Thank you Chair, Good morning fellow National Coordinators, Deputy Coordinators, distinguished delegates, and representatives of the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), and Summits Secretariat.

It’s an honor to take part in the first SIRG meeting chaired by the Dominican Republic. I would like to reiterate to Vice Minister Silie the United States’ support as your vice-chair. We look forward to working with you as you prepare to host the Tenth Summit.

I also would like to express my ongoing appreciation for the continued engagement of every delegation during the implementation phase of the Ninth Summit. I especially appreciate your ongoing participation in the Ad Hoc Technical Groups, which have played a crucial role in driving the implementation of five Summit commitments and their mandates, fostering regional cooperation, and advancing our goal of achieving a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future for the Americas.

The Ad Hoc technical groups on health and resilience, accelerating the clean energy transition, digital transformation, the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance, and our sustainable green future have allowed us to implement the ambitious agenda our leaders committed to at the Ninth Summit in Los Angeles.

To date, we have held sixteen meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups, addressing such topics as cybersecurity, clean hydrogen, the protection of environmental defenders, climate-smart agriculture, disinformation, and the promotion of democracy and human rights. And, of course, through the Ad Hoc Technical Group process we facilitated the negotiation of the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas, which our foreign ministers adopted at the OAS General Assembly this past June.

We are so pleased to see the participation of technical experts from across the region in these meetings, and I thank my fellow National Summit Coordinators for ensuring their expertise and keen observations are included in our discussions.
This, of course, also includes the Joint Summit Working Group institutions, whose partnership and tireless efforts throughout our exchanges have been invaluable to the Summit process, prior to, during, and after Los Angeles.

Collaboration and dialogue with Summit stakeholders – representatives from civil society, the private sector, and youth – have also been an essential element for the success of these discussions and help ensure we remain accountable to the promises our governments made to the people of the Americas.

We especially want to thank those delegations who have partnered with us as co-chairs of Ad Hoc Technical Working Groups. Our collective efforts have helped to ensure follow up and action on the issues identified by our leaders as the most pressing challenges facing our hemisphere. We appreciate your continued support and engagement.

In the coming year we look forward to continuing implementation of Summit commitments like the Action Plan on Health and Resilience, through programs like such as Americas Health Corps, under which we plan to train 500,000 health workers in the next five years.

And, through multilateral efforts including the OAS Voluntary Group to Follow-Up on the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which aligns with the realization of the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance. The United States is proud to be chairing this effort, which is open to all member states, and we welcome Peru as the incoming Vice Chair of the Group.

We will also continue collaboration on clean energy commitments during the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas ministerial next month.

And we look forward to working together to continue the work started at the first Cities Summit of the Americas and furthering the engagement of sub-national leaders in the Summits process, to ensure the commitments made at the national level have real impacts at the local level.

As we come together today for the first SIRG of 2024 and the first SIRG under the leadership of our friends from the Dominican Republic, I look forward to a successful Tenth Summit, and continued collaboration with the Dominican Republic as we serve as your vice-chair of the SIRG.

Thank you again.