



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
Second Regular Meeting of 2023
June 12, 2023
Virtual format

OEA/Ser.E
GRIC/O.2/INF.43/23
13 June 2023
Original: English

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR OF THE SIRG

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

Good morning National Coordinators of the Summit Process, Permanent Representatives to the OAS, Deputy Coordinators, distinguished delegates, and representatives of the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group and Summits Secretariat.

Special greetings to the representatives of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO).

I am pleased to welcome you to this Second Regular SIRG of 2023. I am honored to serve as the National Summit Coordinator for the United States and as Chair of the SIRG.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude for the continued engagement of every delegation during the implementation phase of the Ninth Summit. I am also grateful to all of the representatives of the Joint Summit Working Group institutions and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat for their tireless support.

A year ago, our leaders gathered in Los Angeles and adopted five ambitious political commitments on health, climate and the environment, clean energy, digital transformation, and democratic governance. They committed to a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future for the people of the Americas.

Among the five commitments, the health commitment is unique in calling upon our governments to develop a hemispheric action plan.

In February, the United States convened experts from across the Americas in an Ad Hoc Technical Group to draft the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas.

Dr. Nelson Arboleda, Director of the Office of the Americas at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, chaired the technical group.

The group met six times to share perspectives, consult with stakeholders, and negotiate the text of the plan line-by-line. They benefitted from the excellent advice of PAHO, CAF, and other Joint Summit Working Group entities.

On June 1, having pre-agreed the entire text of the action plan, the Ad Hoc Technical Group referred the plan to the SIRG for consideration and approval.

I applaud our colleagues' efforts to develop a consensus document that responds to our hemisphere's need to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, support equitable access to healthcare, and prepare for the next health emergency.

The plan is now ready for your consideration. The goal is to present it to our ministers to adopt when they gather for the ministerial SIRG on June 23, recognizing that the timeline is tight and requires us to reach consensus today.

It is my pleasure to welcome you today and to introduce Dr. Arboleda to present the draft action plan. Dr. Arboleda, you have the floor.