



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW
GROUP (SIRG)
Second Regular Meeting 2022
March 7 and 8, 2022
Virtual

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PRESENTATION OF THE HEALTH AND RESILIENCE WORKING GROUP

(Ambassador Gustavo Álvarez, Deputy National Summit Coordinator of Uruguay)

Mr. Chairman; Coordinators of the thematic WGs, colleagues and friends,

The WG on the Plan of Action on Health and Resilience held its first working meeting on February 25, 2022, it was virtual and jointly coordinated by the delegations of Peru and Uruguay.

During the deliberations, the comments submitted by the delegations to the head table were reviewed and comments were made to bring to light elements that may have not appeared in the original document, as well as any objections that could stem from an issue of substance with the original concept of the drafting of the Plan of Action to be approved in June at the Summit of the Americas. The debate was broad and rich in substance.

Firstly, we would like to note the large audience present at the meeting, which was attended by national delegates from capital cities, OAS delegations, as well as national ministers and technical departments, reflecting the interest attached to the topic in the countries of the Americas.

We can say, in general terms, that the document presented by the Chair is supported by the delegations in both form and substance, although the comments also suggest including or expanding some specific topics.

Thus, the items that found the most agreement among the delegations include:

- a broad approach to the topic of health, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in all social and economic aspects;
- a solution to universal access to quality health services, medicines and vaccines, in line with the provisions of the 2030 Agenda;
- continuing to place emphasis on primary health care;
- the need to reinforce aspects linked to the production and distribution of medicines and vaccines in the region, and of the transfer of technologies and research;
- strengthening aspects related to the training of health care professionals and the retention thereof in developing countries;

- exploring new ways of financing to strengthen systems for preparedness and response to health emergencies, and to address the consequences of the current pandemic in all areas;
- including mention of the concept of food and nutritional security;
- staying consistent with other global or regional initiatives.

One of the items that encountered the most disagreement is mentioning groups in vulnerable situations. That difference of opinion has been a constant in similar OAS texts and, therefore, perhaps a solution can be worked out using language previously agreed upon in OAS texts.

At this point, I would give the floor to the Joint Coordinator, the representative of Peru to report to us on other important items from this first WG meeting and upcoming meetings.

Thank you very much Mr. Chair.