



PARTICIPATION OF SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE SUMMIT
OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

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**PRESENTATIONS AT THE HEMISPHERIC DIALOGUE BETWEEN
CIVIL SOCIETY, SOCIAL ACTORS, AND GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

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Introduction

On May 6, 2022, the host country of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, in coordination with the Summit of the Americas Secretariat, held the Hemispheric Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and Government Representatives to provide a forum for civil society and social actors to present their input to the countries participating in the Summits Process, via the spokespersons of each thematic subregional working group.¹

The Hemispheric Dialogue was livestreamed on the Summits Secretariat Facebook page (CumbreAmericas) so that the members of the thematic subregional working groups and the general public could follow along.

The presentations made by the spokespersons of the thematic subregional groups are reproduced below:

A. Health and Resilience

Presentation of the Health and Resilience Working Group of Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States

Spokesperson: Kendall Trapp, Empower Yourself Belize Movement

Good morning to all. I am Kendall Trapp from Belize. Below are our proposals:

Number One: A synergetic approach is much needed for the Action Plan to work without ambiguity. Strategies are needed to improve access to health care services, telemedicine, and digital wellness, that will contribute to closing the healthcare gap. Governments, institutions, civil society, health care providers, and medical researchers could develop models for ongoing digital health wellness.

Number Two: The Afro-descendant and other ethnic groups, as well gender groups, must be assured universal health care coverage, comprehensive health care services with medical consultation at no cost, and perspective of life course. No one must be left behind; while the most neglected and in need must be first in line.

Number Three: When the burden of an illness exists in gender communities, a specific and nuanced consideration of gender is required. Also, an inclusive approach is needed to provide for the health care needs of migrants.

Number Four: Health is compromised when good indigenous agricultural practices are devalued; many nutrient plants with essential nutrients are not utilized. States should explore the traditional knowledge in biodiversity that come from of indigenous and diasporic populations, and support mechanisms for knowledge transfer.

Number Five: States should develop policies to: increase delivery health care capacity for the vulnerable and marginalized; increase research and sharing Improvements of the State health care systems; promote prevention and improve outcomes for the vulnerable and other population sectors at risk; improve inter-governmental and subsidiary coordination with civil society and marginalized sectors.

¹ For more information on the thematic subregional working groups, please access the following link: [here](#).

Number Six: A commitment to medical research and health care measures for mothers and their unborn children is essential. A measure for the termination of the lives of unborn children is not health care.

Presentation of the Mesoamerica Health and Resilience Working Group

Spokesperson: Sandra Rosaura Cerrato, Institute for the Sustainable Development of Lenca Women, Honduras

Today I would like to provide you with a brief summary of the civil society recommendations for the draft political commitment for the Ninth Summit of the Americas Health and Resilience Action Plan.

The Heads of State of the Americas will sign a commitment to an action plan to be executed from this year, 2022, until 2030. Civil society, the governments, and private-sector companies will have to come together to execute the action plan, which will provide access to an efficient, resilient health care system for every single one of our communities.

COVID-19 showed our health care systems to be inefficient and unprepared for a pandemic. We cannot overlook the fact that during the COVID-19 pandemic we stopped providing care for chronic, communicable, and infectious-contagious diseases, as well as hormone treatments, including gender-affirming processes, and mental health care.

The Health and Resilience action plan includes:

Execution of leadership programs in sexual and reproductive health and family planning, based on international standards for human rights in health; the programs will include nondiscriminatory care protocols for vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and victims of violence and sexual abuse, based on multilateral treaties for the protection of human rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the other inter-American instruments of protection that contain relevant principles and rights for LGTBI persons, with a special emphasis on the rights of children and family life.

In particular, we believe that all practices that modify the sexual characteristics of intersex persons without substantial medical reasons or full informed consent should be immediately reviewed.

Encourage the member states to create policies for domestic and foreign collaboration to develop resilient health care systems. Foster the member states' access to financing with transparency, auditing, and anti-corruption mechanisms to strengthen their public health care systems. Guarantee workers' rights for health care workers, pursuant to the ILO and international protocols on pandemics and endemics, to protect their lives and allow them to reach their full potential.

Health commitments should be based on a comprehensive perspective that encompasses the health needs of all population groups without discrimination.

Transform health economies, making them engines of recovery and economic growth in the region, by promoting policies and thereby obtaining resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable health economies and ecosystems, and reaching the objectives set for 2030.

The commitment is presented not only to the governments of the member states, but also to the social groups, so that together we can ensure health care systems are in place for our populations.

Presentation of the South America Health and Resilience Working Group

Spokesperson: Cecilia Navas, Youth and Democracy in the Americas

Good morning honorable ambassadors, heads of delegation, Summits Secretariat, and everyone here today.

Health is a fundamental right that must be guaranteed by all the States of the Americas. I am Venezuelan, a resilient migrant, and it is an honor for me to be here today as spokesperson of the South America Health and Resilience Working Group, to present the recommendations that we have designed:

1. Develop a crosscutting action plan for 2022 to 2030 that will bring together a selection of international cooperation measures and initiatives with the following objectives:
 - Promote standardization of the regulations governing health care systems in the Americas by establishing national plans and public budgets as well as a multi-actor monitoring mechanism to provide effective, efficient, and inclusive health care services.
 - Create the ideal environment for producing and marketing safe, effective, and high-quality medical products in the region, and adopt policies that support sustained, multisector participation, including of the health, science, technology, and industry sectors, while always ensuring transparency.
 - Improve education and training for professionals in the fields of medicine, comprehensive public health, and biomedical scientific research.
 - Ensure transparency in the States' timely supply of medications to the population to prevent budgetary waste resulting from poor administration of resources, and to confront corruption.
 - Promote service models with a human rights perspective that are geared towards victims of trafficking and all types of violence, and that adapt to their specific needs.

The action plan will be drafted and implemented with input from the private sector, civil society, and other social actors, as well as support from the Organization of American States, Pan American Health Organization, Inter-American Development Bank, and other members of the Joint Summit Working Group and independent oversight agencies.

Accordingly, human rights must be the central pillar of all aspects of the action plan, which also must be inclusive of diversity.

This action plan is crosscutting and contains an inclusive perspective on resilience and the economic, social, and cultural needs of our communities as well as a differential and gender approach in order

to prepare for and respond to current and future emergencies. It pays particular attention to the needs and challenges of vulnerable and historically marginalized populations.

B. Our Green Future

Presentation of the Our Green Future Working Group of Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States.

Spokesperson: Onika Angela Stellingburg, Guyana National Youth Council

We the members of the 'Our Green Future' Civil Society working group for Canada, the Caribbean and USA, are grateful to the Organization of American States for the opportunity to work with our fellow CSOs to develop our recommendations and to present our report at this Hemispheric Dialogue.

We welcome the opportunity to provide further input and guidance into the management of valuable natural resources and human capital in our region.

1. In light of this, we wish to recommend the establishment of a 'Green Futures Working Group', to support cooperative green initiatives across the region by 2023, including the Western Hemisphere Convention for Nature Protection, 30 x 30, migratory species and shared habitats, agriculture, regional development environmental impacts and climate mitigation and adaptation, ocean health and green carbon initiatives.
2. The Green Futures Working Group will serve to build capacity for CSOs, amplify their voice, increase legitimacy, and allow them to pool resources, access valuable scientific and legal advice and funding and strengthen their resilience in the facing of persecution.
3. The OAS should commit to reviewing environmental legislation, strengthening rule of law, and encouraging member countries to enact laws to protect environmental whistleblowers.
4. On the conduct of EIAs, the OAS should work to review legislation and develop global best practice guidelines for the EIA process including consultation and serve as a coordinating body for the management of transboundary impacts.
5. Governments should ensure that the welfare and livelihood of farmers; smallholders; micro, small and medium enterprises; indigenous people; Afro-descendants and local communities constitute a strategic force by creating incentives and opportunities for training and generating employment as the workforce transitions to the new green economy.
6. Special attention should be given to addressing the economic empowerment and inclusion of women and girls in the management of natural resources, growing their participation to 75% by 2025, to prepare them to become active leaders and decision makers in the management of natural resources, deforestation, forest and land use and conservation.

7. We strongly encourage Governments to strengthen local and regional food systems networks and capacity to produce more of their consumable food and prioritize food security.
8. There should be greater effort to promote the inclusion of the private sector in the development and promulgation of alternatives to plastic in key industries and in incorporating design changes in plastic products to facilitate recycle, repair or reuse.
9. We note that to fully implement the Lima Peru Statement on gender equity and empowerment the OAS must begin the process of deploying working groups to further affect policy and culture change.
10. We encourage Heads of Government to commit to signing up to the Food and Land Use Coalition to ensure that financial flows and trade agreements do not support deforestation, and to create national legislation that makes it illegal for companies and financial institutions to fuel deforestation.
11. With the rapid development of the Oil and Gas sector in the SE Caribbean, the OAS members should develop the oil and gas sector plan as a priority and commit to ensuring that the sector is consistent with Paris agreement goals and sustainable practices to mitigate climate change and to protect our and blue carbon ecosystems.

Presentation of the Mesoamerica Our Green Future Working Group

Spokesperson: Erick Serrano, Social Actor

In view of the urgency of the climate crisis and the Hemisphere's vulnerability, the Mesoamerica Our Green Future Working Group urges the heads of state and government of the Americas to:

1. Promote the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, the national commitments on deforestation and conservation, and the regional work of eliminating deforestation and conserving ecosystems.
2. Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and the protection of natural and cultural resources and the habitats of indigenous communities, rural peoples, and Afro-descendants into all government actions that seek to combat climate change.
3. Eliminate deforestation in agricultural production and consumption through public policies, in collaboration with the production sectors, wholesalers, retailers, companies that sell commodities, and consumer organizations.
4. Enact laws with an intersectional approach that guarantee protection of environmentalists and take account of the violations and particularities faced by women and indigenous, rural, and Afro-descendent communities.
5. Support the agricultural sector with technical and financial resources to help it reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving agricultural practices, including through an inclusive, climate-smart approach that will reduce emissions and improve resilience to

- the effects of climate change.
6. Perform actions to decarbonize the Hemisphere's maritime transport sector and sea and river ports.
 7. Incorporate climate risks into plans, policies, operations, and budgets on a permanent basis, to foster resilience in government action.
 8. Ask the member states to implement the necessary changes to afford civil society organizations, social actors, and the private sector permanent representation on the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) and the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), and active and collaborative participation in the Summit of the Americas Implementation and Follow-up System.

Presentation of the South America Our Green Future Working Group

Spokesperson: Sophia Lobo, Aula Abierta

Esteemed representatives of civil society, social actors, government representatives, and other attendees.

As representative of the South America Our Green Future subworking group, I submit the following recommendations to the heads of state and government of the Americas, regarding the urgent need to conserve and restore the region's ecosystems:

1. Promote the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use and redouble efforts to work through the regional organizations in cooperation with civil society, academic and scientific institutions, companies, and other social actors to:
 - Develop, by the end of 2022, a national plan to achieve the target of net zero deforestation and emissions; conserve and protect 30 percent of the land and water by 2030, and fulfill the Bonn Challenge commitments.
 - This plan should be paired with a viable, transparent timeline to guarantee inclusivity and accountability to citizens for execution.
 - Protect indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, women, girls, campesinos, and other disadvantaged communities, as well as their cultural resources, by honoring the Plan for the International Decade for People of African Descent and the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032.
 - Update the 2030 national contributions at COP27, according to the Paris Agreement guidelines and the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Fully respect and guarantee environmentalists' security and lives, as per Escazú Agreement standards, by virtue of ensuring environmental crimes are duly prosecuted.
2. To decrease the amount of carbon emissions from land use:
 - Support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by all sectors that generate large amounts of emissions, by improving climate-smart production practices and

implementing the nationally determined contributions calculated for the 1.5 degrees celcius limit.

3. To take advantage of the power of the ocean and other bodies of water to mitigate climate change:

- Develop capacities to combat plastic pollution in all bodies of water through waste management, via exchanges among governments, civil society, universities, and other interested parties, to strengthen environmental research centers in the regions.
- Make a coordinated effort to mitigate oil spills and wastewater discharges, and to comply with international maritime environmental regulations.
- Implement renewable energy sources, to decrease levels of environmental pollution.

4. To accelerate climate-change adaptation measures:

- We urge the governments of the Americas to finalize, publish, and implement national adaptation strategies together with civil society, academic institutions, companies, local communities, and other social actors, as well as to commit to meeting targets.
- Incorporate climate risks into sector budgets, operations, and policies.
- Improve access to climate information to strengthen early warning systems in response to climate impacts in all sectors and at all scales.
- Improve environmental education and training for the general population and for the parties responsible for formulating public policies, with an ethnic and sociocultural perspective.

C. Clean Energy

Presentation of the Canada, Caribbean, and United States Clean Energy Working Group

Spokesperson: Hernando Viveros, Social Actor

Ladies and gentlemen, heads of delegation, ambassadors, Summits Secretariat, Summit Implementation Review Group, National Coordinator from the United States for the Summits Process, and my civil society and social actor colleagues, greetings.

Recommendations

1. Implementation and ratification by all countries in the Americas of the Escazú Agreement, as a tool for protecting environmental democracy in the Americas. Protection of the right to life for environmental leaders and their organizations that care for and protect our environment and habitat.
2. Take note of principle 10 of the Rio+20 Declaration, and develop and implement an action plan to make progress on achieving a regional agreement or other instrument that will ensure full implementation of the rights to access information, participation, and justice in matters of environmental issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. We call on the leaders of the countries of the Americas to take the measures necessary to reduce emissions, mobilize funds, and promote adaptation and resilience, as well as to submit ambitious CO2 emissions-reduction objectives for 2030 that align with achieving

- net zero emissions by mid-century.
4. We recommend that the countries of the Americas speed up implementation and launch of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and subsequent agreements and conventions to protect the environment and consolidate global transparency and climate-change adaptation.
 5. Adopt appropriate, effective measures to recognize, protect, and promote all the rights of human rights defenders in environmental matters, including their rights to life, humane treatment, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful association, and freedom of movement.
 6. Draw up regional and country-by-country strategies with differential ethnic approaches for Afro-descendent peoples and indigenous communities, to promote sustainable development that respects their cultural identities.
 7. Guarantee land ownership for rural populations and implement payment programs for ecosystem services; support coastal erosion and forest management programs.
 8. Create trusts—with contributions from the public and private sectors—to finance climate-change adaptation and mitigation policies and programs and new forms of clean energy.
 9. Ensure that the actors who implement projects in the region account for ethnic and racial factors in all the formats in which they gather information on climate change, including the Program of Activities for the Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice, and Development.
 10. Implement the COICA Declaration of the Indigenous Communities on the protection of 80% of the Amazon basin, and strengthen local and territorial governance systems.

Presentation of the Mesoamerica Clean Energy Working Group

Spokesperson: Danilisa Maveliz Peña Medina, Social Actor

Good morning and greetings to the representatives of the countries, especially the host country and the Summits Secretariat.

We, the social actors and civil society organizations, propose the following recommendations after studying the draft political commitment for the Ninth Summit of the Americas, Accelerating the Transition to Clean Energy, namely:

1. Phase down coal-power generation until 2025, and study options like natural gas;
2. Institute plans to provide public financing for clean energy generation projects;
3. Substitute coal and inefficient fossil fuels with clean energy technologies according to a plan and with private-sector financing;
4. Include all energy-sector actors to establish a consensus-based agenda for transitioning to clean energy;
5. Encourage the private sector and banks to provide financing for clean energy projects;
6. Promote policies that foster all clean energy sources (wind, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, biogas, biomass, mini hydro, geothermal), such as lower taxes, fewer costs on electricity bills, trade with nearby countries, training on the energy sector, etc.;
7. Foster public-private partnerships to stimulate more private-sector economic funds focused on clean energy;
8. Have the countries' public schools develop plans for electricity-sector training with a

- clean energy focus, so that young people can become clean energy professionals, and generate and contribute relevant innovative technological ideas;
9. Implement public policies to stimulate research on new technologies, to support the transition to clean energy; and lastly,
 10. Foster economic conditions that will make it easier to access financing and work on energy projects.

Presentation of the South America Clean Energy Working Group

Spokesperson: John Oswaldo Gálvez Maza, Fundación Misión Verde

This summary on Accelerating the Transition to Clean Energy was proposed by civil society and social actors for the Summit of the Americas in the South America group, with the contribution of several participants from various organizations and countries. The Group believes that in order to accelerate the transition to clean energy, we must move towards a sustainable, safe, efficient, and competitive model that will make it possible to substitute the production of polluting energies like fossil fuels with clean energies, to promote decarbonization, energy efficiency, renewable energies, and the decarbonization of the economies. Other factors to consider in this regard include lowering deforestation rates, the use of chemicals in agriculture, and the culture of consumption and food. To that end, the Group recommends fostering efficient energy policies based on adequate planning to decarbonize the planet and the economies based on a fair and equitable distribution of the costs of climate action, meaning that whoever pollutes the most will pay the most and vice versa.

Achieving this objective will not be too difficult, since in general the countries have significant photovoltaic and wind energy potential, and with existing technologies we can install panels, wind parks, and other equipment that could be used to transition away from the current oil- and coal-based energy system. Furthermore, the proposal must be paired with commitments by the countries to, for example, make changes to their environmental laws and incorporate, into their constitutional frameworks, the strict control of natural resource management, oil and gas extraction, mining, solid waste management, ecosystem management, natural areas, and forestry. It should be emphasized that the policies must include subsidies, especially for proposals and projects that use clean, environmentally friendly energies, and that policies that gradually bring down the use of nonrenewable energies like fossil fuels should be generated.

Lastly, the commitments acquired at this Summit should be controlled, evaluated, and monitored, with annual measurements of each country's progress and transparent action plans for restoration and the mitigation of negative impacts from the use of oil, methane, etc. Technological equipment should be used to measure CO₂ annually, identify how many clean energy programs and projects have made progress annually, and how fuels are being substituted, to achieve better control and efficiency in the energy transition in each country. This will make it possible to decrease global warming, eliminate coal energy project subsidies and financing, move to clean public transportation (electric cars) and obtain effective international financing for nature-friendly projects (clean energies).

D. Digital Transformation

Presentation of the Working Group Digital Transformation of Canada, USA, and the Caribbean

Spokesperson: Francisco Barajas, Latino Community Foundation

On behalf of the members of The Digital Transformation Regional Working Group which include Canada, USA, and the Caribbean, I, Francisco Barajas, respectfully present our recommendations for The IX Summit of the Americas. The recommendations provided by our team are aimed at closing the digital divide and implementing regulations that will foster a safer cyberworld for all peoples of the Americas. In this manner, I propose three areas that governments must acknowledge in order to truly achieve transforming the digital world. First, elected officials should acknowledge the internet as a basic human right. Second, safety regulations and policies must be adopted to prevent AI discriminatory practices and to further protect human and privacy rights. And finally, governments must take preventative measures that protect against shutting down, blocking, or throttling the internet.

1. Internet as a Basic Human Right:

A comprehensive human rights-based approach that strives at closing the digital divide will bring us closer to creating a more reliable and accessible broadband ecosystem. It is no longer effective to think of internet access in terms of affordability due to vast economic differences. In order to truly promote an inclusive digital society where everyone benefits, we implore governments to acknowledge the internet, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a basic human right. Governments must address barriers such as poverty, race, gender, educational attainment, and geographical locations that disenfranchise women and other groups by including fair and transparent market regulations, universal service requirements, and licensing agreements. In this vein, we also implore governments to work together to develop a Universal Declaration of Digital Rights.

2. Online Safety Regulations and Policies

Accelerating internet access needs to also be paired with security measures that protect individual user data and that prevents coding biases. Invasions of online privacy and data breaches violate an individual's human rights and leave them vulnerable for possible cybercrimes. Furthermore, online sexual exploitation and abuse particularly impact and violate the rights of women and girls. Private sector entities, as well as other stakeholders, must work alongside governments to safeguard against online violence that target women and girls, LGBTQI+ people, migrants and refugees, and human rights defenders. This means adopting legally binding regulations and standards that govern information sharing and the protection of human rights. In addition, governments must administer and set guard rails for AI programmers to mitigate the risk of face-recognition discrimination and coding biases.

3. Internet Shutdowns

Finally, we strongly encourage governments to condemn internet shutdowns, particularly through country-specific statements issued during regional and international human rights platforms and sessions. Internet shutdowns trigger a number of consequences for local economies, e-government services, online public health portals, and the most mundane of tasks. States must build resilient cyber infrastructures by distributing more Internet exchange points, along with increasing the diversity of Internet connectivity at international borders to frustrate efforts of Internet shutdowns.

Presentation of the Mesoamerica Digital Transformation Working Group

Spokesperson: Ronmel Lopez, White and Blue Support for Nicaragua

In Canada in 2011, the presidents of the Americas renewed their commitment to hemispheric

integration and their national and collective responsibilities to improve the economic wellbeing and safety of our peoples. At the Ninth Summit of the Americas, the Digital Transformation project is a new political commitment to foster technological development in the member states that will benefit all of our peoples equally, in all areas of government, education, health care, manufacturing, communications, and entrepreneurship.

Today with the digital transformation plan we urge the member states to focus on the importance of establishing controls in the use of platforms to protect confidentiality, privacy, and personal data, and to prevent the use thereof for other purposes without consent, especially in countries with dictatorships where human rights are not respected.

AFFIRMING the essential role of resilient, dynamic digital ecosystems in supporting prosperous digital economies, by modernizing preparation for and the response to future climate events, health care, anti-corruption efforts, respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, elections, justice, and transparency; and paving the way for investment, improving the provision of public services;

EMPHASIZING that the coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) pandemic revealed the scale of the digital divide, highlighting the importance of Internet access, digital education, and access to public services, a virtual health consultant services portal, and broadband;

RECOGNIZING the need for closer regional cooperation that includes the private sector, civil society, and other social actors to formulate policies for digital ecosystems that will enhance economic growth, regional competitiveness, and the responsible, ethical use of technology, without violating human rights;

We recommend facilitating universal Internet broadband access with competitive prices, and a transformation of digital government that will include open-signal telecommunications to all peoples of the Americas by 2030.

This action plan is a commitment in which civil society, private enterprise, and the States have the opportunity to work together to protect human rights and citizen privacy while spotlighting the economy, health care, education and making our countries more competitive, as long as laws and agreements are established to protect citizen privacy in line with technological progress in our countries.

Presentation of the South America Digital Transformation Working Group

Spokesperson: Mariano Mosquera, Catholic University of Córdoba

The civil society organizations and social actors of South America propose the following pillars in **Digital Transformation:**

Consider **digital access** to be a human right, with an open, interoperable, and secure internet network, and broad access to digital technologies, ensuring the digital inclusion of all members of society.

It is essential for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to establish specific standards for the continent that will ensure **respect for human rights online**, including the protection and privacy of citizens' personal data, and the right to identity, etc.

The digital transformation must pursue infrastructure **coverage** and **digital literacy and communication** programs, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups (rural areas, indigenous groups, elderly persons, Afro-descendants, migrants, etc.).

In particular, the digital transformation must put **technology at the service of persons with disabilities**.

In this context, it is fundamental to emphasize the central role of **digital education**, sensitive to gender and interculturality, in social inclusion and the effective exercise of rights, the universalization of the right to education, and access to knowledge.

Furthermore:

The digital transformation must promote **transparency and accountability** in the design and use of digital technology. This notably includes the responsible, ethical use of **artificial intelligence**, with the establishment of independent auditors.

Moreover, the digital transformation must involve the **decentralization** of data and information, to avoid the control and manipulation thereof.

We consider that enhanced **open government** practices should be fostered at all levels of government, with findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable open data, to guarantee the right to public information and encourage accountability. The digital transformation plays an important role in **anti-corruption** issues.

The digital transformation must foster the creation of **open-source** tools and, further, develop an **entrepreneurial ecosystem**.

The digital transformation must help help build an **intelligent citizenry**, focused on social innovation, as well as develop **smart cities** in which the efficient use of technology sustainably improves the quality of life.

In this framework, the digital transformation must take advantage of our new digital channels for democratic participation to favor improved allocation of priorities in **public investments**

One especially significant pillar for our organizations is that:

The digital transformation requires new regulatory frameworks and public policies with a clear gender focus to **prevent digital violence** and safeguard human rights, prevent polarization and demonstrations of authoritarianism, hate, discrimination, harassment, extortion, aggression, incitement to violence, and defamation through technologies, which affect individuals' physical integrity and mental health.

It is in this context that the digital transformation must include regulatory frameworks that guarantee human rights in the access to justice, the judicial process, and **digital justice** mechanisms.

Lastly:

The civil society organizations and social actors of South America consider that the digital transformation, which is very dynamic, requires the ongoing monitoring of the digital transformation

commitments taken on in the Ninth Summit of the Americas. Accordingly, we propose the creation of the **Digital Transformation Observatory of the Americas**, in which the public and private sectors, academia, and civil society organizations will participate.

E. Democratic Governance

Presentation of the Working Group Democratic Governance of Canada, Caribbean, and the United States

Spokesperson: Gale Mohammed Oxley, Social Actor

ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED

Commitment is doing what you said you would do, after the feeling you said it in has passed. St. Camillus

Democratic Governance in the region of Canada, the Caribbean, and USA has evolved into a showdown of might. Civil Society is being introduced as the other scale in measuring democracy as we address Human Rights, Transparency and Anti-Corruption, Citizen Participation, and Inclusion. Civil Society accepts the action plan with some additions to the commitments.

This working group wants the Summit to achieve strong and representative democracies where vibrant, diverse, and sustainable sectors of CSOs, NGOs and FBOs (not party groups) partner with Governments to achieve the goal of this work plan. Allocation of resources to foster sector capacity and growth is an immediate must. The multinational funding partners must give access to local Civil Society for meaningful involvement that will make the projects launched with their loans/grants more likely to succeed beyond the government administration of the day.

Good character is the anti-dote to corruption. Our governments need to create mechanisms addressing issues of Human Rights, Transparency, and anti-corruption to include databases for follow-up action consisting of nonpartisan citizens and at least one judicial officer to oversee these platforms. Recommendations must use data-informed approaches to highlight the threat to democracy which social media platforms use to feed by spreading prejudices via misinformation and anti-democratic threats resulting in negatively changed behaviors.

Restating and revisiting commitments made re inclusion of the follow-up and implementation requires Civil Society to remind Governments of their responsibility to include everyone. OAS Nations must establish policies that remove barriers including those practices of colonial definitions and legislative impositions that create discrimination and deter liberty of its citizenry.

Embrace the challenge to partner with non-partisan Civil Society as we move forward together towards the X Summit. Make this an achievable Summit.

Presentation of the Mesoamerica Democratic Governance Working Group

Spokesperson: Luis Antonio Martinez, Human Life International

Underscoring that civil society's participation and validation is essential to afford legitimacy to the States' agreements and democratic commitment, this Working Group proposes the following:

1. Guarantee the right to freedom of expression, association, assembly, and mobilization, based on the American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the countries' political constitutions, for the unrestricted and timely protection of journalists, social communicators, Office of the Ombudsman, migrants, environmentalists, and social actors, allowing them to do their work safe from criminalization, threats, and acts of repression against them or their families.
2. The States, in coordination with the competent human rights organizations, must take all necessary measures to eradicate forced labor, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, harassment, and discrimination in the workplace, with the participation of civil society, community leaders, social actors, unions, and private-sector representatives.
3. Establish specific, effective measures to eradicate discrimination and violence and guarantee human rights and inclusion for all people, and especially historically unserved and excluded populations.
4. Eradicate child abuse and sexual exploitation, forced marriage, and the trafficking of children and adolescents, by implementing laws, policies and programs geared towards preventing, intervening in, and punishing behaviors that threaten their right to life, security, and humane treatment.
5. Guarantee and protect the right of peoples and indigenous, rural, and Afro-descendent communities to access land, territory, and a healthy, balanced environment, as well as their right to free determination.
6. Establish and implement social oversight or comptrollers that further the States' commitments to e-government and open government, which facilitate the prevention, detection, intervention, and punishment of corruption and foster progress on transparency in the hemisphere.
7. Promote and strengthen participative planning processes in the post Covid-19 pandemic and climate crisis recovery, fostering best practices and providing the necessary resources for the population's wellbeing, digital access, and employment, and the economic recovery and integration of families.
8. Implement the necessary changes so that civil society organizations, social actors, and the private sector will have be permanently represented in the SIRG and JSWG processes, and will participate actively and collaboratively in the Summit of the Americas Implementation and Follow-up System.
9. Provide the States with technical assistance, so that they will allocate budgetary funds to executing the actions contained herein, and will carry out the necessary monitoring and implementation activities in this Ninth Summit.

Presentation of the South America Democratic Governance Working Group

Spokesperson: Diana Silva, Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (Redlad)

Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance

As civil society organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, we recommend the following:

- Create an inter-American network of civil society organizations that will serve as an ombudsman and monitor compliance with the political commitments taken on by the States in this and future Summits of the Americas, and present an annual report to the SIRG and society.
- Agree, through a panel of experts, a regional definition of “alteration or disruption of the constitutional order,” to include the meanings of early warnings, demonstrations, and climate of citizen tension.
- Speed up recognition of refugees and applications for the right to asylum for persons seeking international protection.
- Make progress on establishing a migratory framework for the Americas that will make it possible to respond, with a human rights perspective, to challenges in matters of migration, refuge, and internal displacement.
- Develop an inter-American evaluation plan on the protection measures available for human rights defenders and journalists, and strengthen or create internal mechanisms for humane treatment.
- Foster the integration of vulnerable groups into the countries’ elections processes, in particular, transgender persons, persons with disabilities, and elderly persons.
- Promote strategies to encourage the nomination of diverse candidates, especially from groups that lack political representation.
- Eliminate forced labor, child labor, all forms of violence against women, LGBTIQ+ persons, Afro-American and indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, elderly adults, migrants, etc., as well as harassment and discrimination at work.
- Protect the rights of all women and girls in their diversity, including the right to live free from all forms of violence, through a new global treaty.

In transparency and anti-corruption matters:

- Incentivize reporting and protect whistleblowers, and identify and redress victims of corruption.
- Encourage and facilitate reporting of irregularities and acts of corruption, including money laundering.
- Implement and disseminate public consultations through accessible and user-friendly technological platforms, in legislative and policy-drafting processes.
- Promote gender equity and equality, women’s participation and empowerment, and the inclusion of women and girls, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTIQ+ persons,

persons with disabilities, and elderly adults, migrants, and vulnerable and marginalized populations in anti-corruption measures, from the planning process to implementation and evaluation.

- Guarantee policies, platforms, and tools for open, transparent, and accessible procurement and hiring processes.
- Strengthen international cooperation in combating corruption, and improve the exchange of information in investigating and prosecuting acts of corruption.
- Punish requests for and the acceptance of bribes and the bribing of national and foreign public officials and employees of international public organizations.
- Create work groups with members of civil society and of the national legislative assemblies to monitor the recommendations made by the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC).

Include strategies for disseminating and providing training on the use of the proposed mechanisms, as well as the joint work of the SIRG, JSWG, civil society, and the private sector to evaluate the governments' progress on implementing the action plan prior to the Tenth Summit of the Americas.

- Develop a multisector regional mechanism for open consultations and evaluations and periodic forums for communities regarding the plans and public policies to be implemented by the States.
- Redouble efforts to ensure inclusion and diversity in all aspects of governance, for example:
 - Increase the use of tools for integrating and including diversity, generating opportunities for all population sectors;
 - Help overcome social, cultural, and legal barriers to participation, enjoyment, and full and equitable economic opportunities.

Presentation of the Citizen Forum of the Americas

Spokesperson: Natasha Jiménez

The Citizen Forum of the Americas is a civil-society platform for dialogue, participation, and advocacy in which with the State Department's support we have: (i) carried out over 100 activities to build civil society agendas, bringing together the voices of around 800 persons from 350 organizations in 15 countries of the region; and (ii) led, with the Transparency International chapters in the region, the follow-up processes for prior summits, for example through the Citizen Observatory on Corruption, which led to 19 national, two hemispheric, and five thematic reports.

As a forum for plural dialogue that has included diverse Latin American cities, indigenous nations, Afro-descendants, LGBTIQ+ persons and their organizations, religious actors and faith-based organizations, etc., we would like to offer some recommendations to close this pre-Summit dialogue, and to follow up on the agreements reached at the Summit of the Americas this year:

As regards the activities to be held in June, we recommend:

1. That all agreements reached by the governments of the region:
 - a) Include the agreements reached by civil society and social actors in discussions of the problems, possible solutions, and other proposals;
 - b) Explicitly include diverse actors, including indigenous nations, Afro-descendent peoples, LGBTIQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, children and adolescents, and the elderly,

- among others;
- c) Express respect for human rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights standards of protection;
 2. Guarantee the minimal conditions for true dialogue between governments and civil society, such as the presence and participation of heads of state and high-level public servants during the civil society presentation, as well as methodologies that lead to a true exchange of ideas and solutions.
 3. The mechanism for following up on the agreements reached must foster civil society participation, from a perspective of cooperation and not of competition.
 4. Forums for dialogue must recognize existing differences and serve as safe spaces for dialogue, free from all discrimination, in such a way that complexity and diversity will not infringe on the capacity to come to a consensus and then follow up, provide input and make unified demands on the governments.
 5. Follow-up must involve progress on creating forums for the exchange of multi-actor knowledge, and should also allow the organizations and work collectives to share their knowledge and experience, with an inclusive and intersectional viewpoint that is respectful of human rights.
 6. Follow-up must provide forums in which it will be possible to classify civil society's inputs and contributions, like training processes, diplomas, scholarships for leaders, etc., always with a view to peer training and multi-actor dialogue.
 7. Create and broaden forums for civil society dialogue and participation, with intersectional, differential approaches, not only guaranteeing the voices of the most vulnerable groups but also fostering the identification of joint agendas so that historically excluded populations can explain their initiatives.

Presentation by Women's Organizations

Spokesperson: Terry Dale Ince, CEDAW Committee Trinidad and Tobago

The idea that 'Women's Rights are Human Rights' was first articulated by abolitionists Sara Moore Grimke and Angelina Grimke Weld in the late 1830's. In 1993, forty-five years after the Universal Declaration on Human Rights was adopted at the UN and nine years after CEDAW entered into force, the UN Women world Conference on Human Rights in Vienna confirmed that Women's Rights were Human Rights. Women's organizations are again standing in solidarity and demanding the two 'Rs Resources required to ensure that women's rights are secured through policies, and Respect for all our contributions in all our diversity to building societies.

Women's organizations are encouraging governments to:

1. Recognize the legal and binding obligations of CEDAW, BELEM de Para, Montevideo Strategy, and other regional mechanisms of which governments have previously signed and ratified, doing the required due diligence such as timely country reporting and implementing non-discriminatory policies.
2. Leverage tools that are already available such as Gender Responsive Budgeting and Gender Responsive Recovery which are transformative and sustainable take include women's organizations meaningfully in the development and implementation of Gender Responsive Recovery.
3. Close the outstanding wage gaps that continue to exist in sectors, while addressing the

informal sector which is overwhelmingly filled by women who work without any social mechanism such as health insurance or paid leave, rendering them vulnerable to any change in the economy, such as climate or disaster, that significantly impacts their livelihood. A study done in 2019 estimated that for every hundred men living below the poverty line, there were 112.7 women living in the same situation. Existing structural barriers prevent women from achieving economic autonomy such as the sexual division of labor, where women have the greatest responsibility for the care of dependent persons. In 2018, more than 50% of women between the ages of 20 and 24 stated that their domestic burden was the main reason they did not seek paid work. To combine paid and unpaid work, they perform informal jobs, of great precariousness and low income: in that same year, 79% of women in the labor force in Latin America were concentrated in economic activities such as retail trade, domestic work, education, Admin. The CoVid-19 pandemic has widened existing gaps. Before the pandemic, 64.5% of women were in the workforce compared to 94.1% of men. For women living alone, without partners or dependents, the rate was 84.4%, compared to 92.6% for men. During the pandemic, 1 in 4 women in high-level positions were thinking about reducing their work responsibilities, taking a leave of absence, or leaving the workforce altogether, due to the overload of unpaid work. If before the pandemic, women spent three times more time than men in unpaid care at home, this use of time increased during quarantine periods and interfered with the permanence of women in the formal and informal workforce. As a result, its unemployment rate remains high at 12.4% since 2020 and has not experienced a substantial improvement, widening gender inequality at work. Feminized Poverty.

4. Re-commitment to the leadership and participation of women and the representation of the women's agenda (Quebec City, 2001), which is under-represented as evidenced by the current low representation of women among the Heads of States and Government in the region. Strengthen policies to political parties include the full participation of women in the processes of selection and representation by promoting temporary measures that would result in an increase of women representatives in all our diversity.