



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)  
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OPENING REMARKS BY THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,  
CHAIR OF THE SUMMITS PROCESS

*(Roberto Álvarez, Minister of Foreign Affairs)*

Ministers,

Honorable Secretary General Luis Almagro,

On behalf of the Dominican Republic, I extend a warm welcome to you all, and in particular, our thanks to the Government of Paraguay for its warm, fraternal hospitality.

I would like to express our deep appreciation to Ambassador James Lambert and the entire staff of the OAS Summits Secretariat.

For the Dominican Republic, it is a true honor to host the Tenth Summit of the Americas. We are firmly committed to multilateralism and convinced that only through greater and better efforts at regional integration can we resolve the long-standing challenges we face. Our aim is for this Tenth Summit to be inclusive and non-hierarchical, and we are thus already engaged in a process of consultations with the States, multilateral organizations, civil society, and other social actors. Their perspectives and recommendations will be key to defining the hemispheric agenda.

We are preparing for the Tenth Summit to be held the first week of December 2025 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and will send all of the pertinent details in due course.

We are also pleased to report that we will celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Summit of the Americas on December 11 and 12 of this year, 2024. This will be an excellent opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned at the nine previous summits and to define the path ahead. This event will also be held in Punta Cana. I am pleased to inform you that former United States president Mr. Bill Clinton, whose administration had the idea for the first summit held in Miami in 1994, has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the event.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are living in times in which democratic governance is being questioned, a trend that some refer to as “democratic backsliding or decline.” There are many causes of this: public insecurity,

social inequity, and an economic system that still largely depends on industries with low value added, not to mention corruption, which is spreading with unacceptable impunity.

Democracy is also being affected by inequality and crime. It is difficult for average citizens to accept limited social mobility and stagnant purchasing power, especially in regions with high per capita incomes.

Latin America continues to be the most violent region in the world, as it accounts for 8% of the world's population and one third of its homicides. This alarming situation calls for us to reflect on the structural causes of insecurity.

We cannot accept solutions to insecurity that compromise democracy and human rights.

An "iron fist" is not the cure-all. Reality is always more complex and calls for sustainable, durable solutions, like strengthening justice systems to address impunity, and reducing inequality, even though these processes are slow and hard to explain in a world that prefers quick fixes.

My friends,

Despite these challenges, there are reasons to feel optimistic. Latin America does not have intense conflicts between states and is more democratic than other developing regions. We also have strategic natural resources that can catapult our economies forward.

We produce around 25% of the world's agricultural and fishing exports, which positions us as a key exporting power for global food security. We also have the most agricultural potential and per capita water availability worldwide. Furthermore, we have two thirds of the planet's lithium reserves and 40% of its copper reserves, essential for the green energy transition.

The Amazon region, the green lung of the Americas, is the largest tropical rainforest in the world and harbors the highest levels of biodiversity.

We should take advantage of these natural opportunities, avoiding past errors, and not settle for merely being the suppliers of raw materials for the developed world. We hope the next commodities boom will find us working hard to expand democratic governance, strengthen our institutions, and offer a more promising future for the millions of Latin Americans whose dreams and hopes have been hijacked by poverty and violence.

Lastly, we are committed to making the Tenth Summit of the Americas not only an event without precedent, but also a catalyst for positive change in our region. We will work together, resolutely and with a shared vision, to build a more inclusive, prosperous, and equitable America for all of our citizens.

Thank you very much.