AMBASSADOR Antonio Garcia Revilla, Peru’s National Coordinator for the Summits Process and chair of the meeting, welcomed the distinguished National Coordinators for the Summits Process, Deputy National Coordinators, Permanent Representatives to the OAS, and member state delegates.

After calling the meeting to order, the Chair submitted the draft agenda (GRIC/O.1/doc.36/17) and the draft schedule (GRIC/O.1/doc.37/17) for consideration by the delegations. The meeting agenda and schedule were adopted without comment from the delegations.

1. Remarks by Ambassador Antonio Garcia Revilla, Peru’s National Coordinator for the Summits Process

Ambassador Garcia Revilla’s remarks were published as document GRIC/O.1/INF.7/17.

2. Remarks by the OAS Secretary General

The OAS Secretary General, Mr. Luis Almagro, addressed the representatives to the SIRG. His remarks were published as document GRIC/O.1/INF.8/17.

3. Summits Secretariat Report on the activities being pursued in support of the Summits of the Americas process

Ambassador James Lambert, OAS Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs, delivered the Summit Secretariat’s report on its activities to support the Summits process, with special emphasis on the Joint Summit Working Group institutions’ implementation of mandates from the VII Summit.

Ambassador Lambert’s report was distributed as document GRIC/O.1/INF.5/17.

* Antes de iniciar la reunión del GRIC, los representantes del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo hicieron una presentación informal a los Coordinadores Nacionales sobre los avances de la Cumbre Empresarial de las Américas. Esta información se puede encontrar en el documento GRIC/INF.33/17, y en el documento GRIC/INF.34/17.
The collection of reports of the JSWG institutions on implementation of mandates from the VII Summit was distributed as document SG/SISCA/doc.8/19. The collection of reports on the inter-American ministerial meetings was distributed as document GRIC/O.1/INF.4/17.

4. Dialogue among the delegations

As regards implementation of the initiatives from the VII Summit, the delegation of Panama gave an update on progress being made by the Government of Panama in implementing VII Summit initiatives. This information was circulated as document GRIC/O.1/INF.6/17.

During the dialogue, the delegations of Honduras, Bolivia, Guatemala, Argentina, Colombia, United States, Chile, Guyana, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Mexico, Canada, and Brazil thanked Peru for its presentation and underscored the importance of the Summits process and meetings of Heads of State every three years to reaffirm the values shared by the states. They also expressed their support for the forthcoming Summit’s host country and best wishes for success at the preparatory phase and during the next Summit, which is scheduled for Peru.

The delegations also stated their concerns about the likely final outcomes of the Summits, and the latest experiences with the Summits in terms of lack of consensus. Here, the question was raised as to the important role of the Chair in reaching the necessary agreements and in being able to produce final documents for the Summits to bring together the interests of all the countries. It was also suggested that it is important not to repeat topics that have been dealt with by previous Summits, nor to duplicate efforts being made in other forums or by other international organizations.

The delegations also noted that participation in the Summits process by all stakeholders was important for there to be an inclusive dialogue, and further stressed the importance of close coordination of Summits process partner institutions in all of the events and work being carried out in their own preparations.

Meanwhile, the delegation of Bolivia suggested that it was important for the Chair to bear in mind that the upcoming meetings could be held away from OAS headquarters.

The delegation of Peru expressed appreciation for all the support it received from delegations and institutions on all aspects it has been working on as host country for the next Summit, underscoring as well how important the initiatives arising from the Summits were for the Government of Peru. The Permanent Representative of Peru spoke about the progress her government had made on a range of Summits process initiatives.

And in concluding, Ambassador Garcia Revilla thanked all the delegations for their comments and contributions, adding that they would be working on the issues, seeking areas of agreements, with a focused agenda of issues that unify the countries - but that are at the same time relevant, urgent, and priority for the region - in order to move forward on specific initiatives.

5. Final thoughts, other business, and adjournment of the meeting

There being no further comments by the delegations, the meeting was adjourned.