



Organization of
American States

Summits of the Americas Follow up System





The Fifth Summit of the Americas, held April 17-19, 2009, where the Heads of State and Government signaled a new era in inter-American relations, it also commemorated a process that started 15 years ago. Now, more than ever, with a renewed commitment to the Summit process, the usefulness of a Summit follow-up system that will enable OAS Member States to address, in a holistic manner, the collective commitments made through the Summits of the Americas has become increasingly clear.

The Trinidad and Tobago Summit was the occasion to emphasize the convergence of priorities in many areas that are of particular importance to the nations of the Hemisphere in order to secure our citizens' future. Common commitments to democratic governance, social justice, environmental sustainability and the rule of law have renewed the pledge for genuine cooperation and reinforced the emphasis on themes such as global warming, renewable energy and public security which countries have agreed to address in a manner that can lead to greater Hemispheric integration. The Fifth Summit of the Americas came to fruition at a propitious time for exchanging new ideas and points of view in the context of the current pervasive global economic and financial crisis

The Summit of the Americas plays a fundamental role in creating opportunities for dialogue among all Member States leading to a renewed engagement in a spirit of partnership, characterized by principles of solidarity and cooperation, to tackle the common challenges we face in our Hemisphere, as well to promote peace and democracy. The Fifth Summit was all about setting a new tone to hemispheric relations, establishing a new rapport for developing cooperative, multilateral initiatives which it is expected will produce long-term positive results. We now move to the critical phase of implementation

Democracy, Justice, Peace and Prosperity in the Americas OAS - OEA



During the Fifth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government agreed to aim to continue to provide annual national reports to the OAS on the actions and progress made towards achieving the specific objectives set at the Summits of the Americas. In addition, they instructed the General Secretariat of the OAS, in accordance with its central role in supporting the implementation of Summit mandates and in coordination with the members of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), to provide a comprehensive report to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), annually, on the actions and progress made at all inter-American Ministerial Meetings towards supporting Summit objectives.

To this end, The Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the OAS is pleased to present a proposal for a Summit of the Americas follow-up system. This proposal encompasses a broad analysis pertaining to the Summit process and a compendium of the mandates emerging from the Summits since 1994. The proposed follow-up system is an effort that provides Member States an array of appropriate tools to reinforce, support and strengthen the Inter-American agenda and helps facilitate implementation of Summit commitments by Member States.



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Today, the promotion of democracy needs to be understood beyond the concept of holding recurrent democratic elections. The promotion of democracy entails the provision of concrete real and lasting benefits for the population at large. The participation of citizens in the realm of democratic, accountable governance is reflected in their desire for improvement in their quality of life and in the generation of sustainable development, social inclusion and cohesion.

While the strengthening of democracies has given rise to great expectations, its benefits are eluding important portions of the population. The challenge is not only to identify risks but also to devise strategies to confront them, and it is within that framework that the Summit of the Americas' process and the development of a follow-up system on Summit mandates have been envisaged. Appropriately addressing the situation calls for further developing and constantly strengthening the Inter-American system in order to be able to effectively tackle current problems and craft a renewed agenda for cooperation in charting the course for the future of our Hemisphere.

A democratic system, therefore, that addresses the issues of integral development, social protection, environment, energy security and migration is fundamentally important in order to confront the hardships of poverty, unemployment, inequality and insecurity that afflict our Hemisphere. It underlies the importance of ensuring that States have the political power and will, as well as the institutional capacity to provide solutions for the needs of its people and for the enduring democratic development of the region.

**What is the
Summits of the Americas Follow-up System?**

The follow-up system is an innovative and as simple as possible tool in terms of the numbers of steps, documents, and procedures needed in order to implement Summit mandates.

Allows for the sharing of best practices and experiences in order to tackle priorities.

Solves the gap between “*mandating and delivering*” by helping to create a path for the country (different country’s conditions and contexts).

Improves the coordination between all actors of the System.

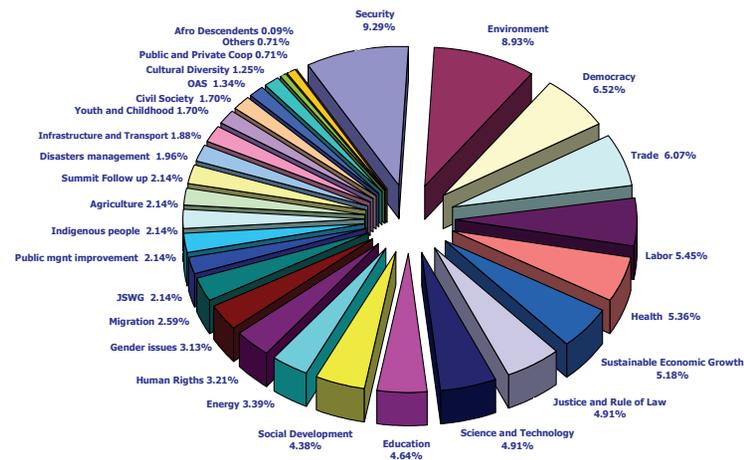
Fosters institutional strengthening.

Provides a space for Member States relative to the Summits

Summits Follow - up

Since the beginning of the Summits Process, the Heads of State and Government have established a vast array of priorities that appropriately tackles the priorities and the necessities of the people of the Hemisphere. While the strengthening of democracies has given rise to great expectations, its benefits are eluding important portions of the population. Democracy has always been a central subject in the Summits despite the heterogeneity of Summit themes. It has been addressed according to the needs and concerns of the Member States, including the construction of a democratic hemispheric community, the preservation and strengthening of the democratic system, good governance, and the inter-relationship between democracy and socio-economic issues.

Relevance of the “Main Theme” in the Summits Process



Port of Spain 2009 Mar del Plata - 2005 Monterrey - 2004 Québec - 2001
Santiago de Chile - 1998 Santa Cruz de la Sierra - 1996 Miami - 1994



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