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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIMA COMMITMENT

PRESENTATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU

(Ambassador María Cecilia Rozas Ponce de León, Director-General for Multilateral and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru)

Coordinator of the United States,

National Coordinators of the Summits Process,

Delegates of participating States,

Mr. Assistant Secretary General of the OAS and Summits Secretariat,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the National Coordination Office of the United States for inviting me to say a few words about the status of implementation of the Lima Commitment: “Democratic Governance against Corruption” in our region.

The outcomes of the Eighth Summit of the Americas constituted a resolute response by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas to the scourge of corruption. The adoption of the Lima Commitment, with its 57 mandates calling for concrete actions to prevent and combat corruption in the Hemisphere, and of its Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation aimed at promoting regional cooperation initiatives to prevent and combat corruption, are now built into the international and regional structure of anti-corruption instruments.

Three years after it was adopted, I wish to say that Peru is pleased to see that today the Mechanism platform is a tool that enables our citizens to track each country’s progress and what is still needed to complete full compliance with the Commitment mandates. That enhances accountability, the transparency our citizens yearn for, and bolsters our democratic institutions.

Clearly, that would not be possible without the combined efforts of each State. The progress we have made to date toward fulfilling the mandates, turning words into acts, demonstrates a willingness to strengthen democratic governance in the region and translates into trust in institutions, respect for the rule of law, and effective enjoyment of rights by citizens, as well as access to opportunities for their development. Nevertheless, it is crucial to have up-to-date information on each State’s progress towards, or difficulties encountered with, meeting objectives.

The effectiveness of the Mechanism will depend on the progress reported by each of our States. That will enable us to feed more information into the Database of Best Practices and Regional Capacities, pursue more initiatives to develop cooperation and build State-State or State-

Organization synergies in the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), and discern new threats or shortcomings when it comes to preventing and combating corruption in order to enhance the wellbeing of the citizens of our region.

We also need to recall that the Lima Commitment is not an end in itself. Rather, it provides us with a series of parameters to guide our anti-corruption strategies and policies. For that, it is essential for States, the organizations making up the JSWG, and civil society to pool their efforts to ensure that all the mechanisms for following up on the commitments entered into are geared to furnishing the information required for States not only to draw up the regulations needed but also to actually put in place effective measures for preventing and combating corruption.

Here I would like to highlight civil society involvement in this crucial endeavor. The Lima Commitment urges “*continuing to strengthen national anti-corruption measures or systems and enhancing conditions for the effective participation of civil society, social organizations, academia, the private sector, citizens, and other social actors.*” It is encouraging to know that this notion was not just rhetoric and is in fact being implemented via a series of initiatives undertaken in each of our countries. We are also pleased to note that civil society’s views will also be aired through the Citizen Observatory on Corruption.

At the same time, as announced at the First Regular Meeting of the Interagency Cooperation Group (GIC) on June 17 of this year, we are currently working with the Summits Secretariat on making available the software developed by the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment. That will ensure the continuity of the Mechanism, create an interface between it and the Database of Best Practices and Regional Capacities, and make it possible to perform any necessary updates, thereby facilitating citizens’ access to the platform.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In its foreign policy, Peru accords high priority to preventing and combating corruption in the Americas, inasmuch as it is a scourge that erodes citizens’ trust in governments, and hence both democratic governance and the rule of law in the Hemisphere. Corruption is one of the major obstacles to efficiently addressing the most pressing needs of our populations.

Accordingly, the challenges involved in combating corruption oblige us to pursue effective and well-coordinated measures. For that reason, I wish to express my gratitude to the host and president of the next Summit, the United States of America, which, in the concept paper for the Ninth Summit, underscores the effort that went into the Lima Commitment and its impact for the region, thereby staunchly upholding the goal of defending and reinforcing its commitments to fight corruption. We trust that this progress will continue and to that end you can count on Peru’s steadfast readiness and commitment.

Thank you very much.