governance, although he mentioned that the governments of the Hemisphere have treaty relations with indigenous communities that, in effect, have their own governmental authorities.

Mr. Ricardo Pichel of the Panamanian delegation announced that they will present proposals that seek to reiterate the role of vulnerable people, including women, and people with disabilities in the creation of a more inclusive and democratic society.

The Costa Rican delegation stressed that they see a link between democratic guarantees and the construction of inclusive, peaceful, and progressive societies. They also announced that they are committed to redoubling efforts to implement the Lima Commitment and that they will join the dialogue on issues of transparency, accountability, the fight against corruption and the need to strengthen access to justice, freedom of the press, and the promotion of gender equity in policies.

The Argentine delegation stressed the need to analyze how new threats to democracy are measured. They also addressed the definition of the concept of disruption of the constitutional order and recalled that this term is not included in the OAS Charter or in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which only refers to alteration.

In addition, they mentioned independent electoral councils and commented that they would have to be analyzed in accordance with the national legislation of each country. They further argued that a council does not guarantee that an electoral process will be transparent, and that there are alternative mechanisms that work, such as an electoral justice system and autonomous and independent electoral bodies. Similarly, they pointed to the part of the text related to the permanent invitation to OAS electoral observation missions, and warned that it could be suggesting the obligatory nature of such an invitation, in which case it should be analyzed in light of countries' internal regulations. They also stressed the need for prior preparation of/support for electoral observation missions, beyond the specific election event.

They stressed that, although they agree with the inclusion of transparency and anti-corruption issues, as well as citizen participation, they will suggest making reference to the gender agenda, LGBTIQ persons, and vulnerable populations. They also emphasized the lack of a chapter on cooperation and training for government actors and institutional strengthening, arguing that a trained civil service and the need for strong and permanent institutions are key to democracy.

The Guatemalan delegation stressed its interest in participating in the group so that the text would reflect the region's commitment to the principles of democratic governance contained in the Democratic Charter and agreed with the need to draw attention to the importance of compliance with the Lima commitment.

The delegate of Ecuador emphasized that the protection of human rights, especially those of vulnerable people, is a fundamental condition for the existence of a democratic society and therefore called for efforts to continue strengthening the inter-American system in this regard. He also reaffirmed

the ongoing validity of the Democratic Charter as an instrument for the promotion and defense of representative democracy. Finally, the delegation announced that they will continue to comply with the Lima Commitments, while inviting the States to move forward with the implementation of the MESICIC recommendations.

The Bolivian delegation explained that they are conducting the corresponding internal consultations and announced that they will continue to participate in future sessions. They stressed that they view with concern the redefinition of the concept of interruption of constitutional orders, implied by using the term "disruption" instead of "alteration".

They emphasized that Bolivia had suffered a constitutional rupture that had induced profound reflections, which they would remit in writing since they considered that this was a Summit whose approved documents would have an important impact but would not replace the international treaties that are part of the OAS. Regarding the Electoral Observation Missions, they pointed out that Bolivia had always been in favor of OAS participation until the experience of the electoral audit in October 2019, the results of which had, in their opinion, been disastrous for democracy and institutionality. Accordingly, they affirmed that the disruption to the constitutional order had been triggered by the incorrect actions of an electoral audit mission, which, as they had requested, should itself be audited.

The Chair thanked the delegations for their comments and gave the floor to any representatives of the JSWG who wished to share their views on the commitments.

José Antonio Ardavin, from the OECD delegation, highlighted the experience of the Lima Commitment, and underscored the importance of adequate follow-up to implement its provisions. In this regard, he reiterated that his organization had contributed with concrete recommendations on integrity issues, which, he affirmed, are still valid, especially for the latest Draft Commitment. He also welcomed the reference to the OECD recommendation on public procurement and pointed to other relevant legal instruments. He stated that many of these documents serve as a point of reference and draw on regional best practices, as in the case of artificial intelligence and broadband connectivity, which are relevant for political commitment on digital transformation. Finally, he argued that ideally there should also be political commitment to equitable growth and prosperity.

8. Final considerations, other business, and adjournment of the meeting.

Ecuador requested clarification regarding the Working Groups, their establishment, composition, and the scope and pace of their work.

Brazil requested that the meetings of the Working Groups not be held simultaneously and that the documents sent by the States be made available to the States that are part of the Working Groups.

The Chairman responded that they are waiting for the Summits Secretariat to send a circular letter clarifying some procedural issues of the working group.

The delegation of Guatemala reiterated its commitment to the Summit Process and its interest in working in all the thematic groups and ensuring that the commitments are respectful of the culture and national legislation of the countries of the region. Finally, they requested the Summits Secretariat to send written answers to the questions raised during the meeting.

The Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs, Ambassador Lambert, stated that he appreciates the use of the Summits Secretariat as a channel of communication, and said that it will work with the Chair on the responses. He stated that it would be ideal to remit queries to both the Secretariat and the Chair. He announced that a roadmap on how to proceed with the configuration of the Working Groups is expected to be sent soon and reminded the delegations of the Meeting with the High Authorities of the JSWG, which would be open to all delegations.

There being no further comments, the Chair thanked all the JSWG representatives for their participation and their role in refining the communities' thinking on these issues and helping the countries to prepare the strongest possible proposed mandates for the leaders of the Hemisphere. He also thanked the interpreters and the OAS Technical Secretariat for their support at the meeting and reiterated that he looks forward to working with everyone to prepare an ambitious and action-oriented agenda for the Los Angeles Summit.

At 12:13 p.m. on February 4, the SIRG Chair declared the meeting closed.