



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)

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IX SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS IMPLEMENTATION: REPORT ON THE STATUS
OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL GROUPS, JOINT SUMMIT WORKING GROUP (JSWG)
PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK, AND BEST PRACTICES
SUBMITTED BY DELEGATIONS

(Presentation delivered by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly,
National Summit Coordinator of the United States)

Before opening the floor to delegations, I will briefly present on the status of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups and all the work that delegations and JSWG institutions have been putting into ensuring that our leaders' commitments are being turned into concrete actions.

The Chair has convened seven SIRG ad hoc technical meetings to build on our successes in Los Angeles and maintain the momentum on addressing some of the most pressing issues facing our region. These include two meetings on environmental issues, one on clean energy, one on democracy and governance, and three on health.

On January 24, Assistant Secretary Monica Medina of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs and Assistant Administrator Jane Nishida of the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of International and Tribal Affairs led a meeting of the Ad hoc Technical Group on Our Sustainable Green Future to discuss strengthening protections for environmental defenders. The NGO Alliance for Land, Indigenous, and Environmental Defenders (ALLIED) presented on gaps and best practices. Carlos de Miguel, Head of the Policies for Sustainable Development Unit at ECLAC, Soledad Garcia Muñoz, Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and several national representatives described their efforts to strengthen protections for environmental defenders, including through implementation of the Escazú Agreement. More than 170 representatives from 22 countries participated.

On March 1, the U.S. Department of State's Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change Sue Biniatz and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Fisheries, and Polar Affairs Maxine Burkett, alongside Panama's Vice Minister of Environment Diana Laguna Caicedo and Under Secretary of Energy Rosilena Lindo Riggs, led a meeting of the Ad hoc Technical Group in Panama to advance green shipping and strengthen coastal ecosystems. The Panama Canal Authority, Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero-Carbon Shipping, and Conservation International shared recommendations, and delegates and members of the Joint Summit Working Group described their efforts to implement the commitments through negotiations at the International Maritime Organization, promoting zero-emissions fuels and technologies, inventorying blue carbon, implementing marine protected areas, and other initiatives. More than 50 participants from 13 countries participated.

On March 9, Deputy Assistant Secretary Wells led the first Ad hoc Technical Group meeting on the Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition commitment, focused on clean energy financing. A representative from AES Corporation presented on the criteria the private sector uses when evaluating clean energy investment opportunities and

what governments can do to attract more investment. IDB, CAF, CABEL, CBD, and the World Bank provided updates and overviews to their clean energy financing programs. OAS's Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) Technical Coordination Unit also announced the 6th ECPA Ministerial to take place February 28-29, 2024, in the Dominican Republic. Additionally, OECD briefed on their Clean Energy Finance and Investment Mobilization program, which aims to provide technical assistance and capacity building and reduce technical barriers for private sector clean energy investments. More than 100 representatives from 17 countries participated in this technical group meeting.

On March 28 we convened the first Ad-Hoc Technical Working Group for the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance. Held on the occasion of the Second Summit for Democracy, I would like to thank the governments of Canada and Costa Rica again for cohosting this session with us. We were pleased to have over 80 participants, and expert presentations from Katya Salazar, Executive Director of the Due Process of Law Foundation and Jennie Lincoln of the Carter Center. All speakers encouraged governments to consider regional recommendations, mandates and challenges related to democratic governance, highlighting with concern regional backsliding and increased disinformation.

We also continue to support our colleagues and subject matter experts as they negotiate the Action Plan for Health and Resilience in the Americas. As of March 29, the Ad hoc Technical Group has pre-agreed to 48 of 56 paragraphs in the Action Plan. The Technical Group will reconvene the morning of April 19 to continue negotiations and in May to hold consultations with stakeholders. The Action Plan will deliver on our leaders' commitment in Los Angeles and identify how the Americas can implement lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moving forward, we plan to continue the process and convene the first meeting on digital transformation, the fifth Summit Commitment, following the Cities Summit.

This June, we plan to convene a ministerial SIRG meeting on the margins of the OASGA to review progress across the board. This will also coincide with the Ninth Summit anniversary.

We continue to coordinate closely with the next Summit host, the Dominican Republic, with initial plans to pass the chair of the Summit process to them in the last quarter of 2023.

With that, I will open the floor to any questions or comments from delegations.