



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

OEA/Ser.E
GRIC/M.1/INF.29/24
10 July 2024
Original: Spanish

REMARKS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(Luis Almagro)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, friends,

We have gathered today for the first meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) at the foreign-minister level under the leadership of the Government of the Dominican Republic, represented by our dear friend, Roberto Alvarez. Please accept our appreciation and commitment for what is certain to be a successful and inclusive Tenth Summit of the Americas in 2025.

Many of the challenges facing us are well known. Ours continues to be the most unequal region in the world, with challenging poverty rates and levels of insecurity in the Hemisphere. The need for democratic reaffirmation, as well as protection and promotion of human rights, are concerns that will certainly be present, as will emerging issues such as climate change and artificial intelligence, not to mention the functioning of our economies in our democracies. These will undoubtedly be topics for the next Summit.

This is a unique opportunity to seek hemispheric consensus. The Heads of State and Government of our region have been using this forum to come together to hold discussions for almost 30 years. It serves to articulate a shared vision of the future and reach agreements on possible advances in the Americas.

I would like to highlight the contribution of the Summits of the Americas to the strengthening of the inter-American system. They include democracy, for the Inter-American Democratic Charter was a product of the Third Summit in Quebec City; or the fight against corruption through the Inter-American Convention against Corruption—articulated at the First Summit in Miami, which was also an international benchmark—and MESICIC, its follow-up mechanism. In the area of human rights, Summits took concrete steps to strengthen and enhance the inter-American human rights system and, in particular, the workings of the Inter-American Court and the Inter-American Commission.

As Secretary General and Chair of the Joint Summit Working Group, since the beginning of my tenure in 2015, I have had the privilege of working with the national Summits coordinators and

foreign ministers to ensure the revitalization of the Summits process, in particular the Eighth and Ninth Summits, led by the governments of Peru and the United States, respectively.

The 2018 Summit was a turning point, under which, after more than a decade, the Heads of State adopted a consensus document. The outcome was the Lima Commitment “Democratic Governance against Corruption,” which set out 57 concrete measures to prevent and combat corruption and was followed by the adoption of its follow-up and implementation mechanism.

More recently, and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to meet four times with our beloved and sorely missed Carissa Étienne of PAHO and the highest authorities of the JSWG entities, in order to address countries’ needs for tackling the pandemic on a united front.

The context leading up to the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles in 2022, under the leadership of the United States, was fraught with challenges. On that occasion, five documents containing mandates were adopted in the areas of democratic governance, health, digital transformation, green future and energy transition, and the adoption of the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas, to be implemented by 2030.

We cannot fail to mention another of the great merits of our Summits: Since its inception, this space has been enriched with the participation of non-state actors, such as civil society and social actors including youth, the private sector and business, trade unions, academia, women’s organizations, indigenous peoples, all representing multiple voices whose participation has become essential.

In concluding my remarks, I would like to wish the Government of the Dominican Republic and all the States participating in the process every success at the Tenth Summit. I reiterate 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.

Thank you very much.