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**Results of the national dialogues between the national summits coordinators
and the civil society and social actors within the framework of the preparations
for the Ninth Summit**

**Remarks by Ms. María Celina Conte
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Mr. Dale Eppler, Chair of the SIRG and National Summits Coordinator of the United States,
National Summits Coordinators,
Distinguished delegates,
Representatives of the JSWG:

On behalf of the Summits Secretariat, I am grateful for the opportunity to present the results of the national dialogues between the national summits coordinators and civil society and social actors in preparation for the Ninth Summit. The dialogues were held between January and May 2021.

The national dialogues provided an opportunity for meaningful exchanges between representatives of civil society and social actors and the national coordinators on the priorities that they feel should be addressed at the Ninth Summit of the Americas.

To date, there have been 17 national dialogues in which representatives of 270 civil society organizations and social actors have taken part, and we are coordinating a further five such dialogues.

In advance of the dialogues, the Summits Secretariat organized preliminary consultations (PrepTalks) between January 12 and 25, 2021, for civil society and social actors in 31 countries of the Hemisphere, which offered the opportunity for representatives of more than 280 civil society organizations and social actors to hold discussions and come up with a shared vision on national and regional priorities for the Ninth Summit, taking into account the three concept papers made available by the Chair in October last year. At those meetings participating civil society organizations and social actors formulated specific recommendations that served as a basis for exchange and discussions in the national dialogues.

The participants identified areas of common interest, problems, and challenges that are of concern to the citizens of the Americas. I will share some of these issues, which ranging from post-COVID-19 economic reactivation to civil society participation in decision-making processes.

In the *political and institutional* area, the importance of implementing an anti-corruption, transparency, and open-data agenda was highlighted, as was the urgency of formulating inclusive

public policies that are sensitive to gender, rights and diversity. In addition, within the framework of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and with a view to strengthening the democratic system and the rule of law, the need was underscored to implement policies that promote a culture of peace, democratic values, and citizen participation.

With respect to *human rights*, they emphasized the need to guarantee the protection of human rights and freedoms achieved, as well as protections for the rights of groups in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities, people with chronic, rare, and transmissible diseases, and LGBTI people. It was emphasized that post-pandemic recovery should guarantee and prioritize food security and access to drinking water, the importance of protection mechanisms for informal workers, and the creation of decent jobs, especially during the economic recovery process.

On the *social front*, the importance was stressed of formulating public policies that guarantee access to quality education for children and adolescents and reaches the most vulnerable populations, as were the need to create integral development programs for youth with a focus on reducing youth unemployment, in addition to the development of public policies that ensure effective and comprehensive protection against all forms of violence.

In relation to *public health*, attention focused on strengthening health systems; designing public policies that guarantee timely access to good-quality, free health services for the entire population, giving special attention to mitigating the effects of COVID-19, and on ensuring effective, free and equitable access to vaccines against COVID-19 to achieve immunity for the entire population of the Americas, while ensuring transparency in their purchase and distribution.

In the *economic sphere*, exchanges focused on sustainable, inclusive and equitable post-pandemic economic recovery, incorporating a differentiating approach to population groups, while ensuring human rights and good governance. Weight was given to promoting public-private-civil society partnerships as a mechanism for economic reactivation; incentives for job creation; and financial support for SMEs, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

In *environmental matters*, it was emphasized that environmental sustainability policies should prioritize strengthening environmental governance mechanisms that ensure citizen participation, access to information, access to environmental justice, and the preservation and protection of the environment. The transition to renewable energies was also considered a priority.

Digitization was treated as a cross-cutting issue, given its importance in the context of the pandemic. Emphasis was attached to promoting digitization and integration of information technologies in different areas, as well as to digital literacy, expansion of free and universal access to the Internet, development of quality infrastructure and tax incentives, and promotion of open government to improve government processes.

In conclusion, beyond the considerations and recommendations that came out of the national dialogues, they were an invaluable opportunity for representatives of civil society and social actors to interact with their governments for the first time in the framework of the Summits process.

I reiterate our gratitude to the participating countries that welcomed holding these national dialogues and highlight their commitment to generating these valuable spaces for exchange with civil society within the framework of the Summit Process.

Information on the national dialogues and, in general, the activities of the Summits Secretariat in its various programmatic areas to support and strengthen the Summits Process between January 2020 and May 2021 are available in document GRIC/O.1/doc.57/21.

That document reflects the efforts undertaken in support of the Chair and States, both in preparation for the Ninth Summit, as well as: (i) the work carried out in support of the implementation and follow-up of the Lima Commitment; (ii) efforts to strengthen coordination of the JSWG; (iii) and participation by civil society and social actors.

The Summits Secretariat remains at your disposal to continue working in support of the Chair and the member states. Thank you.