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PRESENTATION BY AMBASSADOR ALFONSO QUIÑONEZ,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SUMMITS SECRETARIAT, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
AND FOLLOW-UP PHASE OF THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS:
ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE JOINT SUMMIT WORKING GROUP (JSWG)

Presentation by Ambassador Alfonso Quiñonez,
Executive Secretary of the Summits Secretariat,
on the Implementation and Follow-Up Phase of the Summits of the Americas Process:
Activity Report of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG)

- Your Excellency Francisco Álvarez de Soto, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama and Chair of the SIRG,
- Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation,
- Mr. Secretary General José Miguel Insulza,
- National Coordinators of the Summits Process,
- Representatives of the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group,
- Distinguished Delegates,
- Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honor for me to be with you today as Executive Secretary of the Summits Secretariat. This presentation will inform the ministers on progress achieved in fulfilling the Summit mandates by the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group, also known as the JSWG.

At the past Summit of the Americas, the heads of state and government of the region, focused on the theme “Connecting the Americas: Partners for Prosperity,” held a frank, open, and decidedly substantive conversation, agreeing on action-oriented mandates in five areas of great importance to our region: poverty and inequality, infrastructure, citizen security, access to technology, and disaster prevention and mitigation. The OAS was tasked with analyzing the results of drug policy in the Americas and exploring new approaches to a stronger and more effective fight against drugs.

Mr. Group Chair, in its task of coordinating the JSWG, the OAS, through the Summits Secretariat, has been compiling the follow-up reports issued by the various institutions. This information is contained in the Summits of the Americas Follow-Up System (SISCA) database and available on our Web page. In addition, we have prepared an extensive report with all the initiatives reported since 2013 by the institutions; this too is available on our Web page and will be circulated to all delegations. And we have prepared a brief pamphlet highlighting a few of the initiatives by the various JSWG institutions on the five central agenda items of the Sixth Summit of the Americas.

Even though that document ([GRIC/M.1/doc.18/14](#)) will be distributed and we have already circulated the [pamphlet](#), I would like, Mr. Group Chair, to cite briefly a few of the measures being taken by the JSWG organizations in fulfillment of the mandates:

- The **Organization of American States (OAS)** has been conducting numerous initiatives on the issue of poverty and inequality – especially the Inter-American Social Protection Network, for follow-up on the Sixth Summit's central theme of poverty. With the Network we facilitate the discussion of experiences in the area of social protection, foster cooperation among members, and offer workshops on social protection. Also important to note is the presentation by the OAS Secretary General of the report entitled “The Drug Problem in the Americas,” which included an analysis of the situation and one of the scenarios through which we examine the paths this problem could take in the Hemisphere.

- The **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** also conducts numerous programs related to the various Sixth Summit themes. For example, since 2012, the IDB has approved 36 loans supporting regional integration infrastructure, for approximately US\$3.64 billion. It has also been supporting a number of the principal integration infrastructure corridors and electrical connectivity programs in the region. In terms of poverty and inequality, the IDB continues to promote social policies that highlight equity and productivity in the region. Note should be taken of the special IDB program on citizen security, approved in 2012, to support more effective government security policies.
- The **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** established a research agenda to guide and facilitate the transformation of existing infrastructure and transportation services. It also continued its study of poverty and new multidimensional approaches to measuring it. In April of this year, ECLAC launched the third edition of the Disaster Assessment Training Manual, updating the methods developed to estimate the social, economic, and environmental impact of disasters. It has also launched two recent publications that contribute to the analysis of government policies for broadband expansion and overcoming barriers to ICT development.
- The **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)** is conducting a special program in pursuit of the millennium development goals at the local and municipal levels. PAHO also has programs to strengthen health services for expectant mothers and newborn babies. In terms of security, PAHO is conducting a program to prevent violence against women in the region.
- The **World Bank** conducts programs and activities to support increased physical integration, which range from energy and infrastructure projects to information and communications technology initiatives. In terms of poverty, one of its priorities is to address the inequality gap and create opportunities for all; here the Bank has invested over US\$24 billion in projects to meet this goal. In the area of natural disasters, the Bank is supporting governments of the region in mitigation and adaptation. It also provides tools and mechanisms to promote resilience in the countries.
- The **Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)** contributed to the physical integration of the Central American region through investments in highway infrastructure and electrical interconnection. It also supports programs to improve living standards for citizens, and has approved over US\$841 million to strengthen the coverage of basic needs and services in terms of the hospital network, public housing, water and sanitation, programs to support small farmers, and the promotion of microenterprises and small and medium-sized business. In terms of natural disasters, it is working on a “Resilience Agenda for Central America.” And in terms of security, it approved a program to support the Central American Security Strategy.

- The **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)** has a new online system for sharing innovative technologies for adapting agriculture to climate change, mitigating its effects, and making it more resilient. It also has a program to strengthen farming's contribution to rural development and well-being, through which it supports legal and regulatory innovations, establishes intersectoral agreements, and implements institutional management approaches suited to the special needs of the various rural territories.
- The **Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)** plays an important role in regional infrastructure integration. In recent years it has financed over 60 physical integration projects, in which it invested US\$9.218 billion. It also works to provide financing for social investments in health, education, water and sanitation, and rural and agricultural development. It has a program on citizen security and transnational organized crime, through which it promotes the design, implementation, evaluation, and oversight of new government policies to monitor and prevent risks to citizens.
- The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** supports policies and strategies that promote the social, economic, and cultural inclusion of migrants in destination countries, by developing strategies to help migrants better integrate into their new communities. It has been working with the region's governments to reduce transborder crime and irregular migration, supporting the establishment of facilities for checking travel documents and training migration officers. It also works to build capacity at migration departments and to fight human trafficking and protect its victims.
- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** conducts efforts to prevent and eradicate child labor, and in that context it has a technical cooperation initiative exclusively devoted to preventing and combating child labor through joint action with governments, employers' and workers' organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and other social groups. The ILO also conducts programs to fight poverty by increasing the potential of small businesses to create more and better jobs.

Mr. Group Chair, let me take this opportunity to thank the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group for their interest and commitment and for the information they have provided us. In that context, and to promote greater synergy among the member institutions, we will continue working to provide continuous, up-to-date, accurate information on activities at the institutional level related to Summit mandates. To that end we hope to continue receiving additional information to complement this important archive of achievements in fulfilling Summit mandates.

Also, to continue strengthening the JSWG's role in the process, the Summits Secretariat has been working with the member institutions of the Group to integrate their work with the follow-up to ministerial and high-level meetings we conduct in the OAS framework. During the past year, for example, we facilitated participation and presentation of inputs by JSWG organizations at the Americas Competitiveness Forum, the meeting of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC), the Fourth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA-IV), and the planning and follow-up meeting of the Eighth Inter-American Conference of Ministers

of Labor. The Summits Secretariat will continue to work with the JSWG institutions to channel the contributions of these institutions to the inter-American ministerial process.

Mr. Group Chair, some states have also sent us their reports on implementation of the mandates, and I want to take this opportunity to encourage those who have not done so to submit them now. It is important to highlight their work and provide evidence that they are moving toward fulfillment of the mandates.

In conclusion, Mr. Group Chair, distinguished ministers and heads of delegation, I want to reaffirm the commitment of the Summits Secretariat to continue supporting the office of the Chair throughout the follow-up process, and now in the new phase of preparing for the Seventh Summit.

Thank you very much.