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REMARKS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

*(Luis Almagro)*

Thank you very much, Vice Minister Silié, Chair of the Summit Implementation Review Group.

Distinguished national coordinators of the Summits process, representatives of the States of the Hemisphere, delegates and representatives of the international and regional member agencies of the Joint Summit Working Group,

I am most pleased to welcome you to House of the Americas. We gather once again in this space to advance the preparations for the Tenth Summit of the Americas, a process that over the years has been key to building hemispheric consensus and turning it into concrete actions for the benefit of our peoples.

A little more than 30 years after the First Summit of the Americas, it is right to recognize its legacy. The decisions taken in this forum have cemented a political and legal framework for democratic governance, the fight against corruption, health, resilience, the environment, energy, and security.

This process has not only enabled progress in terms of political commitments and mandates but has also led to state and multisectoral actions to bring about their effective implementation.

The organization of the Tenth Summit represents a significant milestone, and, in that regard, I would like to underscore the leadership of the government of the Dominican Republic as Chair of the Summits Process. Its work in close coordination with our Summits Secretariat has been essential in moving this process forward. The Joint Summit Working Group, too, has played a crucial role in identifying and articulating the main hemispheric priorities, ensuring that this space for dialogue more effectively reflects the region's actual real needs.

And in that sense, in an increasingly interconnected world, development and the well-being of our societies are intrinsically linked. We cannot aspire to true, sustainable progress without a stable, safe environment, nor can we guarantee harmonious coexistence without advancing the integral well-being of our communities. It was with that conviction that the OAS Charter established as its first essential purpose "to strengthen the peace and security of the continent." These are indispensable conditions for the full development and well-being of any society.

Without question, our region has seen longstanding challenges that have tested the integrity of our societies, impacting everything, from our fellow citizens to the strength of our democratic institutions. Contending with such realities requires a comprehensive and, above all, coordinated approach to addressing the problem, encompassing prevention, punishment and rehabilitation, in addition to institution building.

These challenges recognize no borders, and only through cooperation and synergy between nations can we achieve substantive progress. For this reason, we support the Dominican Republic's choice of theme for the Tenth Summit of the Americas, which is very well laid out in the concept paper presented by the Chair. We believe that the Summit is the right forum and the right time. The OAS undertakes to be a bridge between the various actors involved, facilitating the exchange of information, best practices, and resources in order to build a common front that promotes shared stability and prosperity.

In this process, it is essential not to lose sight of the underlying causes. It is necessary to go back to basics. Sometimes international forums focus on the grand consensus but overlook key issues, many of which Vice Minister Silié touched upon in his remarks. The child who goes to bed hungry, parents who have to interrupt their children's education, families who can't afford the rent. This is where the roots of these problems lie: inequalities and lack of opportunities. It is imperative that any agreement or political commitment that emerges from this process seek to close these gaps and promote integral development, honoring the slogan of "more rights for more people" that has guided our work for almost a decade.

We are confident that the Summits of the Americas will continue to evolve to respond effectively to the needs of our peoples, anticipate change, and strengthen its role as a fundamental pillar and apex of the inter-American system. Let us renew our commitment to the democratic values that have inspired this process since its inception 30 years ago and let us continue to build, through dialogue and cooperation, a secure, sustainable and prosperous hemisphere for the Americas.

Thank you very much.