



VIII Summit
of the Americas
LIMA - PERU - 2018



EIGHTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
April 13 and 14, 2018
Lima, Peru

OEA/Ser.E
CA-VIII/INF.8/18
14 April 2018
Original: Spanish

CLOSING REMARKS AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE EIGHTH SUMMIT
OF THE AMERICAS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC,
MR. MARTÍN VIZCARRA CORNEJO

April 14, 2018

As Chair of the Eighth Summit of the Americas, I would like to express my gratitude to the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere who participated in this meeting with the firm objective of adopting concrete commitments to prevent and tackle corruption.

Peru has been honored to host you over the past two days, during which time we have demonstrated our resolute will to make headway in strengthening democratic governance in the region. We are most satisfied with our achievements, which seek to ensure trust in institutions, respect for the rule of law, effective enjoyment of rights by citizens, and access to opportunities for their development.

Over the last week, Lima has been the center of attention for the millions of people in this region. Our city became the capital of the Americas, hosting not only the meeting of Heads of State, but also business people, civil society representatives, indigenous peoples, lawmakers, and young people from across the Hemisphere. All had the opportunity to share their views and offer their input for the concrete actions we must take in the fight against corruption.

The outcome has been a set of measures included in what is being called the Lima Commitment. With this, we have moved from words to action, undertaking specific commitments for which we will be accountable to our citizens.

This regional partnership against corruption to which we have all responded positively will be based on the determination and political will of each government to cooperate and work with other states to develop a preventive and deterrent approach throughout the Hemisphere, as well as a zero-tolerance policy against corruption.

Based on the structure of the Lima Commitment, there are 10 identifiable anticorruption commitments that have come out of this Summit, with each containing, in turn, other related and more specific mandates:

1. We shall strengthen democratic institutions and judicial autonomy and independence to prevent and combat corruption in the Hemisphere.
2. We shall reinforce the role of education in democratic and civic values in preventing corruption.
3. We shall strengthen bodies responsible for transparency and access to public information based on applicable international best practices.
4. We shall foster the use of new technologies that facilitate digital government, fiscal transparency, and citizen engagement, and promote the establishment of an Inter-American Open Data Program.
5. We shall protect whistleblowers, witnesses, and informants of acts of corruption, as well as the work of journalists and persons who investigate such acts.
6. We shall bolster measures that promote transparency, accountability, appropriate accounting, and use of the banking system for income and expenditures of political parties, especially those related to their election campaigns.
7. We shall promote the use of digital systems for government procurement, services contracting, and public works to ensure transparency, disclosure, citizen oversight, and effective accountability.
8. We shall implement the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption to prevent and combat bribery of national and foreign public officials.
9. We shall promote the broadest possible cooperation among judicial, police, and prosecutorial authorities, financial intelligence units, and administrative authorities in investigations and procedures related to offenses of corruption, money laundering, and transnational bribery and corruption.
10. We shall deepen the participation of our states in multilateral networks and anti-money laundering initiatives by providing the broadest and promptest assistance possible to identify, trace, freeze, confiscate, seize, and recover assets.

Undoubtedly, a long road lies ahead but we believe that over the course of this week, we have taken a big step in the right direction. It is time to reinforce our democratic institutions and our bodies responsible for prevention and punishment, so that we can tackle corruption, an endemic scourge that remains entrenched in the political and social structures of the Hemisphere.

Let us place the needs of our fellow citizens above the differences of our opinions. The people of the Americas demand strong democracies and respect for their rights.

The strengthening of democracy and respect for the rule of law and human rights are fundamental principles in our region, to which we stand firmly committed.

I must express our deep concern about the dire crisis besetting the sister Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: one that is political, economic, social, and humanitarian in nature. Peru once again calls upon the Venezuelan government to allow in urgent humanitarian aid to alleviate the needs of its people.

Peru also calls for presidential elections with the necessary guarantees for a fair, free, transparent, and democratic process, with the participation of all political actors.

With the satisfaction of having responded to the demands of the peoples of the Americas with concrete proposals, I would now like to close this Eighth Summit. I wish you a safe trip back to your respective homes and reiterate that Peru thanks you for your visit and will always await you with the affection of its people and wealth of its culture and history.

Thank you very much.