



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
First regular meeting of 2023
April 6, 2023
Virtual

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FINAL REPORT

The First Regular Meeting of the SIRG of 2023 was held on April 6 in a virtual format. At the meeting, information was shared on progress made in the follow-up and implementation phase of the IX Summit of the Americas, including the status of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups, best practices presented by delegations, the participation of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), and of civil society organizations and social actors. The Chair also provided an update on the Cities Summit of the Americas. The list of participants was published as document [GRIC/O.1/doc.97/23 rev. 1](#).

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

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, United States National Summit Coordinator and Chair of the SIRG meeting, welcomed the national coordinators of the Summit Process, Permanent Representatives to the Organization of American States (OAS), Deputy Coordinators, representatives of the JSWG institutions, and the Summits Secretariat. He thanked the delegations for their continued commitment and interest during the implementation phase of the IX Summit, particularly through their active participation in the meetings of the ad hoc technical groups. He also acknowledged the support of the JSWG institutions during exchanges between delegations, as well as that of the Summits Secretariat in maintaining a dialogue among all stakeholders of the Summit Process and ensuring the success of the discussions. His remarks were published as document [GRIC/O.1/INF.31/23](#).

1. IX Summit of the Americas Implementation: report on the status of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups, Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) participation and feedback, and best practices submitted by delegations

Mr. O'Reilly presented a status report on the work of the ad hoc technical groups and the work that the delegations and the JSWG institutions had done to ensure that the mandates of the IX Summit translated into concrete actions. In that regard, he mentioned that the Chair has convened a total of seven meetings of ad hoc technical groups, including two meetings on environmental issues, one on clean energy, one on democratic governance, and three on health.

During his presentation, the Chair noted that the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Our Sustainable Green Future focused on the presentation of best practices, initiatives, and recommendations for strengthening protection for environmental defenders, environmentally friendly maritime transport, and strengthening coastal ecosystems. He also mentioned that during the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition, information was provided on financing programs and investment opportunities in clean energy.

He also said that the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance reflected on regional challenges to democratic governance, highlighting the laggardness of the region and the rise in disinformation. Finally, he mentioned that the Ad Hoc Technical Group on the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas had met four times to negotiate the Action Plan and that, to date, 48 of the 56 paragraphs of the plan had been pre-agreed.

For more information on Mr. O'Reilly's presentation, see document [GRIC/O.1/INF.32/23](#).

Comments by delegations

Ambassador Hugh Adsett, Permanent Representative of Canada to the OAS and Deputy National Summit Coordinator, thanked the United States for its work in leading and implementing an ambitious Summit agenda, noting that there was a common interest in helping to strengthen democratic systems, build resilient health systems, accelerate the transition to clean energy, reduce the effects of climate change, and ensure that citizens benefit from digital transformation. He also noted that in addition to participating in the technical implementation meetings on the documents that came out of the IX Summit, Canada was co-organizing a meeting of the Technical Group for the implementation of the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance.

Ambassador Janice Miller, Under Secretary for Bilateral, Regional and Hemispheric Affairs of Jamaica and that country's National Summit Coordinator, indicated that participation in the follow-up phase of the IX Summit had been constructive and contributed to strengthening partnerships, sharing best practices, and proposing new strategies to implement the commitments of the IX Summit. She also highlighted Jamaica's commitment to work to strengthen resilience for a sustainable economic recovery, particularly in vulnerable and critical sectors such as health, education, energy, environment, digital transformation, and democratic governance.

Ambassador Josué Fiallo, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the OAS and Deputy National Summit Coordinator, mentioned the implementation of a project aimed at clearing containerized goods within 24 hours, contributing to the commitment to strengthen supply chains, facilitate investment in the Americas, and increase trade integration. With respect to public policies for the facilitation of procedures and institutional transparency, he noted the work of the General Directorate of Internal Revenue in modifying the registration affidavit form and updating data on legal entities. He also highlighted the implementation of strategic actions to promote sustainable and inclusive public procurement, including the initiative of the draft policy on green public procurement, as well as other measures aimed at promoting citizen participation in the development and implementation of public policies and in the formulation, monitoring, and evaluation of development plans and projects.

The Chilean delegation reflected on the need to consider the security pillar as a priority in the dialogue to accompany the pillars of democracy and human rights, considering that insecurity had increased in the region for various reasons, including the pandemic, social unrest, etc. It said that in many countries, for security reasons, the other two components had sometimes been sacrificed, and that it was important at that time to have all three pillars.

2. Updates on the Cities Summit of the Americas

Mr. O'Reilly began by noting that the Cities Summit of the Americas, to be held on April 27 and 28 in Denver, Colorado, would focus on promoting the commitments made in Los Angeles at the local level, since it was at the local level where they would have the greatest impact and where many of the decisions that influenced their implementation were made. Mr. O'Reilly's full presentation was published as document [GRIC/O.1/INF.33/23](#).

Comments by delegations

The Brazilian delegation stressed that SIRG meetings were always important for exchanging ideas and information to learn about progress in mandate implementation, and it reaffirmed Brazil's commitment to continue participating actively in the working groups. It also thanked the United States for organizing the Cities Summit and mentioned that Brazil would be present at the Summit with three municipal authorities in attendance, covering the municipalities of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Recife.

Mr. Jason Tolland, Director General, South American and Inter-American Affairs, Global Affairs Canada, and National Summit Coordinator, said that cooperation and innovation at the local level were fundamental to guaranteeing the results at the micro level of the commitments adopted in Los Angeles. He said that the Summit demonstrated the importance of involving cities in exercises of this type because the various issues, such as security, had to be addressed in a way that included communities, and it was through those spaces where communities could share their realities, so that they could contribute to their own development and prosperity.

Ambassador Gabriela Troya, Director for the Inter-American System and Deputy National Summit Coordinator of Ecuador, mentioned her country's active participation in the documents containing the mandates on "Our Sustainable Green Future." She also acknowledged the recent appointment of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gustavo Manrique—previously the Minister of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition—and emphasized the Minister's initiative to create a global organization of megadiverse countries within the framework of the green transition. She also noted Ecuador's participation in the negotiations of the BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) Treaty, as well as the country's nomination to host the signing of the global agreement against marine plastic pollution. Finally, she said that it was important for Ecuador to promote democratic values and preserve international peace.

Mr. O'Reilly concluded this agenda item, saying that the basic philosophy behind the organization of the Cities Summit was that it should be led by cities and people with an interest in and knowledge of urban opportunities and challenges, noting that the U.S. Department of State had taken on the mantle of convening organization, but it was cities that were leading the debate.

3. Presentation on the activities carried out to strengthen the participation of civil society and social actors in the IX Summit of the Americas Process

Ms. Maria Celina Conte, Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, presented on the efforts to strengthen the participation of civil society organizations and social actors in the IX Summit of the Americas process, especially in the follow-up and implementation stage. Those efforts

include feedback mechanisms, information sessions, consultations with civil society, capacity building workshops, and management and generation of knowledge and recommendations. Ms. Maria Celina Conte' presentation was published as document [GRIC/O.1/INF.34/23](#).

Mr. O'Reilly thanked the Secretariat for its work in facilitating the participation of civil society organizations in the Summit Process, emphasizing the active role of civil society in all phases of the process, from setting the agenda to implementation, evaluation and follow-up on the mandates, as well as spokespersons for the citizenry. He took the opportunity to invite all the countries of the Hemisphere to continue promoting dialogue and collaboration with civil society to ensure that the needs and priorities of the citizens of the Americas were integrated into the discussions towards the implementation of Summit mandates.

Comments by delegations

Mr. Jason Tolland, National Summit Coordinator of Canada, thanked Ms. Conte for her remarks, highlighting that Summit platforms were strengthened by the participation of civil society, in particular through the inclusion of underrepresented voices, such as women and girls, indigenous peoples, and youth. He also reaffirmed his country's commitment to including civil society organizations and youth in the process, and its support for women's organizations throughout the region to ensure their participation; he stressed the importance of ensuring that those voices felt that they were truly contributing to the process.

The Jamaican delegation thanked the Director for her comprehensive and informative presentation and confirmed its country's support for integrating more representatives of Caribbean civil society. He also expressed thanks for the report sent on the implementation of the mandates of the IX Summit, which they would be sharing with the civil society representatives who were unable to attend the Summit, so that they were informed about the agreements reached at the Summit and the progress that had been made in that regard.

Ambassador Gabriela Troya, Deputy National Coordinator of Ecuador, emphasized that gender was an important issue for Ecuador, particularly for the foreign policy agenda. She also emphasized that civil society organizations were the voice that reminded government representatives of the need to listen to others in order to ensure good representation.

Ms. Maaret Cañedo of the International Labor Organization (ILO), a member of the JSWG, said that working with social actors was critical for advancing decent work. She recognized the efforts of civil society, particularly workers' and employers' organizations, in securing 11 ratifications for the eradication of harassment in the world of work. With regard to the issue of a just transition, the ILO representative stated that the transition to a zero-emission economy implied a professional training process in line with current needs and an understanding of issues such as social protection, food security, and gender equality. She expressed the concern that the transition to a greener world was resulting in the generation of male-dominated jobs, an issue on which she said the ILO had been collaborating with international and regional organizations to understand the approach to gender inclusion under this pillar, which had recently led to the publication of a report on gender and green jobs.^{1/} She also reported on the *2022 Labour Overview of Latin America and the Caribbean*^{2/} and the

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1. Empleos verdes, una oportunidad para las mujeres en América Latina: [wcms_870970.pdf \(ilo.org\)](#).
 2. 2022 Labour Overview of Latin America and the Caribbean: [wcms_867497.pdf \(ilo.org\)](#).

Labor overview of indigenous peoples in Latin America.^{3/} Before concluding her remarks, she mentioned that digitalization was a key element for strengthening SMEs. In that regard, she reported the initiation of eight studies to determine where companies were on the road towards digitalization.

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

There being no further comments, the Chair thanked the delegations and the JSWG organizations for their active participation and commitment to ensuring the implementation of the Summit mandates through exchanges, collaboration, and coordination. He also acknowledged the work of the Summits Secretariat throughout the Summit Process in support of the Chair and the SIRG, as well as their efforts to include other actors in the process.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. on April 6, 2023.

3. Panorama laboral de los pueblos indígenas en América Latina: La protección social como ruta hacia una recuperación inclusiva frente a la pandemia de COVID-19. [wcms_864130.pdf \(ilo.org\)](#).