



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)  
First Ministerial-Level Meeting of 2022  
June 8, 2022  
Los Angeles, United States of America

OEA/Ser.E  
GRIC/M.1/doc.58/22 corr. 1  
7 September 2022  
Original: Spanish

## FINAL REPORT

The First Ministerial-Level Meeting of 2022 for the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) was held on June 8 at the Los Angeles Convention Center in the United States of America. It was chaired by the Secretary of State of the United States, His Excellency Antony Blinken, with 31 delegations in attendance. The list of participants was published as document [GRIC/M.1/doc.56/22 rev.2](#).

### **Remarks by the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Antony Blinken**

The Secretary of State, Mr. Antony Blinken, welcomed their Excellencies the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Summits process participating countries. He also thanked the negotiating teams for their efforts, citing in particular the delegations of Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay, for co-chairing the SIRG informal working groups focused on the five core themes for the Summit: health and resilience, digital transformation, clean energy, environmental sustainability, and democratic governance.

Secretary of State Blinken further remarked that all of the challenges outlined in the documents are cross-border in nature, but that just as the problems are interconnected, so are the solutions. He said that addressing these challenges would therefore call for the gap between domestic and foreign policies to be bridged. Later, after summarizing the five documents to be adopted by the Heads of State and Government, he noted that a major part of this process involved listening to the public. He then announced that the public would be a key partner in ensuring that the commitments are delivered on.

The remarks of the Secretary of State were published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.19/22](#).

### **Remarks by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Luis Almagro**

The OAS Secretary General, Mr. Luis Almagro, thanked the Chair of the meeting, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and welcomed the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, National Summit Coordinators, and representatives of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG). The Secretary General of the OAS, the organization that serves as technical secretariat and institutional memory for the Summits process and as JSWG Chair, also saluted the host country.

Mr. Almagro noted that from its inception, the Summit was envisioned as a space for democratic leaders to work together towards prosperity in the Hemisphere. In that connection, while welcoming the progress made in terms of prosperity, democracy, and security in the Americas, he argued that a number of challenges remained. With this in mind, he noted that the Summit presented

an opportunity to address issues related to health, energy transition, digital transformation, defense of the principles of democracy, social and security dynamics, and migration issues. Meanwhile, he expressed his support for the Summit priorities to be identified through dialogue with civil society, national coordinators, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

Mr. Almagro concluded stressing the need to develop a collective agenda to promote multilateral coordination in the inter-American system, remarking that the system did not end with the Summit, but rather began with it. On that note, he explained that regional institutions, as well as the United Nations and multilateral banks, had been actively involved throughout the negotiations.

### **Consideration of the Draft Political Commitment Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas**

The Secretary of State of the United States of America, Mr. Antony Blinken, submitted the draft document on health for consideration by the delegations. There being no comments, he took the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas to have been approved.

### **Consideration of the Draft Political Commitment Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation**

The Secretary of State of the United States of America submitted for the delegations' consideration the draft document on Digital Transformation. As there were no comments, he considered the document "Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation" approved.

### **Consideration of the Draft Political Commitment Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable and Renewable, and Just Energy Transition**

Mr. Antony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, submitted the draft document Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable and Renewable, and Just Energy Transition for consideration by the delegations.

Mr. Frederick Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Public Service of the Bahamas, requested the floor to read the footnote that he would be incorporating into paragraph 9, addressing climate financing and referring to multilateral and regional banks. The footnote states, among other issues, that the delegation felt that the language fell short and lacked a vision consistent with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact.

The U.S. Secretary of State commented that due note had been taken of the Bahamas' statement. Then, observing that there were no further comments from delegations, he took the document as having been approved.

### **Consideration of the Draft Political Commitment Our Sustainable Green Future**

The Secretary of State submitted the draft green future document for consideration. There being no comments, he considered the document Our Sustainable and Green Future to be approved.

### **Consideration of the Draft Political Commitment Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance**

Mr. Antony Blinken submitted the draft document on democratic governance for the delegations' consideration.

The delegation of Colombia, headed by Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia Marta Lucía Ramírez, took the floor to endorse the document, while noting that the text should have more specifically included women, particularly with regard to their contribution to the growth of the gross domestic product, the need to promote more economic opportunities, women's empowerment through domestic public policies and in multilateral banks, and their role in democracy and post-pandemic recovery. The Secretary of State thanked the Vice President for her remarks and invited her to submit a footnote. Likewise, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Canada and Chile, Ms. Mélanie Joly and Ms. Antonia Urrejola Noguera, endorsed Colombia's statement. Secretary of State Blinken thanked the Foreign Ministers and encouraged them to work on a footnote if they wished to do so.

There being no further comments from the delegations, the Secretary of State declared the Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance approved.

Thanking the delegations, Mr. Blinken stated that the five documents were approved and would be subsequently referred to the leaders of the Americas for adoption later that day.

### **Open dialogue of Ministers for Foreign Affairs**

Secretary of State Blinken offered the Ministers of Foreign Affairs the floor to discuss other business.

Mr. Santiago Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Argentina, thanked the co-chairs of the Working Groups who led the negotiations of the five documents. He added that the topics chosen for the Summit were part of the set of priorities identified by Argentina as Pro-Tempore Chair of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Likewise, he pointed to a need for the Summit to include all the Heads of State and Government to address the inequality challenge faced by the Hemisphere, which has been further affected by the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. He also remarked that the documents that were approved definitely addressed inequality. He further expressed the view that this ran contrary to any unilateral measure involving blockades and sanctions that undermine equity. He made mention of the British occupation of part of his country's territory and thanked the countries in attendance for having helped Argentina promote dialogue. Finally, arguing that the OAS had given a *coup d'état* in Bolivia legitimacy, the Argentine Foreign Minister called for a return to dialogue involving everyone and noted that these practices should not be rejected.

Next, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belize Mr. Eamon Courtney endorsed the Argentine delegation's comments, particularly as regards to the need to promote inclusive dialogue and to end

sanctions. He went on to explain that climate change, war, the debt crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic should trigger a different stance.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile Antonia Urrejola Noguera stated her country's commitment to the Summits process, including the Eighth Summit that was held in Lima in 2018, and commented on the reports arising from its follow-up mechanism. She also stressed the need for these forums for debate to be inclusive. The Minister added that, as a feminist government, Chile would support the footnote in the democracy document. In the same vein, she recognized the concept of "women and girls in all their diversity" and expressed support for the footnote promoted by Canada, then concluded her remarks by thanking the SIRG and the Summits Secretariat for their role in following up on the mandates.

Mr. Roberto Álvarez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, agreed that all the states should be included in the Summit and further underscored the importance of working together, especially in the face of developments such as the pandemic. He referred to the oil and food price increases brought about by the war in Ukraine, noting as well the measures his government had put in place to mitigate their impact. Likewise, stating that the situation in Haiti had worsened, he called for urgent action to enlist the special support of the international community. Likewise, regarding democratic governance, he listed some of his country's policies to promote transparency, access to public information, procurement and bidding processes, regulation of public services, simplification of procedures, and strengthening of oversight bodies. He underscored the importance of working at the international level to collectively protect democracy and establish instruments and mechanisms to complement the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

Speaking next, Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States and Permanent Representative to the OAS, Audrey Marks, pointed to her country's active participation in the negotiations, as co-chair of the working group on digital transformation. She also emphasized the importance of developing collective strategies to address shared challenges. Her remarks were published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.21/22](#).

Next, the Guatemalan Foreign Minister, Mario Búcaro spoke about the five documents under consideration: on the health plan, he emphasized the need to strengthen national and regional capacities and the development and production of raw materials, medicines and other technologies, among other issues. As regards sustainability, among other topics, he said it was important to consider a green future, while talking about a blue future, as was discussed within the Association of Caribbean States. Regarding access to clean and renewable energy, he said this must be accomplished by promoting affordable, safe, and sustainable access to it. He also spoke about economic development and modernization of the state, with quality education when contemplating digital transformation. On the promotion of transparent governance, he restated his commitment to democratic governance and its principles, announced a new electoral process under way, and expressed the hope that the OAS would assist with that process. In closing, he called for respect for each state's domestic legal systems and cautioned against discrediting national efforts to promote human rights.

The Chair then gave the floor to the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, led by the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Mr. Amery Browne. Mr. Browne outlined Trinidad and Tobago's contributions as a small island developing state during the negotiations of the documents, particularly as regards the consideration of people of African descent in the democracy document. For the health and resilience document, he noted the delegation's contributions to the reference to the "One Health"

approach and the emphasis on non-communicable diseases. Regarding the green future document, he reiterated his position on the specific impact climate change has had on the Caribbean states and the importance of climate financing. Regarding the document on clean energy, he recalled the delegation's contributions to include in the title that it should also be fair. In terms of the cross-cutting aspects, he called attention to the promotion of the approach to groups in situations of vulnerability, such as the inclusion of youth, and concluded his remarks expressing support for all the states to be included in the Summits.

Following the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Marcelo Ebrad, stated that he regarded the exclusion of countries from the Americas – that is, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela – as a strategic blunder, and rejected what he considered the principle of intervention to unilaterally define who should attend the Summit. He also criticized blockades, embargoes, and sanctions against countries of the Americas, especially amidst a pandemic, arguing for real unity to be promoted in the face of the new challenges. He went on to observe that the OAS was exhausted in the face of this reality, and also criticized the Organization's role in the *coup d'état* in Bolivia. Lastly, he proposed the formation of a working group to re-establish the inter-American order based on the principles of non-intervention and mutual benefit.

The Chair yielded the floor to Ambassador Paul Fernando Duclos Parodi, of the delegation of Peru. He reviewed the outcomes of the Eighth Summit, its anti-corruption focus, and its implementation mechanism that is part of the regional architecture and involves close cooperation with civil society. In that connection, he emphasized that the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance would build on what has already been agreed upon.

Next, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, Mr. Albert Ramdin, discussed the impact of new challenges that emerged even after the negotiations started. He noted the need to move beyond adoption of mandates and to work on follow-up, incorporating them into the work of the institutions of the inter-American system. On a final note, he stressed that all the states of the Hemisphere needed to be involved.

For his part, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay Julio Arriola, arguing that the Summit's themes were relevant and timely, pointed to his country's contributions to consensus-building. Referring to the threat the Hemisphere faced from international organized crime, Mr. Arriola called for joint action to tackle it.

Following Paraguay's intervention, Mr. Kenneth Darroux, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations of Dominica, thanked the United States of America for organizing the Summit. He also endorsed the remarks made by Argentina, Belize, and Mexico regarding the need to end the blockade of Cuba and for Cuba to be included in future Summits.

Vice President and Foreign Minister of Colombia, Ms. Marta Lucía Ramírez, emphasized the importance of democracy. She explained this as something to which the people of the region were entitled, and which should never be tied to ideological issues. Likewise, she outlined the important role of democracy in promoting investment, economic development, job creation, and the exercise of freedom of thought, expression, and creed. The Colombian Vice President remarked that the Hemisphere should tackle the challenges of COVID-19, the price increases fueled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the acceleration of climate change as a united front. Vice President Ramírez said however, this did not mean abandoning the principles of democracy. She stressed that the region needed

more – not less – OAS and that the OAS capacity should be strengthened. And finally, while acknowledging the need to move forward together, he asserted that democracy and human rights must also be defended together.

Next, Ambassador George Talbot of Guyana highlighted the role played by the Summits process in addressing the challenges facing the region – challenges such as security and transnational crime. He then noted that they viewed the consensus reached as a basis on which to build a response to these challenges. Adding that the focus should now be on implementation, i.e., translating the consensus in the documents into action and initiatives, he concluded by stressing the importance of being inclusive, regardless of country of origin or any other characteristic.

Costa Rica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Mr. Arnaldo André, stressed the need for democratic institutions to be made stronger by connecting them to their role in post-pandemic economic recovery. Referring to the documents, he spoke about the need for them to promote health and resilience and health security and to be people-centered. He also stressed among other issues the importance of conserving, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity and the right to a healthy, clean, and safe environment, as well as nature-based solutions and their role in economic recovery. Minister André called for promotion of a kind of migration towards sustainable green energy systems, and touched on the role of digital ecosystems in making economies efficient and competitive. He concluded his remarks underscoring the role of sound public finances, and called for fair financing without pre-conditions, in order to assist states.

Following Costa Rica's presentation, Saint Lucia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Alva Baptiste, addressed the war in Ukraine and the pandemic and their impact on the people of the Americas, as well as on his own country's fiscal situation. As well, he underscored international cooperation as vitally important, especially in the area of health, voicing here his disappointment that certain states were excluded, especially bearing in mind the healthcare assistance provided by Cuba. He also pointed out that the negotiation of the document on democracy had excluded certain countries.

Mr. Jerome Walcott, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Barbados, announced that his country had asked to be ad referendum on the penultimate paragraphs of the preamble to the energy and green future documents, explaining that this was because his country considered them to be less ambitious than these issues had demanded. He said there was furthermore an approaching climate catastrophe, which called for a strong commitment by states and multilateral and regional financial institutions to the transition toward renewable energy. Mr. Walcott explained, meanwhile, that in the interest of consensus and hemispheric solidarity, his delegation would not be inserting any footnote into these documents.

Headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean Victor Généus, the delegation of Haiti urged the region to work together to address the impact of war, the pandemic, migration, violence, crime, and climate change. He also called upon the more advanced states to become more involved in fostering development for the most vulnerable, stressing as well that security was of particular relevance to his country, as gangs were hindering normal social and economic development in Haiti.

Accordingly, he called on the states to work together, even as he called attention to his government's efforts to promote good governance amidst a difficult situation. He also addressed the phenomenon of migration and explained that it was key to bringing about the conditions for progress and economic development while promoting respect for the human rights of those who are displaced.

Concluding, he thanked those in attendance and said he hoped there would be no exclusions at the next Summit.

Meanwhile, the delegation of Honduras, headed by Mr. Héctor Manuel Zelaya, expressed its support for the issues negotiated through the SIRG, as well as for the document on migration. With regard to the document on democratic governance, he reiterated the need to restore measures to promote transparency and combat corruption and to attack the causes of migration. He reiterated the idea of promoting a Summit without exclusions and rethinking the joint effort promoted by Mexico. He also condemned interventions such as those carried out in Bolivia, comparing them to what had occurred in Honduras in the past.

Mrs. Thelma Philipp-Browne, Ambassador of St. Kitts and Nevis to the United States, expressed her support for the decision to include the issue of health at the Summit as she spoke about the pandemic's disproportionate impact on the Hemisphere and called for an end to the embargo on Cuba. In concluding her remarks, she addressed the issue of violence and its impact on young people, calling for it to be recognized as a public health issue.

Ambassador Héctor Arce of Bolivia echoed the sentiments expressed concerning the exclusion of three states from the Summit. And he argued that this was disregard for the mandate concerning noninterference into peoples' affairs and their self-determination. Continuing, he rejected any form of blockade against countries, especially in times of pandemic and humanitarian crisis, and thanked Argentina, Mexico, and Honduras for expressing solidarity with his country, further noting that an impartial investigation was being awaited as to what happened in the constitutional breakdown that occurred in 2019. In this regard, he said that with clause 3.g. of the democratic governance document approved, he expected pertinent information on the subject to be made available, and requested the OAS Secretary General to provide this information. Ambassador Arce once again thanked Mexico and Argentina for granting asylum to those who had needed.

The National Coordinator of Panama, Ms. Carmen Inés Ávila, described the documents approved as constituting a roadmap that would strengthen democratic institutions, help counteract climate change, and help reduce inequality and poverty. She also reiterated the interest expressed at the SIRG meeting to include a footnote wherever reference was made, in all the political commitments, to groups in situations of vulnerability.

The delegation of Brazil, headed by Ambassador Otávio Brandelli, emphasized that the documents approved represented the values shared by the countries of the Americas. He argued that the different positions were in fact a plus for the region's rich cultural and political landscape. The delegation's statement was published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.20/22](#).

Ambassador Denys Toscano of the delegation of Ecuador, observing that the five themes were action pillars for hemispheric relations, said that his country viewed them as windows to new opportunities for cooperation. He stated they put people at the center in terms of respect for human rights, the promotion of inclusive and sustainable initiatives that uphold human dignity and democratic institutions. He also illustrated his country's commitment to the negotiation of the Summit documents through its leadership of the Working Group on Our Green Future as well as through its role in building bridges across different positions to achieve common objectives. Lastly, he stated that implementation of the mandates would be determined as much by adherence to domestic laws as by international cooperation and investment in national and regional policies to ensure that they are implemented. He

further emphasized that the hemispheric agenda called for holistic cooperation encompassing not only the issues selected but also incorporating security and combating violence and transnational organized crime, in addition to migration and social, economic, and trade integration.

As there was no further comment, the Chair thanked the delegations for their work and dedication throughout the negotiation process. The meeting was brought to a close at 12:45 p.m., on June 8, 2022.