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PRESENTATION BY THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS SECRETARIAT OF THE OAS
ON THE WORK UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN
THE SUMMITS PROCESS

(María Celina Conte, Director)

- Vice Minister Rubén Silié, National Summit Coordinator of the Dominican Republic, Chair of the SIRG
- Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs of the OAS
- National Summits Coordinators
- Permanent Representatives to the OAS
- Representatives of the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group:

On behalf of the Summits Secretariat, I am very pleased to address you at this meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), the first under the stewardship of the Government of the Dominican Republic, which we are sure will lead the Tenth Summit of the Americas process effectively.

I am grateful for the inclusion in the agenda of a presentation of the report of the Summits Secretariat on the work carried out to support and strengthen the Summits of the Americas process, in particular the follow-up and implementation phase of the Ninth Summit, under the leadership of the Government of the United States and, latterly, that of the Government of the Dominican Republic following the transfer of the Summit presidency in early November 2023.

I will briefly address the main efforts that the Summits Secretariat—in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the Summits process and in pursuance of its strategic objective of strengthening political dialogue in the framework of the Summits process—has advanced in the period from June 2022 to February 2024 in three areas: (i) permanent assistance and advice to the President of the process and the participating States; (ii) activities to strengthen coordination of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG); (iii) and promotion and strengthening of the participation of civil society and social actors in the Summit process. Details of this work can be found in the report published as document [GRIC/O.1/INF.35/24](#).

With respect to the first area, significant efforts have been made to provide substantive support to the then-President (the United States Government) and participating States in the follow-up and implementation phase of the Ninth Summit. This includes support for the preparation and holding of five regular meetings of the SIRG and two ministerial-level meetings of the SIRG. It also includes the development of the five ad hoc technical groups established at the ministerial meeting of the SIRG in

2022 for the Ninth Summit follow-up and implementation phase, including support to the chair in defining work methodologies and coordinating 16 meetings of the ad hoc groups over the past year on a wide range of topics, with the participation of government experts, JSWG agencies, civil society and social actors, including the private sector. This process also included support for the process of negotiating and consolidating the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas adopted at the 2023 SIRG ministerial meeting.

During that period, the Secretariat also continued to work with the President of the Eighth Summit (the Government of Peru) to transfer the virtual platform of the Mechanism for Follow-up on the Lima Commitment to OAS servers under a cooperation agreement. Accordingly, that platform remains available for delegations to continue reporting on their progress in implementing the mandates of the Eighth Summit, an activity also envisaged in mandate 12 of the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance adopted at the Ninth Summit.

Based on information reported to date by 18 States on the Mechanism's platform, the Summits Secretariat has prepared two reports, which are available for consultation.

As regards strengthening coordination of the JSWG, as Technical Secretariat we have worked with the Group's agencies both to ensure their contribution in key areas for the implementation of the mandates of the Ninth Summit and to continue strengthening interagency synergy.

The technical meetings of the JSWG have given rise to fruitful dialogue among the agencies on their support for the implementation of mandates and initiatives derived from the Ninth Summit. Their participation in the meetings of the ad hoc technical groups, consistent with their expertise, has provided an opportunity to present their work and enabled potential offers of collaboration or technical and/or financial assistance in support of the States' efforts.

I would especially highlight the coordination with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) within the framework of the negotiation of the of Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas. Collaboration with PAHO has been fundamental to obtain feedback on inputs provided by delegations and to promote the effective implementation of the mandates contained in the Plan.

As mentioned, we will be working with JSWG entities during the discussions on just energy transition at the coming sixth ministerial meeting of the ECPA, as well as on the subject of health and resilience. We hope that these spaces will allow us not only to follow up on the Los Angeles mandates, but also to contribute to the next Summit and to deepen, from a technical standpoint, the existing strategic partnerships that are key to buttressing the architecture of the Summits of the Americas.

With respect to reporting on the institutional contributions of the JSWG, the report corresponding to the Eighth Summit was prepared during the period. Work is currently under way on the report on contributions to the implementation of the Los Angeles mandates. Likewise, as in the past, we hope to work with JSWG entities to ready in a timely manner a document containing inputs and contributions to inform and nourish discussions in preparation for the Tenth Summit.

Lastly, with regard to strengthening the participation of civil society and social actors in the Summits process, the Summits Secretariat, in coordination with the President and the participation of different actors, as well as through different mechanisms, has facilitated constant dialogue and participatory consultations with a wide range of civil society organizations and social actors, so that

their voices are heard and taken into account at the different states of the Summits process, while recognizing their key role in mandate follow-up and implementation.

Likewise, we have devoted significant efforts to capacity building for representatives of civil society and social actors in order to enhance their participation in the Summits process. This ranges from training workshops on negotiation with a gender perspective to workshops on conflict resolution and consensus building, as well as providing practical tools to enable them to better influence the Summit process and promote change in their communities.

The Summits Secretariat has also generated an open and inclusive dialogue, fostered diversity and representativeness in the participation of these actors in the process, and ensured the inclusion of different perspectives, genders, regions, and communities. This is reflected in the regional project that we have implemented with the support of Canada to strengthen the participation of women's organizations in the Summits process, as well as in other mechanisms developed to obtain feedback from those actors.

Innovative initiatives by civil society organizations and social actors that contribute to the implementation of Summit mandates have also been acknowledged and supported. The Initiatives Fair and a photography contest are examples of how important ideas and projects from that sector for the five core themes of the Ninth Summit have been highlighted.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the importance of the leadership of the President of the Summits process and the active participation of all States, as well as broad network of strategic partners, including the JSWG entities and civil society and social actors, for the effective progress of the Summits of the Americas process.

I am grateful for the trust placed in the Summits Secretariat and its team, which I am honored to lead, and I would like to conclude by thanking the Governments of Canada, the United States, Guyana, Panama, Peru, and the Dominican Republic for the financial support received during the period covered by this report, which have contributed substantially to the effective implementation of all these efforts.