



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
Third Regular Meeting of 2023
October 30, 2023
Washington, D.C.
(hybrid format)

OEA/Ser.E
GRIC/O.3/inf.32/23
13 November 2023
Original: English

PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIR OF THE SIRG ON
THE STATUS OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL GROUPS

(Amb. Francisco O. Mora. National Summit Coordinator of the United States)

Moving on to the next item of our calendar, 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 leader's commitments are being turned into concrete actions.

The Chair has convened 13 SIRG ad hoc technical groups meetings so far, to build on our successes in Los Angeles and maintain the momentum on addressing some of the most pressing issues facing our region.

The Ad Hoc Technical Group on Our Sustainable Green Future has successfully convened three productive meetings. In the inaugural session, the group directed its attention towards the critical issue of safeguarding environmental defenders, recognizing their invaluable role in protecting our planet's natural resources.

Subsequently, the second meeting concentrated on the pressing matters of sustainable shipping practices and the preservation of fragile coastal ecosystems, addressing challenges and formulating strategies to mitigate their environmental impact.

The third meeting delved into the multifaceted realm of climate-smart agriculture, exploring innovative solutions and sustainable practices to enhance agricultural resilience in the face of climate change.

These meetings have provided a vital platform for the exchange of best practices and the sharing of knowledge among participating nations. They have served as a catalyst for the formulation and effective implementation of national plans in alignment with the goals of Our Sustainable Green Future. Moreover, they have played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration and coordination among nations in this field, encouraging joint initiatives and cooperation to collectively address environmental challenges that transcend borders.

Two other meetings took place in relation to the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance; the first focused on the challenges to democratic governance and the promotion of human rights within the Inter-American system, the second centered on efforts to combat disinformation, and the third, which is scheduled for next month, will focus on the protection of the rights of people of African descent.

These gatherings provided a platform for delegations to articulate the progress, obstacles, and endeavors undertaken by nations across our region, all aimed at the comprehensive realization of the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance.

I would also like to note that outside of the technical group meetings, many of us have worked together in the OAS to establish a new voluntary group of countries to support follow-up on the Inter-American Democratic Charter to reinforce democratic practices, human rights, and fundamental freedoms in the Americas. This was mandated by the June 2023 General Assembly, and is fully in line with the Summit Action Plan. The Voluntary Group will allow regional governments to better coordinate to ensure implementation of the Democratic Charter and the Action Plan through dialogue and partnership around democratic governance and accountability.

The Technical Group on Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition met on two occasions: a first meeting focused on presenting the JSWG institutions' energy transition financing programs and discussing the creation of enabling environments for clean energy investments, and the second focused on the development of green hydrogen and its potential in the region as one example of a clean energy technology that can be expanded in the region.

These meetings were key for building awareness of the various financing and technical programs available, providing contacts and connections to access those programs, exchanging best practices and knowledge related to the development and implementation of national plans in this field, and to coordinate joint actions.

The Ad Hoc Technical Group on Health and Resilience met periodically between early February and early June 2023 to reach a preliminary agreement on the Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas. The meetings and negotiations of the Ad Hoc Technical Group.

The Draft Action Plan focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and on strengthening the capacity and resilience of the region's health systems to cope with future outbreaks of infectious diseases and other health situations.

The document recognizes the sociocultural, economic, environmental, and structural challenges facing the Americas, as well as the global health and resilience commitments that states have assumed. It comprises five parts, each with several sections: (1) promoting equitable access to health services and products, (2) invest in health systems, (3) strengthen emergency preparedness, (4) address non-communicable diseases, and (5) leverage technology appropriately.

The Draft Action Plan on Health was adopted at the SIRG Meeting at the Ministerial Level chaired by Secretary of State Antony Blinken this past June, on the margins of the OAS General Assembly.

We look forward to continuing Ad Hoc Technical Working Groups in partnership with the Dominican Republic as Chair of the SIRG to ensure we continue to take collective action on the issues identified by our leaders as the most pressing challenges facing our hemisphere. Thank you all for your continued support and engagement.