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INTERVENTION BY COSTA RICA

(Ambassador Alejandra Solano Cabalceta)

- Mr. Chair,
- Friends of Summit Implementation
- Good afternoon:

Costa Rica expresses its gratitude for this Third Regular Meeting of 2023 of the SIRG, extends its most sincere congratulations to the United States for its exemplary leadership in this process, and thanks the entire staff of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat for their tireless efforts.

Recognizing that this broad space for "SIRG dialogue" encompasses many different aspects, we acknowledge and thank the voices of civil society and social actors, represented on this day through the Citizen's Forum of the Americas, the Business Dialogue of the Americas, and the Young Americas Business Trust.

This joint effort allows us to move forward more quickly towards sustained development, with a view of the future and with regional political commitment. There has been visible proof of this in this period in which we are obtaining concrete outcomes for our Hemisphere, such as the implementation of the IX Summit of the Americas, which can be seen in the "Report on the status of the Ad Hoc Technical Groups, participation and comments of the Joint Summit Working Group and Best Practices presented by the delegations", as we discussed months ago during the First Ministerial Meeting of the SIRG, during the General Assembly of this Organization.

Every commitment, every step forward counts, and solidarity among countries, the private sector, civil society, and academia is essential if we are to overcome these challenging times. That is why we recognize all actors involved in processes such as the "Plan of Action for Health and Resilience in the Americas", "Clean Energy and Digital Transformation", "Our Sustainable and Green Future", "Cities Summit", "Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance", among others of relevance.

In these spaces, during the last few months we have collectively discussed the challenges to democracy, human rights and security, equity, resilience, economic recovery, environment, digital transformation, migration and refugee issues, indigenous peoples, LGTBI people, population and inclusion, gender and youth issues, racism, religious freedom, climate change, investment attraction, citizen security, among many others, with local, national and even regional perspectives. And we hope, and we are at your service to continue addressing these important regional issues, along with others such as the current migration phenomenon, one of the most important issues to be addressed.

Mr. Chair:

This delegation would like to emphasize the "Plan of Action for Health and Resilience in the Americas," which has been of substantial importance to our country and has driven us to seek active participation in identifying solutions to the challenges in the region, focusing on the five major areas into which this plan is divided: promoting equitable access to health services and products, investing in health, strengthening emergency preparedness, addressing non-communicable diseases, and making appropriate use of technologies.

Likewise, we endorse the Cities Summit process, given that during the Ninth Summit in Los Angeles, Heads of State and Government considered that the best way to ensure more equitable and inclusive access to their citizens is through dialogue at the regional and local levels through their local governments, to create cooperation mechanisms that seek to improve public health, foster clean energy transitions, address environmental challenges, increase access to critical digital technologies and ensure security, working hand in hand with civil society, business, academia, youth, culture and the arts, and indigenous and other under-represented groups.

Costa Rica believes in and is committed to strengthening the capacity for influence in the Summits process and in the implementation mechanisms from the perspective of democratic institutions, together with political dialogue and diplomatic engagement within the Organization. We are convinced that the Dominican Republic will exercise great leadership that is proactive and constructive, and for this we once again express our gratitude and support for this positive action on behalf of the Americas. You can count on this Nation as your ally in the new cycle that lies ahead.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.