



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW
GROUP (SIRG)
First Regular Meeting of 2021
June 16 and 17, 2021
Virtual

OEA/Ser.E
GRIC/O.1/doc.57/21
10 junio 2021
Original: Spanish

REPORT OF THE SUMMITS SECRETARIAT ON ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT
AND STRENGTHEN THE SUMMITS PROCESS

JANUARY 2020 – MAY 2021

CONTENTS

I.	Support for the Chair and the States in the Different Stages of the Summits Process	1
a.	Support and technical assistance in the implementation of the Mechanism of the Lima Commitment	2
b.	Transfer Ceremony of the Summits Process Chair	2
c.	First Regular Meeting of the SIRG in 2020	2
d.	Promotion of Initiatives for Cooperation in Preventing and Fighting Corruption	2
(i)	Policy dialogue and virtual seminars	3
(ii)	Technical assistance	4
	Money laundering and tax crimes	4
	Open data	5
	Integrity in the Civil Service	6
	Government Procurement.....	6
	Anti-bribery activities.....	7
II.	Strengthening coordination among JSWG organizations	7
a.	Meetings of the High Authorities of the JSWG on the Impact of COVID-19	8
b.	Coordination with the JSWG organizations to advance the implementation of the JSWG Plan of Action	8
c.	Repository on the response of the JSWG organizations to COVID-19	9
III.	Promotion of participation by civil society and social actors.....	9
a.	National Anticorruption Hubs	9
b.	Initiatives to deal with the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic	10
c.	National dialogues between governments and civil society and social actors	10
IV.	Other matters	11

REPORT OF THE SUMMITS SECRETARIAT
ON ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE SUMMITS PROCESS

JANUARY 2020 – MAY 2021

This report covers the main activities carried out by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to support and strengthen the Summits process from January 2020 to May 2021. This report updates the report recently presented to the Permanent Council's Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities, which covered the period from January to December 2020. The report focuses on three main areas: (1) Support for the Chair and the participating states in the various stages of the Summits Process; (2) Strengthening coordination among the organizations of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG); and (3) Promoting the participation of civil society and social actors in the Summits process.

These efforts were designed to support the work done by the Chair and the participating states to implement the "Lima Commitment: Democratic Governance against Corruption," adopted at the Eighth Summit of the Americas (Lima, 2018), as well as the initial preparations for the Ninth Summit of the Americas, taking into account in both cases the crisis in the region caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In view of the current situation, the Summits Secretariat had to reassess and reformulate much of the work planned, with regard to both content and the working method, to focus on a virtual methodology. The final reports and results of these efforts, including videos and presentations, are available on the webpage of the Summits Secretariat, [here](#).

I. Support for the Chair and the States in the Different Stages of the Summits Process

The Summits Secretariat continued to actively support the work of the Chair and the participating states. In conjunction with the then-Chair of the Summits Process –the Peruvian Government– it supported the Mechanism for Follow-Up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment, taking into account the situation caused by the pandemic, as well as efforts to begin preparations for the Ninth Summit with, as of July 2020, the current Chair of the Summits Process, the United States Government.

Recently, a special meeting on "Democratic Resilience, the Role of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Summits Process" was jointly coordinated with the CISC and the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the OAS Permanent Council. The joint meeting was held to support "the preparations and technical coordination for the next Summit, which is to be held in the United States, as well as the Summit-related activities associated with the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter," as mandated by the OAS General Assembly [resolution AG/RES. 2948 (L-O/20)], as well as to share possible recommendations resulting from that meeting for consideration by the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) prior to the Ninth Summit of the Americas [resolutions AG/RES 2948 (L-O/20) and AG/RES. 2958 (L-O/20)]. For more information, click [here](#).

a. Support and technical assistance in the implementation of the Mechanism of the Lima Commitment

During this time, the Summits Secretariat continued to provide technical assistance and advisory services to the Chair, as well as support to the states in implementing the Eighth Summit, particularly with regard to the second year of implementation of the Mechanism for Follow-Up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment, beginning in January 2019. Thus, based on the information provided by the states and the JSWG on the online platform of that Mechanism, and available [here](#), regarding the progress made in implementing the mandates, as well as the challenges and needs the states encountered in implementing the Lima Commitmentⁱ, and the offer of cooperation by the JSWG institutions —the main inputs used in drawing up the JSWG’s 2019–2021 Plan of Action— from May 2019 to May 2020, the Summits Secretariat developed a Database of Best Practices and Regional Capacities, available [here](#). It also promoted initiatives for cooperation to prevent and combat corruption, as contemplated in the referenced Mechanism and described below.

b. Transfer Ceremony of the Summits Process Chair

In coordination with the then Chair exercised by the Peruvian Government, the participating states, organizations of the JSWG, and civil society and social actors were invited to the ceremony to transfer the Chair of the Summits process virtually on July 10, 2020. The Chair was represented by Ambassador Luis E. Chávez, National Coordinator for the Summits of the Americas Process and Director of Multilateral and Global Affairs of the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The incoming Chair was represented by the Interim Under-Secretary for Western Hemispheric Affairs of the Department of State, Ambassador Michael G. Kozak. In addition, from the OAS General Secretariat, in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat and the institutional memory of the Summits Process, OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro participated. The video and statements made are available [here](#).

c. First Regular Meeting of the SIRG in 2020

It was held through an exchange of documents. Three concept papers were prepared by nongovernmental actors in the United States, from civil society, the private sector, and the JSWG, on the challenges and opportunities facing the Americas on route to the Ninth Summit, which were distributed to the participating states in October. The Chair requested the National Coordinators of the Summits to present comments related to the issues raised in the three documents, including suggestions on other topics and opinions that could be included in a possible program and results of the Summit. As part of this process, the Chair urged states to consult with private sector interest groups and civil society regarding their priorities for hemispheric action, including the follow-up on the 2018 Lima Commitment. The concept papers are available [here](#).

d. Promotion of Initiatives for Cooperation in Preventing and Fighting Corruption

The Summits Secretariat identified possibilities and resources for cooperation among the states and between them and the JSWG entities in the area of preventing and fighting corruption. It also encouraged synergies with other international and regional initiatives and mechanisms that the states are parties to. Creation of these spaces for the states and the JSWG entities to work together was meant to further cooperative activities among them. This was done during the second year of implementation

of the Mechanism for Follow Up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment. The cooperative activities were primarily carried out through (i) policy dialogues and virtual seminars and (ii) technical assistance.

(i) Policy dialogue and virtual seminars

- *Virtual Seminar "Situation of Freedom of Expression and Journalism in the Americas"* (virtual, February 26, 2021). The Summits Secretariat organized this seminar in coordination with the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to establish a direct dialogue on challenges to freedom of expression in the region. Relevant stakeholders such as journalism associations, investigative journalists promoting agendas at the regional level, international organizations in the field, and think tanks interested in the protection of freedom of expression participated in the dialogue. The Chair was represented by Jon Piechowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State.
- *Policy Dialogue on "Corruption y COVID-19"* (virtual, June 18, 2020). The Summits Secretariat held this dialogue in coordination with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), to exchange experiences and ideas regarding the risks of corruption in dealing with emergencies, and the role of judicial operators and control agencies in preserving the integrity of measures to handle the crisis. The event focused on the agenda promoted by the Lima Commitment and was enriched by the main areas involved in fighting corruption referred to in the CAF's 2019 Economy and Development Report (RED 2019) on "Integrity in public policies: Keys to preventing corruption" in the context of the state of emergency. The participants included the Chair of the SIRG, the office of the Attorney-General of Colombia, the Secretariat of Public Integrity of the Office of the President of the Peruvian Council of Ministers, and a member of the Committee of International Experts of the Fight against Corruption from Ecuador. For more information, click [here](#).
- *Virtual Seminar on "Democratization of Information: Open data on preventing and combating corruption"* (virtual, May 6, 2020). The event sought to further the exchange of experiences and knowledge from the point of governments and civil society on the use of open data to prevent and fight corruption as an effect and a causal factor in the democratization of information. It further addressed the need to include open data in responses to emergency situations such as the current global health crisis. The event was carried out with the collaboration of the Department for Effective Public Management (DEPM) and the participation of government experts from Colombia and Mexico, and other JSWG entities, such as ECLAC and CAF, and civil society. It was inaugurated by the Chair of SIRG. The recommendations ensuing from the exchange represent inputs for states to use in follow up on the mandates on open data and combating corruption of the Eighth Summit. They will also serve to strengthen transparency and accountability in state activities related to the pandemic. For more information, click [here](#).

- *Virtual seminar on “Emerging Technologies to Prevent and Combat Corruption”* (Virtual, May 26, 2020). It facilitated the exchange of experiences and further informed government, civil society, and multilateral organizations on the importance and use of emerging technologies as instruments to prevent and combat corruption, including in the response to emergency situations. The event was organized by the Summits Secretariat with the collaboration of DEPM/OAS and the participation of government experts from the Bahamas and the United States, organizations belonging to the JSWG, such as the IDB and the OECD, and representatives of academia (UNAM/UWV Civic Innovation Laboratory). The resulting recommendations serve as inputs for states in their follow-up on mandates on emerging technologies and fighting corruption, with an emphasis on situations of crisis. For more information, click [here](#).

(ii) Technical assistance

During this period, the Summits Secretariat, in coordination and cooperation with strategic partners, carried out technical assistance in the area of money laundering and tax crimes, open data, and integrity in the civil service.

Money laundering and tax crimes

- *“Special session on Cooperation in Investigations and Procedures related to Corruption, Tax Crimes, and Associated Money Laundering”* (virtual session on July 16, 2020). The session was organized with the Department against Transnational Organized Crime (OAS/DTOC), in the framework of the XLVIII Meeting of the Group of Experts for Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX), on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. An exchange of views ensued among the national officials on effective means for fighting corruption, tax crimes, and money laundering in the region. A total of 131 government officials from 25 member states participated. Presentations were made by the Secretariat of the Mechanism for Follow-Up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) and experts from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, and the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT). For more information, click [here](#).
- *“Virtual Seminar on National Risk Assessment (NRA) of Money Laundering for Latin America and the Caribbean”* (October 26-28, 2020). It was held to follow up on mandate 43 of the Lima Commitment, which established the need to “Take effective measures against tax evasion, money laundering, and the illicit financial flows derived from corruption, as well as measures to identify beneficial ownership.” The event was organized with the OAS/DTOC and was designed to provide training and an opportunity for Central American and Caribbean countries to exchange experiences on NRA, with a view to reviewing and updating it. Around 170 government officials from 22 member states participated, in addition to representatives from the World Bank, Executive Secretariats of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America

(GAFILAT) and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF). The Seminar was led by national officials from Financial Intelligence Units, regulatory and supervisory agencies in the field of anti-money laundering and control of terrorism (AML/CFT), and prosecutorial and/or law enforcement entities, as well as AML/CFT policy coordination bodies. For more information, click [here](#).

Open data

- In the same vein as the support provided by the Summits Secretariat to the technical assistance mission to the Honduran Government in November 2019 through the OAS/DEPM, for socialization and validation of the National Open Data Policy, which facilitated the participation of experts from Colombia and government representatives from El Salvador and the Dominican Republic (click [here](#)), the Summits Secretariat supported a technical assistance by the OAS/DEPM in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic to develop their national open data policies. In Ecuador, the technical assistance provided to the Ministry of Telecommunications and the Information Society (MINTEL) resulted in the approval of an open data policy, which included a preambular paragraph that reflected mandate 20 on open data of the Lima Commitment. In the Dominican Republic, through the General Directorate of Government Integrity and Ethics (DIGEIG), assistance was provided to that country in preparing its policy. To that end, the final open policy document of the Dominican Republic was developed and defined, in observation of various clauses of the Lima Commitment. A virtual session on technical assistance was planned to make the public aware of the document and how to consult it, and to close the policy development cycle, for its transfer to the authority behind its approval and signature, the Ministry of the Presidency.
- The Summits Secretariat sponsored the participation of 75 government officials from Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, in a virtual course entitled “Introduction to Open Data,” developed by the OAS School of Government, in coordination with the OAS/DEPM. The purpose of the course was to familiarize and train participants on the processes for ensuring open data to prevent and combat corruption by training groups of officials to serve as agents of change, so that they can share the knowledge acquired in the course and further the opening of data in their countries at both national and local levels. At the start of the course on November 23, 2020, high level officials of the leading open data entities of the six participating countries were in attendance. In addition, there were participants from the CAF, the International Open Data Charter, the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency, and the Colombian MINTIC. For more information, click [here](#). The closing ceremony took place on March 1, 2021, with the participation of the officers of the governing bodies for open data in the participating countries, as well as their permanent representatives to the OAS and the graduates.

Integrity in the Civil Service

- The Summits Secretariat, in coordination with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), held a workshop on “*Integrity in the Civil Service*” (virtual session on September 30, 2020) for the leading entities on the subject in seven countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, and Peru), to strengthen their capacity in the areas covered by mandates 9, 10, and 11 of the Lima Commitment. The focus was on issues related to systems of integrity for civil servants in the region and covered subjects related to selection by merit and conflicts of interest in public management. Participants included high-level officials from the National Department of Strategic Affairs of the Argentine Anti-Corruption Office, the Department for Promotion of Integrity of the Brazilian Office of the Comptroller General, the National Department of the Civil Service and Chair of the Senior Management Civil Service Board of Chile, the Office of the Public Prosecutor for Monitoring of the Civil Service in the National Office of the Attorney General of Colombia, the Office of the Public Prosecutor for Public Ethics in the National Office of the Attorney General of Costa Rica, the Vice-Ministry of Public Service of the Ministry of Labor of Ecuador, and the Office in charge of Civil Service Management Policies in the National Civil Service of Peru. For more information, click [here](#).
- Based on the previous workshop on “Integrity in the Civil service,” in which seven countries shared challenges, experiences, and best practices in building a culture of integrity in their administrations, with an emphasis on the challenges generated by the pandemic, the Summits Secretariat and the OECD prepared a policy document taking up the key points and best practices discussed, as well as policy recommendations for the government administrations in the region. This document will be published shortly. For preliminary inputs, the Secretariat, in coordination with the OECD, worked with consultants on the draft policy note, including a survey of the relevant reforms on the subject of integrity in public office since the adoption of the Lima Commitment, with an emphasis on the countries that participated in the workshop. In-depth interviews with national entities were conducted as part of this process to enrich their efforts, in addition to which a second workshop was held.

Government Procurement

- Under the cooperation agreement signed in 2020 between the OAS/SG, as the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Government Procurement Network (RICG), and CAF, “Prevention of corruption through transparency and analysis of data in public contracting systems,” the Summits Secretariat, in coordination with the RICG Secretariat, supported contracting consultant services to implement the initial activities under this project, whose purpose is to generate actions to adopt data intelligence and the use of new procurement technologies for the prevention of corruption. These efforts will help strengthen the institutional capacity of public procurement systems in the RICG member countries, to generate and implement effective tools to promote transparency, efficiency, and integrity in national procurement systems. This objective is reflected in mandates 14, 17, and 27 of the

Lima Commitment and in resolution AG/RES. 2927 (XLVIII-O/18) of the GA/OAS (2018), which mandates the promotion of a hemispheric open contracting initiative in coordination with national competent authorities, civil society and the private sector.

Anti-bribery activities

- The Summits Secretariat and the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions (DSDME) of the OAS joined forces to offer tools to contribute to capacity-building in connection with mandate 37 of the Lima Commitment, and to enable public-private cooperation in the fight against corruption, particularly in efforts to combat bribery. To this end, training in the implementation of standard ISO 37001:2016 “Anti-bribery Management Systems” was offered to officials from seven States from March 22 to 26, 2021: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. The officials belonged to oversight agencies, judicial bodies, military units, and government entities involved in the fight against corruption and impunity. ISO 37001:2016 is the international standard for anti-bribery management systems. Its implementation allows for progress in the commitments adopted by States under various international treaties, such as the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, among others.

Moreover, and in conjunction with generation of knowledge products, the Summits Secretariat, with the support of an independent actor, has been preparing a report on progress achieved in the region under the Lima Commitment, and the challenges encountered in implementing it in a highly volatile political climate characterized by changes in political leadership, and the centrality of the political agenda agreed by the region’s leaders at the Eighth Summit. To move this process forward, Espacio Público, an independent thinktank based in Chile, was asked to provide its support, as its track record and experience guarantee a product that will make it possible to bring in key experts on the subject for analysis. Likewise, in cooperation with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), work is underway on the preparation of a study regarding the relationship between gender and corruption in the Americas, to follow up on mandates 7 and 55 of the Lima Commitment. Both documents will be available soon.

II. Strengthening coordination among JSWG organizations

The Summits Secretariat continued its work to strengthen coordination among the organizations belonging to the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) in support of national efforts to implement the Summits mandates, and in light of the current situation as a result of COVID-19. These activities were also in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the High-Level Authorities of the JSWG in September 2018.

Part of the work included convening four meetings of the JSWG High Authorities on the impact of COVID-19 in the Americas between April and September 2020; the adoption of a joint declaration by the JSWG authorities; and cooperation and coordination with JSWG entities to hold

virtual seminars and provide technical assistance on various programmatic areas of the JSWG Plan of Action (2019–2021), that will contribute to the implementation of the Lima Commitment, including some referred to in Section I.

a. Meetings of the High Authorities of the JSWG on the Impact of COVID-19

Between April and September 2020, four virtual meetings of the JSWG High Authorities on the impact of COVID-19 in the Americas were convened by OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro, the President of the JSWG, and the Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Dr. Carissa Etienne. The meetings were held to exchange diagnoses and lines of intervention by the JSWG organizations to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in the countries in the region and to highlight the need for a coordinated multilateral response to the challenges faced in the post-pandemic phase. The information provided by the JSWG organizations provided a global panorama of the impacts on health, socioeconomic factors, and governance in the region. The JSWG also issued a joint declaration.ⁱⁱ

- First meeting, April 3, 2020: The High Authorities of the JSWG organizations met to coordinate efforts to provide support in the areas of preparation, mitigation, and recovery, in response to the crisis generated by COVID-19.
- Second meeting, April 29, 2020: This gave the High-Level Authorities of the JSWG and regional organizations an opportunity to update the regional situation from the standpoint of health, socioeconomic factors, and governance, with the support of the analyses prepared by the institutions.
- Third Meeting, June 12, 2020: Updated the diagnosis on the impact of COVID-19 on health and addressed the impact of the health crisis on food systems.
- Fourth Meeting, September 14, 2020: Issued the *“Joint Declaration: Addressing the risks of corruption, integrity, and democratic governance associated with COVID-19,”*ⁱⁱⁱ signed by the JSWG entities to strengthen the integrity of public and private actors, as well as transparency and public debate on measures aimed at the socioeconomic recovery of the countries of the region. It also paves the way for follow-up on the mandates of the Lima Commitment adopted at the Eighth Summit of the Americas, particularly those specifically addressed to the JSWG. The Joint Statement is available [here](#).

b. Coordination with the JSWG organizations to advance the implementation of the JSWG Plan of Action

The 2020–2021 Plan of Action of the JSWG was developed by the Summits Secretariat in coordination with the JSWG entities in 2019 with a view to assisting States in the implementation of the Lima Commitment. The plan has four main programmatic areas based on information shared by the 17 member states that registered their progress on the mandates on the online platform of the Mechanism for Follow-Up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment, as well as on possible cooperation from the JSWG entities. The programmatic areas of the Plan of Action are: (i) Development and strengthening of effective and transparent mechanisms for the civil service, including policies on public sector probity, open data, public procurement, infrastructure, and education; (ii) Strengthening of the mechanisms for the protection of whistleblowers, witnesses, and

victims of corruption; (iii) Adherence to anti-corruption and corporate governance; and (iv) Detection, investigation, and prosecution of acts of corruption. In the framework of those programmatic areas, the Summits Secretariat has been coordinating with various JSWG entities to develop technical activities taking into account the current situation.

The report on institutional contributions from the JSWG prepared by the Summits Secretariat aims to present the work done by the organizations making up the JSWG in support of national efforts to implement the mandates of the Eighth Summit of the Americas in accordance with the areas outlined in the Plan of Action of the JSWG (2019–2021). Report available [here](#).

c. Repository on the response of the JSWG organizations to COVID-19

The Summits Secretariat has been putting together a database with information on the efforts and cooperation by JSWG organizations, including the OAS, to deal with COVID-19. This database is available [here](#).

III. Promotion of participation by civil society and social actors

a. National Anticorruption Hubs

In April 2020, following a selection process, the Summits Secretariat established 34 national anti-corruption hubs or networks in which the OAS Section of Relations with Civil Society and JSWG organizations participated. As a result, the participation of around 200 representatives of civil society and social actors in the region were confirmed as members of the hubs. As a result of a third call for applications, the number of members increased to 300^{iv}.

Through the hubs, available [here](#), the aim is to ensure the integrated coordination of national self-managed spaces for the following purposes: (i) to highlight the work of civil society and social actors in preventing and fighting corruption; (ii) to facilitate exchanges of best practices and capacity building for active participation in, and monitoring and defense of, the Lima Commitment; (iii) to promote a dialogue with government authorities and representatives of the JSWG; and (iv) to facilitate access to specialized information on different topics related to the Summits Process.

In May 2020, the members of the hubs presented 79 initiatives on which they had been working in relation to preventing and combating corruption, thus complementing efforts in the framework of the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment. A Virtual Anti-Corruption Initiatives Fair has been launched in order to give hub members an opportunity to disseminate and give greater visibility to their initiatives through short videos posted on the Summits Secretariat social networks. The three most outstanding civil society organizations or social actors in the Fair will have the opportunity to showcase their work on the Summits Secretariat's communication platforms and participate in a virtual activity for the exchange of experiences and best practices.

b. Initiatives to deal with the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

In view of the crisis caused by COVID-19, in which corruption easily proliferates, the Summits Secretariat has been facilitating opportunities to strengthen the capacity of civil society and social actors to use digital technologies to develop new initiatives for preventing and combating corruption, and to be more active in their monitoring and social auditing activities for purposes of accountability.

In collaboration with Laboratoria, a recognized start-up in regional education, in August 2020, the Summits Secretariat launched the program "Adopting a Digital Mindset to combat COVID-19 Corruption" (available [here](#)), involving more than 300 representatives of civil society and social actors in the Americas. This program has two stages of participation. The first stage entailed acquiring the basic concepts related to the challenges and opportunities of the digital age for developing initiatives and concluded with the presentation of a set of initiatives, which passed on to a second –acceleration– stage, to help them strengthen their knowledge, resources, and partnerships to ensure its effective implementation. The Summits Secretariat is currently creating spaces to connect those social entrepreneurs with other organizations, including members of the National Anti-Corruption Hubs to strengthen their initiatives.

In addition, together with the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) and the Inter-American Foundation, the "InnovAction Challenge" initiative was established to empower young social and economic entrepreneurs to respond to the new needs of the grassroots communities in Latin America and the Caribbean as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative supports more than 500 young people in the Americas to transform their ideas into viable social enterprises through training, access to business networks in the region, grants of financial support, and technical assistance. More information on InnovAction Challenge is available [here](#).

c. National dialogues between governments and civil society and social actors

The Summits Secretariat, in collaboration with the Chair, the United States Government, held national dialogues to provide an opportunity for civil society and social actors in the Americas to have a dialogue with governments and share their perspectives and ideas on challenges and post-COVID-19 opportunities, as well as on any other relevant national issue. The national dialogues were moderated by representatives of the Citizen Forum of the Americas and the national hubs. The results of the national dialogues were submitted to the Chair for consideration in the framework of the preparations for the Ninth Summit. More information is available [here](#).

To inform those spaces, three concept papers on challenges and opportunities, were made available to civil society and social actors, and were submitted to the States at the meeting of the SIRG held in October 2020. Those documents (available [here](#)) seek to promote inclusive dialogue and debate among the different actors in the Summits Process in order to identify concrete priorities and a common agenda for the Ninth Summit.

In preparation for the national dialogues, the Summits Secretariat organized *PrepTalks*, or spaces in which civil society and social actors from each country would have an opportunity to discuss and agree on inputs to be subsequently presented to their national Summits Coordinators or other government representatives during the respective national dialogue. The national dialogues and their

preparatory meetings were held in January and May 2021. To date, there have been 31 Preptalks and 17 national dialogues attended by around 550 participants.

IV. Other matters

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation for the voluntary contributions received during the period covered by this report from Canada, the United States, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru, as well as the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), which have enabled the Summits Secretariat to continue its work in support of the Chair, the States, and the Summits Process in general. It is hoped that we can continue to count on their important support for the preparation, follow-up, and implementation of the Ninth Summit of the Americas and beyond.

ⁱ Document of Challenges and Needs for Technical Assistance of the States Participating in the VIII Summit of the Americas in Implementing the Lima Commitment http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2019/27062019/Informe%20de%20Retos_ES.doc

ⁱⁱ More information on the four meetings of the JSWG High Authorities on the Impact of Covid-19 in the Americas can be found at: http://www.summit-americas.org/jswg_meet.html

ⁱⁱⁱ Meeting of High Authorities of the JSWG, September 18, 2020. Neither the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) nor the World Bank endorsed the issuance of the Joint Statement, although they fully supported the JSWG's commitment to anticorruption and integrity. See: Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), September 14, 2020, document GTCC/doc.84/20.

^{iv} The official list of members, as well as further information on them, can be found at the following website: <http://www.summit-americas.org/anticorruptionhubs.htm>.