



PARTICIPATION BY SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

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INTER-AMERICAN ACTION PLAN ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

**(Thematic Consultations with Civil Society and Social Actors on the
Implementation of the Mandates of the Ninth Summit of the Americas)**

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Recommendations:

Democracy and Human Rights (1 - 9)

1a

Enrich public policy development through multisectoral forums, based on a **differentiated, intersectional, and gender-based approach**, with the aim of guaranteeing the individual liberties and human rights of all citizens, and ensuring greater effectiveness of State agendas.

Document and report situations of violations of people's rights and the undermining of democracy in some countries of the region, with special emphasis on the rising violence, extrajudicial executions, massacres, and widespread crime among the population, which are realities in countries of the region.

Prevent actions by subversive groups that encourage or promote the deterioration of the rule of law in and the constitutional order of each State. To that end an attempt will be made to promote joint

response with the law enforcement agencies; intelligence service, national police, and armed forces of each country.

2a

Promote periodic meetings among member states on the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. Review the Inter-American Democratic Charter to assess its domestic implementation by the member states and promote the ratification of resolutions and treaties, and public policy design in each member state for the implementation of that Charter.

2b

At meetings of international organizations, call on the governments of the countries of the Americas to comply with their legislation providing for the existence of an **ombudsman**.

Refine, expand, and consolidate public policies that include minorities, among them, women.

2e and f

Restructure and implement electoral legal frameworks based on an integrity approach, so as to prevent candidacies and/or designation to public office of candidates prosecuted for and/or convicted of terrorism, corruption, and money laundering crimes, among others, through the “clean record” strategy (this strategy is also applied in 12c)

3

Propose and analyze transparency strategies in rural and jungle areas, based on prior dialogue with political and cultural authorities, in order to promote an informed vote, thereby ensuring free and fair elections, and strengthening security and oversight in troubled areas of the country where voter coercion is present, generally in rural areas .

3a

Demand and oversee the release and empowerment of political leaders in Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba, and other countries.

Provide training on electoral observation and verification by civil society organizations in Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba (by 2024), and in other countries.

Strengthen the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the international instruments in this area with regard to participation by foreign citizens in the exercise of the vote in their country of origin, in accordance with the each country’s Constitution. Strengthen electoral registers, identification, and passport, as well as the certification of electoral results.

3c

Promote the design of public oversight policies to ensure the integrity of electoral processes, accountability, transparency in countries’ international and national financing, and their legitimate validation in keeping with the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

3d

Guarantee fifth generation human rights, such as free and universal access to the Internet and other quality communications through infrastructure development and tax incentives for the benefit of the population.

Strengthen the implementation and unbundling of the right to elect and to be elected in electoral processes, with special **emphasis on women's participation and equality**.

7a

Ensure that the normative elements are in place in the territory of OAS member states that would ensure the right to direct democratic participation by civil society in normative creation processes. Ensure that at least two-thirds of the countries of the region provide for the plebiscite, referendum, citizen consultation, participatory budget, mandate ratification, and citizen initiative.

7c

Create a protection policy for human rights defenders. Organize strategic mechanisms for the security of human rights defenders and the international accreditation process. Audit accountability in the funding of human rights organizations.

7d

Contribute to the inter-American system's manual of procedure on investigations, process, protection, complaints, and abuses. Create a code of procedure as guidance for lodging complaints against human rights abuses and on the inter-American human rights process. Update channels for the human rights complaints procedure.

9a

Raise awareness of the approach of respect for inherent rights, culture, and traditions in the design of public policies for the implementation of resolutions, treaties, and international agreements.

Democracy and Sustainable Development (10 and 11)

10b, c, and d

Promote policies, programs, and public and private investment for social and economic development projects in marginalized areas of the region, based on criteria of family unification and social inclusion. Establish a fund with cooperation from the signatory countries in order to train, incubate, and monitor social economic development initiatives in marginalized areas.

10g

Implement educational policies that promote a humanistic approach, with a view to preventing acts of corruption. To that end, all primary, secondary, university, and technical career educational institutions should impart ethical, moral, and code of practice reflection courses, urging the exercise of respect, honesty in accountability, and truth in transparency.

Ensure teaching quality in the different countries of the region with continuing training, and national and international scholarship incentives to build teaching capacity, teacher specialization, and teacher research, as well as periodic testing to assess teaching standards.

Implement regular basic and special education with cutting edge educational material that supports and lays a foundation for an independent and well-informed person, able to assess a variety of perspectives and take values-based decisions on how to live his or her life. In addition, from this Summit promote the proper functioning and strengthening of the basic unit of society, the family.

11a

Establish concrete policies for the socioeconomic development of various marginalized groups in order to promote the fulfillment of the 2030 Goals.

Strengthen coordination with national and/or Latin American coalitions through Summits, meetings, dialogues, and/or indigenous networks on different topics, such as indigenous women, the Law of Origin, the defenders network, and community lawyers.

Urge the World Bank (WB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to move forward so as to promote decentralized investment plans taking a differentiated approach in Afro-descendent and indigenous territories.

Urge governments not only to approve but also provide sufficient resources to implement the work plan approved by the OAS for the implementation of declarations such as the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the resolution on the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Urge member state governments, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Latin American Development Bank, and society as a whole to limit their financial support to countries of which the democracies are negatively impacted, particularly the peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Haiti, and Venezuela.

11b

Strengthen the system of governance in the Caribbean with regard to the separation of powers whereby heads of state (apart from the Prime Minister), in appointing commissions/committees and boards, maintain the following percentages: 51.6% government, 19.3% opposition, and 19.3% independent civil society representatives.

Transparency and Anti-corruption (12 - 22)

12a

Encourage joint work among national and international entities in combating corruption, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Put an end to state repression of CSOs, the press, and human rights defenders and the disinclination on the part of some countries to allow civil society to access public information and to exercise oversight and control over government actions.

Ensure that governments incorporate actions designed to ensure the public interest and the efficient and effective allocation of public resources. An example would be the creation and oversight of a limit on public expenditure on consulting assignments. To that end, a final filter would need to be implemented (perhaps as part of oversight by a legislative committee in this area), where it would be taken up by the plenary for debate and adoption.

Make public COVID vaccine contracts and transparently inform the corresponding congress or house of representatives of State expenditure during the pandemic years.

Strengthen the institution of the family through public policies covering the labor, health, and education sectors, providing measures and environments that encourage their promotion.

Restructure public administration, so that the grounds for the percentages invested in education, infrastructure, and health are objective and well-founded. This could be achieved with assistance from international private organizations.¹

Implement a policy containing mechanisms to combat corruption at all its stages, so as to contribute with equity to the empowerment of the women and girls of the region, and to other vulnerable groups.

12b

Continue promoting actions, together with governments, that call for and ensure an open civic forum that maintains dialogue among actors from various sectors, reversing the stigmatization and persecution of civil society.

12c

Update and expand free digital access to business records so that citizens can access updated data on the true ownership and end beneficiaries of all companies active within national territory and their government contracts.

Implement open government measures that ensure that civil society can access information on all State measures taken in order to effect ongoing and timely oversight. As is done through the General Statement of Accounts of the Republic in Peru for public budget execution, and taking into account the electoral audits of political parties and national electoral entities.

“Clean record,” so that no one convicted in corruption cases may be included on any list of aspirants to public office. Through verification of the decision by the OAS to implement an execution and evaluation observatory, or through a law implementing an oversight committee in electoral bodies that is overseen by the legislature.

Implement the creation of the Latin American and Caribbean Criminal Court against Transnational Organized Crime (COPLA) and accession to its statute by the member states, in order to address the problem of organized crime from a regional and international cooperation perspective, given that Latin America is the region with the world’s highest levels of criminal violence.

Implement asset forfeiture so that recovered proceeds of corruption and drug trafficking can become State property. This would be overseen by COPLA.

12d

Strengthen member state policies so that they contribute to public procurement platforms and tools, as recommended by the OECD.

¹ The education sector budget will increase by 16.9% in 2023. MINEDU, MEF (2022)

12i

Incorporate anti-corruption measures that can halt, freeze, or block the financing of corrupt or illegitimate governments.

12l

Promote digital systems that enhance transparency, publicity, accountability, and the fight against corruption.

17

Implement legal frameworks for the conviction and facilitation of the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption perpetrated by heads of state.

Citizen Participation and Inclusion (23 - 28)

23

Create foundations for dialogues, agreements, and working groups with governments in power in order to resolve conflicts of all kinds (land ownership, dispossession, etc.) and the systematic violation of collective rights.

Strengthen the Continental Plan of Action for Afro-descendants, through collective action by these groups, incorporating indigenous groups, with the aim of recognizing their rights and opportunities.

Adopt an intersectional and differentiated/population-based **vision** that takes account of and understands the health needs of population groups, especially those in the most vulnerable situation, in accordance with the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance [https://www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/inter_american_treaties_A-69_discrimination_intolerance.asp]

Sanction Ibero-American countries that do not fulfill the mandates of the Summit of the Americas or the OAS.

Ensure free and unrestricted access by the international press to all incidents occurring at polling places during presidential elections, as well as those occurring during international prosecutions, such as those in connection with crimes against humanity.

Issue public, forceful, and multilateral condemnation of authoritarian measures taken by governments to control and limit the work of CSOs and citizen rights, such as the Draft Law on the Oversight, Regularization, Action, and Financing of Nongovernmental and Similar Organizations in Venezuela, or similar measures in Nicaragua.

24a

Continue promoting the presentation of civil society reports at OAS General Assembly sessions and in the Summit process, as well as to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the United Nations (UN), and other organizations where advocacy can be effected. Strengthen participatory and advocacy mechanisms in the Summit process, at General Assembly sessions, and in other forums promoted by the OAS, as well as other international and local organizations.

Continue promoting the Young Americas Forum, so that the voice of youth can be heard directly by heads of state, in keeping with youth needs.

25

Strengthen, train, and provide tools to CSOs and the general public for active and purposeful dialogue. In particular, governments should be open to dialogue and develop mechanisms for resolving crises and promoting human rights, together with CSOs and the general public.

26

Promote strategies and policies designed to reduce violence against and lack of opportunity for women and other groups by virtue of age, social condition, etc.

Implement mechanisms that promote a secular State, respecting religious freedom in intergovernmental organizations such as the OAS, the IACHR, and the UN.

26d

Join forces with permanent coalitions in order to position matters of interest to different groups represented at the OAS in their interventions or in any other initiative implemented by General Assembly sessions or the Summit process.

26f

Continue and strengthen the work of monitoring and verifying the information disseminated in democratic processes as responses for the prevention and mitigation of disinformation.

Ensure means and tools for citizen access to the Internet.

Additional recommendations of the Canada, Caribbean, and United States subregional group

Civil Society supports the commitments adopted by the Heads of State and Government on June 9, 2022, for the implementation of

Democracy and Human Rights

A – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6,7,8, and 9.

Democracy and Sustainable Development

B - 10, 11.

Transparency and Anticorruption

C – 12, 13, 14 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20.

- 21 and 22 are not civil society actions and will not be supported.

Citizen Participation and Inclusion

D – 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28.

These actions will be implemented during the two years encompassed by the Ninth Summit and will continue while the foundations for long-term actions are laid.

In addition to the above, the following should be included for implementation in the Americas with the other CSOs of the Hemisphere:

7b Commit to encouraging movement by all CSOs for the active promotion of democratic values and human rights by organizing annual impact campaigns, advocating for at least three policies for the protection of human rights and equal treatment of all individuals.

Strengthen networking with CSOs throughout the subregion.