



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW
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REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERU, RICARDO LUNA MENDOZA

The Summits of the Americas process was designed to deal, at the highest level, with issues of priority interest to the region and to agree on solutions to shared problems. That is why the Lima Summit must take a practical approach in order to deliver concrete results.

To that end, in choosing the Summit theme we have sought to identify an issue that is of interest to the hemisphere, holding special importance for all of the member countries. Peru has therefore decided to present **“Democratic Governance against Corruption”** as the central theme for the Lima Summit.

In recent years, more than ten countries of the region have been caught up in problems of this kind – which respect neither border nor ideology and undermine the institutional system and democratic values, because they cause citizens to become extremely disenchanted while undermining confidence in the bodies that govern public programs.

Corruption poses a threat to political stability and to the legal system, because the absence of a clearly-defined and timely response leads to impunity, weakens accountability systems, spreads the perception of state incompetence, and calls the legitimacy of the political order into question.

Let me emphasize that in the inter-American arena, mechanisms like the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the Follow-up Mechanism for its implementation (MESICIC) are already in place. But they are not enough. Given the current reality, they need supplementing and enhancing.

That is why we feel that the next Summit of the Americas and preparations for it provide us an opportunity to reflect on democratic governance and how corruption can affect it. We will be able to weigh specific measures for combating impunity through regional cooperation and bring this organization closer to the Summits process and closer to fulfilling the expectations of the peoples of the Americas. Among measures I am proposing, consideration could be given to creating an inter-American court to combat corruption and the impenetrable shield of protection that impunity provides it. This would help us to fight this serious problem together.

Past Summits have brought considerable progress in terms of democracy and fighting corruption. As the host country, Peru will pursue efforts in partnership with all the countries of the Hemisphere, so that the Lima Summit will help to strengthen existing mechanisms by making them more effective and, where appropriate, institute new ones needed to address this fundamental challenge.

Thank you very much.