



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
Seventh Regular Meeting of 2022
December 6, 2022
Virtual format

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FINAL REPORT

The Seventh Regular Meeting of the SIRG for 2022 was held on December 6 in virtual format. At this meeting, representatives of civil society and social actors gave presentations on the IX Summit of the Americas follow-up and implementation phase; the Chair of the SIRG delivered a presentation on the Cities Summit and shared updates on the Notional Calendar and Working Procedures said phase.

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summit Coordinator and Chair of the SIRG meeting, welcomed the National Summit Process Coordinators, Permanent Representatives to the Organization of American States (OAS), Deputy Coordinators, representatives of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) institutions, as well as civil society, youth, and private sector representatives. The list of participants was published as document [GRIC/O.7/doc.11/22 rev.1](#).

Opening Remarks by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summit Coordinator

The Chair of the meeting, Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, thanked those present for the dedication, focus and collaborative spirit of the governments and stakeholders in the Summit Process. He noted that the commitments undertaken at the IX Summit had set ambitious agendas for tackling the challenges facing the Hemisphere.

1. Presentations by Summits stakeholders on the IX Summit follow-up and implementation phase

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly described as a major value of the Summit Process the opportunity it provides to bring governments, civil society, the youth, the private sector, and other actors together. Welcoming the representatives after that, he said he was looking forward to hearing their recommendations and comments on how to productively continue the conversation and move forward on the commitments adopted in June.

Twelve representatives spoke: 4 from Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), who delivered the First Report on Contributions of the Youth of the Americas, published as document [GRIC/O.7/INF.2/23](#); 4 from the Citizen Forum of the Americas (CFA); and 4 from the Americas Business Dialogue (ABD). The presentations by representatives of civil society and social actors are published in [video](#) format.

Presentations by YABT representatives

Mr. Juan Carlos España's presentation was published as document [GRIC/O.7/INF.3/23](#).

Ms. Rocío Collantes' presentation was published as document [GRIC/O.7/INF.4/23](#).

Mr. Carlos Alberto González's presentation was published as document [GRIC/O.7/INF.5/23](#).

Ms. Raphaella Costa's presentation was published as document [GRIC/O.7/INF.6/23](#).

Presentations by CFA representatives

The presentation by Mr. Romel González, Indigenous leader of the CFA, was published as document [GRIC/O.7/INF.7/23](#).

The presentation by Ms. Natasha Jiménez, LGBTIQ representative of the CFA, was published as document [GRIC/O.7/INF.8/23](#).

Mr. Marcos Urupá, representative of the CFA Executive Committee, addressed the issue of digital transformation, arguing that the pandemic had expedited this process by at least five years. At the same time, he remarked that these developments had brought to light the existing digital divide and the need for it to be addressed, especially with poverty on the rise. Noting that 244 million Latin Americans lacked access to Internet services, he also pointed to rural-urban differences in access levels, reiterating in that connection, the need to promote inclusion in digital transformation.

The presentation by Ms. Patricia Gálvez, gender expert with CFA, was published as document [GRIC/O.7/INF.9/23](#).

Presentations by ABD representatives

Ms. Patricia Uribe, PepsiCo Director of Government Affairs and Chair of the ABD Food and Agribusiness Working Group, pointed to the recommendations on promotion of regenerative agriculture and its contribution to food security and the fight against climate change. Regarding food security, she reminded governments about the efforts made to include the concept at the Summit, stressing its importance in the current context. She further argued that involving the various stakeholders on the Ad Hoc Technical Groups would bring new perspectives, thereby enriching the process. Lastly, she invited governments as well as civil society to review the ABD recommendations.

Meanwhile, Crowell & Moring International Vice President and ABD health working group Chair, Ms. Patty Wu, welcomed the mention made in the document that the Plan would be drawn up in consultation with the private sector, reiterating in that connection, her commitment to its crafting, saying she looked forward to receiving further details on the consultation format to be followed. She also pointed to the benefits of digital health in the context of the pandemic and touched on a series of companion recommendations prepared by the private sector, to be made available to governments, particularly for establishing a common nomenclature. Lastly, she welcomed the initiatives in the subject area, announced by the United States in Los Angeles.

ANDI Executive Vice President Ms. Paola Buendía, whose association coordinates the logistics and infrastructure group, stressed the need to promote public-private partnerships. She spoke about the recommendations related to logistics and strengthening supply chains, also underscoring the importance of facilitating intra-regional trade and promoting an export culture, including for smaller companies.

Finally, Mr. Raúl Echeberría, ALAI Executive Director, whose institution chairs the ABD digital economy group, noted the similarity between the group's recommendations and the mandates adopted in Los Angeles and reiterated the working group's commitment to being engaged on an ongoing basis, organizing events throughout the year based on the recommendations made. He invited governments to participate. He addressed the need to pursue inclusive development models in the region, with particular attention to digital connectivity, MSME development, digital financial inclusion, and cross-border digital trade.

For his part, Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, thanking the representatives of civil society and social actors, reiterated that their vision and recommendations would continue to inform the implementation of the commitments made.

Comments by delegations

The Deputy National Summits Coordinator and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the OAS, Ambassador Josué Fiallo, thanked civil society and social actors for their presentations and for the work they did at the preparatory phase. He also thanked the delegations for accepting his country as the host of the next Summit, and reaffirmed the commitment to implementing the mandates adopted, announcing that they had invited state institutions to gather information on the progress made in fulfilling the mandates and listed a number of the policies that had been implemented.

Canada's National Summit Coordinator, Ambassador Jason Tolland, applauded the Department of State and the OAS Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs on their efforts to include civil society in the dialogue. He also thanked the representatives for their comments.

2. Presentation on the Cities Summit by the Chair of the SIRG

The meeting Chair reminded the delegations that the Secretary of State of the United States had announced that the City of Denver would host the Cities Summit, scheduled for the week of April 24, 2023, under the theme "Global Challenges, Local Solutions." He explained that their aim was to bring together local leaders with their counterparts from across the region and with the private sector and civil society.

He said they saw this event as an opportunity to ensure meaningful community-level implementation of the issues addressed in Los Angeles, with a focus on health, the climate crisis, the digital divide, governance, and the migration crisis. He added that international organizations, civil society groups, and think tanks would organize parallel sessions.

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, announcing that the program would begin on April 26 with an opening ceremony, followed by two plenary events and a closing event on April 28, explained that the agenda included closed sessions for mayors and stakeholder roundtables.

He went on to add that national governments were not expected to be heavily involved in the plenary discussions, as these were designed to generate opportunities for exchange for local leaders. Mr. O'Reilly also announced that Denver would be extending invitations to the National Summit Coordinators to attend the event.

Comments by delegations

Ambassador Hugh Adsett, Permanent Representative of Canada to the OAS, stressed the need to promote the involvement of local leaders so as to fulfill the objectives set at the IX Summit. He applauded the level of democratic connectedness that many of the local leaders enjoyed with their communities.

Likewise, Ms. Ana Gabriela Vásquez Rivasplata, Alternate Representative of the Mission of Peru to the OAS, welcomed the Chair's and the Summits Secretariat's openness to involving civil society and social actors in the Summit Process. She further welcomed the efforts to bring Summit commitments to the local level. She also asked whether the National Coordinators would be invited as listeners, and if they would be able to find out what organizations and leaders would participate in the Cities Summit.

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly replied that they hoped to invite both large and medium-sized municipal governments, adding that they had been working with the regional countries' embassies and civil society organizations to draw up a tentative list that would be shared.

Jamaica's Deputy National Summits Coordinator, Ms. Delita McCallum, stated that her delegation had notified the relevant authorities and added that they were awaiting more information on the level of representation required, along with other details.

In his response, Mr. Kevin O'Reilly said the governments of smaller countries even had municipal responsibilities, but that the organization had been working on this issue. He also announced that they would be sharing more details in the weeks ahead, explaining however that the pattern of the IX Summit would continue, with the first few days focused on side events, followed by the meetings of local leaders.

3. Updates on the Notional Calendar and Working Procedures by the Chair of the SIRG

The Chair stressed that implementation plans would depend on the nature of each commitment and reiterated that, while the Action Plan on Health called for further negotiation, other documents already outlined concrete follow-up steps. He announced that the Ad Hoc Technical Groups would start meeting virtually before the end of January 2023, and that they were planning to use regional meetings to continue discussions on implementation of the mandates.

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly stated that the Technical Groups would enable experts to report on what they were doing to share good practices and to provide or seek guidance, monitoring, and/or assistance to advance implementation. He said that they would continue to meet and report on their activities to inform the First Ministerial SIRG of 2023, tentatively scheduled to take place in June on the occasion of the OAS General Assembly.

Furthermore, noting that the co-chairing of the groups would be ad hoc, he invited interested governments to co-chair the working meetings with the Chair to establish an agenda based on areas of interest and central themes for the follow-up phase.

Before inviting delegations to speak, he asked them to notify the Summits Secretariat of their interest in co-chairing a session. He stressed that the sessions were not intended to duplicate the dynamics of documents preparation for the IX Summit, so that follow-up would have more flexibility in terms of the co-chairs' role, and delegations could choose specific topics of interest in the meetings they wished to chair.

Uruguay's Deputy National Summit Coordinator, Ambassador Gustavo Álvarez, said he understood that attendance of technical experts and co-chairs would be accredited for each meeting, without overly elaborate procedures and according to the interests of each state. He also inquired about the use of the standardized good practice form detailed in the working procedures. The Chair's answer was that the use of the form was intended to give structure to how the information is received.

The Deputy National Summits Coordinator and Permanent Representative of Chile to the OAS, Ambassador Sebastián Kraljevich, asked about the work of the Technical Groups of which the topics were already being handled by other forums; in that connection he inquired further about how the data and good practices shared were to be gathered and systematized, as well as how to invite the parties and get the technical bodies involved. On this last point, he noted Jamaica's statement at the last Regular Meeting of the SIRG, recommending the creation of matrices. He also asked about follow-up on documents not negotiated by the SIRG, and concluded with a request for the Calendar to include deadlines for states to undertake the relevant consultations.

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly announced that they would be introducing a website via the Summits Secretariat, in order to resolve the procedural issues raised. Regarding the U.S. Government initiatives announced in Los Angeles, which were not negotiated through the SIRG, he said they would be handled outside of the SIRG process. Specifically on the immigration issue and the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration, he underscored its centrality to the Cities Summit, noting that it was an issue highlighted by the vast majority of municipalities. On the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity, he noted that ministerial-level consultations were already underway.

Meanwhile, Canada's National Summit Coordinator touted the flexibility of the format for tracking, with different objectives depending on the kind of document. He also mentioned the possibility of getting back to putting the technical groups together in 2023, even considering that they are ad hoc, in order to get a sense of their objectives and possible obstacles.

The Chair emphasized that it was critical to continue providing updated information while working on the Calendar and that they would strive to do so and stressed that they would continue to rely on the Summits Secretariat to share information.

Brazil's Deputy National Summit Coordinator, Gustavo dos Santos Pereira, argued that the technical groups should have a flexible format to facilitate the work of the co-chairs. Regarding the dates, he called for consideration to be given to the fact that the Southern Hemisphere works counter-seasonally, making stakeholders coming together harder. More specifically, he proposed that the meetings begin in March, in order to provide the ad-hoc groups and the health document with more content. He further noted that Brazil was in a period of governmental transition, which made it even harder to gather information for this type of meeting. Mr. Kevin O'Reilly replied that they would do their best to schedule the Cities Summit in early 2023, while stressing that they would try to address the existing constraints.

The delegation of Costa Rica, while announcing that changes would be made to its National Summits Coordination, endorsed the comments made by the delegation of Chile on avoiding overlapping schedules, and therefore asked for the permanent missions to the OAS to be copied on the communications. In closing, he announced that he expected City Halls to actively participate in the Cities Summit.

Ms. Ana Gabriel Vásquez Rivasplata, of the Mission of Peru to the OAS, asked whether there was a deadline for delegations to express their interest in co-chairing a meeting, and whether tentative dates could be set for the January and February meetings.

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly raised the issue of not being able to set dates because informal consultations were still being undertaken. He said they would prioritize finalizing the health document, and that they hoped to have a more finished document to present to the SIRG in June 2023. To that end, he explained that they would circulate a draft of the document in January, in order to open preliminary discussions at the end of that month. He also asked delegations to state, before the end of December 2022, their interest in co-chairing meetings.

Lastly, the Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, Ms. María Celina Conte, reiterated that they would be working with the Chair and the Co-Chairs, and would also coordinate the participation of the JSWG entities for each technical group to ensure that they are effectively run, which includes meeting the proposed objectives and deadlines. Regarding the comments by the delegation of Uruguay on the presentation of good practices and the use of the standardized form, she explained that the form was designed taking into account a number of criteria, including replicability. She further noted that based on the information provided by states, the Secretariat would produce a good practices database so that the information submitted could be viewed online. She said this website was already under construction. The form for submitting best practices was published as [GRIC/O.7/INF.1/22](#).

4. Final considerations, other business, and adjournment of the meeting

The Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OAS, Ambassador Luz Elena Baños Rivas, stating that her delegation had taken note of the comments made by civil society and social actors taking part, said that including them would ensure adequate follow-up on mandates. She also expressed her appreciation for the presentation on the Cities Summit and announced that her country would be working in a proactive manner. Regarding the Calendar, she conveyed her delegation's support for the document and expressed her willingness to work with the technical groups.

OAS Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs Ambassador James Lambert echoed the remarks made by Maria Celina Conte, Director of the Summits Secretariat, regarding the Secretariat's willingness to continue supporting the work of the Chair and the states.

There being no further comments, the Chair thanked the delegations for participating and thanked the Summits Secretariat for its work within the Summit Process and in support of the Chair and the SIRG. On a concluding note, she said she looked forward to continuing to work with those in attendance in the months ahead, with a view to supporting implementation of the commitments or mandates adopted in Los Angeles.

At 12:10 p.m. on December 6, 2022, the Chair declared the meeting closed.