



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)  
First Ministerial-Level Meeting of 2024  
June 27, 2024  
Asunción, Paraguay

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## MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

The First Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) of 2024 was held in Asunción, Paraguay, on Thursday, June 27, on the occasion of the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS). The meeting, chaired by Mr. Roberto Álvarez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, was attended by 32 delegations. The meeting addressed hemispheric priorities to be considered at the Tenth Summit and the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the First Summit of the Americas. The agenda and schedule were published as documents [GRIC/M.1/doc.67/24](#) and [GRIC/M.1/doc.68/24](#), respectively. The list of participants was published as document [GRIC/M.1/doc.69/24](#).

### **1. Remarks of Roberto Alvarez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Chair of the SIRG**

The Chair began by underscoring his commitment to multilateralism and the conviction that only through greater and better regional integration efforts could perennial challenges be resolved. He said that he hoped that the Tenth Summit would be inclusive and crosscutting, and that consultations were already under way with the various Summit stakeholders to determine the hemispheric agenda.

He also announced that the thirtieth anniversary of the Summit of the Americas would be marked in Punta Cana on December 11 and 12, 2024 in Punta Cana, and that he considered that it would be a propitious occasion to reflect on lessons learned from previous Summits and chart the way forward.

He addressed the issue of democratic governance in the region and warned of backtracking or a “recession” in democracy stemming from causes such as public insecurity, social inequality, and an economic system dependent on low value-added industries. He called for a spurning of solutions to insecurity that compromise democracy and human rights and stressed that sustainable and lasting solutions were required.

Despite the challenges, he highlighted the fact that Latin America did not have any acute inter-state conflicts and was more democratic than other developing regions. He also underlined the strategic natural resources that the region possessed, several of which were key for the green-energy

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1. The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

transition. He also mentioned the importance of the Amazon as the region's green "lung" and home to the world's greatest biodiversity.

The Chair alluded to the events of June 26, 2024, in La Paz, Bolivia, classifying them as an attempt to disrupt the country's constitutional order. He stated his repudiation of what happened and said that there was no room in the Americas for any interruption of a constitutional term of office or disruption of the constitutional order.

Lastly, he reiterated the commitment of his office as Chair to making the Tenth Summit of the Americas an unprecedented event and a catalyst for positive change in the region, with the aim of building a more inclusive, prosperous, and equitable Americas region for all its citizens. Minister Alvarez's speech was published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.28/24](#).

## **2. Remarks of Mr. Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS**

The OAS Secretary General alluded to the persistent challenges of the region, including inequality, poverty, and insecurity, and underscored the need for a reaffirmation of democracy and promotion of human rights. He said that emerging issues such as climate change and artificial intelligence would surely be taken up at the next Summit.

He said that the Summits of the Americas had contributed significantly in strengthening the inter-American system, and he highlighted achievements such as the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. He highlighted the Lima Commitment "Democratic Governance against Corruption" and the recently adopted Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas.

The Secretary General also stressed the importance of the participation of non-state actors, such as civil society, youth, the private sector, and women's and indigenous organizations, in the Summits process.

He concluded by wishing the Government of the Dominican Republic and all the States participating in the Tenth Summit success and reiterated the commitment of the General Secretariat and the Summits Secretariat to continue contributing to strengthening the participation of all stakeholders and thus achieve the best possible results for the region and its inhabitants. The speech of the OAS Secretary General was published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.29/24](#).

## **3. Open dialogue among the ministers of foreign affairs**

The delegation of Guyana, referring to the thirtieth anniversary of the Summit of the Americas, noted the importance of reflecting on the Summits process and evaluating the achievements of the previous three decades. He said that addressing food and nutrition security, as well as strengthening food and agri-food systems, were priorities, as was expanding access to development financing, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, in order to build resilience and sustainability. He also stressed the importance of energy security and the need to facilitate clean-energy investments. He referred to the need to strengthen governance systems to further embed democratic institutions and the rule of law. To conclude, he considered the value of the Summits process as a collective mechanism for achieving sustainable development in the Americas. The statement of Guyana was published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.34/24](#).

The delegation of Guatemala stated that the Summits of the Americas had been closely linked to the strengthening of democracies in the Americas. Democratic governance, comprehensive health care, the environment, renewable energies, digital transformation, safe, orderly and regular migration, the fight against corruption, and food security were all wide-ranging issues, he said, but of common interest to the entire Hemisphere. He welcomed the efforts made to link the Summits process with the inter-American ministerial processes and sectoral meetings, which were expected to enable a better use of available resources through synergies while aligning agendas with hemispheric needs and interests, he added. Guatemala reaffirmed its commitment to building a cooperation agenda of benefit to all people in the Hemisphere and continuing the work already done. The statement of Guatemala was published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.33/24](#).

The Colombian delegation expressed their hopes regarding the preparations for the Tenth Summit of being able to share experiences and reach common ground on proposed solutions to crucial issues that merit discussion by the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere. Among them, they highlighted issues such as regional integration, sustainable development, gender equality, education, the environment and the climate crisis, transnational organized crime, the human mobility crisis, inequality, and poverty. He concluded by calling for all the nations of the Americas to be guaranteed a voice at the next summit.

The Costa Rican delegation spoke of the importance of continuing to address priority regional issues, in particular, migration, in which greater, more effective and supportive cooperation was needed to meet the challenges of migration flows, they said. They reiterated the call for a shared-responsibility approach to human mobility, so that transit countries received the international support they needed to continue ensuring safe, orderly, regular, and humane migration. They mentioned the importance of constant dialogue with all stakeholders in the Summits process to help prioritize criteria and support decision-making in an inclusive and equitable manner. The statement of Costa Rica was published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.32/24](#).

The delegation of Ecuador underscored the importance of the environmental and climate change agenda for his country, which included the work leading to the adoption of the Action Plan “Our Sustainable Green Future” and the ad hoc technical group that follows up on its implementation. They also emphasized the importance of a just energy transition for societal development. In conclusion, they stressed the need for true regional integration to enable mandate implementation.

The Bolivian delegation began by thanking the Chair for the reference made during the opening of the meeting to—as he described it—the attempted coup d'état against President Luis Arce Catacora in La Paz on Wednesday, June 26, 2024. The delegation also thanked the countries for their swift reactions. With regard to regional priorities, they referred to the fact that, despite the high level of development achieved by some countries in the region, insufficient progress had been made with eliminating social inequality and poverty. Regarding the Summits process, they expressed their interest in the inclusion of all voices in the regional dialogues, arguing that, political differences aside, there were common challenges that had to be faced jointly. They added that the variety of simultaneous crises challenging the region were evidence of a structural, systemic crisis of capitalism, and that responding to those challenges required that the voices of all the countries of the Americas be heard.

The delegation of Brazil emphasized the urgency of implementing a comprehensive development agenda that included measures to combat hunger and poverty, overcome inequalities, and fight food insecurity. They emphasized the need to ensure complementarity between the Summits process and the OAS agenda and held that integration between those two dynamics was vital to strengthen coordination in the region, avoid duplication of efforts, and ensure that resources were used efficiently and effectively for the benefit of the populace. They concluded by stating that the marking of the thirtieth anniversary of the Summits process in the Dominican Republic in December 2024 would be a unique opportunity to take stock of the successes and challenges faced in the follow-up on Summits commitments.

The United States delegation highlighted the results of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, as well as the collaborative process established to follow up on implementation of the mandates adopted in Los Angeles in 2022: the ad hoc technical groups. They said that the meetings of those groups, which he described as innovative, brought together technical experts from government, civil society, the private sector, and youth from across the region to come up with solutions and share best practices. They appreciated the Chair's commitment to holding a Summit that considered the input of all stakeholders involved in the Summits process to identify the region's priorities, as well as their willingness to broaden the scope and inclusiveness of the process by making the Cities Summit a recurring fixture in the process. As regards the thirtieth anniversary of the First Summit of the Americas, they said that when the Summit process began, it was expected that the democratic leaders of the region would work together as true partners for prosperity. He, therefore, invited the delegations to continue to reflect, prioritize, and work together with all actors in the process to ensure that commitments, mandates, and initiatives were inclusive, created opportunities, and represented the communities of the region.

The delegation of El Salvador stated that it was an opportune occasion, not only to mark the anniversary and acknowledge the important strides and achievements made possible by the process, but also to take stock of areas in which improvements could be made to enhance its effectiveness in terms of making a real impact on societies, to better coordinate it with other OAS forums and processes to leverage resources, and to improve dialogue and linkage with the activities of the entities belonging to the JSWG, among other aspects. They also mentioned the need to recognize that a region where insecurity, corruption, and poverty prevailed could not aspire to consolidate its sustainable development or the enjoyment of human rights for all without discrimination. They argued that the fight against criminal groups and organized crime in all its forms required greater regional cooperation and allocation of resources, as in many countries organized crime was the main obstacle to economic growth, as well as preventing or setting back progress in other areas. They added that other issues on which it was a priority for the Hemisphere to build resilience were climate change, disaster risk management, and preparation for the world of the future, where training and new technologies would set the tone for more modern societies. They concluded by highlighting the urgency of migration, which requires collective attention as a common challenge.

The delegation of Paraguay, in summing up the achievements of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, said that there was still much to be done, so it was important to continue to move forward in fulfilling the political commitments made for the benefit of the peoples of the Americas. They added that it was important to continue working to further optimize coordination between the Summits process, inter-American ministerial meetings, and regular OAS activities. The statement of Paraguay was published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.35/24](#).

The Suriname delegation emphasized the importance of strengthening democratic governance, the rule of law, human rights, sustainable development, and economic progress, for which it was necessary to increase regional trade and investment. They stressed the importance of setting realistic goals with a clear timetable and financing modalities that effectively enabled their implementation. They concluded by referencing the need for an OAS-led coordinated approach to work with the JSWG to align and pool resources in the areas of planning, development, and financing in an objective and coordinated manner. The statement of Suriname was published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.36/24](#).

The Canadian delegation expressed their expectations for the Tenth Summit to reflect the diversity of the region, which they saw as a collective strength. They expressed support for the inclusion of diverse voices in all phases of the Summits process as an opportunity to address the needs of vulnerable groups, including women and girls, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, and migrants. They added that, in determining regional priorities, it would be important for participating States to engage in meaningful and transparent consultations with all stakeholders in the Summits process. With respect to thematic priorities, it supported the inclusion of human rights and defense of democratic values on the agenda of the Tenth Summit. The remarks of Canada were published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.30/24](#).

The Chilean delegation stated that the region's societies had changed in the 30 years since the First Summit. They said that in that interlude addressing the problem of public security and the fight against organized crime had become fundamental to ensuring peace and stability, making it a challenge that had to be addressed jointly and in a coordinated manner. They mentioned a number of other priorities, such as gender, equity, disaster management, health, democratic governance, and education, among others. They concluded by stressing the importance of prioritizing the treatment of emergencies that could undermine the achievements made so far. The statement of Chile was published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.31/24](#).

The Panamanian delegation highlighted the efforts to link the inter-American ministerial processes and the Summits process. Regarding the approaching thirtieth anniversary of the First Summit of the Americas, they highlighted the legal and political legacies in important areas for the Americas, such as democratic governance, health and resilience, the environment, the fight against corruption, energy and a green future, and, on the other hand, into actions by States and other appropriate actors for their advancement and implementation.

The Argentine delegation noted the importance of continuing to work in favor of democracy, human rights, transparent governance, good regulatory practices, the fight against corruption, and strengthening of the rule of law. They added that to achieve development, predictable institutions, respect for individual rights, security, freedom, and the supremacy of the law were essential.

The Peruvian delegation stated that the region had to confront multiple challenges relating to inequality, insecurity, and a weakening of democratic institutions. They added that it was essential that all countries continued to report on progress in the implementation of the commitments adopted at the last Summits, and specifically invited delegations to continue to register progress on the virtual platform of the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment "Democratic Governance against Corruption," which Peru, as Chair of the Eighth Summit, had transferred to the OAS General Secretariat and was being administered by the Summits Secretariat. They said that reporting on progress in the implementation of mandates was essential in order to

promote better regional cooperation initiatives for building a more sustainable, resilient, just, and equitable future.

The Jamaican delegation maintained that the Summits process provided a platform for continued collaboration in crucial areas such as health resilience, food security, digital transformation, energy transition, climate action, democracy, migration, and inclusion. They referred to the importance of building a strong consensus around a viable inter-American agenda that sought to address the challenges to—and understand the opportunities for—sustainable development in the region.

The delegation of Mexico stated that marking the thirtieth anniversary of the First Summit would allow countries to reflect on common achievements and challenges, and under a multilateral approach glean lessons and priorities for a brand of multilateralism at the service of people. They reiterated the importance that the Summits of the Americas be inclusive spaces, focused on addressing common challenges and adopting cooperative measures in the region for the benefit of all people. They highlighted the role of the Summits process in the adoption and implementation of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, and the incorporation of refugees into the country's formal labor market. They concluded by stating that the Chair had the opportunity to ensure that the work in the Summits Process was complementary and did not replicate that carried out in the inter-American system, so that both spaces provided feedback and catalyzed each other, enabling all the States of the region to build increasingly sustainable development.

#### **4. Final considerations, other business, and adjournment of the meeting**

There being no requests for the floor, the Chair thanked the delegations for their participation and remarks. He adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.