



Organization of
American States



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)

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PROPOSED PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR NEGOTIATING THE FINAL DOCUMENTS OF THE SIXTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

(Presented by the Chair of the SIRG, and agreed on at the Third Regular Meeting
of the SIRG for 2011)

At the Ministerial Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) held during the forty-first regular session of the OAS General Assembly in San Salvador on June 7, 2011, the Foreign Ministers embraced the Government of Colombia's proposal regarding a new format for the Sixth Summit's final document, intended to make it more streamlined, clear, concise, and results-oriented (document [GRIC/M.1/doc.2/11](#)).

The purpose of this document is to propose other methodological details to complement the guidelines adopted by the SIRG Ministerial in June 2011.

General considerations

1. The negotiation will be driven by dialogue and cooperation, will be based on proposals put forward by member states preferably on the topics of the Summit, and, fostering consensus, will be guided by the principles, provisions, and practices of the Organization of American States.
2. The meetings to negotiate the Sixth Summit's final documents will be attended by the member states of the Summits of the Americas process and by the agencies represented on the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG).
3. The SIRG may also extend invitations to the experts who participated in preparing the technical support studies on which the Sixth Summit's draft final documents are based.

Presentation of proposals

1. Prior to the start of the negotiation process:

The proposals and/or amendments to the Sixth Summit's final documents that the member states wish to present must be sent to the Technical Coordination of the SIRG with sufficient time to ensure that they can be translated into the different languages and collated by topic.

The compiled proposals and/or amendments will be updated in accordance with the progress made with the negotiations for the draft final documents and with the initiatives and contributions made by the member states, and they will be available in electronic format.

2. At the regular meetings of the SIRG:

At the start of each regular meeting of the SIRG, the Chair will set and announce the deadline (time and date) for the presentation of new text proposals for the negotiation topics to be addressed at the meeting.

3. Presentation of proposals and/or amendments during the meeting:

Proposals and/or amendments presented to plenary sessions during the meeting must deal with the topic under discussion, and they will be projected onto the screens installed in the meeting room.

Working groups and consultations

During the negotiations, the need may arise for one or more working groups to be set up or for consultations to be held to reconcile positions and reach consensus.

1. Formal working groups and/or consultations: Formal working groups and consultations will be chaired by the Sixth Summit host country and will be provided with interpreting services in two languages.
2. Informal working groups and/or consultations: Informal working groups and consultations will be coordinated by the country proposing the text up for consultation and will not be provided with interpreting services.

Texts agreed on by a working group or consultation shall be examined again by the plenary of the SIRG either during the current session or at the start of the following plenary session. Should a working group or the parties in a consultation require more time to reach consensus, they shall file a request for an extension with the plenary after reporting on the current status of their negotiations.

If a text is referred to a working group or consultation during the final plenary session of a SIRG regular meeting, the topic will be addressed by the plenary prior to the end of that session so that the applicable decisions may be adopted.

Contributions of ministerial processes to the Sixth Summit negotiation process

The Chairs of each of the ministerial processes that meet from September 2011 up to one month prior to the date of the Sixth Summit will be invited to attend the regular meeting of the SIRG immediately following the conclusion of the ministerial meeting in question. This is intended to keep the SIRG apprised about the progress made in implementing the sectoral-level mandates and to enable it to use the information provided by the ministerial processes in preparing and negotiating the following Summit as the SIRG deems necessary and appropriate.

Recommendations and contributions from social stakeholders

Recommendations and contributions to the preparatory work of the Sixth Summit made by social stakeholders, together with those related to the ongoing negotiations arising from the policy dialogues held prior to the SIRG's regular meetings, will be conveyed to and presented at the governmental negotiating panel at the start of the first plenary session of each regular meeting of the SIRG by a representative or spokesperson appointed for that purpose by the social stakeholders involved.

To give the member states time to consider the final recommendations and contributions made by the social stakeholders, the deadline for their presentation will be March 15, 2012.

Negotiation calendar

A negotiation calendar for dealing with the six central themes adopted appears below;^{1/} it also includes the policy dialogues that are to be held prior to the meetings of the SIRG.

2011	
MONTH	MEETING
September 16 Washington, D.C.	<i>SIRG Meeting:</i> - Presentation and consideration of the procedural guidelines - Presentation of draft final documents for the Sixth Summit
October 11 – 12 Washington, D.C.	<i>SIRG Meeting:</i> Theme – Natural Disasters
November 7 – 8 Washington, D.C.	<i>SIRG Meeting:</i> Theme – Poverty and Inequality
December 8 – 9 Washington, D.C.	<i>SIRG Meeting:</i> Theme – Technology
2012	
MONTH	MEETING
January 19 – 20 Washington, D.C.	<i>SIRG Meeting:</i> Theme – Security
February 13 – 15 Cartagena de Indias	<i>SIRG Meeting:</i> Theme – Infrastructure
March 14 – 16 Washington, D.C.	<i>SIRG Meeting:</i> Theme – Partnership for Development
April (week of the 9 th) Cartagena de Indias	<i>SIRG Meeting:</i> Political Declaration

1. The order in which the various thematic axes will be addressed has been established on the basis of the schedule of Meetings of Ministers and High Authorities in the areas that will be covered by the negotiations.