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**ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY ON PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY AND  
SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS**

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## Survey on Participation by Civil Society and Social Actors in the Summits of the Americas Process

### I. Introduction

As part of its efforts to promote greater participation and influence by civil society and social actors, the Summits Secretariat conducted a survey to gauge that sector's knowledge of and satisfaction with the mechanisms for participation in the Summits of the Americas process.

It is hoped that the survey findings will help to improve existing participation mechanisms and develop new forms of engagement by this sector in the follow-up and implementation phase of the Lima Commitment with a view to facilitating broad, equitable, and inclusive participation in the Summits process.

The survey measured the following:

- Demographic indicators (country of residence, age, gender, and category of those surveyed)
- Knowledge of the Summits process and its various components
- Satisfaction with the design/format of the activities held in preparation for the Eighth Summit and the days prior to it.

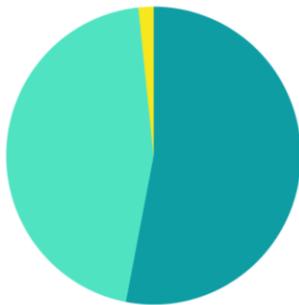
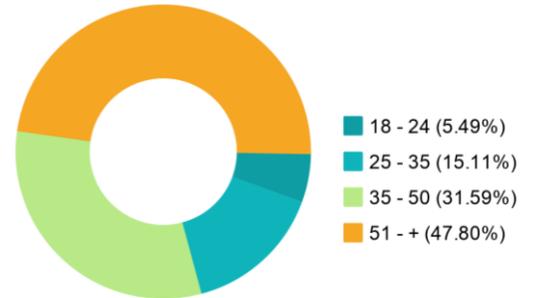
The survey was taken by 528 people, 50% of whom answered it in full, with the remaining 50% providing partial responses.

### II. Analysis of the survey findings

**Countries that took part in the survey:** Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.



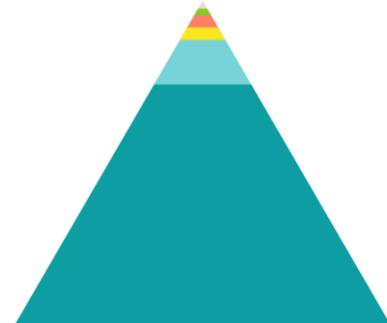
**Age:** The people who took the survey belonged to the following age groups: 48% were 51 years old or over; 32% were between 35 and 50 years old; 15% were between 25 and 34 years old; and young people between the ages of 18 and 24 accounted for only 5% of those surveyed.



**Gender:** Of those who answered the survey, 53% identified as female in gender, 45% as male, and the remaining 2% as other, which made for a balance between the genders.

Female (53.02%) Male (45.33%) Other (1.65%)

**Category:** 74% of the survey respondents belonged to civil society organizations, while 14% said they were social actors. 4% were youth representatives while another 4% represented indigenous peoples. Private sector representatives accounted for 2%, as did workers' representatives.



Civil Society (74.18%) Social Actors (13.74%) Private Sector (3.85%)  
Workers' Representatives (3.85%) indigenous Peoples (1.92%) Youth (2.47%)



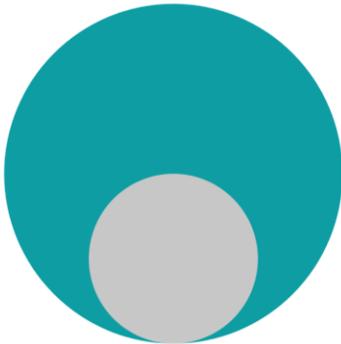
**Knowledge of the theme of the Eighth Summit of the Americas:** 81% of the survey takers said that they knew the theme of the Eighth Summit of the Americas.

They know the theme (81.32%) They don't know the theme (18.68%)

**Prevention and combating of corruption:** 55% of survey takers work directly in the field of prevention and combating of corruption.



■ They work in the field (55.46%) ■ They don't work in the field (44.54%)



### Summits of the Americas process

**Knowledge of the Summits of the Americas Process:** 80% of those surveyed said that they were familiar with the Summits of the Americas process.

■ They know the process ■ They don't know the process

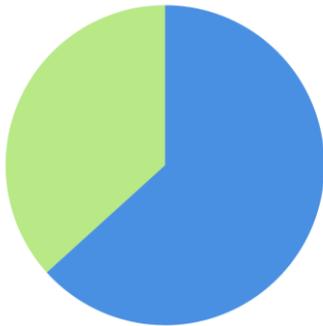
### Components of the Summit process:

- **Knowledge of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG):** 35% of respondents said that they had an intermediate knowledge of the work that the JSWG does, while 24% claimed to have a basic knowledge. 22% of people said that they had an advanced knowledge, 13% said they had no knowledge, and the remaining 7% said they had a very advanced knowledge.
- **Knowledge of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG):** 41% said that they had an intermediate knowledge of the work done by the SIRG, while 24% claimed to have an advanced knowledge. Meanwhile, 17% of people said that they had a basic knowledge, 10% said they had no knowledge, and 8% said they had a very advanced knowledge.
- **Knowledge of the Summits of the Americas Follow-up System (SISCA):** 54% of those surveyed reported that they were not familiar with the Summits follow-up platform.
- **Knowledge of participation by civil society and social actors in the Summits of the Americas process:** 38% of those who took the survey said they had a very advanced knowledge of civil society and social actor participation in the Summits of the Americas process; 31% claimed to have an advanced knowledge; 21% said they had an intermediate knowledge, 7% reported having a basic knowledge, and 3% said that they knew nothing about the sector's participation.

**Work of the Summits Secretariat:** 82% of those surveyed said that they knew about the work of the Summits Secretariat.



■ They know their work (82.31%) ■ They don't know their work (17.69%)

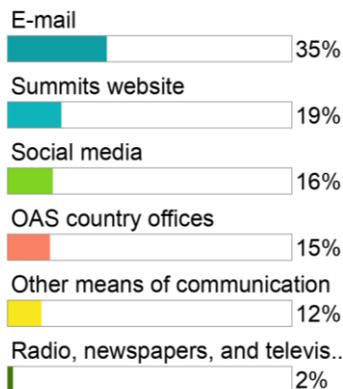
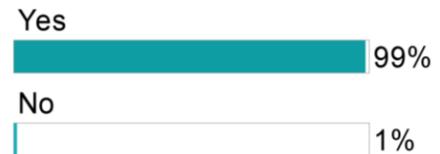


■ Yes (63.31%) ■ No (36.69%)

**Participation in past events:** 63% of those who took the poll said that they had participated in an event organized by the Summits Secretariat. The events with the highest level of participation were the national consultations and the virtual consultation organized with civil society and social actors in preparation for the Eighth Summit.

**Participation in coming events:** 99% of those surveyed said that they were interested in attending future events related to the Summits process. The people who took the poll said that they would like to participate in events organized for the days prior to summits, national consultations, and policy dialogues.

Probability of participating in upcoming events



**How the survey respondents found out about different events?**

According to those surveyed, the main source of information was e-mail (35%); that was followed by the Summits website (19%), social media (16%), OAS country offices (15%), word-of-mouth and independent searches (12%), and traditional communication media, such as radio, newspapers, and television (2%).

### **Activities of civil society and social actors in the framework of the Eighth Summit of the Americas process**

The people who took the survey said that they had participated in events held during the preparatory phase as well as in the days leading up to the Eighth Summit itself. They rated a number of aspects of those activities and offered recommendations for them. The following categories were analyzed:

- Registration process
- Event format
- Event promotion
- Relevance of the theme
- Panelists' knowledge of the theme
- Event duration
- Interaction with the Summits Secretariat
- Time devoted to formulating recommendations
- Outcomes
- Users' experience with the Summits Virtual Community

The results were as follows:

#### **Information sessions - Summits 101**

Overall, 44% of those surveyed said that they were satisfied with the event, while 32% said that they were highly satisfied. Only 17% expressed ambivalence about the information sessions.

The following are some of the recommendations in relation to the information sessions.

- Increase the presence of civil society and social actors at events organized by the Summits Secretariat.
- Expand interaction between Summits Secretariat personnel and civil society at information sessions so that the latter can get their points of view across more directly.
- Increase the participation of indigenous peoples' and Afro-descendants' representatives at Summits-related events
- Hold information sessions with greater frequency
- Improve the registration and accreditation processes by simplifying them and publicizing them more broadly.
- Transmit constant information updates on the Summits process (documents, news, events).
- Disseminate Summits outcomes at information sessions.
- Provide funding for civil society and social actor participation at Summits-related events.
- Introduce new participation mechanisms for civil society and social actors
- Organize meetings or workshops on corruption.

### **Unveiling of the theme of the Eighth Summit of the Americas**

Overall, those polled said that they were either satisfied (40%) or highly satisfied (33%) with the event. Some of the recommendations that they put forward included the following.

- Send event invitations more in advance.
- Improve the format to allow greater interaction between civil society, the OAS, and countries taking part in the Summits process.
- Provide funding for civil society and social actor participation at Summits-related events, especially for persons with disabilities.
- Include the issue of women's political and economic participation in Summits sessions and consultations.
- Use traditional communication media to disseminate the unveiling of Summit themes; social media platforms are not sufficient.
- Disseminate more information about events and participation by civil society organizations and social actors in the Summits process.
- Improve punctuality at events.

### **National consultations**

A majority of those who answered the survey said that they were either satisfied (43%) or highly satisfied (30%) with the event. A number of people indicated their ambivalence (20%). The following are some of the recommendations in relation to the national consultations.

- Improve the interaction between the Summits Secretariat and civil society.
- Enable a greater number of civil society representatives to participate.
- Increase the duration of the consultation, giving participants more time to formulate recommendations.
- Send civil society and social actors invitations to participate more in advance.
- Send out consultation materials in a timely manner, including detailed information about discussion topics to enable participants to prepare.
- Increase the participation of indigenous peoples' and Afro-descendants' representatives in consultations.
- Report on the results of consultations.
- Follow-up on recommendations generated by consultations.
- Pre-Summit consultations should be carried out regularly.

### **Virtual consultations**

A majority of those who answered the survey said that they were either satisfied (48%) or highly satisfied (28%) with the event. 19% of those polled expressed ambivalence. The following are some of the recommendations in relation to the virtual consultations.

- Improve the event format to make it more dynamic.
- Publicize the results of consultations promptly.
- Promote more virtual consultations.
- Set up a team to answer queries from forum participants.
- Increase the duration of virtual consultations.

### **Forum for the establishment of coalitions**

A majority of those who answered the survey said that they were either satisfied (48%) or highly satisfied (27%) with the event. Some of the recommendations offered by those polled are as follows.

- Improve the coalitions format to make it more dynamic and interactive.
- Allow more time for the formation and finalization of coalitions.
- Designate someone to be in charge of follow-up on the coalitions' work.
- Include the needs of women and the trans male population

### **Hemispheric Dialogue**

A majority of those who answered the survey said that they were either satisfied (48%) or highly satisfied (26%) with the event. The following were some of the recommendations on the event.

- Increase the influence of civil society and social actors on the Summits process.
- Organize more activities that include opportunities for dialogue like the Hemispheric Dialogue.
- Disseminate the outcomes of the event.
- Improve communication between the different parties involved.

### **Hemispheric Forum**

Of the total survey respondents, 74% were either satisfied or highly satisfied with the event. 17% indicated that they were ambivalent. The recommendations regarding the event were as follows.

- Increase the presence of civil society and social actors in decision-making forums.
- Improve the coalitions format to avoid thematic overlap and increase the time for meetings at the events in the days prior to the Summit.
- Disseminate meeting results in a timely manner and follow up on them.
- Generate spaces for dialogue between the coalitions and the Summits Secretariat.
- Check the ingress of participants to prevent boycotts.

### **Dialogue between social actors and high-level government representatives**

The majority of those who answered the survey were either satisfied or highly satisfied with the event (71%). 18% expressed ambivalence, while 10% said that they were dissatisfied with the event. The recommendations regarding the event were as follows.

- Encourage respect among participants by establishing and disseminating clear rules of participation and conduct.
- Improve security so as to avoid incidents that might jeopardize the dialogue.
- Disseminate the results of the event in a timely manner.
- Strengthen the participation of country chapters of civil society organizations.

### **III. General recommendations from participants**

- Increase dissemination of events, especially at the local level. Greater disclosure and constant communication are needed.
- Use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in addition to traditional media platforms, such as television, radio, and newspapers.
- Improve the registration and accreditation process: in some cases the confirmation message for attendance at pre-Summit activities was sent too late and many participants were unable to get to events on time.
- Strengthen and improve the participant selection process by: (a) being more specific about the number of people who can attend; and (b) carrying out checks on event participants to avoid boycotts.
- Ensure greater inclusion, in particular of young people, women, indigenous peoples, LGBTI organizations, etc., and expand the Summits Secretariat database.
- Greater inclusion of Caribbean representatives as well as ensuring the availability of English and Spanish interpretation services during events.
- Ensure document accessibility for visually impaired people.
- Strengthen civil society and social actor participation through the continuous (quarterly) organization of roundtables and informal discussion forums.
- Organize local forums to define participation mechanisms for civil society and social actors in the Summits process.
- The coalitions format is an important participation mechanism; however, it could be improved to avoid thematic overlap between coalitions.
- Provide financial support for the travel and accommodation costs of civil society and social actors at events, particularly for persons with disabilities.
- Take into account civil society and social actor participation in choosing Summit themes.
- The dialogue between social actors and high-level government representatives should be more fluid, with a greater degree of reciprocity in talks.
- Send out event information and materials sufficiently in advance.
- Keep civil society and social actors informed about the outcomes of Summits, future events, and progress in the implementation of Summits mandates.

### **IV. Positive experiences by participants**

- Exchange of ideas, good practice, and knowledge with other participants from various countries.
- Diversity and inclusion of a broad array of social actors, especially young people.
- Partnerships strengthened and forged with other organizations/actors.
- The opportunity to present input/proposals to the countries taking part in the Summits process, and for them to be taken into account in the negotiations.
- Knowledge leveraged as a result of interaction with analysts/experts on different issues.
- The work done through the coalitions format was efficient and well-organized.
- Availability of sign language interpretation at pre-Summit events.

- Existence of various forms of participation: coalitions, on-site and virtual consultations, and events organized in the framework of the Summit.
- The logistical support rendered to civil society and social actors by the Summit organizers. For example, hotel accommodation and shuttle transportation to and from events during the Hemispheric Dialogue.