



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

OEA/Ser.E
GRIC/O.2/doc.67/23
25 July 2023
Original: Spanish

FINAL REPORT

The Second Regular Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) of 2023 was held in a virtual format on June 12. During this meeting, the Preliminary Draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas was presented for consideration by the countries participating in the Summit Process. The list of participants was published as document [GRIC/O.1/doc.66/23 rev.1](#).

Opening remarks by Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Coordinator for the Summit Process

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, United States National Coordinator for the Summit Process and Chair of the SIRG meeting, welcomed the national coordinators of the Summit Process, Permanent Representatives to the Organization of American States (OAS), deputy coordinators, representatives of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) institutions, and the Summits Secretariat.

He thanked the delegations for their continued commitment during the implementation phase of the Ninth Summit, and acknowledged the support provided by the JSWG institutions and the Summits Secretariat during this stage. He also applauded the efforts of delegations to develop a health consensus document that responds to the Hemisphere's need to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, prepare for the next health emergency, and support equitable access to health care. His remarks were published in document [GRIC/O.1/INF.43/23](#).

1. Consideration of the Preliminary Draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas

Presentation by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Technical Group

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Health and Resilience in the Americas, Dr. Nelson Arboleda, Director of the Office of the Americas, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, presented the Preliminary Draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas. During his presentation, Dr. Nelson Arboleda emphasized that the Action Plan addresses the weaknesses of our societies exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and identified measures aimed at strengthening the resilience and capacity of the region's health systems to address future infectious disease outbreaks and other health challenges.

He also emphasized that the Action Plan is based directly on the language adopted by the Heads of State and Government in Los Angeles, but includes more specifics and additional details regarding implementation. He stressed that the Action Plan has taken into account other international negotiation processes on health and resilience, recognizing the need to supplement and be in line with other initiatives to coordinate efforts in the Hemisphere. For more information on Dr. Nelson Arboleda's presentation, see document [GRIC/O.1/INF.44/23](#).

Remarks by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

The PAHO representative acknowledged the leadership of the U.S. government and the commitment of the member states and the OAS Summits Secretariat during the Ad Hoc working group discussions focusing on the development of the Health and Resilience Action Plan. She stressed that the health commitment document and Action Plan afford a unique opportunity to protect the region's public health gains acquired over the years, as well as to address the health gaps that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed, especially for the most vulnerable people.

Likewise, the PAHO representative, Ms. Mary Lou Valdez, Deputy Director, reiterated her support in the process to strengthen regional efforts being developed by the OAS and its member states to address common public health challenges, as well as her commitment to the successful implementation of the Summit outcomes, noting that this is taking place in a context in which countries continue to strive for post-pandemic recovery and reconstruction.

Comments by delegations

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Coordinator and Chair of the SIRG meeting opened the discussion on the Preliminary Draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience, congratulating the States for their collaboration in the process of forging the plan. He also stated that since the document would not be adopted by the Heads of State and Government but by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, he proposed changing the first line of the preamble from "We, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas" to "We, the participating States of the Ninth Summit of the Americas," at the recommendation of the Summits Secretariat.

For its part, the delegation of Canada emphasized its support for the language proposed by the Summits Secretariat to modify the first line of the preambular paragraph, noting that it is in line with its delegation's initial comments.

In addition, the delegations of Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Colombia indicated their support for the footnote in paragraph two of the operative clauses that refers to the expression of women and girls in all their diversity.

On the other hand, the Costa Rican delegation stated that the Costa Rican health service is universally accessible. Therefore, the Ministry of Health must provide free health coverage to all people, including migrants, in the country. Therefore, it suggested including the word coverage in paragraph seven in order to ensure coverage in border cities, explaining that Costa Rica cannot guarantee the implementation of actions and policies to ensure diagnostic capacity in border cities, but it can guarantee coverage.

In this regard, the Jamaican delegation clarified that the purpose of this action is not to guarantee but to increase efforts to jointly strengthen surveillance systems, health care services, and laboratory diagnostic capacity in cities on the border between countries.

Thus, it was concluded that paragraph seven would emphasize increased efforts to jointly strengthen surveillance systems, health care services, and laboratory diagnostic capacity, for example, through coverage in cities on borders between countries.

The Chair continued with the reading of the remaining paragraphs of the Preliminary Draft Action Plan. The delegations agreed on all the remaining paragraphs.

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

The Chair thanked the delegations for their contributions and announced that the Draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas would be presented for consideration and adoption by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on June 23 at the Ministerial Level Meeting of the SIRG, taking into account the fact that the Second Regular SIRG agreed on all paragraphs of the document at its meeting on June 12. The Chair also announced that a face-to-face session of the Style Committee would be held to ensure the consistency of the text in the four OAS languages.

The delegation of Peru acknowledged the work done by Dr. Nelson Arboleda to advance the negotiations of the Preliminary Draft Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas in a short period of time. It also congratulated the Chair and the Summits Secretariat for carrying out this process leading to the adoption of the plan at the SIRG Ministerial Meeting, as well as for the participation of civil society and the JSWG in the preparation of the document. It stressed that the Action Plan represents a roadmap for countries to begin implementing, especially at a time when health issues pose a challenge for all governments in the region.

The delegation of Paraguay asked about the date on which the agenda and schedule for the SIRG Ministerial Meeting would be circulated, and whether the approval of the Action Plan would be the only item on the agenda for that meeting. The Canadian delegation thanked the United States for its leadership in this process and asked whether the members of the Style Committee had been appointed.

In this regard, the Chair said that all delegations were invited to participate in the Style Committee of the Action Plan, and that he hoped that the adoption of this Action Plan would be the only item on the agenda of the ministerial meeting. The Chair stressed that these months of work had been characterized by a spirit of collaboration, thanked the delegations and the Summits Secretariat for their work, and acknowledged the contributions of the JSWG organizations, especially PAHO. The Chair also mentioned that leadership of the Summit Process would soon pass to the Dominican Republic.

The delegation of Guatemala expressed its appreciation for the work of the Chair of the Process and the Summits Secretariat, and that of the delegations of the countries for their contributions to the Action Plan, emphasizing that the efforts to come up with this plan would bear fruit, thanks to the implementation work to be carried out jointly with health institutions.

Finally, the Director of the Summits Secretariat, Ms. María Celina Conte, reiterated her recognition of the Chair's leadership in preparing the Action Plan, as well as the work and commitment of the States in this process, and announced that the Secretariat would make the Action Plan document and the draft agenda and schedule for the next SIRG meeting at the ministerial level available to the delegations as soon as possible.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m. on June 12, 2023.