



Organization of
American States



SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS FOLLOW-UP SYSTEM

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OUTCOMES OF THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

20 YEARS OF SUMMITRY

Outcomes of the Summits of the Americas Process¹

20 years of Summitry

The information presented in this document is a snapshot of relevant initiatives, regional programs and important political commitments undertaken by States and the Institutions of the Joint Summits Working Group (JSWG)² that have contributed to address the challenges of the region in the past twenty years.

I Summit of the Americas - Miami, 1994

- **Adoption of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (1996) and the Inter-American Program of Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption (1997):** The convention is the principal cooperation instrument for preventing, detecting, punishing and eradicating corruption in the Americas. The Program consists of a comprehensive plan of activities (legal, institutional, international cooperation and civil society) designed to advance the implementation of the Convention and its objectives.
- **Approval of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere:** The strategy was approved by member states in 1996 and adopted in 1997.
- **Special Conference to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism (1996):** First inter-American meeting on the subject adopted the Declaration and Plan of Action of Lima which established instruments by which persons responsible for acts of terrorism can be extradited, and they propose measures aimed at achieving greater police and judicial cooperation in situations relating to acts of terrorism.
- **Initiation of Free Trade of the Americas (FTAA) process and the creation of the Trade Unit at the OAS:** Trade liberalization, transparency, market access, and economic

¹ This document presents a non-exhaustive list of initiatives identified from 1994 - 2014

² The JSWG is composed by twelve Institutions that provide technical guidance to countries in the identification and negotiation of issues addressed in the Summits process. The JSWG also plans and carries out projects and initiatives to implement Summit commitments and supports the inter-American ministerial meetings and their linkages to the Summits process. The members of the JSWG are the Organization of American States (OAS) that serves as Chair of the JSWG, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation of Agriculture (IICA), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the International Organization for Migrations (IOM), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

integration. Since the First Summit of the Americas, the member states have undertaken extensive negotiations – in many cases, at the sub regional level – to bring about greater economic integration. The OAS has worked to help smaller countries develop the capacity they need to negotiate, implement and administer trade agreements, and to take advantage of the benefits offered by free trade.

Sustainable Development Summit, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1996

- **Creation of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN):** A Network dedicated to the adoption and promotion of eco-informatics standards and protocols in all the countries of the Americas.
- **Creation of the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law (FIDA):** This Forum was created to exchange knowledge and experiences in environmental law; serve as a focal point for cooperative efforts to develop and strengthen environmental laws, policies and institutions, and to promote compliance; and facilitate training.

II Summit of the Americas - Santiago, 1998

- **Creation of the Inter-American Program of Education with the following main projects:**
 - Education for Social Sectors Requiring Priority Attention
 - Professionalization of Teachers and Educational Administrators
 - Strengthening Educational Management and Institutional Development
 - Education for Work and Youth Development
 - Education for Citizenship and Sustainability in Multicultural Societies
 - Exchanges of Teachers and Students of the Official Languages of the OAS
 - Education Assessment Project
 - Regional Educational Indicators Project (PRIE)
- **Establishment of the Committee on Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities:** A new Committee of the Permanent Council for civil society issues was established at the OAS, the "Committee on Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities". AG/RES. 1661 (XXIX-O/99) approved in Guatemala in June, 1999.
- **Establishment of the Special Rapporteur for Migrant Workers:** Inter-American Commission on Human Rights decided to begin studying the issue of migrant workers and their families in the Hemisphere.
- **Establishment of the Program for Cooperation in Decentralization, Local Government and Citizen Participation:** Contributing to policy debate and serving as a forum for creation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge and information on decentralization.
- **Creation of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM):** The MEM was created in 1999 with the objective of increasing coordination, dialogue, and cooperation within the 34 member states in order to confront the drug problem more efficiently.

- **The establishment within the Organization of American States an "Inter-American Committee against Terrorism CICTE":** The II conference concluded with the Commitment of Mar del Plata calling for the creation of CICTE, composed of "competent national authorities" of the member states
- **Creation of the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression:** The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights created the special rapporteurship.
- **Establishment of Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA):** Since REMJA meetings begun, they have strengthened judicial systems in the region and supported the creation of the Justice Studies Center for the Americas (JSCA)
- **Adoption of the Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions:** The Convention was adopted by the AG/RES. 1607 (XXIX-O/99).
- **American Declaration on the rights of the Indigenous Peoples:** AG/RES. 1610 (XXIX-O/99) established a working group to continue the consideration of the proposed Declaration.
- **Creation of the Office of Summit Follow-up:** Created in 1998, the office served as the institutional memory of the Summit process and for providing technical support to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

III Summit of the Americas - Quebec, 2001

- **Adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter (2001):** Inter-American instrument that supports strengthening and upholding of democratic institutions and it specifies how it should be defended when under threat. It also promotes a democratic culture and electoral observation missions. Adopted AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-O/91) in Santiago, Chile.
- **Establishment of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption Mechanism for Follow Up (MESISIC):** The MESISIC is an inter-governmental body established within the framework of the OAS. It supports the States Parties in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention through a process of reciprocal evaluation, based on conditions of equality among the states.
- **Adoption of the Declaration of security in the Americas (2003):** A regional approach to security challenges such as terrorism, drugs, natural disasters and human trafficking, and to implement broader and more-comprehensive countermeasures than any single country could achieve.
- **The First Hemispheric Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility (2001):** The Conference proposed at the Summit with the aim of bringing together representatives of different sectors.

- **The Hemispheric Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2001):** Conference on the themes of the Summit mandates in democracy and disasters, national risk reduction, information management and public awareness.
- **Creation the Inter-American E-Business Fellowship Program:** The program sponsored exchanges of outstanding civil servants to carry out a fellowship at a federal, state, or local host agency to exchange technical expertise and resources through their work.
- **Creation the Regional Centers for Excellence in Teacher Training:** Under this initiative three centers were developed in the Caribbean, Central America, and the Andean region.
- **Creation of the Institute for Connectivity of the Americas (ICA):** The Institute for Connectivity of the Americas was created and the “Connectivity Agenda for the Americas” was implemented with the aim of facilitating hemispheric integration through information and communication technologies.

Special Summit, Nuevo Leon, 2004

- **Expansion of anti-retroviral therapy to victims of HIV/AIDS:** The initiative received \$237 million from the US. The initiative targeted 600,000 people and exceeded the number of beneficiaries (640,000).
- **Improvement of Remittance transfers in the Americas:** The initiative reduced the average cost of remittance transfers by at least 50% by 2008: remittances were reduced from 15% to 5.6%.
- **Reduced time to establish a business:** Simplified procedures to reduce the time and cost of establishing business in the region were applied. The average time of starting a business in the Hemisphere has been reduced from 71 days in 2004 to 63 days in 2005.

IV Summit of the Americas - Mar del Plata, 2005

- **Creation of the Infrastructure Facility of the Americas initiative:** Initiative created to promote high-return and job-creation.
- **Creation of the Central American and Caribbean Fund:** A Fund designated to support the private sector from Central American and Caribbean countries.
- **The First edition of The Americas Competitiveness Forum:** The purpose of the forum was to convene the first ever joint Commerce, Industry and Economy Ministerial to bring high-level officials together to focus on competitiveness.
- **Establishment of the Private Sector Disaster Relief:** A nationwide effort to encourage private donations for relief and reconstruction in response to the three recent hurricanes that struck Central America.

- **Expansion of the Civil Registry in Haiti:** The OAS and the Haitian government completed a mass registration and identity card distribution campaign, which integrated the citizen identity card issuing process, electoral process, and the Civil Status Registry.

V Summit of the Americas - Port of Spain, 2009

- **Establishment of the Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN):** Initiative launched on September 22, 2009. The (IASPN) promote the exchange and transfer of experiences and knowledge on social protection.
- **Establishment of the Energy and Climate Partnership for the Americas (ECPA):** Initiative launched in 2009. The ECPA is a regional partnership to advance cooperation on energy and climate initiatives.
- **Establishment of Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI):** Initiative launched in 2011. The CBSI will seek to bring all members of CARICOM and the DR together to jointly collaborate on regional security with the United States as a partner.

VI Summit of the Americas - Cartagena, 2012

- **Study on the Drug Problem in the Americas:** Entrusted to the OAS. It includes an analytical report, which analyses the consumption and the business of illegal drugs and its impact on security, health and the institutions. It also includes a report examining the four different scenarios the phenomenon can take in the years to come.
- **Creation of the Connecting the Americas 2022 initiative:** As part of the ECPA, Connect2022 seeks to create a business environment to accelerate the development of renewable energy, attract private investments, and bring the best in energy technology to the market with the aim of delivering affordable electricity to all communities in the Americas by 2022.
- **Expansion of the “Sustainable Energy Access for the Latin America - Caribbean Region”:** The initiative aims to enhance access to sustainable and affordable energy needed to promote economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).
- **Creation of the “Women’s Entrepreneurship in the Americas (WEAmericas)”:** The initiative aims to increase the participation of women entrepreneurs in the economy through access to training, networking, markets and financing through public-private partnerships.

- **Expansion of the “100,000 Strong in the Americas” Initiative:** The objective is to provide 100,000 scholarships for exchange students from Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States in support of education and socio-economic development.
- **Development of the “Small Business Network of the Americas (SBNA)”:** An initiative that promotes and supports job creation in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and promote trade in the Americas.
- **Creation of the “New Employment and Opportunities (NEO)” initiative:** The initiative’s goal is to expand employment opportunities for young people, with special emphasis on those who are economically disadvantaged and / or at risk.
- **Creation of the Broadband Partnership of the Americas:** The initiative’s goal is to improve access to broadband, Internet and other ICTs in the Americas to promote economic growth, health systems and education.
- **Development of a Hemispheric Plan to Fight Transnational Organized Crime:** At conference held in Mexico City in September 2012, member state signed the Declaration of Chapultepec, which establishes the Hemispheric Approach for Cooperation against Transnational Organized Crime.
- **Expansion of the Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in the Americas:** The initiative provides funds to private sector climate mitigation and adaptation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) that need concessional financing to become viable projects.

Civil Society participation in the Summits process:

- The participation of civil society in the process started in the II Summit in Santiago de Chile, and was then institutionalized in the Third Summit in Quebec City.
- Since then, the participation of civil society and other social actors has become an integral and important part of the process. In the most recent Summit, VI Summit in Cartagena, the dialogue between Social Actors and Governments counted with the participation of Heads of State.

Joint Summit Working Group

- Comprised by 12 institutions (OAS, BID, CEPAL, OPS, Banco Mundial, IICA, BCIE, Caribbean Development Bank, CAF, OIM, OIT, PNUD) and chaired by the OAS.
- Coordinates the support of these institutions to the Summit Process and the implementation of its mandates as well as their technical advice to the Leaders of the region in their deliberations.