



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION
REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
First Ministerial Meeting of 2017
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REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS,
LUIS ALMAGRO LEMES

The Eighth Summit of the Americas in Peru will be the optimal forum for reaffirming, at the highest level in the region, the democratic principles enshrined in the OAS Charter and in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, with the objective of building societies with dynamic democracies that create job opportunities of all citizens.

Today we begin the substantive and thematic preparations for the next Summit, addressing the priorities of the inter-American agenda in preparation for the meeting of the Heads of State and Government in April 2018.

Our region is at a key juncture for its future on account of threats to democratic governance, posed either by the corruption that is eating away at the institutions in several countries, or by the negation of those same institutions arising from an authoritarianism that curtails individual freedoms and guarantees.

Next year's Summit in Lima offers an opportunity for us to agree on, at the highest level, the actions that are to guide our region along the path of consolidating, in its everyday reality, the values and principles that bind it together in terms of democracy and human rights.

Today, the presentation of the central topic of the Summit by the Government of Peru will guide us in seeking out agreements and tangible results over the coming ten months, as we focus our efforts on the areas where commonalities exist and seek to ensure greater representation for the most vulnerable voices in the Americas.

We welcome Peru's commitment to involve other stakeholders, including members of the institutions of the inter-American system as well as members of civil society and social actors, who offer a range of perspectives that reflect public demands.

In terms of the tangible results of the Summits process, I would like to emphasize the work of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), whose efforts are indispensable during the Summit implementation phase.

I would like to share with you a publication that is being distributed and that highlights the progress made by the Working Group in following up on the Seventh Summit of the Americas that

took place in Panama City. It faithfully reflects the commitment of the Working Group's member institutions toward the citizens of the Hemisphere and toward the Summits process.

I would like to conclude by underscoring the OAS General Secretariat's commitment toward the Government of Peru, as we progress toward an Eighth Summit of the Americas that will be a historical milestone in achieving prosperity and guaranteeing that the Hemisphere's citizens can live in democracy, with full respect for their economic, social, and political rights.

We offer the commitment of the OAS toward building bridges that will allow our Heads of State and Government to agree on policies for reducing the inequality gap, for increasing citizen security, and for creating education systems adapted to the challenges of this century.

Only in that way will we be able to make progress with an agenda that offers all the region's citizens new opportunities for progress.

Thank you very much.