



Civil Society and Social Actors' Engagement in the Follow-up and Implementation Phase of the IX Summit of the Americas (2022 - 2024)



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OAS Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Organization of American States. Summits of the Americas Secretariat.
Civil Society and Social Actors' Engagement in the Follow-up and Implementation Phase of the IX Summit of
the Americas (2022 - 2024).
p.; cm. (OAS. Official records; OEA/Ser.E/)

ISBN 978-0-8270-7875-8

1. Summit of the Americas (9th : 2022 : Los Angeles, California, United States). 2. Civil Society--America.
3. Democracy--America. 4. Public health--America. 5. Technological innovations--America 6. Renewable
energy sources--America. 7. Sustainable development--America. 8. Political corruption--America. I. Title.
II. Series.
OEA/Ser. E/SCA/I.5

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Prepared and published by (Summits of the Americas Secretariat - Summit-Info@oas.org)
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Executive Summary

The consolidation of the Summits of the Americas process since 1994 has allowed the Heads of State and Government of the Americas to meet periodically to discuss shared political agendas, reaffirm common values, and coordinate joint measures in order to unify efforts to address the Hemisphere's challenges.

Since then, the governments of the Americas have stressed the importance of citizen participation in the formulation of public policies and development programs, endeavor aimed at exchanging perspectives, addressing concerns, and expressing desires alongside the citizenry. Thus, the Summits process facilitates the active participation of civil society and social actors through different channels of engagement during the preparation, follow-up, and implementation phases of the Summits of the Americas.

At the IX Summit of the Americas held in Los Angeles, United States, from June 6 to 10, 2022, under the theme "Building a Sustainable, Resilient and Equitable Future," the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere agreed on five mandates documents in the areas of health and resilience; digital transformation; just transition to clean, sustainable and renewable energy; a sustainable, green future; and democratic governance.

In the course of the follow-up and implementation phases of those mandates, the OAS, through the Summits Secretariat, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Summits process, and under the leadership of the Government of the United States, as Presidency of the IX Summit, carried out a series of initiatives to strengthen the participation of civil society organizations and social actors in the Hemisphere. This document compilate those contributions to the Summits process for the period June 2022 to March 2024.

The measures proposed by the Summits Secretariat and the Government of the United States, included the organization of a virtual system of five thematic working groups, where shared analysis and common

expectations were developed and forwarded to government representatives. These exchanges bring together civil society organizations, social actors, and government representatives and have become an integral part of policy dialogue within the Summits Process.

The mandates of the IX Summit also served as the basis for the organization of six training workshops. Together with renowned experts in the region, representatives of civil society organizations and social actors had the opportunity to receive training on various topics including strategic communication, digital transformation and negotiation, leadership, public policy, and gender planning. Other topics addressed included conflict resolution, consensus building, and use of artificial intelligence. In total, the workshops trained more than 250 civil society organizations and social actors in the Americas.

At the same time, the Summits Secretariat launched linkage and feedback activities with civil society. Those activities included briefings, subregional thematic groups, dialogue with women's organizations, the creation of a virtual community, and strengthening of evaluation mechanisms. In addition, through a photo contest and an initiative fair it was sought to enhance visibility and promote cultural exchange in the Hemisphere.

The Summits Secretariat is grateful to the Government of the United States for its support, and civil society representatives, for their contributions to the collective effort to bring together regional experiences, strengthen a common language, and implement mandate follow-up and implementation activities.

The following information presents the activities carried out with the participation of civil society organizations and social actors in the Summits process. This publication is divided into five sections. The first section describes the contributions to the follow-up and implementation phases of the mandates from the IX Summit. The second part covers training

workshops for civil society organizations and social actors. Afterwards presents linkage and feedback actions, and lastly activities to promote cultural exchange in civil society in the Americas.

I. Contributions on Implementation of the Mandates of the IX Summit

Civil society representatives and members of social organizations participating in thematic working groups had the opportunity to collaborate, share insights, and engage with member states during various ad hoc technical meetings focused on topics such as health and resilience, digital transformation, just energy transition, green future, and democratic governance.

The members of the subregional thematic working groups dedicated time from February to March 2024 to work on and discuss the implementation and follow-up of the mandates at the IX Summit. As a result of these discussions, they produced inputs

centered around the five themes of the IX Summit of the Americas.

These inputs, including recommendations and thoughts, have been compiled into reports, now accessible on the Summits Secretariat website. They have also been disseminated through the Secretariat's social media channels and made available to participating countries of the Summits process for their consideration during ad hoc technical group and SIRG meetings¹.



a. Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas

- ▶ [Initial Contributions](#)
- ▶ [Inputs to the Preliminary Draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience](#)

b. Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation

- ▶ [Initial Contributions](#)
- ▶ [Contributions on Cybersecurity](#)

c. Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition

- ▶ [Initial Contributions](#)

d. Our Sustainable Green Future

- ▶ [Initial Contributions](#)

e. Plan de Acción Interamericano sobre Gobernabilidad Democrática

- ▶ [Initial Contributions](#)
- ▶ [Contributions on Ensuring the Integrity of Information and Countering Misinformation in Electoral Processes](#)
- ▶ [Contributions on the Rights of People of African Descent](#)
- ▶ [Contributions on Government Procurement](#)

¹ Organization of the American States (2024). Follow-up phase. Recommendations of the Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors. Available at <https://www.summit-americas.org/SociedadCivilWeb/Soc/follow-upPhase.html>

II. Capacity Building Workshops: Summit Labs

In continuing the efforts of the Summits Secretariat to contribute to strengthening the capacity building and participation of civil society and social actors, a series of capacity building workshops were conducted.



a. Summit Lab on Negotiation with a Gender Approach I & II, Spokespersonship Leadership Strengthening, Public Policy Advocacy, and Strategic Planning

April 2022 to March 2023

The Summit Lab on Negotiation with a Gender Approach aimed to refine the gender-sensitive negotiation skills of representatives from women’s organizations. Through interactive sessions, participants had the opportunity to assess their negotiation abilities, exploring the distinctions between negotiating in personal versus public contexts, particularly in power-oriented environments. The goal was to equip attendees with the skills needed to articulate their core demands while appreciating the strategic value of compromise in achieving their objectives.

In collaboration with the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Summits Secretariat effectively coordinated six series of Summit Labs. These sessions were tailored to address priority areas identified by women’s organizations participants in the Summit Process during the preparatory phase of the IX Summit, focusing on the following areas:

- Negotiation with a Gender Approach (Phases I and II)
- Spokespersonship
- Strategic Communication
- Leadership of Women’s and Feminist Organizations (Phases I and II)

The inaugural session of this Summit Lab took place in April 2022 with the participation of 40 organizations. The event included a presentation that delved into the following topics:

- What is negotiation and some key points
- Negotiation v. Mediation
- Systems of power in negotiation and gender perspective
- Listening, analysis, and positive resolution of conflicts
- Strategic communication and architecture of negotiations: the power of non-negotiables

The survey results from this session offer valuable insights. Initially, 75 percent of participants expressed a need for additional support and knowledge in negotiation. However, by the session’s conclusion, that percentage had decreased significantly, to 18 percent, indicating a clear perception among the participants that the training was highly effective.

In April 2022, the Summit Lab on Spokespersonship was organized with the aim of enhancing the communication skills of women’s organizations. The goal was to empower them to effectively articulate their ideas to official audiences, institutions, and the media. This workshop provided participants with foundational concepts and practical tools, with a specific focus on their application within the Summits process. The session saw active participation from 41 women’s organizations and featured an informative presentation covering the following key aspects:





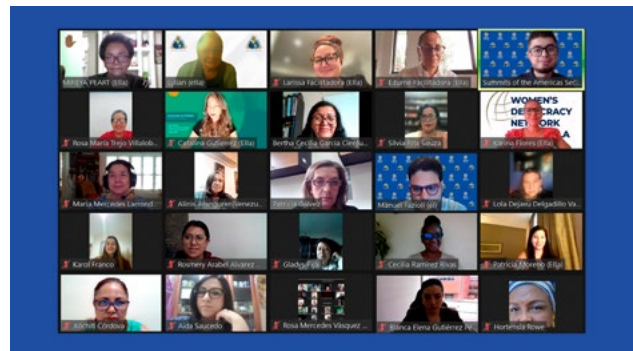
- The importance of women’s public voice and inclusive language
- Designing messages with a gender and intersectionality perspective
- Achieving message effectiveness
- Analysis of target audience
- Non-verbal communication of spokespersons, addressing impostor syndrome, and techniques for regulating body language
- Media training and oratory skills: effective models for women’s leadership and crafting elevator pitches

An examination of the surveys administered at the outset and conclusion of the session indicates a notable enhancement in participants’ understanding of the subject matter. Initially, 38 percent of participants expressed a requirement for further support and knowledge to competently undertake the role of a spokesperson. However, by the session’s end, that proportion had fallen to 15 percent, signifying a substantial positive influence and efficacy of the training delivered.

Negotiation with a Gender Approach was convened in response to the request from women’s organizations. It was held in July 2022, following the IX Summit of the Americas, with the aim of refining negotiation skills based on participants’ experiences in engaging in negotiations during the Summit. This capacity-building workshop, attended by representatives from 30 organizations, focused on honing and advancing negotiation techniques within the context of the Summits process. The presentation in this session covered the following key topics:

- The themes of the IX Summit from a gender perspective.
- Strategic tools for negotiation, monitoring, reporting, and advocacy.
- Strategic negotiation route.

Surveys were distributed at the meeting’s commencement and conclusion to gauge the confidence levels of representatives from women’s organizations in conducting negotiations. The results revealed that initially, 53 percent of participants felt the need for additional knowledge to negotiate with confidence. However, by the session’s end, this proportion had decreased significantly, to 15 percent, underscoring the effectiveness of this capacity-building workshop in enhancing negotiation skills and bolstering confidence in the process.



b. Summit Labs on Strategic Communication

November 2022

A total of 129 civil society organizations and social actors underwent training in communication skills. The training utilized tools and methodologies aimed at developing and executing communication strategies for effectively engaging with their target audiences.

The Summit Lab on Strategic Communication was specifically designed to equip women's organizations with the necessary tools for effectively communicating their messages and projects to their target audiences. Recognizing the pivotal role of effective communication in successful negotiations, this workshop emphasized the importance of strategic communication throughout the negotiation process. The session saw active participation from 78 women's organizations, all of whom were provided with various valuable tools, including:

- Structure of a communication plan
- How to define a target audience
- How to develop a message
- Actions for a strategic communication
- Strategies for communication
- S.M.A.R.T tools for communication

Upon analyzing the survey responses received at the end of the session, it became evident that all participating organizations expressed confidence in their ability to communicate strategically. 100 percent of the respondents affirmed that they now possessed the necessary tools for effective communication. This outcome underscores the success of the Summit Lab in equipping women's organizations with the skills and knowledge required to convey their messages with precision and impact.



**Summit Lab:
Strategic Communication**

A space to strengthen communication skills with a gender perspective.

► 08 September, 2022 - 10:00 a.m (EST)

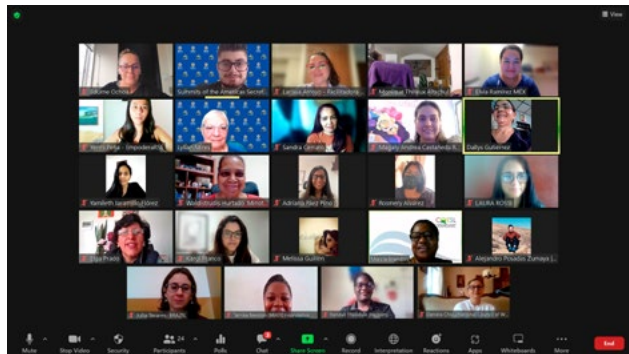
Facilitators


Edurne Ochoa
Co-Chair of Council Gender/
President of OASIM B.C.


Larksa Arroyo
Larger expert in human rights,
gender and diversity.

Register
<https://bit.ly/3AknAid>





c. Summit Lab on Digital Transformation

February and March 2023

The training program on digital transformation was designed to enhance the understanding of individual and collective citizen empowerment among civil society organizations and social actors with the aim of fostering a sustainable, inclusive, egalitarian, and secure digital transformation. It also examined the potential of digital transformation to improve public service quality and people's lives.

The training comprised two phases. In the first phase, titled "Individual and collective citizen empowerment towards a sustainable digital transformation," Elizabeth Blandón, Director of Planning and Global Governance at Territorium, led four modules:

Phase 1

- Module 1. Awareness, Ownership, and Citizen Culture for a Sustainable Digital Transformation.

Topics: Sensitizing is not the same as explaining. Ownership is not the same as knowing. Culture is not the same as use. The value of the collective and the tripartite (sensitizing, owning, integral citizen culture) for a sustainable future digital transformation.

- Module 2. Service Design and Social Digital Security. Technology for the common good as an enabler of change in civic life.

Topics: How the public sector and its mission fulfillment change today for the future. The private sector and its long-term technological vision. How both sectors, with the participation of tech-savvy civil society and their impactful social work, work towards a sustainable, inclusive, egalitarian and secure digital transformation.

- Module 3. Evidence of Change and

Improvement in Quality of Life.

Topics: Sharing evidence on the impact of technology on individuals to drive stronger policies and promote responsible use. Collaborating with civil society to identify emerging digital security threats. Coordinating efforts with both public and private sectors to pinpoint strategic collaboration and investment prospects in Latin America. Engaging with the public sector, private sector, and civil society to recognize social risks and collectively pursue mitigation strategies for societal impact.

- Module 4. Social Investment and Capital Investment. How to invest in nonprofit digital transformation. Exploring social digital transformation and cultivating ownership and utilization capacities in civil society organizations.

Phase 2

The second phase, focusing on "Digital transformation for a public service that changes and improves the lives of people and society," was structured into three modules, as detailed below.

- Module 1. Digital government and building digital citizenship. Instructor: Professor César Murúa, Specialty Director for Management of Public Organizations at Universidad Católica de Córdoba.

Topics: Emerging technologies in GovTech; Modernization of public services and development of digital citizenship; Digital Transformation and the Industry 4.0 Revolution; Digital divide, e-government, and ICTs in public management; Public management digital transformation strategies; Digital participation; Ethics in artificial intelligence.

- Module 2. Innovation, entrepreneurship and regional development. Instructors: Professor Alexandra Mora Cruz, Technological Business Administrator, Costa Rica; Professor Eduardo

Durazo Watanabe, Graduate School of Business of Centro de Enseñanza Técnica y Superior, Mexico.

Topics: Types of innovation and their impact on regional economic development; The digital entrepreneurship paradigm; Knowledge society and economy; Cultural and creative industries in the digital world; The challenges of civil society organizations: innovation and impact.

- Module 3. Open government. Instructor: Professor Mariano Mosquera, Director, Bioethics Center, Universidad Católica de Córdoba.

Topics: Development and concept of open government: transparency, collaboration and participation; Access to public information and its development, the precedent of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; Active transparency and passive transparency; Accountability and public value creation with open government; The open data paradigm; Limits and challenges of open government; Practical workshop based on local experiences and the Summits follow-up system.

- Module 4. Practical Module: Success stories among civil society organizations and social actors. Instructors: Professor Daniel Palacios

Marqués, Professor of Administration, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia; Professor Sergio García Agreda Ballvian, Director, Global Development Center and Master's Course in Digital Business Management with twin degrees UPB – UPV (Bolivia, Spain).

Topics: Success stories of civil society organizations that have developed digital transformation processes; The impact on society.

The training was provided to 44 civil society organizations and social actors, including representatives of women's organizations and social actors, on various topics related to the construction of a sustainable digital transformation process. Topics relating to citizen empowerment and digital citizenship, open government, and digital entrepreneurship were included.

Programa de Capacitación sobre Transformación Digital
EN ESPAÑOL Para Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil y Actores Sociales

Ponentes fase 2

 César Muñoz Magister en Políticas Sociales y Desarrollo por la Universidad de Zaragoza, España	 Edurne Durazo Watanabe Directora de Ciencias Administrativas, Registro de Desarrollo Regional	 Alicyandra Mora Cruz Magister en Administración de Empresas con enfoque en Finanzas, Gestión e Innovación por la Universidad de Ciego de Ávila	 Daniel Palacios Marqués Profesor de Administración en la Universidad Politécnica de Valencia	 Sergio García Agreda Ballvian Director del programa de la maestría en la gestión de la innovación en las organizaciones de la Universidad de Ciego de Ávila, España	 Mariano Mosquera Docente en Ciencias Sociales, Filosofía y Bioética en la Universidad Católica de Córdoba, Argentina
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Duración
Del 16 de febrero al 14 de marzo
Días y horarios
Martes y jueves / 6 - 8 PM (hora de Washington, D.C.)

OEA HUBUNOS UNCTAD

d. The Summit Lab “Strategic Planning with a Gender Perspective”

March 2023

The Summit Lab “Strategic Planning with a Gender Perspective,” held in Panama as part of the event “Strengthening Capacities of Women’s Organizations to Effectively Follow-up the Mandates of the IX Summit of the Americas,” was aimed to enhance the skills of representatives from 22 women’s organizations in integrating gender analysis into strategic planning processes and had three main objectives: (i) developing participants’ capacity to incorporate gender analysis into strategic planning, (ii) raising awareness about the significance of gender as an organizational principle, and (iii) facilitating the integration of a gender approach in strategic planning to ensure equitable outcomes for both men and women.

Women’s organizations expressed high levels of satisfaction with the capacity-building Summit Labs carried out by the Summits Secretariat throughout the project. The content of the Labs was rated at an impressive 4.8 out of 5, highlighting the relevance and effectiveness of the knowledge and skills shared. Participants also appreciated the quantity of the Labs, with a rating of 4.6 out of 5, indicating that the number of sessions provided was sufficient to meet their learning needs. The facilitators of the Labs received positive feedback as well, scoring 4.6 out of 5, indicating their ability to create an engaging

and conducive learning environment. These results demonstrate the success of the capacity-building initiatives and reinforce the Summits Secretariat’s commitment to empowering women’s organizations by equipping them with valuable tools and resources for their active participation in the Summits process.

In conclusion, the Summits Secretariat’s coordination of five series of Summit Labs, focusing on key areas for women’s organizations’ development and enhanced participation in the Summits process, has been instrumental in strengthening advocacy capacity and promoting gender equality. The Summits Secretariat’s commitment to empowering women’s organizations is evident through its successful efforts in providing valuable tools and resources, reinforcing the active participation of women in the Summits process, and contributing to meaningful engagement toward gender equality and women’s empowerment. These capacity-building initiatives have strengthened the influence and impact of women’s organizations.



e. Summit Lab on Conflict Resolution and Consensus Building (Phase I)

September 2023

The workshop's goal was to enhance the capacities of participating civil society organizations and social actors in facilitating dialogue, effective communication, active listening, and understanding conflict resolution and consensus-seeking strategies. Conducted in collaboration with the National Republican Institute, the training involved 83 civil society organizations and social actors from across the Americas, ensuring geographical representation and gender balance.

During the first session of the training series, participants were introduced to vocabulary, tools, and strategies aimed at equipping them for effective dialogue and consensus building. Key terms such as conflict and peace were defined, and participants gained an understanding of both negative and positive peace. They learned to distinguish between positions, interests, and needs, while also discovering how to identify and overcome communication barriers. Moreover, the training emphasized the importance of gaining leverage and enhancing conversations through the application of advocacy, inquiry, and reframing skills.

Illustrative methodology included “Harvard Negotiation–Getting to Yes” theory. This methodology views negotiation and consensus building as an interest-based collaborative opportunity rather than one of value creation. The methodology underscores negotiation dynamics, how to prepare for uncertainty, as well as how to craft agile strategy and resolve small differences before they escalate.

Illustrative examples of exercises and tools shared with participants in the initial theoretical session included:

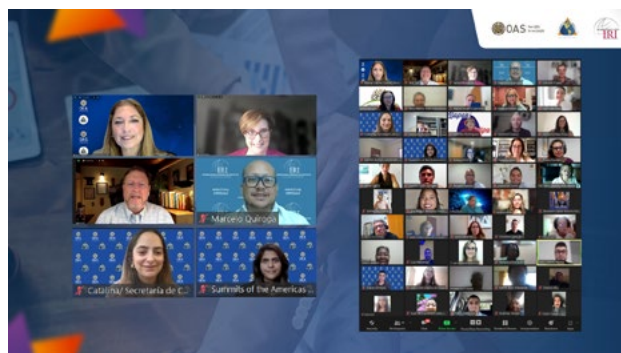
- “Ladder of Inference”: This exercise is a mental model out of the Harvard Business School to help teach how to contend with different perceptions. The model explains how we quickly and unconsciously move from the facts of a



situation to a conclusion. This communication and decision-making tool to help participants avoid jumping to conclusions and collaborate effectively.

- “Quaker Five-Finger Consensus”: This communication model provides a simple tool to understand and navigate contentious conversations and come to consensus effectively.
- “Blind Draw Activity”: Active listening activities such as this exercise promote the ability to pay attention to verbal cues. In this exercise, participants draw a diagram as described by a designated artist. The artist can only mention each aspect of the diagram once, and participants cannot ask questions or confer with each other. The most accurate drawing “wins.”

After the initial sessions, participants took part in a practical exercise aimed at giving them firsthand experience in reaching a consensus on a contentious issue related to one of the five topics prioritized at the IX Summit of the Americas: Health, Green Future, and Clean Energy, Digital Transformation, and Democratic Governance. Employing persuasion skills, participants worked towards consensus on language for an action plan that all members of their respective working groups could agree upon. Subsequently, during the closing ceremony, a representative chosen by their peers from each working group provided a brief presentation on their experience and the lessons learned.



f. Summit Lab on Conflict Resolution and Consensus Building (Phase II)

February 2024

This workshop aimed to provide an opportunity to representatives of civil society and social actors who actively participated in Phase I of the Summit Lab on Conflict Resolution and Search for Consensus, held in September 2023, to continue strengthening their skills with deeper and more practical training on this topic. A total of 49 civil society organizations and social actors were registered for this phase.

Once again, the primary objective was to ensure participants were better equipped to engage in real-life opportunities within the Summits process. In Phase II training, participants continued to apply the theoretical model of “Harvard Negotiation - Getting to Yes” to refine their interest-based negotiation and consensus-building skills. The training employed an interactive and experiential methodology focusing on real-life negotiation dynamics. Building upon the theoretical foundations introduced in the first phase, such as the “Quaker Five-Finger Consensus” model, participants encountered critical challenges related to uncertainty, managing differences, and preventing tension escalation, within a safe simulated environment.

In this new, hands-on exercise, participants gained valuable experience in reaching consensus on

controversial issues linked to the five topics discussed at the IX Summit of the Americas (Health, Green Future & Clean Energy, Digital Transformation, Democratic Governance). Unlike Phase I, which concentrated on sector-specific engagement, Phase II facilitated cross-sectoral dialogue involving



government, civil society, private sector, and labor representatives. Once again, participants utilized persuasion skills to reach consensus on high-stakes issues. Post-role-play debriefing sessions allowed representatives to reflect on their experiences and lessons learned.



g. Summit Lab on Artificial Intelligence

March 2024

The Summits Secretariat, in collaboration with the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the OAS, extended invitations to civil society organizations and social actors to take part in the capacity-building workshop titled “Summit Lab on Artificial Intelligence.” This workshop took place virtually from March 15 to 21, 2024.

SEDI, as Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCyT), and the Summits Secretariat sought to engage civil society organizations and social actors in the Summits process to exchange perspectives and gather recommendations regarding the use, impacts, benefits, and risks of artificial intelligence (AI) for sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development in the region. This initiative was framed within the broader context of democracy, security, and human rights.

The workshop received support from OAS Centers of Excellence, namely the National Center for Artificial Intelligence of Chile (CENIA) and the Center of Excellence in Robotics and AI (AUDACIA) of Simón Bolívar University in Colombia.

The course program’s primary objective was to equip representatives of civil society and social actors with the necessary tools and skills to navigate the complexities of the evolving technological landscape, particularly focusing on AI. Beyond mere



understanding, facilitators aimed to empower each participant to positively influence the societal impacts of AI. The course objectives included presenting the current use, opportunities, and challenges associated with AI for socioeconomic development in the Americas; identifying key resources, tools, trainings,

projects, and initiatives available for civil society to effectively utilize AI; empowering participants to leverage AI for awareness campaigns, mobilization efforts, and other initiatives; engaging civil society organizations in ensuring the fair, accountable, and transparent deployment of AI technologies.

Call addressed to the civil society

Summit Lab
Artificial Intelligence

March 15 - 21, 2024

Registration deadline:
March 07, 2024

Register NOW!
Limited slots!

OAS SEDI AudaciA CENiA



III. Engagement and feedback activities with civil society and social actors

a. Information sessions on the Summits of the Americas process

2021 to March 2024

From 2021 to 2023, the Summits Secretariat organized a series of briefings aimed at enhancing the understanding of civil society, including women's organizations and social actors regarding the Summits

process, focused particularly on the participation mechanisms within the preparatory and follow-up phases of the IX Summit.



b. Evaluation mechanisms

Satisfaction survey for civil society organizations and social actors

August 2022

The Summits Secretariat conducted a survey to gather feedback from civil society organizations and social actors regarding the enhancement of participation mechanisms within the Summits process, with a specific emphasis on the follow-up and implementation phase of the IX Summit. Launched on August 1, 2022, the survey garnered over 100 responses from these stakeholders. Below are the key highlights of the survey:

- Enhancing the management of thematic subregional working groups by establishing a permanent coordination committee. This committee would clarify guidelines for selecting spokespersons, preparing recommendations, and generating reports, among other responsibilities.
- Identifying a user-friendly virtual platform to facilitate constant communication and information exchange among civil society members.
- Increasing the participation of underrepresented groups, including but not limited to indigenous people and persons with disabilities, in the Summits process.
- Actively involving civil society in monitoring and assessing the progress made on mandates from the IX Summit by governments, and/or strengthening their capacity to assess the progress.
- Continuing to facilitate dialogues between civil society and governments, particularly in face-to-face formats at the national level.

Meeting with spokespersons

September 2022

To complement the findings of the earlier survey, a virtual meeting was convened on September 22, 2022, with the 15 spokespersons representing the sub-regional thematic working groups. In that meeting, the spokespersons reaffirmed certain recommendations identified in the survey and introduced additional suggestions. The following are some of the main recommendations proposed to enhance the participation mechanisms within the Summits process:

- Conduct interactive activities with SIRG National Coordinators in face-to-face formats at the national level, both during the preparatory phase of the Summits and in the follow-up and implementation phase.
- Ensure that civil society organizations are regularly informed about the progress of Summit mandate implementation during the follow-up and implementation phase. Hold meetings with these actors to incorporate their suggestions and monitor progress effectively.
- Engage OAS country offices in supporting the work of the Summits Secretariat at the national and local levels, particularly focusing on outreach efforts with civil society organizations and social actors. Special emphasis should be placed on engaging with Caribbean countries.
- Continue to implement initiatives aimed at strengthening civil society advocacy and enhancing technical knowledge on Summits-related issues. These efforts will enable civil society to participate more effectively across all stages of the Summits process.

c. Subregional thematic working groups

September 2022

The Summits Secretariat held a virtual meeting with the 15 Spokespersons of the thematic subregional working groups on September 22, 2022, to complement the feedback obtained from the satisfaction survey. During the meeting, spokespersons reaffirmed some of the recommendations obtained through the survey and presented additional feedback:

- Provide more information in advance about the activities carried out during the week of the Summit for stakeholders to better coordinate their participation.
- Greater participation of the OAS country offices, particularly in outreach to local civil society.
- Improved outreach efforts to organizations and actors from the Caribbean, Canada, and the United States.
- Reactivate the national anti-corruption hubs and integrate them into the working groups during the IX Summit follow-up phase.
- Organize more interactive activities with other actors in the Summits process during the week of the Summit. This would enable these stakeholders to exchange experiences, increase capacities, and network with other Summits stakeholders.
- Greater engagement with Summits national coordinators.



To further advance the efforts of the subregional thematic working groups, the Summits Secretariat issued a call for new members to join these groups in November and December 2022.

Participation in the working groups enables both new and existing members to engage in dialogue and formulate recommendations regarding actions and initiatives that support the implementation of Summit mandates. Additionally, it provides a platform for members to present their work related to the themes outlined in the mandates. 182 new members were confirmed.

d. Women's organizations in the Summits process

October 2022 to February 2023

As part of the implementation of the Summits Secretariat's project "Strengthening the Participation of Women's Organizations in the Summits Process," backed by the Government of Canada, several activities have been carried out during the IX Summit follow-up and implementation phase. These activities

are designed to further enhance the impact and active involvement of women's organizations in the Summits process.

During the fifty-second regular session of the OAS General Assembly held in Lima, Peru, in October

2022, the Summits Secretariat coordinated a meeting involving 17 women’s organizations. The purpose of this gathering was to foster reflection on the involvement of these organizations in the Summits process and to gather their ideas and proposals for future activities during the IX Summit monitoring and implementation phase. Furthermore, alongside other civil society organizations and social actors, women’s organizations had the opportunity to participate in a series of theoretical and practical training workshops covering essential topics such as negotiation, leadership, strategic planning, advocacy, and strategic communication.

Additionally, in February 2023, thematic consultations were conducted with 30 women’s organizations to develop recommendations for the effective implementation of the mandates of the IX Summit, focusing on gender equality and women’s rights. These recommendations were subsequently presented to the national Summits coordinators

during a virtual dialogue held on March 13, 2023. Notably, the active involvement of women’s organizations in the IX Summit process led to the establishment of a hemispheric network. Leaders of women’s organizations in the region, grouped under the name “We Are Leaders”, committed to closely monitoring the implementation of the IX mandates from a gender and women’s rights perspective.

Lastly, a set of indicators was developed and included in a report titled “Gender Indicators for Monitoring Implementation of the Mandates from the First Summit of The Americas”² was compiled. These indicators were designed by the Summit Secretariat to help women’s organizations improve their capacity to influence the follow-up to the mandates of the IX Summit, ensuring their effective implementation and equal impact on the lives of women and girls in all its diversity.

e. Summits Virtual Community

February 2023

In order to foster collaboration and open dialogue among civil society organizations and social actors involved in the Summits process, including members of the working groups, the Summits Secretariat initiated the Summits Virtual Community (SVC). This virtual space serves to streamline their efforts and foster the exchange of perspectives, experiences, and best practices related to Summits topics and mandates. The platform was launched on February 2, 2023.

Additionally, the Summits Secretariat disseminated guidelines for the effective management of subregional thematic working groups to members of these groups via the SVC. It also organized a meeting to coordinate with spokespersons of the working groups, at which the working methodology during the follow-up phase was elucidated. More information is available at: <https://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2023/SUMMIT/ASCAGuidelinesENG.pdf>

At present, the SVC has over 1,500 civil society and social-actor participants, representing the five thematic pillars of the IX Summit across the three subregions of the Americas.

- [Guide to access the Summits Virtual Community - Summits of the Americas Secretariat - YouTube](#)
- [Guide to access the Summit Virtual Community](#)

² [Gender Indicators for Monitoring Implementation of the Mandates from the Ninth Summit of the Americas](#)

IV. Cultural expressions



a. Photography contest “Building a Sustainable, Resilient and Equitable Future”

February and March 2023

The Summits Secretariat, in partnership with the Art Museum of the Americas of the OAS, extended an invitation to both professional and amateur photographers to take part in a photography contest themed “Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future.” Organized from February 22 to March 31, 2023, the contest garnered an impressive 226 submissions.

Its purpose was to artistically portray realities, challenges and solutions in the Hemisphere related to the five thematic pillars of the IX Summit of the Americas, held in Los Angeles, California, in June 2022.

A panel of four experts, comprising specialists in art, photography, and individuals engaged in the Summits of the Americas process, was tasked with selecting 25 photographs from the submissions. Of those, the two winning photographs were notable: one was chosen by the panel for its exceptional uniqueness and depth; the other, selected by popular vote, resonated with the public for its thought-provoking reflection.

The two award-winning images, along with the 23 other finalist photographs, collectively depict a vivid portrayal of the diverse realities, urgent challenges, and innovative solutions shaping the landscape of the Hemisphere within the framework of the 5 thematic pillars of the IX Summit of the Americas.

OPEN CALL

1st Photography Contest

“Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future”

DEADLINE
February 28, 2023



bit.ly/3ZNL2Ag

Register NOW!

IX SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
LOS ANGELES • 2022

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
SECRETARIAT

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Edgardo Solórzano Palacín

IX Summit Theme: Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition.

Country: Perú

Description: *“Two wheels for change”* - Educating by example is the best way to promote a good practice and demonstrate that anything is possible. The active participation of women and girls in the use of nonmotorized vehicles to adapt and mitigate climate change that affects everyone is a common practice in

the Andes, but it needs a greater impetus to further promote this practice. The use of non-motorized and eco-sustainable vehicles in the communities and Indigenous peoples of the Collao highlands (Peru) is a good alternative to travel while protecting the environment. In the image, we can see the sisters Aida and Dominga Miranda Puma from the rural community of Jupari, district of Nicasio, province of Lampa, Puno region, traveling on the Inca Trail at an altitude of more than 3880 m.a.s.l.



Ángel Humberto Alarcón Ortega

IX Summit Theme: Digital Transformation

Country: Ecuador

Description: Due to digitalization, new generations are influenced by new technologies. Often this influence is a trigger in the behavior of children. On the other hand, this photograph also represents how the traditional media are losing credibility

and interest for the new generations. Likewise, children have lost interest in outdoor activities due to the freedom given to them when using electronic equipment. All this within a digital transformation that increasingly takes over reality.

[Visit the Photographic Album](#)

b. Initiatives Fair

From December 2022 to May 2023

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat invited civil society organizations and social actors involved in the thematic subregional working groups to take part in the virtual Initiatives Fair. Within this context, an “initiative” refers to a recently implemented project, program, policy, strategy proposal, campaign, tool, etc., with the potential for replication in the region. The primary goal of the Fair was to promote and exhibit initiatives that support the implementation of IX Summit mandates, which fall under five thematic pillars.

The dissemination and publication of these initiatives during the Fair underscore the importance of civil society organizations and social actors in the Summits process. The event attracted a diverse audience, including government officials, authorities from international organizations, and the general public.

In total, 33 complete initiatives were received and are now accessible on the Summit’s follow-up and implementation webpage dedicated to civil society and social actors.

OPEN CALL

Initiatives Fair
2023

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIAL ACTORS

Register NOW!

bit.ly/42X84FX

Follow-up and Implementation
IX Summit

OAS More rights for more people

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LOS ANGELES - 2022

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Summits of the Americas Secretariat

Organization of American States

1889 F St. NW Washington, DC - 20006, United States.

summit-info@oas.org

www.summit-americas.org





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