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REPORT OF THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS SECRETARIAT  
ON THE WORK CARRIED OUT TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN  
THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

JUNE 2022 - FEBRUARY 2024

## CONTENTS

I.	Support for the Chair of the Summits Process and the participating states .....	1
1.	Regular Meetings of the SIRG .....	2
2.	SIRG Meetings at the Ministerial Level.....	3
3.	Meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups .....	4
4.	Meetings of the SIRG Steering Committee .....	6
5.	Participation of the Summits Secretariat in meetings of the CISC.....	6
6.	Transfer of the Lima Commitment Mechanism virtual platform .....	7
II.	Strengthening coordination among the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) .....	7
1.	Contributions to the implementation of the Ninth Summit’s mandates .....	8
2.	Technical meetings of the JSWG .....	8
3.	Report on the institutional contributions of the JSWG to the follow-up of the Eighth Summit of the Americas .....	9
4.	Linking the Summits of the Americas Process and the inter-American ministerial meetings.....	9
5.	Other activities .....	10
III.	Promoting the participation of civil society organizations and social actors in the Summits Process .....	11
1.	Information sessions on the Summits of the Americas Process .....	11
2.	Summit Labs – Training workshops.....	11
3.	Subregional Thematic Working Groups.....	12
4.	Initiatives Fair.....	14
5.	Photography Contest: “Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future” .....	15
6.	Strengthening the participation of women’s organizations in the Ninth Summit’s follow-up phase.....	15
7.	Evaluation and feedback mechanisms .....	16
8.	Publications .....	17

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The following report describes the main actions undertaken by the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in its capacity as the technical secretariat and institutional memory of the Summits of the Americas Process, to support and strengthen the Summits Process during the period from June 2022 to February 2024. The report focuses on three main areas: (1) efforts to support and advise the Chair and the participating states, (2) strengthening participation and coordination among the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), and (3) promoting the participation of civil society organizations and social actors in the Summits Process.

The period covered by this report includes much of the follow-up and implementation phase of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, under the leadership of the Chair of the Summits Process: at first, the Government of the United States, and more recently, following the transfer of the Summits Process Chair on November 3, 2023, the Government of the Dominican Republic. The reports and results of the efforts described in the report are available on the Summits Secretariat's web page.<sup>1/</sup>

**I. Support for the Chair of the Summits Process and the participating states**

In preparation for the Tenth Summit of the Americas, particularly following the transfer of the Process Chair in Washington, D.C., on November 3, the Summits Secretariat has worked to support and advise the incoming Chair, the Government of the Dominican Republic. These efforts began months before, with the preparation of the Agreement between the OAS General Secretariat and the Government of the Dominican Republic regarding the Tenth Summit of the Americas Process,<sup>2/</sup> which was finalized and signed following the Summits Secretariat's official mission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on October 17 and 18, 2023. The OAS Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs, Ambassador James Lambert, the Director of the Summits Secretariat, Mrs. María Celina Conte, and Summits Officer Ms. Jennifer Molina participated in the official mission, during which meetings were held with Foreign Minister H.E. Roberto Álvarez, Deputy Foreign Minister and National Summits Coordinator Ambassador Rubén Silié, and their teams. The mission also dealt with aspects of the planning for the Tenth Summit.

As part of the follow-up and implementation of the Ninth Summit, the Summits Secretariat continued to provide technical assistance and advice to the then Chair of the Process, the Government of the United States, and to the participating states. Thus, the Summits Secretariat assisted the Chair in determining the work method for following up on the implementation of the mandates adopted at the Ninth Summit, which led to the establishment of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups for each of the Summit's five thematic areas. The Summits Secretariat also assisted the Chair in organizing five regular meetings of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), two meetings of the SIRG at

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1. The web page of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat is available at [https://www.summit-americas.org/sas/defaults\\_eng.html](https://www.summit-americas.org/sas/defaults_eng.html).
  2. The Agreement is available at [https://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/docs/acuerdos\\_bilaterales\\_01-2024.PDF](https://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/docs/acuerdos_bilaterales_01-2024.PDF).

the ministerial level, two meetings of the SIRG Steering Committee, and 16 meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups.

In follow-up to the Eighth Summit of the Americas, the Summits Secretariat arranged with the Government of Peru for the transfer of the virtual platform of the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment, “Democratic Governance against Corruption,” to the OAS’s servers. In addition, using information uploaded to the platform by 18 states, it prepared reports on the implementation status of the Lima Commitment’s mandates. It also prepared the report on the JSWG’s institutional contributions.

The Summits Secretariat also attended and participated in the meetings of the OAS Permanent Council’s Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), at which it presented its periodic reports on its efforts to support and strengthen the Summits Process.

## **1. Regular Meetings of the SIRG**

### **a. Sixth Regular SIRG Meeting of 2022**

The Sixth Regular Meeting of the SIRG, held virtually on September 15, was the first regular SIRG meeting of the follow-up and implementation phase of the Ninth Summit of the Americas. The meeting examined the Notional Proposed Calendar and Working Procedures for furthering the fulfillment of the Ninth Summit’s mandates, on which the delegations made comments before referring it to the ministerial-level SIRG to be held in October. The document provides for the creation of five Ad Hoc Technical Groups, to be convened by the Chair in the form of meetings composed of experts from the governments of the Summit’s participating countries in each area covered by the documents adopted at the Ninth Summit,<sup>3/</sup> in order to contribute to the pursuit of the mandates and to report on progress. The groups also involve experts from the JSWG institutions and receive inputs from civil society organizations and social actors, including the private sector.

During this meeting of the SIRG, institutional offers and recommendations from the JSWG for the implementation and follow-up of the mandates were also presented, and information was provided on the activities carried out to strengthen the participation of civil society organizations and social actors in the Summits of the Americas Process, including those carried out during the Ninth Summit’s preparatory phase.<sup>4/</sup>

### **b. Seventh Regular SIRG Meeting of 2022**

The Seventh Regular Meeting of the SIRG was held virtually on December 6. On that occasion, representatives of civil society and social actors presented recommendations on the follow-up and implementation phase of the Ninth Summit’s mandates, and the SIRG Chair gave a presentation on the Cities Summit and shared updated information on the Notional Proposed Calendar and Working Procedures for this phase.<sup>5/</sup>

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3. The documents adopted at the Ninth Summit of the Americas are available at <https://summit-americas.org/documentosixcumbre/documentsixsummit.html>.
  4. The meeting’s list of documents was published as document [GRIC/O.6/doc.30/22](#).
  5. The meeting’s list of documents was published as document [GRIC/O.7/doc.6/22](#).

c. First Regular SIRG Meeting of 2023

The First Regular Meeting of the SIRG was held virtually on April 6. At the meeting, the Government of the United States, as the Chair of the SIRG at the time, reported on the status of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups, the participation of the JSWG, and the good practices presented by the delegations. The Chair also provided an update on the Cities Summit of the Americas. Finally, the Summits Secretariat reported on the activities carried out to strengthen participation by civil society and social actors in the Ninth Summit Process, particularly during the current phase of Summit follow-up and implementation.<sup>6/</sup>

d. Second Regular SIRG Meeting of 2023

The Second Regular Meeting of the SIRG was held virtually on June 12. At the meeting, the Preliminary Draft Plan of Action on Health and Resilience in the Americas was presented for consideration by the Summits Process countries. The SIRG Chair explained that the Plan of Action addresses the weaknesses of the region's societies that the COVID-19 pandemic had revealed and identifies measures for strengthening the capacity and resilience of the region's health systems to address future outbreaks of infectious diseases and other health challenges. The Chair thanked the delegations for their contributions and said that the draft Plan of Action on Health and Resilience in the Americas would be presented for consideration and adoption by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs at the ministerial-level SIRG meeting on June 23, given that the Second Regular Meeting of the SIRG on June 12, 2023, had agreed on all the document's paragraphs. He also announced that a face-to-face meeting of the Style Committee would be held to ensure the consistency of the text in the four OAS languages.<sup>7/</sup>

e. Third Regular SIRG Meeting of 2023

The Third Regular Meeting of the SIRG in 2023 was held in a hybrid format in Washington, D.C., on October 30. The meeting examined the progress made with the implementation of the mandates adopted at the Ninth Summit of the Americas and the efforts made by the participating states, the JSWG institutions, and civil society organizations and social actors.<sup>8/</sup>

## **2. SIRG Meetings at the Ministerial Level**

a. Second SIRG Ministerial Meeting of 2022

The Second SIRG Meeting at the Ministerial Level of 2022 was held on October 6 in Lima, Peru, on the occasion of the fifty-second regular session of the OAS General Assembly. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States, and was attended by 32 delegations, the Secretary General of the OAS, and other representatives from the JSWG institutions. The meeting considered and adopted the Notional Proposed Calendar and Working Procedures for the implementation phase of the Ninth Summit's mandates. That document was presented by the Chair after receiving comments from the delegations at the Sixth Regular SIRG Meeting. It and other

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6. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/O.1/doc.93/23](#).

7. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/O.2/doc.61/23](#).

8. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/O.3/doc.66/23](#).

documents from the Second SIRG Meeting at the Ministerial Level are available on the Summits Secretariat website.<sup>9/</sup>

b. First SIRG Ministerial Meeting of 2023

The First SIRG Meeting at the Ministerial Level of 2023 was held on June 23 at OAS Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on the occasion of the fifty-third regular session of the OAS General Assembly. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States, and was attended by 31 delegations. It considered and adopted the Plan of Action on Health and Resilience in the Americas, and the Chair presented a report on the implementation status of the commitments of the Ninth Summit of the Americas and the outcomes of the First Cities Summit of the Americas.<sup>10/</sup>

**3. Meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups**

The Notional Proposed Calendar and Working Procedures<sup>11/</sup> adopted at the Second SIRG Ministerial Meeting of 2022 provide for the creation of five Ad Hoc Technical Groups, one for each of the political commitments assumed at the Ninth Summit: health and resilience; democratic governance; digital transformation; the clean, sustainable, renewable, and just energy transition; and our green future. The document states that the Chair is to convene meetings of Ad Hoc Technical Groups with subject matter experts from the governments of the Summit countries to advance and report on the implementation of the Ninth Summit's mandates.

The work of the Technical Groups is intended to advance the implementation of the Ninth Summit's mandates and to report to the SIRG on the progress made. The objective of each group depends on the nature of each mandate document adopted. The Technical Group on Health and Resilience was structured to conduct negotiations toward the Plan of Action on Health and Resilience in the Americas. The other four Technical Groups promote dialogue, exchanges of best practices, identification of challenges, policy coordination, and incentives for the implementation of national plans.

To date, the Summits Secretariat has provided the Chair with technical assistance and advice for the preparation, follow-up, and reporting of 16 meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups, as well as for coordinating the participation of representatives of JSWG institutions and civil society organizations and other social actors at each of the meetings. All the meetings were held virtually, with the exception of the Second Meeting of the Technical Group on Our Sustainable and Green Future, which was held in Panama City on the occasion of the Our Ocean International Conference, and the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Group for the Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance, held in Washington, D.C.

The exchanges between the government experts at the Ad Hoc Technical Group meetings also benefited from the broad participation of experts from the JSWG institutions, civil society organizations, and social actors, including representatives of the private sector and youth. The JSWG

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9. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/M.2/doc.17/22](#).

10. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/M.1/doc.59/23](#).

11. The Notional Proposed Calendar and Working Procedures were published as document [GRIC/M.2/doc.21/22](#).

institutions have been invited to all the Technical Group meetings, and key agencies belonging to the JSWG have been selected to provide technical presentations, depending on the meetings' subject matter.

Similarly, with the exception of the negotiation sessions for the Plan of Action on Health and Resilience in the Americas, civil society representatives have participated in all the Technical Group meetings. As regards the Technical Group on Health and Resilience, the Secretariat assisted the Chair and the states in the negotiation process, including the organization of meetings and consolidating the documents arising from the negotiations.<sup>12/</sup>

The following is a list of the meetings held to date.

- Of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Our Sustainable and Green Future:
  - First Meeting, focused on the protection of defenders of indigenous peoples' human rights and environmental issues (paragraph F of Mandate 1 of the Ninth Summit's corresponding Political Commitment), held on January 24, 2023.<sup>13/</sup>
  - Second Meeting, focused on environmentally friendly maritime transport and the protection of coastal ecosystems (paragraphs C and D of Mandate 3 of the Ninth Summit's corresponding Political Commitment), held on March 1, 2023, in Panama City, Panama. It was co-chaired by the United States and Panama.<sup>14/</sup>
  - Third Meeting, focused on climate-smart agriculture (paragraph 2.b. of the Ninth Summit's corresponding Political Commitment), held on September 12, 2023.<sup>15/</sup>
- Of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition:
  - First Meeting, focused on the implementation of mandates by states, JSWG institutions, and the private sector, held on March 9, 2023.<sup>16/</sup>
  - Second Meeting, focused on green hydrogen (mandates 7 and 14 of the Ninth Summit's corresponding Political Commitment), held on August 8, 2023.<sup>17/</sup>
- Of the Ad Hoc Technical Group for the Regional Digital Transformation Program:
  - First Meeting, focused on cybersecurity (Pillar C of the Ninth Summit's corresponding Political Commitment), held on December 13, 2023. It was co-chaired by the Dominican Republic, the United States and Uruguay.<sup>18/</sup>

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12. The report on the status of the Ad hoc Technical Groups was published as document [GRIC/O.1/INE.36/24](#).

13. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-VER/doc.1/23](#).

14. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-VER/doc.6/23](#).

15. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-VER/doc.10/23](#).

16. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-ENE/doc.1/23](#).

17. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-ENE/doc.6/23](#).

18. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-DIG/doc.2/24](#).

- Of the Ad Hoc Technical Group for the Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance:
  - First Meeting, focused on Human Rights, held on March 28, 2023. It was co-chaired by the United States, Costa Rica and Canada.<sup>19/</sup>
  - Second Meeting, focused on information integrity and mechanisms to counteract disinformation in electoral processes (Mandate 5 of the Ninth Summit's corresponding Political Commitment), held on June 20, 2023, in Washington, D.C. It was co-chaired by the United States, Canada and Chile.<sup>20/</sup>
  - Third Meeting, focused on protecting the rights of people of African descent in the Americas (paragraph B of Mandate 9 of the Ninth Summit's corresponding Political Commitment), held on November 14, 2023. It was co-chaired by the Dominican Republic, the United States and Brazil.<sup>21/</sup>
  - Fourth Meeting, focused on public procurement (Mandate 20 of the Ninth Summit's corresponding Political Commitment), held on November 14, 2023. It was co-chaired by the Dominican Republic, the United States and Paraguay.<sup>22/</sup>
  
- Of the Ad Hoc Technical Group for the Plan of Action on Health and Resilience, focused on negotiating the Plan of Action:
  - First Meeting, held on February 1, 2023.
  - Second Meeting, held on February 23, 2023.
  - Third Meeting, held on March 29, 2023.
  - Fourth Meeting, held on April 19, 2023.
  - Fifth Meeting, held on May 25, 2023.
  - Sixth Meeting, held on June 1, 2023.

For reporting purposes, in addition to the timely distribution of the documents arising from the meetings of the Ninth Summit's Ad Hoc Technical Groups, the Summits Secretariat developed and made available to the delegations a web platform to facilitate access to and exchanges of the documents related to the groups' meetings.

#### **4. Meetings of the SIRG Steering Committee**

Acting on behalf of the Chair, the Summits Secretariat convened meetings of the SIRG Steering Committee on two occasions: on September 8, 2022, in preparation for the Sixth Regular SIRG Meeting of that year, and on September 14, 2023, in preparation for the transfer of the SIRG Chair. The SIRG Steering Committee is composed of the past, current, and future Summit hosts. Its role is to assist the Summit Chair in preparing for SIRG meetings and to support preparations for future Summits.

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19. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-DEM/doc.1/23.](#)

20. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-DEM/doc.4/23.](#)

21. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-DEM/doc.11/23.](#)

22. The meeting's list of documents was published as document [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-DEM/doc.12/24.](#)



## 5. Participation of the Summits Secretariat in meetings of the CISC

The Summits Secretariat reported on the Summits of the Americas Process and provided support within the framework of the OAS Permanent Council's Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC). This included two CISC meetings in 2022 and 2023. At the CISC meeting of September 13, 2022, Mrs. María Celina Conte, Director of the Summits Secretariat, presented the periodic report of the Summits Secretariat on its work to support and strengthen the Summits Process covering the period from January 2021 to June 2022, for the CISC's consideration.<sup>23/</sup> Her report focused on the efforts carried out during the preparatory phase of the Ninth Summit and their results. At the CISC meeting of May 9, 2023, the periodic report covering the work carried out between July 2022 and April 2023 was presented; it mostly dealt with work carried out during the first stage of the follow-up and implementation phase of the mandates adopted at the Ninth Summit of the Americas.<sup>24/</sup>

## 6. Transfer of the Lima Commitment Mechanism virtual platform

During the period covered by this report, the Summits Secretariat and the Government of Peru negotiated the transfer of the virtual platform of the Lima Commitment Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism, "Democratic Governance against Corruption," to the OAS's servers. This was in response to a request made by the Government of Peru to the Summits Secretariat for it to maintain the platform in its role as the institutional memory and technical secretariat of the Summits Process. To conduct the transfer, the Secretariat coordinated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru and the OAS Department of Information and Technology Services (DOITS), a process that led to the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Government of Peru and the OAS General Secretariat.

To date, 18 states that participated at the Eighth Summit have recorded their progress on the Mechanism's virtual platform. Additionally, the Summits Secretariat has to date prepared two reports using the information uploaded by the states.<sup>25/</sup> The states that attended the Eighth Summit are urged to continue to record their progress with the implementation of the Lima Commitment's mandates on the Mechanism's platform.

The Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism of the Eighth Summit of the Americas was adopted by the SIRG in November 2018, with the aim of: (i) recording the progress made by each state participating at the Eighth Summit and by the JSWG institutions, including the OAS, with the fulfillment of the Lima Commitment, "Democratic Governance against Corruption"; (ii) promoting the exchange of good practices, technical capacities, and measures intended to strengthen efforts to

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23. The periodic report on the work of the Summits Secretariat for the January 2021 to June 2022 term was published as document [SG/SCA/II.17/22](#).

24. The periodic report on the work of the Summits Secretariat for the June 2022 to May 2023 term was published as document [SG/SCA/II.18/23](#).

25. The report on Challenges and Technical Assistance Needs of the Participating States of the Eighth Summit of the Americas in Implementing the Lima Commitment (2019) was published as document [GRIC/M.1/doc.43/19](#).

The report on Progress, Best Practices, Challenges, and Technical Assistance Needs of the Participating States of the Eighth Summit of the Americas (July 2019 – October 2022) was published as document [GRIC/CA-VIII/inf.12/23](#).

prevent and counter corruption in the Hemisphere; and (iii) identifying opportunities and resources for cooperation among states, and between states and the JSWG institutions, for the prevention and combat of corruption, and creating synergies with other international and regional mechanisms and initiatives.<sup>26/</sup> In addition, through the Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance, the states participating at the Ninth Summit of the Americas agreed to continue participating actively in the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment, as well as to use its Database of Best Practices and Regional Capacities for Preventing and Combating Corruption.<sup>27/</sup>

## **II. Strengthening coordination among the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG)**

### **1. Contributions to the implementation of the Ninth Summit's mandates**

Following the adoption of the Ninth Summit's mandates, work has been underway to strengthen coordination among the JSWG's member institutions in support of implementation. Those efforts led to their active participation at the 16 meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups and the presentation of technical and/or financial assistance offers at those meetings and at meetings of the SIRG.

The expert exchanges at the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups also benefited from the broad participation of the JSWG institutions, which have been invited to all the Technical Group meetings, and key JSWG institutions have been selected to make technical presentations on the meetings' topics.

#### **a. Coordination with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for the Plan of Action on Health and Resilience**

Since the start of the negotiations for the Preliminary Draft Plan of Action on Health and Resilience, the Summits Secretariat has worked closely with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to obtain its feedback on the contributions provided by the delegations. As part of that consultative process, PAHO made significant outreach efforts with the countries regarding the Political Commitment that was adopted and the Draft Plan of Action on Health and Resilience, involving ministries of health, foreign affairs, finance, and science and technology to ensure the effective implementation of the mandates included in the plan. In addition, in pursuit of the follow-up and implementation of those mandates, the Summits Secretariat is organizing a Policy Dialogue with PAHO to be held in the first quarter of 2024, which will deal with three key themes of the Plan of Action: health system resilience and pandemic preparedness, regional production of vaccines and health technologies, and the promotion of "One Health."

#### **b. Preparation of the JSWG Report on the implementation of the Ninth Summit's mandates**

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26. The document on the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism of the Lima Commitment, "Democratic Governance against Corruption," was published as document [GRIC/O.6/doc.26/18](#).

27. Mandate 12, paragraph "m," of the [Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance](#).

Based on the mandates adopted at the Ninth Summit of the Americas and the information provided by the JSWG institutions regarding their efforts, including technical and/or financial assistance, in support of the states' Ninth Summit implementation work, the Summits Secretariat is preparing the corresponding report on institutional contributions, which will be available shortly.

## **2. Technical meetings of the JSWG**

On November 16, 2022, an on-site technical meeting of the JSWG to address the First Cities Summit of the Americas was held at the request of the serving Chair of the Summits Process. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Government of the United States to present this initiative, and for the JSWG institutions to exchange information on their possible contributions to the event's preparation and to the implementation of the initiatives arising from it. The JSWG institutions' representatives said that cities play a very important role in their work, in areas including access to financing, strengthening decentralization, crossborder coordination among authorities, migration, environmental management, and gender issues.

On June 22, 2023, during the fifty-third regular session of the OAS General Assembly in Washington, D.C., the JSWG held a hybrid-format meeting to share work and carry out institutional coordination on the follow-up of the Ninth Summit's mandates and on the progress made with the initiatives arising from the Cities Summit. The meeting also enabled the sharing of ideas for strengthening the JSWG within the Summits Process, including reporting methods.

In addition, on the occasion of the official advance visit of the Director of the Summits Secretariat and the OAS Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, an on-site meeting was held on October 19, 2023, with representatives of the JSWG in that city to present the Summits of the Americas Process and discuss the role of the institutions in the process.

## **3. Report on the institutional contributions of the JSWG to the follow-up of the Eighth Summit of the Americas**

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat prepared the report,<sup>28/</sup> using information submitted by the institutions that belong to the JSWG. The report highlights the JSWG's institutional efforts in implementing the mandates of the Eighth Summit of the Americas, in accordance with the areas outlined in the JSWG Plan of Action (2019-2021). The Summits Secretariat worked with the JSWG institutions in its design and drafting, and it also supported the implementation of the Action Plan on which the institutions reported. The report covers the period from June 2021 to June 2023, during which time emergency provisions were adopted to address the COVID-19 public health crisis in the region.

## **4. Linking the Summits of the Americas Process and the inter-American ministerial meetings**

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28. The report on the JSWG's institutional contributions to the follow-up of the Eighth Summit of the Americas was published as document [GTCC/doc.92/23](#).

As part of the Summits Secretariat's efforts to link the inter-American ministerial processes and the Summits Process, it attended meetings of the ministerial processes of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), sectoral meetings, and General Assembly committees charged with preparing General Assembly resolutions. During this period, a special effort was made to bring together the OAS Department of Sustainable Development and the Latin America and Caribbean Program of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (LAC/OECD), to emphasize the importance not only of addressing the follow-up and implementation of the Ninth Summit's mandates, but also of optimizing and linking ministerial agendas dealing with similar topics. The Meeting of Ministers of Sustainable Development was held on October 3 and 4, 2023, in The Bahamas, coinciding with the OECD Ministerial Meeting on Environmental Sustainability held on October 5, 2023, in Costa Rica.

Similarly, the Secretariat has attended and collaborated with the preparatory meetings for the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), to be held in the Dominican Republic on March 14 and 15, 2024. The Secretariat will hold a Policy Dialogue to foster a debate among relevant actors and representatives of Summits Process stakeholders—including government officials from the energy sector, JSWG institutions, representatives of civil society, and the private sector—on best practices and experiences to develop and advance policies and strategies for a just and inclusive energy transition, with an emphasis on considerations of social, economic, and environmental justice.

The Secretariat continues to collaborate and work closely with the technical secretariats of the inter-American ministerial meetings in order to pursue the follow-up and implementation of the Summit mandates and to better align the priorities of both processes in order to identify effective coordination and implementation mechanisms.

## **5. Other activities**

### **a. 15th meeting of the Steering Group of the OECD Regional Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (LACRP) for the 2022-2025 cycle**

On November 28, 2022, a meeting of the OECD's LACRP Steering Group was held to analyze the program's 2022-2025 work cycle, its mandate, planned activities, and possible synergies between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the OECD, and the international organizations that are part of the program, including the OAS.

Mrs. María Celina Conte, Director of the Summits Secretariat, attended the meeting in representation of the OAS. She highlighted the work and possible collaborations between the OECD's activities as a member of the JSWG and the follow-up and implementation of the Ninth Summit's mandates, as well as initiatives that could arise between the OAS and the LACRP's programmatic agenda in areas such as governance, productivity, sustainable development, and social inclusion. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the guest agencies, including several JSWG institutions, to share the activities they have planned for the 2023-2025 period. That section of the meeting was used to map and identify the JSWG's main activities and to ensure that the Summit mandates are duly addressed by the activities carried out. As a result of the meeting, the Summits Secretariat has contacted the technical areas of the OAS to report on the program's activities, to promote collaboration in areas of common interest, and to avoid the duplication of agendas.

To forge links with Summit mandates, Director Conte held meetings with OECD technical areas and OECD member countries to report on and identify synergies with the OECD as a JSWG member institution in advancing those mandates, and to inform the stakeholders of the important role of the OECD, as a member of the JSWG, in the implementation of Summit mandates.

b. Special meeting on corruption and gender

On the occasion of the 39th Plenary Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) and at the invitation of the Chair of the MESICIC Committee of Experts, Ms. Elsa Fernández of Panama, the Summits Secretariat, represented by Director Conte, presented the publication *Impact of Corruption on Women's Rights in the Americas: An Agenda Under Construction*,<sup>29/</sup> prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in 2022. The meeting was called in light of the recommendations included in the publication, which aims to contribute to MESICIC's efforts regarding corruption and women's rights. The publication also aims to further and deepen the debate led by organizations such as the OAS, Transparency International, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and EuroSocial regarding the differentiated impact of corruption on women's rights. It proposes recommendations for combating corruption, which is one of the main threats to the rule of law and democratic governance in the region, and for simultaneously advancing toward substantive equality.

c. Publication: *Volume IX - Official Documents of the Summits of the Americas Process: From Lima (2018) to Los Angeles (2022)*

During the period of this report, the Summits Secretariat prepared the ninth in a series of documents compiling the results of the Ninth Summit and the inter-American system's ministerial meetings in various areas. This publication, issued after the Ninth Summit, contains the documents adopted at the Summit and at the inter-American ministerial meetings held from April 2018 to June 2022. The compendium, which is part of the institutional memory of the Summits Process, was sent to the national coordinators, institutions, and actors that are part of the Summits Process.<sup>30/</sup>

### **III. Promoting the participation of civil society organizations and social actors in the Summits Process**

The following section lists the main efforts carried out by the Summits Secretariat, in coordination with the Chair of the Summits Process and with the cooperation of various Summits Process strategic partners, with the aim of strengthening the participation of civil society organizations and social actors in the Summits of the Americas Process, particularly as regards the Ninth Summit's follow-up and implementation phase.<sup>31/</sup> Those efforts included:

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29. The publication is available at the following [link](#).

30. The publication *Official Documents of the Summits of the Americas Process: From Lima (2018) to Los Angeles (2022)* is available at the following [link](#).

31. The Methodology for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors in the Follow-up and Implementation Phase of the Ninth Summit of the Americas was published as document [ASCA/doc.34/22](#).

## 1. Information sessions on the Summits of the Americas Process

Between August and September 2022, the Summits Secretariat held an additional round of four information sessions to continue to broaden the knowledge of the civil society organizations and social actors—including women’s organizations—participating in the Summits Process, with an emphasis on the mechanisms for participation in the Ninth Summit’s follow-up phase.

## 2. Summit Labs – Training workshops

To further strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations and social actors, the Summits Secretariat offered a series of training events, including:

- **Summit Lab on Strategic Communication (November 2022):** representatives of 129 civil society organizations—including women’s organizations—and social actors were trained in communication skills, enabling them to develop and execute communication strategies to effectively connect with their target audiences.
- **Summit Lab on Bridging the Digital Divide (November 2022):** representatives of 18 women’s organizations received training on technological and innovation trends and on the opportunities offered by digital technology. In addition, basic knowledge on digital tools was provided to strengthen their work and participation in the Summits Process.
- **Summit Lab on Digital Transformation (February 16 to March 14, 2023):** representatives of 44 civil society organizations—including women’s organizations—and social actors were trained on various topics related to the construction of a sustainable digital transformation process, including individual and collective citizen empowerment leading to digital culture and citizenship, digital and open government, digital entrepreneurship, and other benefits.
- **Summit Lab on Gender-Sensitive Negotiation II, Leadership Strengthening, Public Policy Advocacy, and Strategic Planning (July 2022, September 2022, February 2023, and March 2023):** representatives of 120 women’s organizations received training to contribute to their empowerment and to further gender equality.
- **Summit Lab on Conflict Resolution and Consensus Building Training (September 18-22, 2023):** This workshop was intended to strengthen and/or develop the capacities of civil society organizations and social actors to facilitate dialogue, communicate effectively, listen actively, and understand strategies for conflict resolution and consensus building. It was carried out with the assistance of the National Republican Institute. The training was received by representatives of 83 civil society organizations and social actors from across the Americas, ensuring geographic representation and gender balance.
- **Summit Lab on Conflict Resolution and Consensus Building, Phase II (February 20-22, 2024):** This workshop is intended to provide an opportunity for the civil society representatives and social actors who participated actively in Phase I of the Summit Lab on Conflict Resolution and Consensus Building, held in September 2023, to further build their skills with more in-depth and practical training

on this topic. Registrations have been received from representatives of 49 civil society organizations and social actors.

- **Summit Lab on Artificial Intelligence, Phase II (March 2024):** This workshop is being organized with the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and has the following objectives: (i) to address the current use, opportunities, and challenges of artificial intelligence (AI) for the socioeconomic development of the Americas, (ii) to empower civil society organizations and social actors in the use of AI in outreach and mobilization campaigns by identifying key tools, trainings, projects, and initiatives available for civil society to make successful use of AI, and (iii) to involve civil society organizations in ensuring that AI is fair, accountable, and transparent.

### 3. Subregional Thematic Working Groups

#### a. Call for participation by new members of the subregional thematic working groups

In order to continue advancing the efforts of the subregional thematic working groups established as part of the Ninth Summit Process, during the months of November and December 2022 the Summits Secretariat invited civil society organizations and social actors to join the working groups and, through them, to participate in the follow-up and implementation of the Ninth Summit's mandates. Membership of the working groups has given them the opportunity to discuss and propose recommendations on actions and initiatives in pursuit of the implementation of the Ninth Summit's mandates and to present their work related to the topics addressed by those mandates. A total of 182 new members were confirmed.

#### b. Launch of the Summits Virtual Community

To encourage cooperation and open dialogue among the civil society organizations and social actors that participate in the Summits Process, including members of the working groups, the Summits Secretariat created the Summits Virtual Community (SVC) as an online venue to facilitate their work and the exchange of perspectives, experiences, and best practices on Summit topics and mandates. The platform was launched in February 2023. Representatives of various sectors currently participate in virtual consultations and training through the platform.

#### c. Presentation of the first round of contributions on the implementation of the Ninth Summit's mandates

The members of the Subregional Thematic Working Groups have been working and discussing the implementation and follow-up of the Ninth Summit's mandates. As a result of these discussions, they have produced contributions that focus on the five thematic axes.

- Health and Resilience in the Americas:
  - Initial Contributions<sup>32/</sup>

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32. The document "Initial Contributions on Health and Resilience in the Americas" was published as [ASCA/doc.39/23](#).

- Contributions to the Preliminary Draft Action Plan<sup>33/</sup>
- Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition:
  - Initial Contributions<sup>34/</sup>
- Our Sustainable and Green Future
  - Initial Contributions<sup>35/</sup>
- Digital Transformation:
  - Initial Contributions<sup>36/</sup>
  - Contributions on Cybersecurity<sup>37/</sup>
- Democratic Governance
  - Initial Contributions<sup>38/</sup>
  - Contributions for Ensuring the Integrity of Information and Countering Disinformation in Electoral Processes<sup>39/</sup>
  - Contributions on the Rights of People of African Descent<sup>40/</sup>
  - Contributions on Public Procurement<sup>41/</sup>

The Summits Secretariat also presented guidelines for the effective management of the subregional thematic working groups to the working groups' members through the Summits Virtual Community, and it organized a coordination meeting with working group spokespersons to explain the working methodology for the follow-up phase.<sup>42/</sup>

#### 4. Initiatives Fair

The Summits Secretariat invited civil society organizations and social actors to participate in the Initiatives Fair for the Implementation of the Ninth Summit's Mandates, with the aim of promoting and highlighting initiatives to contribute to the implementation of the five thematic pillars of the Summit mandates: health and resilience, digital transformation, clean energy, green future, and democratic governance. The participants in the event were members of the Subregional Thematic Working Groups from civil society organizations with experience in the issues addressed at the Ninth

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33. The document "Contributions to the Preliminary Draft Action Plan" was published as [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-SAL/INF.14/23](#).
  34. The document "Initial Contributions on Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition" was published as [ASCA/doc.42/23](#).
  35. The document "Initial Contributions on Our Sustainable and Green Future" was published as [ASCA/doc.37/23](#).
  36. The document "Initial Contributions on Digital Transformation" was published as [ASCA/doc.40/23](#).
  37. The document "Contributions on Cybersecurity" was published as [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-DIG/inf3/24](#).
  38. The document "Initial Contributions on Democratic Governance" was published as [ASCA/doc.38/23](#).
  39. The document "Contributions for Ensuring the Integrity of Information and Countering Disinformation in Electoral Processes" was published as [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-DEM/INF.12/23](#).
  40. The document "Contributions on the Rights of People of African Descent" was published as [GRIC/CA-IX/GT-DEM/INF.21/23](#).
  41. The document "Initial Contributions on Public Procurement" was published as [ASCA/doc.44/24](#).
  42. The guidelines for the effective management of the subregional thematic working groups were published as document [ASCA/doc.35/22](#).



Summit and with a recognized track record in dialogue, advocacy, or advisory services at the local, national, or regional levels in the Americas. The virtual call for proposals was issued in the first half of 2023 and the selection criteria included thematic, gender, and regional representativeness across the Americas.

The Summits Secretariat received more than 30 applications, of which 20 were finally selected, in the following thematic areas:

- Health and Resilience: 7
- Our Green Future: 4
- Clean Energy: 1
- Digital Transformation: 3
- Democratic Governance: 9<sup>43/</sup>

#### **5. Photography Contest: “Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future”**

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in collaboration with the Art Museum of the Americas (AMA) of the OAS, invited professional and amateur photographers to participate in a photography contest on “Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future” between February 22 and March 31. A total of 226 entries were received. The aim of the contest was to artistically portray realities, challenges, and/or solutions in the Hemisphere related to the five thematic axes of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, held in Los Angeles, California, United States, in June 2022.

A group of four experts, comprising specialists in art and photography and actors involved in the Summits of the Americas Process, was responsible for selecting twenty-five photographs. Among those, the winning photographs were particularly notable: one chosen by the jury, noted for its uniqueness and depth, and another chosen by popular vote, the thoughtfulness of which captivated the public. The Summits Secretariat prepared an album to showcase the two winning photographs and the twenty-three finalists, which reflect the realities, challenges, and solutions that define the panorama in the Hemisphere as regards the five thematic axes of the Ninth Summit of the Americas.<sup>44/</sup>

#### **6. Strengthening the participation of women’s organizations in the Ninth Summit’s follow-up phase**

As part of the Summits Secretariat’s implementation of the hemispheric project “Strengthening the participation of women’s organizations in the Summits Process” and with the support of the Government of Canada, various activities were carried out in the Ninth Summit’s follow-up and implementation phase with the aim of continuing to strengthen their advocacy and effective participation in the Summits Process.<sup>45/</sup>

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43. The report on the results of this initiative was published as document [ASCA/doc.45/24](#).

44. The album of photographs is available at [https://summit-americas.org/sas/documents/album\\_concurso\\_fotografico.pdf](https://summit-americas.org/sas/documents/album_concurso_fotografico.pdf).

45. The Summits Secretariat’s efforts to strengthen the participation of women’s organizations in the Summits of the Americas Process are detailed at <https://summit-americas.org/projects/organizacionesdemujeres.html>.

First, on the occasion of the fifty-second regular session of the OAS General Assembly (Lima, October 2022), the Summits Secretariat organized a meeting with 17 women's organizations to encourage thought about those organizations' participation in the Summits Process and to learn about their ideas and proposals for future activities in the current phase of the Ninth Summit. In addition, alongside other civil society organizations and social actors, the women's organizations participated in a series of theoretical and practical training workshops on such key issues as negotiation, leadership, strategic planning, advocacy, and strategic communication.

Thematic consultations with 30 women's representatives were also organized in February 2023 to draw up recommendations for the effective implementation of the Ninth Summit's mandates from a perspective of gender equality and women's rights. The recommendations were presented to the National Summit Coordinators at a Virtual Dialogue held on March 13.<sup>46/</sup> Finally, as a result of the active participation of women's organizations in the Ninth Summit Process, the *Somos Lideresas* ("We Are Women Leaders") hemispheric network was created. It comprises women's organizations in the region committed, among other things, to closely monitoring the implementation of the mandates of the Ninth Summit from a gender and women's rights perspective.<sup>47/</sup>

## 7. Evaluation and feedback mechanisms

In August 2022, the Summits Secretariat conducted a survey among the civil society organizations to obtain feedback on how to improve participation mechanisms, particularly during the Ninth Summit's follow-up and implementation phase. The survey received more than 100 responses. To supplement the survey results, an online meeting was held with the 15 spokespersons of the subregional thematic working groups on September 22, 2022.<sup>48/</sup> At that meeting, the spokespersons reaffirmed some of the recommendations received through the survey and offered additional recommendations. The following are some of the main recommendations received for improving mechanisms for participation in the Summits Process:

- Conduct interactions with the SIRG National Coordinators, in a face-to-face format and at the national level, both in the Summit preparatory phase and during follow-up and implementation.
- Keep the civil society organizations regularly informed on the progress with Summit mandate implementation, and hold meetings with those actors to incorporate their suggestions and questions.
- Engage OAS National Offices to support the work of the Summits Secretariat at the national and local levels, particularly with respect to outreach efforts with civil society organizations, paying special attention to the Caribbean countries.

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46. The Recommendations of Women's Organizations for the Implementation of the Mandates of the Ninth Summit of the Americas were published as document [ASCA/doc.36/23](#).

47. The Founding Declaration of the *Somos Lideresas* Regional Network on the occasion of the Ninth Summit of the Americas was published as document [ASCA/doc.30/22](#).

48. During the Ninth Summit's preparatory phase, civil society organizations and social actors formed 15 subregional thematic working groups with the goal of facilitating a dialogue for formulating recommendations on the five Summit themes. For more information on the subregional thematic working groups, see <http://www.summit-americas.org/SociedadCivilWeb/Soc/Preparatoryphase.html>.

- Continue to carry out initiatives to strengthen the advocacy capacity of civil society and increase its technical knowledge on the Summit themes, to ensure more effective participation in all stages of the process.

The Virtual Forum “Women’s Organizations in The Ninth Summit” was also held. At the event, women’s organizations that had participated in face-to-face activities for civil society and social actors within the framework of the Summit shared their experiences and achievements with around 70 representatives.<sup>49/</sup>

In December 2022, four focus groups were held with representatives of indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, migrants, and women’s organizations to discuss the specific problems faced by those populations in their communities and the challenges they face in participating in the Summits Process.

Taking into account the feedback obtained from these activities, the Summits Secretariat developed a work plan to involve those stakeholders in the Ninth Summit’s follow-up and implementation phase.

## **8. Publications**

In October 2022, the Summits Secretariat prepared a compilation of the contributions made by civil society organizations and social actors during the preparatory phase and the official activities carried out within the framework of the Ninth Summit, including the Civil Society Forum, the Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and High-Level Government Representatives, and other parallel events organized by other social actors.<sup>50/</sup>

The Summits Secretariat, in collaboration with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), also prepared the publication *Vital Perspectives of the Region’s Women*, which includes recommendations that seek to raise the profile of the most important aspects of the current situation of women in relation to the Ninth Summit’s thematic areas. It also makes a series of concrete recommendations to assist the region’s countries in fulfilling the mandates of the Ninth Summit of the Americas from a gender perspective.

To conclude:

The Summits Secretariat highlights the leadership of the Chair of the Summit Process, the Government of the Dominican Republic, as well as of the Government of the United States, in its capacity as Chair of the Ninth Summit, for the effective conduction of the efforts presented in this report, with the participation and collaboration of the states participating in the Summit Process, as well as of a broad network of strategic partners, including the international and regional institutions that make up the JSWG, and representatives of civil society and social actors. The Summits Secretariat is grateful for the trust placed in it and its team.

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49. A video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyApKcAPHDw>.

50. The publication is available at <https://bit.ly/CSO-SA-IXSummit>

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat also takes this opportunity to thank the Governments of Canada, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Panama, Peru, and the United States for their financial support during the period covered by this report, which made a substantial contribution to the effective implementation of all these efforts.