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OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR OF THE SIRG

(Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, National Summit Coordinator of the United States)

Good morning to all the National Coordinators of the Summit Process, Deputy Summit Coordinators, distinguished delegates, and representatives of the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), and Summits Secretariat. Thank you for your participation in this, the First Regular Meeting of 2023 of the SIRG. I am honored to serve as the National Summit Coordinator for the United States and as Chair of the SIRG.

I would like to express my ongoing appreciation for the continued engagement of every delegation during the implementation phase of the IX Summit, primarily through their active participation in the Ad Hoc Technical Group Meetings, and to the JSWG institutions, for its tireless efforts to assist throughout our exchanges. And thank you to the Summits of the Americas Secretariat for their ongoing support in this Process. Collaboration and dialogue between all Summit stakeholders have been an essential element for the success of these discussions.

Today we will address the status of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups' work, JSWG participation and feedback, and best practices that delegations have been submitting regarding their efforts to implement IX Summit mandates. We will also provide an update on our plans for the Cities Summit of the Americas, and the Secretariat will be presenting on the activities carried out to strengthen the participation of civil society organizations and social actors in the IX Summit of the Americas Process, in particular during the follow-up and implementation phase.

Let us move on to the first agenda item.