



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW  
GROUP (SIRG)  
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## PRESENTATION OF THE CITIZEN FORUM OF THE AMERICAS (José Ramón Ávila, ASONOG focal point and national scenario, FCA Honduras)

As a member of the Citizen Forum of the Americas, I hereby make public the recommendations we have crafted in our discussions as a platform for Latin American and Caribbean civil society to engage in dialogue and exchange ideas. In this dialogue, we have also included the recommendations of other processes of civil society of the region and, more recently, members of the private sector who are interested in crafting this together with us.

### 1. Health and Resilience Action Plan

In addition to the proposed health commitment, we consider the upcoming Summit of the Americas to be a unique opportunity to establish a **multistakeholder forum** that meets on an annual basis, facilitates joint efforts and acts as a follow-up mechanism on the commitments undertaken in this area and on the proposed plan of action.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the fragility of our health care systems, as well as the inability of our governments to deal with the negative effects and make proper use of their resources. Specifically, the pandemic laid bare the dire need for different sectors to join forces to address this and any other challenges that may crop up in the future, with the ability to have a global impact.

A multistakeholder forum could promote policies to achieve **resilient, inclusive, sustainable and equitable health ecosystems and economies** by 2030 that: i) meet the health needs of citizens to be able to realize their full potential; ii) generate decent jobs in the area of health and economic growth; iii) enable the region to attract more global investment in health; and iv) prepare the hemisphere for future health threats and other related issues; in addition to ensuring a multisectoral mechanism for follow-up.

We also stress the need to transform health economies and make them an engine of recovery and economic growth in the region, as well as the need to place people and communities at the center of health and resilience policy, including physical and mental health care. Thus, in the plan of action and in the multistakeholder forum and proposed follow-up mechanism, in addition to the presence of health institutions and ministries, we request the commitment of other entities with

the capacity to participate in building a sustainable and inclusive health ecosystem, such as ministries of finance, social welfare, international cooperation. In view of the foregoing, commitments in the area of health must have an **intersectional and differential/population-targeted** vision that integrates and encompasses the health needs of particular population groups, especially the most vulnerable ones (including women, girls, migrants, persons with disabilities).

By way of example, in the midst of the health emergencies, medical procedures of LGBTIQ+ populations must not stop, (this recommendation is also made with a differential approach to the transgender population). And, likewise, coverage of health care for indigenous and Afro-descendant populations, must also be guaranteed, recognizing their ancestral knowledge.

Furthermore, it is also suggested to include the voices of patients and other relevant stakeholders (such as children, women, young people, indigenous peoples, ethnic groups) in government consultations with those who have a stake in health measures, in matters such as regulatory approval, financing and other measures, facilitating exchange of ideas and spotlighting best practices in the Hemisphere, and including ancestral health knowledge.

## 2. **Our Green Future and Accelerating the Transition toward Clean Energy**

The upcoming Summit must meet the **Sustainable Development** challenge in order to achieve inclusive prosperity of people and communities based on human dignity and nature, strategically guiding public budgets and resources toward environmental stewardship, the guarantee of basic human rights such as food, health and education; as well as strengthening the rule of law and its institutional framework.

It is essential for the commitments of the Summit to reflect and include the arrangements forged in the **Escazú Agreement** with respect to the guarantee of full and effective access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making processes and the right to justice in environmental matters.

The States that have yet to do so must be encouraged to sign the Escazú Agreement and those that are in the process of implementing it must be given support. In particular, the lives and safety of people and groups engaged in the defense and protection of the environment must be protected and every measure must be taken for them to not be subjected to persecution and criminalization. Additionally, existing mechanisms of international and national protection must be activated, and conditions must be put in place for them to properly perform their job, such as their participation at multistakeholder dialogue and other scenarios of participation and civil society advocacy.

The commitment must explicitly include disadvantaged communities, who will help to build a **green future** and these communities must be identified by name in the commitment statement: indigenous peoples, LGBTIQ+ persons, Afro-descendants, migrants and the vulnerable population in general.

With respect to indigenous peoples, they are constantly at risk of their lands being unlawfully taken away from them by large corporations and even governments, when megaprojects of mineral and other resource extraction, privatization of water, urban infrastructure and highways,

or urban or logistical services, are promoted, without respecting social and territorial ownership and without providing sufficient protection to the natural resources, thus leading to terrible consequences such as climate change and the greenhouse gas effect.

It is essential to strengthen social, community or indigenous organizations through training on different subjects such as gender equity, human and collective rights, the **Right to Consultation**, but especially, on informed consent.

Lastly, in the framework of building a green future together, equitable access must be achieved using a differential approach to affected communities with a stake in **reconstruction plans** that are being carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean as a result of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Afro-descendant, indigenous and other historic inhabitants of territories should specifically be included and tended to in order to not cause a negative impact on the normal course of their lives.

In the area of the **transition toward clean energy**, plans for the expansion of clean energy must be designed paying heed, above all, to overcoming poverty, productive integration of rural settings and the security of the population. The design and implementation of small local infrastructure must be given priority. For this purpose, it is important to organize an adequate supply chain to ensure continuity in the use, restoration, and repair of this infrastructure.