



IX SUMMIT OF THE  
**AMERICAS**  
LOS ANGELES • 2022

**Civil Society  
and Social Actors'**  
contributions  
to the **IX Summit  
of the Americas**  
Process

(2021-2022)



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# **Civil Society and Social Actors’ contributions to the **IX Summit of the Americas** Process**

(2021-2022)





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# Table of Contents

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	<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Preparatory Phase of the IX Summit of the Americas</b>	<b>7</b>
	▶ National Dialogues between Civil Society Organizations, Social Actors and National Summit Coordinators	8
	▶ Recommendations presented at the Hemispheric Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and Government Representatives	14
	▶ First Summit of the Americas Model	42
<b>2</b>	<b>Official Activities for Civil Society and Social Actors within the framework of the IX Summit of the Americas</b>	<b>51</b>
	▶ Civil Society Forum	52
	Conclusions of the Thematic Working Groups of Civil Society Organizations And Social Actors	54
	Initiatives Fair	116
	Thematic Discussions	132
	▶ Recommendations presented at the Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and High-Level Government Representatives	138
	▶ Declaration of Commitment and Action Plan of the VI Young Americas Forum	154
<b>3</b>	<b>Recommendations from others Social Actors on the occasion of the IX Summit of the Americas</b>	<b>165</b>
	▶ Declaration of the Labor Movement of the Americas	167
	▶ Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples Summit of the Americas	175

## Table of Contents (cont.)

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- ▶ Founding Declaration of the “WE ARE WOMEN LEADERS” (SOMOS LIDERESAS) Regional Network on the occasion of the Civil Society Forum at the IX Summit of the Americas 178
- ▶ Message from the Second Interreligious Forum of the Americas 181

## **4** Road ahead 183

# Executive Summary

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During the 28 years of existence of the Summits of the Americas Process, the leaders of the Hemisphere have come together to reaffirm shared values, discuss common interests, and renew their commitment to a strong inter-American partnership to address challenges and focus their attention on pressing regional issues.

Over the years, the Heads of State and Government have recognized the importance of providing venues for civil society participation and have encouraged the Hemisphere's governments to cooperate with this sector in the formulation and implementation of development policies and programs. The Summits Process has therefore entailed the creation of venues for more substantial citizen participation in regional policy formulation. Thus, the Summits Process is, in essence, an exercise of democracy in which the concerns and aspirations of the Hemisphere's citizens are expressed. The active participation of civil society organizations and social actors<sup>1</sup> in the Summits Process is therefore fundamental. This participation takes place during the three phases of the Summits Process: prior to the Summits, during the Summits, and in follow-up to the Summits, thereby ensuring the active participation of civil society throughout the Process.

The Organization of American States (OAS), through the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in its capacity as the technical secretariat of the Summits Process, embarked on a series of initiatives aimed at promoting their participation in the preparations for the IX Summit of the Americas, under the chairmanship of the Government of the United States, to enable those voices to feed into the Process. These venues for participation provided an opportunity for civil society organizations and social actors to present inputs to government representatives of the

Americas to enrich the negotiation of the political commitments of the IX Summit.

Civil society organizations and social actors based their discussions and the drafting of their recommendations on the IX Summit's central theme, "*Building a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future,*" and its five (5) thematic pillars: Health and Resilience, Our Green Future, Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition, Digital Transformation, and Democratic Governance. Divided into five (5) thematic working groups, they spent several months in a virtual dialogue to prepare the contributions that they then presented to their government representatives. These exchanges between civil society organizations, social actors, and government representatives have become an integral part of the political dialogue in the Summits Process.

In this publication, the Summits Secretariat presents a compilation of the contributions submitted by civil society organizations and social actors during the preparatory phase, and during the official activities carried out on the occasion of the IX Summit — including the Civil Society Forum and the Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and High-Level Governmental Representatives — and at other parallel events organized by other social actors.

The Summits Secretariat is grateful for the support received from the participating countries of the Summits Process, the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), civil society representatives and other key actors in the Process who took part in these efforts, for their valuable contributions, and for the time dedicated to those consultations and discussions.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "social actor" includes representatives of academia, workers, youth, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendent communities, intercultural and interethnic communities, and the private sector, as well as individuals with a social role in their communities.





# Preparatory Phase of the IX Summit of the Americas

In preparation for the IX Summit of the Americas, spaces were provided for civil society organizations and social actors to present their priorities and concerns at the national and regional levels regarding the Summit's thematic pillars. This was achieved through the formulation of recommendations that were presented to government representatives in the framework of the negotiations prior to the IX Summit. These spaces included national and hemispheric dialogues, work in thematic groups, among others. The results of these initiatives are presented below.



**National Dialogues between  
Civil Society Organizations,  
Social Actors and National  
Summit Coordinators**

## INTRODUCTION

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in coordination with the Government of the United States as the host country and Chair of the Summits Process, organized a series of PrepTalks and National Dialogues with civil society and social actors as part of the IX Summit of the Americas preparatory process. Those events, consisting of virtual dialogues between civil society, social actors, and national government representatives, were held between January and May 2021.

First, the PrepTalks provided an opportunity for the participating civil society organizations and social actors to construct a common, unified vision about the main priorities in the individual countries and the region as a whole, taking into consideration the concept papers<sup>2</sup> previously distributed to the National Summit Coordinators by the host country. In particular, the sessions allowed participants to exchange ideas and thoughts and to agree on recommendations that were later presented to the National Coordinators and other government representatives at the National Dialogues.

The PrepTalks were held in 31 of the Hemisphere's countries<sup>3</sup> and were attended by more than 280 representatives of civil society and social actors from the Americas. National Dialogue sessions have been held in 17 countries,<sup>4</sup> attended by some 270 participants, and five additional dialogues are being organized.<sup>5</sup> The moderation of the National Dialogues was supported by representatives of the Citizen Forum of the Americas (FCA),<sup>6</sup> in recognition of its engaged work in the region, as well as by the coordinators of the National Anticorruption Hubs.<sup>7</sup>

The participants identified issues of common interest, problems, and challenges of concern to the citizens of the Americas. A summary of these issues is presented in this report, structured into seven dimensions: political and institutional, human rights and freedoms, social, economic, health, environmental, and digital.

## POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

In the political and institutional area, the civil society organizations and social actors of the Americas stated that implementing an anticorruption agenda was a high priority for the Hemisphere, in keeping with the mandates of the Lima Commitment. In this connection, they underscored the need for governments to respect and guarantee the independence of the autonomous bodies in charge of overseeing transparency and accountability and to ensure the separation of powers. They also stated that citizen participation played a key role in the oversight and monitoring of state actions, especially in the context of the pandemic, when opportunities for corruption have increased.

In addition, they highlighted the imperative of designing inclusive public policies in terms of gender and human rights, with an intersectional approach. Public policies must be designed in a nondiscriminatory manner, taking into account existing gaps and inequalities, in order to incorporate the most vulnerable populations into the social fabric.

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and with a view to strengthening the

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<sup>2</sup> The concept papers were prepared by non-governmental actors based in the United States and the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG). More information: [http://www.summit-americas.org/sirg\\_meet.html](http://www.summit-americas.org/sirg_meet.html). <sup>3</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. <sup>4</sup> The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Trinidad and Tobago. <sup>5</sup> Barbados, Canada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Venezuela. <sup>6</sup> The Citizen Forum of the Americas (CAF) is an exercise involving dialogue and constant articulation among civil society organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by REDLAD and the PASCA project, which works to enhance the participation and advocacy of its members at different forums including the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas. <sup>7</sup> National Anticorruption Hubs are a mechanism created by the Summits Secretariat that seeks to highlight the work of civil society organizations and social actors in the Americas in preventing and combating corruption, thus contributing to the pursuit of the mandates of the Eighth Summit. More information: <http://www.summit-americas.org/anticorruptionhubs.htm>.

democratic system and the rule of law, the representative of civil society and social actors stressed the need to implement policies that promote a culture of peace, citizen participation, and institutional strengthening. These, they said, would strengthen the mechanisms of democratic governance, which have been undermined by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Americas.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

In this area, reference was made to the need to ensure the protection of human rights and the freedoms that societies have secured. The values of humanity, respect for diversity, solidarity, and citizen participation were emphasized as key elements in achieving sustainable development. First, the participants noted their concern about the violation of labor rights, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic. For that reason, protection mechanisms for informal workers and the creation of decent jobs will be required, especially during the economic reactivation process.

Second, they emphasized the rights of vulnerable social groups, such as LGBTI persons, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrant populations, Afro-descendants, and others. In that area, the region's governments must undertake actions aimed at eradicating all forms of violence, exclusion, discrimination, and lack of opportunities to which those groups are exposed, as well as at guaranteeing their participation in the design of public policies.

Finally, they stressed that post-pandemic recovery agendas must guarantee and prioritize food security and access to safe drinking water for the entire population.

## SOCIAL ISSUES

In the social dimension, the participants highlighted

the importance of formulating public policies that guarantee children and adolescents access to quality education, in order to reduce existing gaps and positively impact the most vulnerable populations.

In a similar vein, they also noted the need to create comprehensive youth development programs focused on reducing unemployment rates among young people and discouraging them—especially those in vulnerable communities—from joining gangs or organized crime.

Finally, they stated that there had been an increase in violence against women in both the home and the workplace as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, public policies must be developed that guarantee effective and comprehensive protection against all forms of violence in a holistic and intersectional manner: for example, by providing victims with psychosocial and legal support, generating statistics, and organizing awareness-raising campaigns about this scourge.

## ECONOMIC ISSUES

The post-pandemic economic recovery was the central theme in the discussion of the economic dimension. The participants stated that reactivation strategies must be sustainable, inclusive, and equitable, and must incorporate an intersectional perspective.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), they highlighted the urgency of creating jobs, especially considering the high levels of unemployment in the region as a result of the socioeconomic crisis triggered by the pandemic.<sup>8</sup> Thus, they noted support for entrepreneurship, innovation, and MSMEs as fundamental pillars in creating more jobs.

Finally, the participants highlighted the need to establish and strengthen partnerships between governments, the private sector, civil society, and

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<sup>8</sup> According to the ILO's annual Labour Overview report for 2020, the unemployment rate in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020 was 10.6%, meaning that the number of people seeking employment but unable to find any was 30.1 million. The Organization also warned that the 2021 result could rise to 11.2%. To learn more about this report: [https://www.ilo.org/global/docs/WCMS\\_777630/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/docs/WCMS_777630/lang--en/index.htm).

multilateral agencies as a mechanism for post-COVID-19 recovery. They said that cooperation must be focused on fostering economic development and reviving the economy, as well as on building a digital economy.

## HEALTH ISSUES

The participants said that strengthening the Americas' health systems was essential, particularly in the current pandemic context. They therefore called to efforts to ensure that people's health is not compromised in future crises, with particular attention on the most vulnerable populations.

The main thrust of the exchange was aimed at the design of public policies to guarantee timely, free, and quality access to health services for the entire population, with a particular focus on mitigating the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and through an approach based on gender, inclusion, interculturality, and intersectionality.

In addition, the participants called for guaranteeing fair and stable working conditions for health personnel through the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) at medical centers and the improvement of those facilities. Another proposed action was the strategic reorientation of public budgets to ensure their effective use. For example, they recommended the development of open data systems through which the public can consult those budgets and see how they are managed.

Finally, they emphasized the importance of guaranteeing effective, free, and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, and of ensuring transparency in their purchase and distribution, in order to achieve immunity for the entire population of the Americas.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

In the environmental sphere, the civil society representatives and social actors stated that environmental sustainability policies must prioritize the strengthening of environmental governance mechanisms that guarantee citizen participation, access to information, access to environmental justice, and the preservation and protection of the environment. Improving and expanding participatory processes that include local communities and vulnerable populations in the development and implementation of local programs to mitigate the effects of climate change will bring those groups' experience and knowledge to the forefront.

They also said that economic reactivation policies must adopt a sustainable approach in pursuit of a green economy and must motivate the private sector to develop products and services in that direction. Similarly, the participants called on the Hemisphere's governments to further pursue the climate agenda—for example, by committing to the ratification of the Escazú Agreement<sup>9</sup> and to the attainment of the SDGs.

Finally, the transition of the energy mix toward renewable sources to reduce ecological footprints and decarbonize economies was deemed a priority.

## DIGITIZATION IN THE AMERICAS

The incorporation of new technologies in the various areas referred to above was a recurring element in the discussions. In the political and institutional area, civil society called for the implementation of open-government models that guarantee access to public information in a clear and truthful manner, allowing for effective social oversight.

In the social and educational spheres, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of adapting education systems to

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<sup>9</sup> Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement): [https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43583/1/S1800428\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43583/1/S1800428_en.pdf)

ensure digital literacy, combining traditional and virtual education methods. In order to transition toward such a model, tools and connectivity must be provided, with a view to reducing the existing digital divide. In connection with this, the participants discussed the vital importance of guaranteeing the population access to the internet.

Finally, the digitization process must include the development and adoption of cybersecurity policies to guarantee the protection of the population's personal data and regulatory frameworks that ensure a safe internet, paying particular attention to the protection of children and adolescents.

## **CONCLUSION**

There was broad agreement regarding the priorities among the governments and the representatives of civil society and social actors. Among the priorities for the upcoming Summit that found common ground were ensuring an inclusive and sustainable economic reactivation, strengthening health systems, bolstering democratic institutions, and advancing the anticorruption agenda.

The government representatives received the contributions of the civil society representatives and social actors, and they recognized that many of the matters discussed were also issues of concern to their states. It was also an opportunity for national governments to share the results of their efforts on various topics addressed in the dialogues and to highlight the importance of continuing to provide forums for dialogue and coordination with civil society and social actors in the run-up to the IX Summit.

The national dialogues generated frank and direct exchanges between both groups of actors, which is expected to contribute to the construction of a hemispheric agenda that reflects the reality experienced by the citizens of the Americas.





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# Recommendations presented at the Hemispheric Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and Government Representatives

## INTRODUCTION

On May 6, 2022, the host country of the IX Summit of the Americas, in coordination with the Summit of the Americas Secretariat, held the Hemispheric Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and Government Representatives to provide a forum for civil society and social actors to present their input to the countries participating in the Summits Process, via the spokespersons of each thematic subregional working group.<sup>10</sup>

The Hemispheric Dialogue was **livestreamed** on the Summits Secretariat Facebook page (SummitAmericas) so that the members of the

thematic subregional working groups and the general public could follow along.

The presentations made by the spokespersons of the thematic subregional groups are reproduced below:

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<sup>10</sup> For more information on the thematic subregional working groups, please access the following link: [here](#).



## A. HEALTH AND RESILIENCE



From left to right: Kendall Trapp, Sandra Cerrato (on screen) and Cecilia Navas with Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summits Coordinator.

### Presentation of the Working Group on Health and Resilience of Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States

#### Spokesperson:

**Kendale Trapp,**

Empower Yourself Belize Movement

Good morning to all. I am Kendale Trapp from Belize. Below are our proposals:

1. Number One: A synergetic approach is much needed for the Action Plan to work without ambiguity. Strategies are needed to improve access to health care services, telemedicine, and digital wellness, that will contribute to closing the healthcare gap. Governments, institutions, civil society, health care providers, and medical researchers could develop models for ongoing digital health wellness.
2. Number Two: The Afro-descendant and other ethnic groups, as well gender groups, must be assured universal health care coverage, comprehensive health care services with medical consultation at no cost, and perspective of life course. No one must be left
3. Number Three: When the burden of an illness exists in gender communities, a specific and nuanced consideration of gender is required. Also, an inclusive approach is needed to provide for the health care needs of migrants.
4. Number Four: Health is compromised when good indigenous agricultural practices are devalued; many nutrient plants with essential nutrients are not utilized. States should explore the traditional knowledge in biodiversity that come from indigenous and diasporic populations, and support mechanisms for knowledge transfer.
5. Number Five: States should develop policies to: increase delivery health care capacity for the vulnerable and marginalized; increase research and sharing improvements of the State health care systems; promote prevention and improve outcomes for the vulnerable and

other population sectors at risk; improve inter-governmental and subsidiary coordination with civil society and marginalized sectors.

6. Number Six: A commitment to medical research and health care measures for mothers and their unborn children is essential. A measure for the termination of the lives of unborn children is not health care.

## Presentation of the Working Group on Health and Resilience of Mesoamerica

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### Spokesperson:

**Sandra Rosaura Cerrato,**

Institute for the Sustainable Development of Lenca Women, Honduras

Today I would like to provide you with a brief summary of the civil society recommendations for the draft political commitment for the IX Summit of the Americas Health and Resilience Action Plan.

The Heads of State of the Americas will sign a commitment to an action plan to be executed from this year, 2022, until 2030. Civil society, governments, and private-sector companies will have to come together to execute the action plan, which will provide access to an efficient, resilient health care system for every single one of our communities.

COVID-19 showed our health care systems to be inefficient and unprepared for a pandemic. We cannot overlook the fact that during the COVID-19 pandemic we stopped providing care for chronic, communicable, and infectious-contagious diseases, as well as hormone treatments, including gender-affirming processes, and mental health care.

The Health and Resilience action plan includes:

Execution of leadership programs in sexual and reproductive health and family planning, based on

international standards for human rights in health; the programs will include nondiscriminatory care protocols for vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and victims of violence and sexual abuse, based on multilateral treaties for the protection of human rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the other inter-American instruments of protection that contain relevant principles and rights for LGTBI persons, with a special emphasis on the rights of children and family life.

In particular, we believe that all practices that modify the sexual characteristics of intersex persons without substantial medical reasons or full informed consent should be immediately reviewed.

Encourage the member states to create policies for domestic and foreign collaboration to develop resilient health care systems. Foster the member states' access to financing with transparency, auditing, and anti-corruption mechanisms to strengthen their public health care systems. Guarantee workers' rights for health care workers, pursuant to the ILO and international protocols on pandemics and endemics, to protect their lives and allow them to reach their full potential.

Health commitments should be based on a comprehensive perspective that encompasses the

health needs of all population groups without discrimination.

Transform health economies, making them engines of recovery and economic growth in the region, by promoting policies and thereby obtaining resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable health economies and ecosystems, and reaching the objectives set for 2030.

The commitment is presented not only to the governments of the member states, but also to the social groups, so that together we can ensure health care systems are in place for our populations.

## Presentation of the Working Group on Health and Resilience of South America

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### **Spokesperson:** **Cecilia Navas,**

Youth and Democracy in the Americas

Good morning honorable ambassadors, heads of delegation, Summits Secretariat, and everyone here today.

Health is a fundamental right that must be guaranteed by all the States of the Americas. I am Venezuelan, a resilient migrant, and it is an honor for me to be here today as spokesperson of the South America Health and Resilience Working Group, to present the recommendations that we have designed:

1. Develop a crosscutting action plan for 2022 to 2030 that will bring together a selection of international cooperation measures and initiatives with the following objectives:
  - Promote standardization of the regulations governing health care systems in the Americas by establishing national plans and public budgets as well as a multi-actor monitoring mechanism to provide effective, efficient, and inclusive health care services.

- Create the ideal environment for producing and marketing safe, effective, and high-quality medical products in the region, and adopt policies that support sustained, multisector participation, including of the health, science, technology, and industry sectors, while always ensuring transparency.
- Improve education and training for professionals in the fields of medicine, comprehensive public health, and biomedical scientific research.
- Ensure transparency in the States' timely supply of medications to the population to prevent budgetary waste resulting from poor administration of resources, and to confront corruption.
- Promote service models with a human rights perspective that are geared towards victims of trafficking and all types of violence, and that adapt to their specific needs.

The action plan will be drafted and implemented with input from the private sector, civil society, and other social actors, as well as support from the Organization of American States, Pan American Health Organization, Inter-American Development Bank, and other members of the Joint Summit Working Group and independent oversight agencies.

Accordingly, human rights must be the central pillar of all aspects of the action plan, which also must be inclusive of diversity.

This action plan is crosscutting and contains an inclusive perspective on resilience and the economic, social, and cultural needs of our communities as well as a differential and gender approach in order to prepare for and respond to current and future emergencies. It pays particular attention to the needs and challenges of vulnerable and historically marginalized populations.

## B. OUR GREEN FUTURE



From left to right: Sophia Lobo, Erick Serrano, Onika Stellingburg with Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summits Coordinator.

### Presentation of the Working Group on Our Green Future of Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States

#### Spokesperson:

**Onika Angela Stellingburg,**  
Guyana National Youth Council

We the members of the 'Our Green Future' Civil Society working group for Canada, the Caribbean and the USA, are grateful to the Organization of American States for the opportunity to work with our fellow CSOs to develop our recommendations and to present our report at this Hemispheric Dialogue.

We welcome the opportunity to provide further input and guidance into the management of valuable natural resources and human capital in our region.

1. In light of this, we wish to recommend the establishment of a 'Green Futures Working Group', to support cooperative green initiatives across the region by 2023, including the Western Hemisphere Convention for Nature Protection, 30 x 30, migratory species and shared habitats, agriculture, regional development environmental impacts and climate mitigation and adaptation, ocean health and green carbon initiatives.
2. The Green Futures Working Group will serve to build capacity for CSOs, amplify their voice, increase legitimacy, and allow them to pool resources, access valuable scientific and legal advice and funding and strengthen their resilience in the facing of persecution.
3. The OAS should commit to reviewing environmental legislation, strengthening rule of law, and encouraging member countries to enact laws to protect environmental whistleblowers.
4. On the conduct of EIAs, the OAS should work to review legislation and develop global best practice guidelines for the EIA process including consultation and serve as a coordinating body for the management of transboundary impacts.
5. Governments should ensure that the welfare

and livelihood of farmers; smallholders; micro, small and medium enterprises; indigenous peoples; Afro-descendants and local communities constitute a strategic force by creating incentives and opportunities for training and generating employment as the workforce transitions to the new green economy.

6. Special attention should be given to addressing the economic empowerment and inclusion of women and girls in the management of natural resources, growing their participation to 75% by 2025, to prepare them to become active leaders and decision-makers in the management of natural resources, deforestation, forest and land use and conservation.
7. We strongly encourage Governments to strengthen local and regional food systems networks and capacity to produce more of their consumable food and prioritize food security.
8. There should be greater effort to promote the inclusion of the private sector in the development and promulgation of alternatives to plastic in key industries and in incorporating design changes in plastic products to facilitate recycling, repair or reuse.
9. We note that to fully implement the Lima Peru Statement on gender equity and empowerment the OAS must begin the process of deploying working groups to further affect policy and culture change.
10. We encourage Heads of Government to commit to signing up to the Food and Land Use Coalition to ensure that financial flows and trade agreements do not support deforestation, and to create national legislation that makes it illegal for companies and financial institutions to fuel deforestation.
11. With the rapid development of the Oil and Gas sector in the SE Caribbean, the OAS member states should develop the oil and gas sector plan as a priority and commit to ensuring that the sector is consistent with Paris agreement goals and sustainable practices to mitigate climate change and to protect our blue carbon ecosystems.

## Presentation of the Working Group on Our Green Future of Mesoamerica

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### Spokesperson:

**Erick Serrano,**  
Social Actor

In view of the urgency of the climate crisis and the Hemisphere's vulnerability, the Mesoamerica Our Green Future Working Group urges the heads of state and government of the Americas to:

1. Promote the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, the national commitments on deforestation and conservation, and the regional work of eliminating deforestation and conserving ecosystems.
2. Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and the protection of natural and cultural resources and the habitats of indigenous communities, rural peoples, and Afro-descendants into all government actions that seek to combat climate change.
3. Eliminate deforestation in agricultural production and consumption through public policies, in collaboration with the production sectors, wholesalers, retailers, companies that sell commodities, and consumer organizations.
4. Enact laws with an intersectional approach that guarantee protection of environmentalists and take account of the violations and particularities faced by women and indigenous, rural, and Afro-descendent communities.
5. Support the agricultural sector with technical and financial resources to help it reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving agricultural practices, including through an inclusive, climate-smart approach that will reduce emissions and improve resilience to the effects of climate change.
6. Perform actions to decarbonize the Hemisphere's maritime transport sector and sea and river ports.
7. Incorporate climate risks into plans, policies, operations, and budgets on a permanent basis, to foster resilience in government action.
8. Ask the member states to implement the necessary changes to afford civil society organizations, social actors, and the private sector permanent representation on the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) and the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), and active and collaborative participation in the Summit of the Americas Implementation and Follow-up System.

## Presentation of the Working Group on Our Green Future of South America

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### Spokesperson:

**Sophia Lobo,**

Aula Abierta

Esteemed representatives of civil society, social actors, government representatives, and other attendees.

As representative of the South America Our Green Future sub-working group, I submit the following recommendations to the heads of state and government of the Americas, regarding the urgent need to conserve and restore the region's ecosystems:

1. Promote the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use and redouble efforts to work through the regional organizations in cooperation with civil society, academic and scientific institutions, companies, and other social actors to:
  - Develop, by the end of 2022, a national plan to achieve the target of net zero deforestation and emissions; conserve and protect 30 percent of the land and water by 2030 and fulfill the Bonn Challenge commitments.
  - This plan should be paired with a viable, transparent timeline to guarantee inclusivity and accountability to citizens for execution.
  - Protect indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, women, girls, campesinos, and other disadvantaged communities, as well as their cultural resources, by honoring the Plan for the International Decade for People of African Descent and the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032.
2. To decrease the amount of carbon emissions from land use:
  - Update the 2030 national contributions at COP27, according to the Paris Agreement guidelines and the Sustainable Development Goals.
  - Fully respect and guarantee environmentalists' security and lives, as per Escazú Agreement standards, by virtue of ensuring environmental crimes are duly prosecuted.
3. To take advantage of the power of the ocean and other bodies of water to mitigate climate change:
  - Support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by all sectors that generate large amounts of emissions, by improving climate-smart production practices and implementing the nationally determined contributions calculated for the 1.5 degrees Celcius limit.
  - Develop capacities to combat plastic pollution in all bodies of water through waste management, via exchanges among governments, civil society, universities, and other interested parties, to strengthen environmental research centers in the regions.
  - Make a coordinated effort to mitigate oil spills and wastewater discharges, and comply with international maritime environmental regulations.
  - Implement renewable energy sources, to decrease levels of environmental pollution.



4. To accelerate climate-change adaptation measures:
  - We urge the governments of the Americas to finalize, publish, and implement national adaptation strategies together with civil society, academic institutions, companies, local communities, and other social actors, as well as to commit to meeting targets.
  - Incorporate climate risks into sector budgets, operations, and policies.
  - Improve access to climate information to strengthen early warning systems in response to climate impacts in all sectors and at all scales.
  - Improve environmental education and training for the general population and for the parties responsible for formulating public policies, with an ethnic and sociocultural perspective.

## C. CLEAN ENERGY



From left to right: John Galvez (on screen), Danilsa Perez and Hernando Viveros with Kevin O'Reilly, U.S. National Summits Coordinator; Ambassador James Lambert, Secretary of Hemispheric Affairs; and Maria Celina Conte, Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat.

## Presentation of the Working Group on Clean Energy of Canada, Caribbean, and United States

**Spokesperson:**  
**Hernando Viveros,**  
Social Actor

Ladies and gentlemen, heads of delegation, ambassadors, Summits Secretariat, Summit Implementation Review Group, National Coordinator from the United States for the Summits Process, and my civil society and social actor colleagues, greetings.

Recommendations:

1. Implementation and ratification by all countries in the Americas of the Escazú Agreement, as a tool for protecting environmental democracy in the Americas. Protection of the right to life for environmental leaders and their organizations that care for and protect our environment and habitat.
2. Take note of principle 10 of the Rio+20 Declaration, and develop and implement an action plan to make progress on achieving a

regional agreement or other instrument that will ensure full implementation of the rights to access information, participation, and justice in matters of environmental issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. We call on the leaders of the countries of the Americas to take the measures necessary to reduce emissions, mobilize funds, and promote adaptation and resilience, as well as to submit ambitious CO<sub>2</sub> emissions-reduction objectives for 2030 that align with achieving net zero emissions by mid-century.
4. We recommend that the countries of the Americas speed up implementation and launch of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and subsequent agreements and conventions to protect the environment and consolidate global transparency and climate-change adaptation.
5. Adopt appropriate, effective measures to recognize, protect, and promote all the rights

- of human rights defenders in environmental matters, including their rights to life, humane treatment, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful association, and freedom of movement.
6. Draw up regional and country-by-country strategies with differential ethnic approaches for Afro-descendent peoples and indigenous communities, to promote sustainable development that respects their cultural identities.
  7. Guarantee land ownership for rural populations and implement payment programs for ecosystem services; support coastal erosion and forest management programs.
  8. Create trusts—with contributions from the public and private sectors — to finance climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and programs and new forms of clean energy.
  9. Ensure that the actors who implement projects in the region account for ethnic and racial factors in all the formats in which they gather information on climate change, including the Program of Activities for the Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice, and Development.
  10. Implement the COICA Declaration of the Indigenous Communities on the protection of 80% of the Amazon basin, and strengthen local and territorial governance systems.

## Presentation of the Working Group on Clean Energy of Mesoamerica

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**Spokesperson:**  
**Danilsa Maveliz Peña Medina,**  
Social Actor

Good morning and greetings to the representatives of the countries, especially the host country and the Summits Secretariat.

We, the social actors and civil society organizations, propose the following recommendations after studying the draft political commitment for the IX Summit of the Americas, Accelerating the Transition to Clean Energy, namely:

1. Phase down coal-power generation until 2025, and study options like natural gas;
2. Institute plans to provide public financing for clean energy generation projects;
3. Substitute coal and inefficient fossil fuels with clean energy technologies according to a plan and with private-sector financing;
4. Include all energy-sector actors to establish a consensus-based agenda for transitioning to clean energy;
5. Encourage the private sector and banks to provide financing for clean energy projects;
6. Promote policies that foster all clean energy sources (wind, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, biogas, biomass, mini hydro, geothermal), such as lower taxes, fewer costs on electricity bills, trade with nearby countries, training on the energy sector, etc.;
7. Foster public-private partnerships to stimulate more private-sector economic funds focused on clean energy;

8. Have the countries' public schools develop plans for electricity-sector training with a clean energy focus, so that young people can become clean energy professionals, and generate and contribute relevant innovative technological ideas;
9. Implement public policies to stimulate research on new technologies, to support the transition to clean energy; and lastly,
10. Foster economic conditions that will make it easier to access financing and work on energy projects.

## Presentation of the Working Group on Clean Energy of South America

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### Spokesperson:

**John Oswaldo Gálvez Maza,**  
Fundación Misión Verde

This summary on Accelerating the Transition to Clean Energy was proposed by civil society and social actors for the Summit of the Americas in the South America group, with the contribution of several participants from various organizations and countries. The Group believes that in order to accelerate the transition to clean energy, we must move towards a sustainable, safe, efficient, and competitive model that will make it possible to substitute the production of polluting energies like fossil fuels with clean energies, to promote decarbonization, energy efficiency, renewable energies, and the decarbonization of the economies. Other factors to consider in this regard include lowering deforestation rates, the use of chemicals in agriculture, and the culture of consumption and food. To that end, the Group recommends fostering efficient energy policies based on adequate planning to decarbonize the planet and the economies based on a fair and equitable distribution of the costs of climate action, meaning that whoever pollutes the most will pay the most and vice versa.

since in general the countries have significant photovoltaic and wind energy potential, and with existing technologies, we can install panels, wind parks, and other equipment that could be used to transition away from the current oil- and coal-based energy system. Furthermore, the proposal must be paired with commitments by the countries to, for example, make changes to their environmental laws and incorporate, into their constitutional frameworks, the strict control of natural resource management, oil and gas extraction, mining, solid waste management, ecosystem management, natural areas, and forestry. It should be emphasized that the policies must include subsidies, especially for proposals and projects that use clean, environmentally friendly energies, and that policies that gradually bring down the use of nonrenewable energies like fossil fuels should be generated.

Lastly, the commitments acquired at this Summit should be controlled, evaluated, and monitored, with annual measurements of each country's progress and transparent action plans for restoration and the mitigation of negative impacts from the use of oil, methane, etc. Technological equipment should be used to measure CO<sub>2</sub> annually, identify how many clean energy programs and projects have made progress annually, and how fuels are being

substituted, to achieve better control and efficiency in the energy transition in each country. This will make it possible to decrease global warming, eliminate coal energy project subsidies and financing, move to clean public transportation (electric cars) and obtain effective international financing for nature-friendly projects (clean energies).

## D. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



From left to right: Mariano Mosquera, Rommel Lopez and Francisco Barajas.

### Presentation of the Working Group on Digital Transformation of Canada, USA, and the Caribbean

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#### Spokesperson:

**Francisco Barajas,**

Latino Community Foundation

On behalf of the members of The Digital Transformation Regional Working Group which include Canada, the USA, and the Caribbean, I, Francisco Barajas, respectfully present our recommendations for The IX Summit of the Americas. The recommendations provided by our team are aimed at closing the digital divide and implementing regulations that will foster a safer cyberworld for all peoples of the Americas. In this manner, I propose three areas that governments must acknowledge in order to truly achieve transforming the digital world. First, elected officials should acknowledge the internet as a basic human right. Second, safety regulations and policies must be adopted to prevent AI discriminatory practices and to further protect human and privacy rights. And finally, governments must take preventative measures that protect against shutting down, blocking, or throttling the internet.

#### 1. INTERNET AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT:

A comprehensive human rights-based approach that strives at closing the digital divide will bring us closer to creating a more reliable and accessible broadband ecosystem. It is no longer effective to think of internet access in terms of affordability due to vast economic differences. In order to truly promote an inclusive digital society where everyone benefits, we implore governments to acknowledge the internet, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a basic human right. Governments must address barriers such as poverty, race, gender, educational attainment, and geographical locations that disenfranchise women and other groups by including fair and transparent market regulations, universal service requirements, and licensing agreements. In this vein, we also implore governments to work together to develop a Universal Declaration of Digital Rights.

## **2. ONLINE SAFETY REGULATIONS AND POLICIES**

Accelerating internet access needs to also be paired with security measures that protect individual user data and that prevent coding biases. Invasions of online privacy and data breaches violate an individual's human rights and leave them vulnerable to possible cybercrimes. Furthermore, online sexual exploitation and abuse particularly impact and violate the rights of women and girls. Private sector entities, as well as other stakeholders, must work alongside governments to safeguard against online violence targeting women and girls, LGBTQI+ people, migrants and refugees, and human rights defenders. This means adopting legally binding regulations and standards that govern information sharing and the protection of human rights. In addition, governments must administer and set guard rails for AI programmers to mitigate the risk of face-recognition discrimination and coding biases.

## **3. INTERNET SHUTDOWNS**

Finally, we strongly encourage governments to condemn internet shutdowns, particularly through country-specific statements issued during regional and international human rights platforms and sessions. Internet shutdowns trigger a number of consequences for local economies, e-government services, online public health portals, and the most mundane of tasks. States must build resilient cyber infrastructures by distributing more Internet exchange points, along with increasing the diversity of Internet connectivity at international borders to frustrate efforts of Internet shutdowns.

## Presentation of the Working Group on Digital Transformation of Mesoamerica

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### Spokesperson:

**Ronmel Lopez,**

White and Blue Support for Nicaragua

In Canada in 2011, the presidents of the Americas renewed their commitment to hemispheric integration and their national and collective responsibilities to improve the economic wellbeing and safety of our peoples. At the Ninth Summit of the Americas, the Digital Transformation project is a new political commitment to foster technological development in the member states that will benefit all of our peoples equally, in all areas of government, education, health care, manufacturing, communications, and entrepreneurship.

Today with the digital transformation plan we urge the member states to focus on the importance of establishing controls in the use of platforms to protect confidentiality, privacy, and personal data, and to prevent the use thereof for other purposes without consent, especially in countries with dictatorships where human rights are not respected.

**AFFIRMING** the essential role of resilient, dynamic digital ecosystems in supporting prosperous digital economies, by modernizing preparation for and the response to future climate events, health care, anti-corruption efforts, respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, elections, justice, and transparency; and paving the way for investment, improving the provision of public services;

**EMPHASIZING** that the coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) pandemic revealed the scale of the digital divide, highlighting the importance of Internet access, digital education, and access to public services, a virtual health consultant services portal, and broadband;

**RECOGNIZING** the need for closer regional cooperation that includes the private sector, civil

society, and other social actors to formulate policies for digital ecosystems that will enhance economic growth, regional competitiveness, and the responsible, ethical use of technology, without violating human rights;

We recommend facilitating universal Internet broadband access with competitive prices, and a transformation of digital government that will include open-signal telecommunications to all peoples of the Americas by 2030.

This action plan is a commitment in which civil society, private enterprise, and the States have the opportunity to work together to protect human rights and citizen privacy while spotlighting the economy, health care, education, and making our countries more competitive, as long as laws and agreements are established to protect citizen privacy in line with technological progress in our countries.



## Presentation of the Working Group on Digital Transformation of South America

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### Spokesperson:

**Mariano Mosquera,**

Catholic University of Córdoba

The civil society organizations and social actors of South America propose the following pillars in Digital Transformation:

Consider digital access to be a human right, with an open, interoperable, and secure internet network, and broad access to digital technologies, ensuring the digital inclusion of all members of society.

It is essential for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to establish specific standards for the continent that will ensure respect for human rights online, including the protection and privacy of citizens' personal data, and the right to identity, etc.

The digital transformation must pursue infrastructure coverage and digital literacy and communication programs, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups (rural areas, indigenous groups, elderly persons, Afro-descendants, migrants, etc.).

In particular, the digital transformation must put technology at the service of persons with disabilities.

In this context, it is fundamental to emphasize the central role of digital education, sensitive to gender and interculturality, in social inclusion and the effective exercise of rights, the universalization of the right to education, and access to knowledge.

Furthermore:

The digital transformation must promote transparency and accountability in the design and use of digital technology. This notably includes the responsible, ethical use of artificial intelligence, with the establishment of independent auditors.

Moreover, the digital transformation must involve the decentralization of data and information, to avoid the control and manipulation thereof.

We consider that enhanced open government practices should be fostered at all levels of government, with findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable open data, to guarantee the right to public information and encourage accountability. Digital transformation plays an important role in anticorruption issues.

The digital transformation must foster the creation of open-source tools and, further, develop an entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The digital transformation must help build an intelligent citizenry, focused on social innovation, as well as develop smart cities in which the efficient use of technology sustainably improves the quality of life.

In this framework, the digital transformation must take advantage of our new digital channels for democratic participation to favor improved allocation of priorities in public investments

One especially significant pillar for our organizations is that:

The digital transformation requires new regulatory frameworks and public policies with a clear gender focus to prevent digital violence and safeguard human rights, prevent polarization and demonstrations of authoritarianism, hate, discrimination, harassment, extortion, aggression, incitement to violence, and defamation through technologies, which affect individuals' physical integrity and mental health.

It is in this context that the digital transformation

must include regulatory frameworks that guarantee human rights in the access to justice, the judicial process, and digital justice mechanisms.

Lastly:

The civil society organizations and social actors of South America consider that the digital transformation, which is very dynamic, requires the ongoing monitoring of the digital transformation commitments taken on in the Ninth Summit of the Americas. Accordingly, we propose the creation of the Digital Transformation Observatory of the Americas, in which the public and private sectors, academia, and civil society organizations will participate.

## E. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



From left to right: Diana Silva, Luis Antonio Martinez and Gale Mohammed Oxley.

### Presentation of the Working Group on Democratic Governance of Canada, Caribbean, and the United States

**Spokesperson:**  
**Gale Mohammed Oxley,**  
Social Actor

#### ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED

Commitment is doing what you said you would do, after the feeling you said it in has passed. St. Camillus

Democratic Governance in the region of Canada, the Caribbean, and the USA has evolved into a showdown of might. Civil Society is being introduced as the other scale in measuring democracy as we address Human Rights, Transparency and Anti-Corruption, Citizen Participation, and Inclusion. Civil Society accepts the action plan with some additions to the commitments.

This working group wants the Summit to achieve strong and representative democracies where vibrant, diverse, and sustainable sectors of CSOs, NGOs and FBOs (not party groups) partner with Governments to achieve the goal of this work plan. Allocation of resources to foster sector capacity and

growth is an immediate must. The multinational funding partners must give access to local Civil Society for meaningful involvement that will make the projects launched with their loans/grants more likely to succeed beyond the government administration of the day.

Good character is the anti-dote to corruption. Our governments need to create mechanisms addressing issues of Human Rights, Transparency, and anti-corruption to include databases for follow-up action consisting of nonpartisan citizens and at least one judicial officer to oversee these platforms. Recommendations must use data-informed approaches to highlight the threat to democracy that social media platforms use to feed by spreading prejudices via misinformation and anti-democratic threats resulting in negatively changed behaviors.

Restating and revisiting commitments made re inclusion of the follow-up and implementation requires Civil Society to remind Governments of their responsibility to include everyone. OAS Nations must establish policies that remove barriers including those practices of colonial definitions and

legislative impositions that create discrimination and deter liberty of its citizenry.

Embrace the challenge to partner with non-partisan Civil Society as we move forward together towards the X Summit. Make this an achievable Summit.

## Presentation of the Working Group on Democratic Governance of Mesoamerica

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### Spokesperson:

**Luis Antonio Martinez,**  
Human Life International

Underscoring that civil society's participation and validation is essential to afford legitimacy to the States' agreements and democratic commitment, this Working Group proposes the following:

1. Guarantee the right to freedom of expression, association, assembly, and mobilization, based on the American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the countries' political constitutions, for the unrestricted and timely protection of journalists, social communicators, Office of the Ombudsman, migrants, environmentalists, and social actors, allowing them to do their work safe from criminalization, threats, and acts of repression against them or their families.
2. The States, in coordination with competent human rights organizations, must take all necessary measures to eradicate forced labor, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, harassment, and discrimination in the workplace, with the participation of civil society, community leaders, social actors, unions, and private-sector representatives.
3. Establish specific, effective measures to eradicate discrimination and violence and guarantee human rights and inclusion for all people, especially historically unserved and excluded populations.
4. Eradicate child abuse and sexual exploitation, forced marriage, and the trafficking of children and adolescents, by implementing laws, policies, and programs geared towards preventing, intervening in, and punishing behaviors that threaten their right to life, security, and humane treatment.
5. Guarantee and protect the right of peoples and indigenous, rural, and Afro-descendent communities to access land, territory, and a healthy, balanced environment, as well as their right to free determination.
6. Establish and implement social oversight or comptrollers that further the States' commitments to e-government and open government, which facilitate the prevention, detection, intervention, and punishment of corruption and foster progress on transparency in the hemisphere.
7. Promote and strengthen participative planning processes in the post Covid-19 pandemic and climate crisis recovery,

fostering best practices and providing the necessary resources for the population's wellbeing, digital access, employment, economic recovery and integration of families.

8. Implement the necessary changes so that civil society organizations, social actors, and the private sector will be permanently represented in the SIRG and JSWG processes, and will participate actively and collaboratively in the Summit of the Americas Implementation and Follow-up System.

9. Provide the States with technical assistance, so that they will allocate budgetary funds to executing the actions contained herein, and will carry out the necessary monitoring and implementation activities in this Ninth Summit.

## Presentation of the Working Group on Democratic Governance of South America

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### Spokesperson:

**Diana Silva,**

Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD)

Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance

**As civil society organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, we recommend the following:**

- Create an inter-American network of civil society organizations that will serve as an ombudsman and monitor compliance with the political commitments taken on by the States in this and future Summits of the Americas, and present an annual report to the SIRG and society.
- Agree, through a panel of experts, a regional definition of “alteration or disruption of the constitutional order,” to include the meanings of early warnings, demonstrations, and climate of citizen tension.

- Speed up recognition of refugees and applications for the right to asylum for persons seeking international protection.
- Make progress on establishing a migratory framework for the Americas that will make it possible to respond, with a human rights perspective, to challenges in matters of migration, refuge, and internal displacement.
- Develop an inter-American evaluation plan on the protection measures available for human rights defenders and journalists, and strengthen or create internal mechanisms for humane treatment.
- Foster the integration of vulnerable groups into the countries' elections processes, in particular, transgender persons, persons with disabilities, and elderly persons.
- Promote strategies to encourage the nomination of diverse candidates, especially from groups that lack political representation.
- Eliminate forced labor, child labor, all forms

of violence against women, LGBTIQ+ persons, Afro-American and indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, elderly adults, migrants, etc., as well as harassment and discrimination at work.

- Protect the rights of all women and girls in their diversity, including the right to live free from all forms of violence, through a new global treaty.

### **In transparency and anti-corruption matters:**

- Incentivize reporting and protect whistleblowers and identify and redress victims of corruption.
- Encourage and facilitate reporting of irregularities and acts of corruption, including money laundering.
- Implement and disseminate public consultations through accessible and user-friendly technological platforms, in legislative and policy-drafting processes.
- Promote gender equity and equality, women's participation and empowerment, and the inclusion of women and girls, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTIQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, and elderly adults, migrants, and vulnerable and marginalized populations in anti-corruption measures, from the planning process to implementation and evaluation.
- Guarantee policies, platforms, and tools for open, transparent, and accessible procurement and hiring processes.
- Strengthen international cooperation in combating corruption, and improve the exchange of information in investigating and prosecuting acts of corruption.
- Punish requests for and the acceptance of bribes and the bribing of national and foreign

public officials and employees of international public organizations.

- Create work groups with members of civil society and of the national legislative assemblies to monitor the recommendations made by the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC).

Include strategies for disseminating and providing training on the use of the proposed mechanisms, as well as the joint work of the SIRG, JSWG, civil society, and the private sector to evaluate the government's progress on implementing the action plan prior to the Tenth Summit of the Americas.

- Develop a multisector regional mechanism for open consultations and evaluations and periodic forums for communities regarding the plans and public policies to be implemented by the States.
- Redouble efforts to ensure inclusion and diversity in all aspects of governance, for example:
  - Increase the use of tools for integrating and including diversity, generating opportunities for all population sectors;
  - Help overcome social, cultural, and legal barriers to participation, enjoyment, and full and equitable economic opportunities.



De izq. a der.: Terry Dale Ince y Natasha Jiménez

## Presentation of the Citizen Forum of the Americas

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### **Spokesperson:** **Natasha Jiménez**

The Citizen Forum of the Americas is a civil-society platform for dialogue, participation, and advocacy in which with the State Department's support we have: (i) carried out over 100 activities to build civil society agendas, bringing together the voices of around 800 persons from 350 organizations in 15 countries of the region; and (ii) led, with the Transparency International chapters in the region, the follow-up processes for prior summits, for example through the Citizen Observatory on Corruption, which led to 19 national, two hemispheric, and five thematic reports.

As a forum for plural dialogue that has included diverse Latin American cities, indigenous nations, Afro-descendants, LGBTIQ+ persons and their organizations, religious actors and faith-based organizations, etc., we would like to offer some recommendations to close this pre-Summit dialogue, and to follow up on the agreements reached at the Summit of the Americas this year:

As regards the activities to be held in June, we

recommend:

1. That all agreements reached by the governments of the region:
  - a. Include the agreements reached by civil society and social actors in discussions of the problems, possible solutions, and other proposals;
  - b. Explicitly include diverse actors, including indigenous nations, Afro-descendent peoples, LGBTIQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, children and adolescents, and the elderly, among others;
  - c. Express respect for human rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights standards of protection;
2. Guarantee the minimal conditions for true dialogue between governments and civil society, such as the presence and participation of heads of state and high-level public servants during the civil society presentation, as well as methodologies that lead to a true exchange



- of ideas and solutions.
3. The mechanism for following up on the agreements reached must foster civil society participation, from a perspective of cooperation and not of competition.
  4. Forums for dialogue must recognize existing differences and serve as safe spaces for dialogue, free from all discrimination, in such a way that complexity and diversity will not infringe on the capacity to come to a consensus and then follow up, provide input and make unified demands on the governments.
  5. Follow-up must involve progress on creating forums for the exchange of multi-actor knowledge, and should also allow the organizations and work collectives to share their knowledge and experience, with an inclusive and intersectional viewpoint that is respectful of human rights.
  6. Follow-up must provide forums in which it will be possible to classify civil society's inputs and contributions, like training processes, diplomas, scholarships for leaders, etc., always with a view to peer training and multi-actor dialogue.
  7. Create and broaden forums for civil society dialogue and participation, with intersectional, differential approaches, not only guaranteeing the voices of the most vulnerable groups but also fostering the identification of joint agendas so that historically excluded populations can explain their initiatives.



## Presentation by Women's Organizations

### Spokesperson:

#### Terry Dale Ince,

Terry Dale Ince, CEDAW Committee Trinidad and Tobago

The idea that 'Women's Rights are Human Rights' was first articulated by abolitionists Sara Moore Grimke and Angelina Grimke Weld in the late 1830's. In 1993, forty-five years after the Universal Declaration on Human Rights was adopted at the UN and nine years after CEDAW entered into force, the UN Women World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna confirmed that Women's Rights were Human Rights. Women's organizations are again standing in solidarity and demanding the two 'Rs Resources required to ensure that women's rights are secured through policies, and Respect for all our contributions in all our diversity to building societies.

Women's organizations are encouraging governments to:

1. Recognize the legal and binding obligations of CEDAW, BELEM de Para, Montevideo Strategy, and other regional mechanisms of which governments have previously signed and ratified, doing the required due diligence such as timely country reporting and implementing non-discriminatory policies.
2. Leverage tools that are already available such as Gender Responsive Budgeting and Gender Responsive Recovery which are transformative and sustainable take include women's organizations meaningfully in the development and implementation of Gender Responsive Recovery.
3. Close the outstanding wage gaps that continue to exist in sectors, while addressing the informal sector which is overwhelmingly filled by women who work without any social mechanism such as health insurance or paid leave, rendering them vulnerable to any change

in the economy, such as climate or disaster, that significantly impacts their livelihood. A study done in 2019 estimated that for every hundred men living below the poverty line, there were 112.7 women living in the same situation. Existing structural barriers prevent women from achieving economic autonomy such as the sexual division of labor, where women have the greatest responsibility for the care of dependent persons. In 2018, more than 50% of women between the ages of 20 and 24 stated that their domestic burden was the main reason they did not seek paid work. To combine paid and unpaid work, they perform informal jobs, of great precariousness and low income: in that same year, 79% of women in the labor force in Latin America were concentrated in economic activities such as retail trade, domestic work, education,



Admin. The COVID-19 pandemic has widened existing gaps. Before the pandemic, 64.5% of women were in the workforce compared to 94.1% of men. For women living alone, without partners or dependents, the rate was 84.4%, compared to 92.6% for men. During the pandemic, 1 in 4 women in high-level positions were thinking about reducing their work responsibilities, taking a leave of absence, or leaving the workforce altogether, due to the overload of unpaid work. If before the pandemic, women spent three times more time than men in unpaid care at home, this use

of time increased during quarantine periods and interfered with the permanence of women in the formal and informal workforce. As a result, its unemployment rate remains high at 12.4% since 2020 and has not experienced a substantial improvement, widening gender inequality at work. Feminized Poverty.

4. Re-commitment to the leadership and participation of women and the representation of the women's agenda (Quebec City, 2001), which is under-represented as evidenced by the current low representation of women among the Heads of States and Government in the region. Strengthen policies to political parties include the full participation of women in the processes of selection and representation by promoting temporary measures that would result in an increase of women representatives in all our diversity.



# First **Summit of the Americas Model**



**SUMMIT OF  
THE AMERICAS  
MODEL**

The First Model Summit of the Americas, a joint effort by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the Model OAS Unit of the Organization of American States, was a simulation of the Summits Process in which university students represented the countries of the Hemisphere, regional and international institutions, and social actors involved in the discussions and negotiations culminating in the formal hosting of the Summit. This model sought to provide a platform for young people to participate in the Summit of the Americas Process and to engage them in policy dialogue, deliberation, and decision-making.

Students had a unique opportunity to discuss the real thematic pillars addressed by Heads of State and Government during the IX Summit of the Americas in June 2022, with a focus on *“Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future.”*

**Prior to the Model**, students learned about the assigned stakeholders and their positions on the Agenda of topics. Students also prepared speeches and interventions.



**During the Model**, students simulated the Summits Process. On the initial days of the Model, the Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) was held, in which National Coordinators/Head delegates gave their general statements (speeches) in the plenary. Students were next divided among the five thematic working groups, where they brainstormed and drafted proposals on strengthening the Draft Political Commitments for the IX Summit. Presentations in each working group were made by OAS experts on the thematic areas. After the proposals

were drafted, they were presented and debated in the plenary session of the SIRG, which took place on the final day of the Model. During the plenary session of the First Summit of the Americas Model, the approved proposals were presented, and the heads of delegation offered remarks before proceeding to vote.

The Model contributed to enhancing students' preparation as future leaders and their commitment to ensuring the progress of their countries and region, while also highlighting the relevance of diplomacy as a problem-solving instrument.

Below are the outcomes of the First Summit of the Americas Model:



## I. ACTION PLAN ON HEALTH AND RESILIENCE IN THE AMERICAS

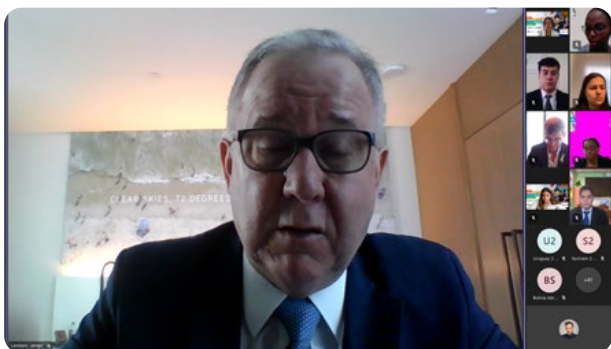
### The Path to Achieving Health Resilience in the Americas

This proposal, presented by Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil, was approved on June 3 by all the delegates participating in the First Model Summit of the Americas.

### We, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, commit:

1. To establish a working model, achievable through collaboration, for universal healthcare that is inclusive to all states within the Hemisphere that can be implemented by 2030.

2. To evaluate the effects of the ongoing pandemic on efforts to strengthen the healthcare sector, including mental, social, and physical healthcare, at the community, national, regional, and hemispheric levels, paying close attention to the unique challenges faced by vulnerable marginalized groups including women, youth, elderly persons, LGBTQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, members of indigenous communities, and members of racial, ethnic, and religious minorities.



3. To implement management techniques that ensure states' preparedness using comprehensive blueprints for possible future health crises and unforeseen natural disasters by:
  - a. Deploying measures to implement and maintain cost-effective strategies across all American states via collaboration.
  - b. Making evidence-based recommendations in cooperation with trustworthy officials by including medical personnel, state ambassadors, minority group representatives, and experts from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).
  - c. Collaborating with indigenous communities to ensure sustainable food security for the wider populations by using strategies that are compatible with care and respect for the environment.
  - d. Working to ensure the creation and allocation of alternative sources of energy capable of

supporting affected social, physical, and mental healthcare facilities.

- e. Enacting legislation that regulates the financial impact on the population through subsidies provided by both the private and public sectors of the Hemisphere.
4. To implement a Inter-American Health Promotion Strategy that focuses on creating partnerships with international actors and organizations to establish sustainable health infrastructure by:
    - a. Strengthening relationships between the Organization of American States and the health industry vis-a-vis PAHO.
    - b. Establishing partnerships with institutions like the Global Health Advocacy Incubator, which aims to combat systemic, non-communicable diseases like obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and adverse behavioral habits like alcoholism and smoking.
    - c. Incentivize and help fund start-ups that focus on biomedical advancement, health technology, telehealth, and health-related artificial intelligence technology through international lending groups like the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) and lobbying groups to create a diversified and resilient economy capable of supporting it. Also, include a mechanism that would incentivize multilateral investments in implementing universal healthcare in developing nations.
  5. To strengthen social protection across the Americas and build trust in the health care systems' effectiveness, focus on meeting the basic needs of vulnerable populations to provide equitable conditions for addressing health challenges by:
    - a. Providing monetary assistance to people whose livelihoods have been directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including,

- but not limited to, low-income informal workers, self-employed persons, individual micro entrepreneurs, women in vulnerable situations, elderly groups, indigenous peoples, and all other minority groups.
- b. Providing financing and side-by-side support so that low-income families can access adequate housing and be involved in the construction process, in view of the fact that a lack of decent housing has a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of a person.
  - c. Ensuring adequate mental health support to people who have been physically and mentally affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and by other systemic, non-communicable diseases that can have harsh impacts on individuals.
  - d. Address the inequalities outlined in Commitment 2, in order to take an equitable and collaborative approach to marginalized groups.
6. To strive for and strengthen education provided to governments and the public on general health matters in order to create sustainable and long-term health solutions by:
- a. Signing a memorandum of understanding with universities across the region to create exchange programs, in collaboration with PAHO, to develop the hemispheric health sector.
  - b. Working in health facilities located in developing and low-resource countries that are part of their own healthcare systems.
  - c. Educating the public on the importance of exercise, diet, and the consequences of smoking and alcoholism to combat non-communicable diseases that are common in the region, like obesity, cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases.
  - d. Ensuring that the necessary health information is available to indigenous communities in their native language, as well as ensuring that other minority groups have access to all relevant educational information.
  - e. Ensuring that the necessary health information is available to indigenous communities in the developed world in order to better inform their medical practices, while respecting each others' practices and cultures.
  - f. Investing in think tanks, universities, or other hemispheric research organizations that can research and publish more data and statistics, especially for Caribbean countries, as there is a large disparity in data utilization.
  - g. Ensuring that health information is available across communities in partnership with PAHO.
  - h. Educating citizens on how to create and maintain self-sustainable agriculture to reduce dependency on imports and improve food accessibility.

## II. OUR GREEN FUTURE

This proposal, presented by Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Cuba, was approved on June 3 by all the delegates participating in the First Model Summit of the Americas

### **We, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, commit:**

1. To promote sustainable tourism throughout all sectors of the hospitality economy, including:
  - a. Sourcing food responsibly:
    - i. Hospitality institutions must focus on purchasing food from local farmers, decreasing transportation costs and

- emissions while supporting local economies
  - ii. Promote food transparency between producers and consumers
- b. Limiting food waste:
- i. To remove “hospitality,” as it is not just hospitality institutions that contribute to the abundance of unutilized food waste.
- c. Sustainable wildlife viewing:
- i. Create sanctuaries for endangered wildlife species and promote and develop existing sanctuaries, creating them where needed for endangered wildlife species.
  - ii. Create safe and interactive engagements between tourists and unique biodiversity throughout every country.
  - iii. Educate citizens on the importance of preserving wildlife diversity, as well as the importance of each species.
2. To establish a local and urban farming initiative called “Cultivos Alegres” under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to promote:
- a. aquaculture (fish farming), hydroponics (growing plants in a nutrient solution without soil), indoor vertical farms, urban beehives, and other urban farming methods within cities
  - b. The use of organic pesticides and soil enrichment on rural farms
  - c. Crop diversification among rural farmers
  - d. Farmers’ resilience to natural disasters and climate change effects
- e. Utilizing the abundance of existing food waste to develop composting practices to ensure sustainability of local agriculture.
- The “Cultivos Alegres” initiative aims to
- i. Feed local communities that do not have access to affordable, healthy food
  - ii. Produce local and sustainable protein
  - iii. Address the issue of population growth and wealth inequality in urban areas
  - iv. Reduce the economic costs and environmental impacts associated with food product transportation
  - v. Reduce the water footprint through water recycling
  - vi. Reduce wild-catch fishing and decrease the rate of overfishing
  - vii. Promote local job growth, social entrepreneurship, and local economic development within rural areas
  - viii. Spread nutrition education
3. To develop an investment plan in conjunction with the FAO, with each delegation developing projects aimed at promotion, education, cleansing, and rescue of their local environments.
- a. This proposal will be applied within each country’s domestic policies such that their governments may adapt it as best they see fit for their states’ economy and environment.
  - b. As each and every OAS member has ratified the Sustainable Development Goals, this proposal will contribute to SDG #13, specifically in terms of taking the efficient actions recommended by the UN



Secretary General, which refer to “investing into sustainable solutions regarding the environment.”

- c. Designate specialists from rural areas that belong to the minority groups inhabiting them, as requested by the OAS.
4. To promote environmental governance in the region in order to adapt the political, economic, cultural, and social sphere to the environmental objectives related to sustainable consumption and production, ecosystem management, conservation of species, and climate change mitigation of each OAS member state.
  - a. The implementation of environmental governance will give governments an opportunity to take a green approach, which will help them develop better environmental policies. Environmental governance will help to strengthen how states, the private sector, NGOs, and civil society get involved in climate change mitigation and look towards a more sustainable future, knowing the impact that each of them has on climate change.
  - b. Environmental governance will lead states to get involved in addressing the environmental challenges that may affect the Americas and the Caribbean region.
  - c. The OAS will create a sub program to provide technical assistance to strengthen and enhance governments' capacity to implement environmental governance in their territories and keep track of each country's progress.
5. To promote collaboration between governments and the private sector.
  - a. Governments will commit to offer incentives through cautious fiscal policies to big agricultural industries and companies to significantly and progressively decrease CO<sub>2</sub>

emissions and care for the soil where they operate to prevent erosion.

- b. Governments will commit to implementing a carbon emissions tax for the big industries that contribute the most pollution, so as to create a monetary fund to be used to develop policies for small farmers and bring technology to the countries involved.

### III. ACCELERATING THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

#### Expanding Clean Energy in the Americas

This proposal, presented by El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, and Haiti, was approved on June 3, 2022, by all the delegates participating in the First Model Summit of the Americas.

#### **We, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, commit:**

1. **To diversify** member states' energy sectors by using various forms of renewable energy. We are dedicated to shifting public fiscal policy initiatives toward developing renewable energy production and storage technologies. We commit to increasing regional green energy production to 75% by 2030. To achieve this, we commit to using eco-friendly energy, including, but not limited to, solar power, wind power, biofuels, geothermal power, carbon capture technology, and nuclear energy, as states are able, according to their economic situations. We additionally acknowledge the vulnerabilities posed by overreliance on a single form of energy.
2. **To expand** regional integration through energy sharing among member states. This shall be implemented through cooperative production of renewable energy by member states sharing land borders, including, but not limited to, wind farms, solar farms, expanded grid sharing, and excess energy transfers. We urge member states to take part in developing renewable energy production, sharing, and transfer across the region, leading to lower

prices so power can be offered to individuals at fair and affordable prices.

3. **To strengthen** the ministries for environmental affairs, dedicated to monitoring the implementation of these policies, as far as specific funding rates, mechanisms to create circular economies, and other future challenges. We commit to establishing regulatory bodies to prevent price gouging, lowering the cost of a green transition and expanding access to energy for low-income communities. We will support retraining programs for those affected by displacement. We will work on developing efficient energy storage technologies.
4. **To ensure** adequate funding for renewable energy projects in each member state. To do so, we commit to limiting the disproportionate economic impact that the transition to a renewable energy economy may have on marginalized communities throughout the Hemisphere. We further commit to developing cautious fiscal strategies that incentivize private institutions to transition away from nonrenewable forms of energy. We commit to partnering with multilateral and civil society organizations and international philanthropic institutions to finance these green energy projects, to alleviate the financial burden of this economic transition on indigenous nations in the Hemisphere.
5. **To create** circular economies. In doing so, we commit to using domestic resources in the production of green energy, with a special emphasis on sustainable waste management and recycling where states are able. We commit to developing a variety of new jobs in an accessible manner for those displaced by the transition.
6. **To implement** education programs to advance the understanding of renewable energy. This includes careful consideration of the OAS commitments found in the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to ensure meaningful consultation

with indigenous communities. In addition, we commit to developing long-term education programs to prepare the workforce for the green energy transition that will expand sectors such as technology, management, and manufacturing. Finally, we commit to engaging the Secretariat from the Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment of the OAS, in order to have an entity responsible for the correct and transparent implementation of this program.

#### **IV. REGIONAL AGENDA FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

This proposal, presented by Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru, was approved on June 3, 2022, by all the delegates participating in the First Model Summit of the Americas.

#### **We, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, commit:**

1. To facilitate progressive broadband Internet access through the creation of “e-Americas” focused on increasing access, reducing the cost of telecommunications services in rural areas, and, therefore, reducing the digital gap in the Hemisphere.
2. To promote digital literacy skills by creating a teaching volunteer program across the hemisphere, both where the “e-Americas” program has been recently implemented and where the population has little or no knowledge on the use of technological tools.
3. To sign a memorandum of understanding between academia and member states to create student projects to teach the digital literacy mechanisms they are proposing.
4. To suggest the creation of a program called the “Vulnerable Society Inclusion Program,” focused on equality, where young people who live in communities would be trained on digital transformation to achieve inclusion and respect for human rights.

5. To create a cybersecurity system as integral to the above proposals, managed by the respective states and coordinated with international organizations to contract specialists and teams to protect the efforts stated in these clauses from cyberattacks.
6. To open opportunities for businesses, particularly small and medium-sized businesses, to engage in e-commerce and use digital technologies and logistics services to improve their operations.
7. To promote safe online behaviors and practices and educate people about cyber threats and Internet safety by creating an awareness campaign project.

## **V. INTER-AMERICAN ACTION PLAN ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

This proposal, presented by Suriname, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela, was approved on June 3, 2022, by all the delegates participating in the First Model Summit of the Americas.

### **We, the Heads of States and Governments of the Americas, commit:**

1. To further support for the Inter-American Democratic Charter (IADC) by expanding on projects to provide training while on site with local states, NGOs, and relevant research centers that focuses on good governance, transparent administration, democratic values, strengthening political institutions through social equality reinforcements, non-discrimination, and freedom of speech, with respect and improvement. We suggest that the program report every two months to the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy, which the executive office will distribute as applicable. We are fully aware of the continued promotion of democratic culture in our region through programs and activities designed to promote democratic principles and practice and strengthen the democratic culture in the Hemisphere. Emphasizing good governance and democratic values and creating political institutions is how this objective can be achieved.
2. To call on member states, as a body and independently, to implement and strengthen a regional framework for fair and impartial electoral processes. Member states should allow for better participation of voters and commit to further building democracy. We propose member states create policies that allow previously incarcerated individuals the opportunity to vote. We also advocate for more voter education; member states should develop strategies aimed at educating their populations on the importance of voting and their rights as voters. By incorporating children's voting into every school curriculum to teach school-aged children about the voting process, they will be more likely to vote upon reaching the required voting age. This supports the IADC and the mechanisms outlined therein.
3. To promote forums and dialogues to facilitate the process of social participation. We propose creating an interactive application connected to local governance institutions as a focal point for establishing forums and dialogues between the government and social actors, including underrepresented and marginalized populations. We also commit to ensuring government accountability and effectiveness with the support of independent agencies.
4. To reiterate our commitment to anti-corruption practices and institutions, reaffirming the Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance of 2018. We call on member states of the OAS to recommit to the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC). In coordination with local anti-corruption entities and institutions, it would promote and oversee the establishment of anti-corruption practices and processes within the member states. The government can be made more transparent

by holding claims and promises made by politicians to greater scrutiny.

5. To call for greater and more thorough communication between member states and to eliminate the electoral practices that might result in the political disenfranchisement of a certain segment of a country's population. States should advocate for more transparent governments where promises are held accountable. Additionally, continuing education should be provided so people can be made aware of their rights. More thorough communication can be encouraged with monthly or annual meetings among the OAS representatives of each member state. States should establish safeguards against unfair elections, such as having a neutral state representative or OAS-approved official restricting mass disenfranchisement of a particular group by the government. This is to restate the principles and mechanisms outlined in the IADC.
6. To follow the acceptance of the proposal of the Democratic Governance Working Group, the OAS member states should provide evidence of the adoption of the aforementioned points within six months. The Republic of Uruguay, Suriname, Venezuela, and the United States of America commit to overseeing the process of providing evidence by the OAS member.

## Official Activities for **Civil Society** and **Social Actors** on the occasion of the **IX Summit** of the **Americas**

In the days prior to the IX Summit, a series of activities were held with different actors, such as Civil Society, Youth, and other social actors. These activities were aimed at promoting greater dialogue between High-Level government officials and civil society of the Americas to address the challenges and opportunities of the Hemisphere, such as social inclusion, economic recovery, climate change, democracy, and digital transformation.



Scan code to watch  
the opening session



# Civil Society Forum

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The Government of the United States, as host country, in coordination with the Summits Secretariat, organized the **Civil Society Forum and the Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and High-Level Government Representatives** from June 6 to 8, 2022.

The Civil Society Forum provided a space where civil society organizations and social actors could agree on recommendations in their thematic working group meetings<sup>11</sup>, talk with experts on the thematic pillars of the IX Summit and related topics from different perspectives, and present the initiatives they are implementing and that are related to the thematic pillars of the Summit at a Fair.

The recommendations formulated during the preparatory phase were finalized during the meetings of the thematic working groups within the framework of the Civil Society Forum, and then presented to the High-Level government representatives during the Dialogue, held on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Next, please find an infographic that explains the participation process leading up to the IX Summit, followed by a description and the results of each activity.

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<sup>11</sup> Within the framework of the IX Summit Process, 15 sub-regional thematic working groups were established. These groups are composed of civil society organizations and/or social actors from each subregion of the Hemisphere (*Canada, The Caribbean, United States, Mesoamerica, and South America*); working on the core themes of the Summit (*Health and Resilience, Our Sustainable Green Future, Clean Energy, Digital Transformation, and Democratic Governance*). For more information on the thematic groups, [click here](#).

ROAD TO THE

# IX Summit of the Americas

▶ June 6 - 10, 2022

Building a **Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable** Future

5 topics



Health and Resilience in the Americas



Digital Transformation



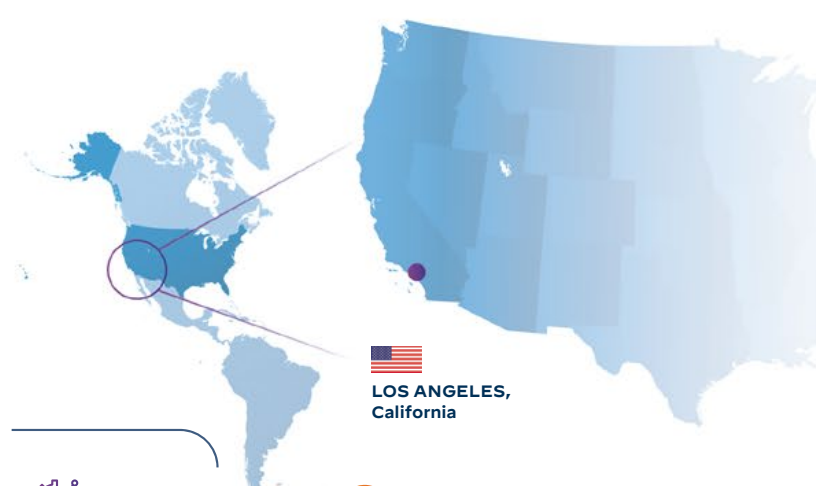
Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition



Our Green Future



Democratic Governance



LOS ANGELES, California

How do **Civil Society Organizations** and **Social Actors** participate?

## 1 Members of the sub-regional thematic groups



**Virtual sub-regional thematic working groups** in the preparation phase of the IX Summit

**+1,200 REGISTRATIONS**

**Formation of the 15 self-managed groups** organized by **3 subregions** and the **5 topics** of the IX Summit



- Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States
- Mesoamerica
- South America

### VIRTUAL DIALOGUE

in order to **formulate concrete, clear, and viable recommendations** for the consideration of the participating states of the Summits Process.

APRIL 22 DEADLINE

### PRE-REGISTRATION

**to participate in the in-person activities** within the IX Summit's framework

If you are a **member of the sub-regional thematic working groups**, you must register in the pre-registration for the in-person activities to attend the activities within the framework of the IX Summit.

APRIL 22

**Rapporteur/representative confirmation** of each working group

APRIL 29

**Submission of the first progress report** on recommendations by each thematic subregional group.

MAY 5-6

### HEMISPHERIC DIALOGUE

MAY 25

**SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL REPORT** OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

## 2 General Participants



**Pre-registration to participate in the in-person activities** within the IX Summit's framework

APRIL 22 DEADLINE

### PRE-REGISTRATION

**to participate in the in-person activities** within the IX Summit's framework

- Selection
- Approval

### ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IX SUMMIT



- **Civil Society Forum**  
JUNE 6-7
- **Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and High-Level Government Representatives**  
JUNE 8



Conclusions of the Thematic  
Working Groups of Civil Society  
Organizations And Social Actors

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# **Recommendations of the Thematic Working Group on Democratic Governance**





During the opening session, from left to right: Ambassador James Lambert, Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs; Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS; Brian Nichols, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs of the United States; Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS; and María Celina Conte, Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat.

## Working Group on Democratic Governance of Canada, the Caribbean and the United States

The active participation in this working group was limited to eleven (11) people. The understanding of the purpose of the working group's intention to discuss actions towards implementing the region's shared commitments on democracy, transparency governance and good regulatory practices, anti-corruption, human rights, rule of law, etc. was discussed and the draft commitment under general view was accepted to include the following:

1. In strengthening regional cooperation in support of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, Civil Society can place emphasis on and serve as a non-partisan early warning system on potential alterations and disruptions of the democratic order.

**Recommendation:** Establish prior to the X Summit of the Americas a regional mechanism to evaluate and address emerging

threats to democracy, including but not limited to:

- a) Digital Platforms which alter individual and group behaviors in a way that exacerbates in-group and out-group based divisions;<sup>12</sup>
  - b) The ways in which digital platforms encode algorithms and feedback loops that amplify concepts that seek to undermine democratic institutions by spreading misinformation, enhancing polarization and divisions which label fellow citizens and stakeholders as legitimate participants in democracy.
2. The flow of funding through a government that can minimize the available amounts or leave them to be disbursed on political agenda instead of merit or need.

<sup>12</sup> Strengthening PASCA to include the sub-region of Canada, the United States, and the Caribbean, and bringing PASCA under the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

**Recommendation:** OAS nations make commitments to work with local groups to develop multi-year plans fostering sector capacity and growth via multinational funding beyond the government, immediately within two years of the IX Summit<sup>13</sup>.

3. Creation of platforms (databanks) to achieve the objectives in Human Rights, Transparency and Anti-Corruption, and Citizen Participation with a steering committee for each point. Mechanisms to address conflict of interests need to include sanctions with the oversight body being non-partisan and including at least one judicial officer to prevent corruption from becoming a virus.<sup>14</sup> Allow easy reporting, freedom of the responsible press, whistleblowing protection legislation, security systems to protect those willing to come forward including sanctuary where possible, and evidence demonstrated by a record of convictions for those involved in fraud and corruption.

**Recommendation:** Immediately, create mechanisms addressing issues of Human Rights, Transparency, and anti-corruption to include databases to include nonpartisan citizens and at least one judicial officer to oversee these platforms. This oversight body can be established within 5 months post Summit with the capacity and training required to manage and administrate same. Invite recommendations and support from expert organization to help governments protect against digital threats to democratic processes.

4. Groups impacted by policies should be included in all discussions pertaining to their issues taking into account their differentiated needs, including but not limited to increased care burdens, physical safety, lack of digital access, and access to employment and other

economic opportunities. Contributions need to be transparent, level of consequences established and monitoring of implementation of the agreements be open. Concrete actions must be taken in coordination with civil society to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence against women including increasing access to information pertaining to gender-based violence, combatting gender stereotypes and harmful practices, and increasing access to justice. Maintain the disability community on all platforms, ensuring information is related to all formats –ASL, etc.

**Recommendation:** Governments are to include groups impacted by policies pertaining to their social welfare in all discussions having all contributions monitored under a level of consequences agreed upon by the parties involved including gender-based violence re honoring the Convention of Belem do Para. This is to be on-going as a change in the implementation process and must be accompanied by on-going outreach, ensuring community leaders are directly involved. To be implemented by or before the X Summit.

5. The continuation of stereotypes and harmful practices, barriers to accessing markets and credit, land tenure rights (including for indigenous peoples), access to natural resources, all types of discrimination in hiring and employment. Consultation processes must meaningfully include groups impacted by decisions on law, policy, and programs, taking into account their different needs [...] opportunities. These processes must follow good practices with timely provision of information, multiple methods of information and clear and accessible reporting.

**Recommendation:** OAS Nations must establish policies that remove barriers

<sup>13</sup> Community leaders need to be involved at every level of planning and implementation in matters related to their development.

<sup>14</sup> Good character fueled by Faith, Hope, Charity/Love, Humility, Perseverance, Patience and Obedience is the antidote to corruption.

including those practices of colonial definitions and legislative impositions that create discrimination. Open financial corridors to accommodate full and equitable economic participation of all, especially women, while reflecting Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. To be implemented by the X Summit and on-going.

Democratic Governance in the region of Canada, CARICOM and USA has evolved into a showdown of might. Civil Society is being introduced as the other scale in measuring democracy as we address Human Rights (liberty), Transparency and Anti-

Corruption (Social Justice and Peace), Citizen Participation and Inclusion (Equity). Civil Society accepts the action plan with some additions to the commitments.<sup>15</sup>

## Working Group on Democratic Governance of Mesoamerica

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### GENERAL PROPOSALS

#### 1. CHANGES TO THE DRAFT ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE.

Recalling the 2001 Declaration of Quebec City, which affirms that maintenance and strengthening of the rule of law and strict respect for the democratic system are, at the same time, a goal and a shared commitment, we ask and propose to the governments of the Americas to modify the text of the Draft Political Commitment for the Ninth Summit of the Americas, the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance, prior to its approval, in accordance with the text contained in Annex 1 of this presentation of the proposal by civil society organizations and actors.

#### 2. CIVIC AND DEMOCRATIC SPACES.

Recognizing the concerning advance of authoritarianism in the region, we recommend that governments take all available measures to guarantee the full exercise of human rights to individuals, peoples, and communities, removing all obstacles that restrict civic and democratic spaces. In particular, we recommend that governments review and adjust domestic law pursuant to the highest human rights standards to ensure that no undue restrictions are imposed on the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly; and that the work of civil society organizations and human rights defenders—who play a fundamental role in democratic systems—not be hindered in any way, neither *de jure* nor *de facto*.

Likewise, we recommend the immediate

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<sup>15</sup> Participants in this group included people from The Bahamas, Belize, the United States, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago.

release of all persons who have been arbitrarily deprived of liberty or subjected to criminal prosecution without grounds or judicial guarantees, in retaliation for the exercise of their human rights, since political prisoners and prisoners of conscience cannot be permitted in democratic systems or under the rule of law.

### **3. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE SUMMITS PROCESS.**

In view of the importance of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) as the main executing body of the Summits Process, comprised of government officials from the countries of the Hemisphere, as well as the Joint Summit Working Group, made up of the international institutions and the Summits of the Americas Follow-up System (SISCA), we propose and urge the governments of the Americas to implement the changes and adjustments necessary for civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, workers, the private sector, and other social actors to have permanent representation in the SIRG and the Joint Working Group processes, as well as active and collaborative participation in the SISCA processes, as an exercise in inclusiveness, accountability, and transparency of the established processes and agreements.

### **4. PROTECTION OF GIRLS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS:**

Echoing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, and recognizing the right of children and adolescents to substantive protection from economic exploitation and the performance of work that is dangerous or to the detriment of their education, health, or development, as well as their right to protection from international trafficking in minors, the sale of children, their sexual exploitation, and their use in pornography,

sex tourism and everything that impedes their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development,

We urge the governments of the Americas to make the necessary adjustments to ensure that all the criminal codes of the continent fully incorporate the acts and activities listed in Article 3 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. They should do so while prioritizing the right of every child to life, from the moment of fertilization, above economic, political, ideological, touristic, or any other interests, complying by making these changes to their laws within a year.

In addition to legal frameworks, they should also implement public policies and institutional coordination to strengthen families as a fundamental institution for the development of persons, since it is within the family where children and adolescents must receive affection, security, guidance, and essential values for their comprehensive development as human beings capable of effectively exercising their rights.

5. Access to justice, reparations, and guarantee of non-repetition in cases of human rights violations and in the case of crimes against humanity in a comprehensive and expeditious manner, even without contemplating the transitional State, as a requirement for its application. Access to the right to the truth should also be considered, which is why archives must be saved, systematized, and digitized so memory of acts of human rights violations can be preserved and consulted when required.

## **APPENDIX 1: Text of the proposed changes to the draft political commitment for the Ninth Summit of the Americas “Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance”**

*Draft Political Commitment for the Ninth Summit of the Americas Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance*

*Proposal for Changes of the Working Group on Democratic Governance - Mesoamerica*

Recognizing children, adolescents, youth, women, older adults, Afro-descendants, indigenous populations, rural populations, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees and/or in situations of mobility, LGBTQI+ persons, and other neglected and excluded populations that suffer the greatest repercussions for the failure to uphold and respect democracy, human rights, transparency, and the rule of law in our countries, and that their contribution to governance, rights, the economy and all other sectors is essential to the full functioning of societies more committed to the full exercise of democracy.

### **A. DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

1. Establish prior to the Tenth Summit of the Americas a comprehensive regional mechanism devised and implemented with the participation of actors from civil society, the private sector, and other social actors, to investigate, evaluate, monitor, and follow up on proposed solutions to threats to democracy, whether they are new or emerging.
2. Strengthen regional cooperation to support implementation and compliance with the Inter-American Democratic Charter, including through the following measures:
  - a. Establish a regionally accepted definition of an “unconstitutional alteration or disruption” of democratic order under the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
  - b. Create independent councils and human

rights bodies to advise the Organization of American States (OAS) Permanent Council in preparing analyses of the Hemisphere’s political crises so that the Democratic Charter can be applied, when appropriate, in a more consistent and coherent manner and serve as the basis for an early warning system on potential alterations or disruptions of democratic order.

- c. Establish protocols that ensure transparency and foster the true independence of human rights councils and bodies in the application of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
3. Support free and fair elections through the following measures:
    - a. Allow all citizens to, in full exercise of the right to universal suffrage in the Americas and in accordance with their political constitutions or Magna Carta, without discrimination and/or any restriction for reasons of sex, age, sexual orientation, language, religion, political opinion, or of any other status, including social origin, economic position, migrant, refugee, or displaced person, birth, infected with a stigmatized contagious disease, genetic characteristic, disability, disabling mental condition, or any other social condition, vote in the elections of the country of which they are citizens, allowing those who reside abroad full access to suffrage by voting in the elections held in their countries of origin.
    - b. Accredite and support independent electoral institutions and provide them with the necessary budget, in accordance with the Political Constitution or Magna Carta, ensuring they are balanced or non-partisan in the areas established in the country’s political system so that they can determine and/or certify the results of the elections.

- c. Implement measures that protect the integrity of the electoral process and promote its accountability to voters, along with the transparency and impartiality of national electoral institutions and control mechanisms and transparency in the financing of candidates for elected public office, political parties, and election campaigns.
  - d. Guarantee the implementation of all civil and political rights; formal commitments in terms of human rights; and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter and international agreements to which the States are signatories, in order to secure and protect the ability of all political parties and individuals to stand for election, including those who oppose the sitting government, and thus protect the right of voters to choose their leaders in free and fair elections.
  - e. Allow all citizens to, in full exercise of the right to universal suffrage in the Americas and in accordance with their political constitutions or Magna Cartas, without discrimination and/or any restriction for reasons of sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, sexual and physical characteristics, language, religion, public opinions, or of any other status, including social origin, economic position, migrant, refugee, or displaced person, birth, chronic degenerative illness, disability, or any other social condition, vote in the elections of the country of which they are citizens, allowing those who reside abroad full access to suffrage by voting in the elections held in their countries of origin.
  - f. Work to prohibit the adoption, protection, or maintenance of policies that directly or indirectly limit access to the electoral process for members of specific groups, in particular opposition political parties and persons facing vulnerability and exclusion.
  - g. Allow the Organization of American States and other international, regional, and local electoral organizations to conduct relevant electoral observation and to carry out electoral observation missions that help certify the legitimacy, monitoring, and transparency of the elections.
  - h. Work with legislative assemblies to prohibit intentional damage directed at electoral infrastructure, as well as threats of violence against workers, officials, electoral personnel, citizens, and their families, in order to facilitate the holding of elections without impediments.
  - i. Guarantee the constitutional order in the democratic process of the exercise of universal suffrage, pursuant to the political systems of each country, Political Constitution, or Magna Carta, without threats, without violence, without repression, without corruption, without electoral anomalies, to ensure respect for the democratic process exercised by the governed and future leaders.
4. Guarantee implementation of citizen, civil society, and social and political actor participation, as established in the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Political Constitution of each country, through follow-up and monitoring of the agreements established at the Summit of the Americas and the commitments of the Summit for Democracy for the full exercise of human rights and protection from authoritarianism and corruption.
  5. Guarantee the monitoring, investigation and follow-up of the right to freedom of expression and freedom of association, based on the American Convention on Human Rights, specific treaties on the matter, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Political Constitution or the Magna

Carta of the country, in coordination with mechanisms of the American system, such as the IACHR, the MESICIC, and other international mechanisms and organizations, especially the United Nations system, for the expeditious and timely protection of journalists, media officials, communicators and social communicators, and human rights defenders—especially on environmental issues—migrants, social actors and professionals in general, enabling them to perform their work or profession safe from criminalization, physical or legal threats, or acts of repression directed against them or their families, and enact laws that prevent and prohibit impunity for attacks against these sectors, as well as the following measures:

- a. The development of the institutions, laws, regulations, comprehensive public policies, programs, and consultative processes needed to establish safe and nurturing spaces so these persons, groups, and sectors can adequately exercise their right to defend human rights.
  - b. Promote access to public information—including on the environment—citizen participation, access to judicial and administrative procedures, and unrestricted access to all rights.
  - c. Develop protection mechanisms and guarantee the protection—inside and outside the country—of sectors facing risk or vulnerability, accelerating processes to grant, supervise, and monitor protection measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as well as respect for and proper implementation of the measures ordered, with the timely granting of measures of prevention, protection, and refuge by States, and requiring compliance with the principle of non-refoulement.
  - d. Commit to fighting corruption and impunity, to allow access to justice, reparation of damage to victims, and non-repetition by carrying out independent, exhaustive, and diligent investigations, prosecuting and punishing, when appropriate, whoever is found responsible, in accordance with international standards on the matter, as well as with the Political Constitution or Magna Carta of each country, with respect to complaints and allegations of abuses and violations of human rights carried out by State and non-State actors.
  - e. Urge the member states of the Inter-American system—within the framework of compliance with the international obligations resulting from the American Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, as well as the OAS Charter—to sign the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court.
  - f. Guarantee peaceful demonstration for all citizens as an essential means of promoting and defending rights, and guarantee the exercise and enjoyment of the related rights: assembly, organization, expression, and participation in public affairs, all essential for the very existence of democratic societies. The States of the region must be guarantors of security and of the rights to life, integrity, personal liberty, and other human rights.
6. Recognize the existence of people who remain imprisoned for political reasons by action, omission, or acquiescence of governments and implement the actions ordered by the international human rights protection bodies, as well as take all measures to guarantee their immediate freedom and ensure the arbitrary detentions are not repeated on the same grounds.
  7. The governments of the member states, in coordination with competent human rights

organizations, civil society, community leaders, trade unions, and representatives of the private sector, must take all measures to eradicate forced labor, human trafficking, and the sexual exploitation of children, adolescents, and women, harassment and discrimination in the workplace, and all forms of slavery and forced labor; to guarantee the protection of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, including protecting workers from reprisals for exercising those rights, in order to allow equal opportunities, equity, security, and human dignity, thus complying with the criteria for decent work established in the conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

8. In order to prevent, combat, eradicate, interrupt, and punish child labor, sexual abuse, and exploitation, as well as forced marriage, trafficking and trafficking of children and adolescents, the implementation of legal frameworks, public policies, and inter-agency coordination with an intersectional perspective is suggested.
9. Apply, promote, and protect the human rights of all excluded groups, including children, adolescents, youth, women, older adults, Afro-descendants, indigenous populations, rural populations, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees and/or persons in situations of mobility, LGBTQI+ persons, and other neglected and excluded populations.
10. Guarantee and protect the right of all persons, peoples, and indigenous, rural and Afro-descendant communities to access to land, territory, and a healthy and balanced environment, as well as access to the shared natural resources found on their lands and territories, pursuant to their free determination.
11. Respect, protect and guarantee the rights, cultures, and worldviews of all nations, indigenous peoples, and persons of African descent, in accordance with human rights,

and defend the unique legal responsibilities of each State, as well as relations with indigenous governments.

## **B. TRANSPARENCY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION**

1. Address the commitments of the Eighth Summit of the Americas Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance that depend on renewed efforts and focus to evaluate and follow up on whether all our governments have made concrete progress toward our commitments by carrying out the following actions:
  - a. Promote gender equity and equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the inclusion of children, adolescents, youth, women, older adults, Afro-descendants, indigenous populations, rural populations, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees and/or persons in situations of mobility, LGBTQI+ persons, and other neglected, excluded, and marginalized populations in order to promote anti-corruption measures, from the planning process through implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
  - b. Establish, in accordance with the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, measures and systems to encourage the reporting of irregularities and acts of corruption, including the laundering of money and virtual assets generated by illicit activities, as well as measures with actions based on OAS resolutions in coordination with the IACHR and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that provide effective protection—that is, protective actions independent of those of the country—against potential retaliation or intimidation, use of physical force or threats for reporting persons as well as victims, witnesses, and justice and law enforcement officials in accordance with international obligations; ensuring the



protection of witnesses, and assigning the necessary resources for the execution of preventive and protection measures.

- c. Implement public policies based on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption that make it possible to use the information contained in permanent platforms and tools to verify open, transparent, and accessible procurement and contracting processes in line with globally recognized good practices, such as the OECD Recommendations on Public Procurement, and explicitly address anti-corruption in relevant public contracts.
  - d. Take up again the recommendations for open, transparent, and accessible procurement and contracting processes contained in the Lima Commitment section D on Prevention of Corruption in Public Works and Public Procurement and Contracting.
  - e. Establish and implement comptrollerships or social oversight and invite governments to join the Inter-American Network of Electronic Government or to maintain their commitment to open government partnership (OGP) to promote measures enabling the prevention and detection of conflicts of interest based on the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.
  - f. When access to information is restricted, access to security data should be allowed, and the practice of classifying information as confidential should be reduced as a general rule.
  - g. Generating indicators disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sexual and physical characteristics is proposed to foster research, analysis, and production of statistics, as well as to evaluate the outcomes of policies on transparency and access to information in order to determine their real impacts and provide public access to these statistics for independent evaluation.
  - h. In accordance with the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption and available instruments, enhance spaces for citizen participation and consultation, when appropriate, to guarantee the inclusion of civil society in the implementation of anti-corruption measures. Establish agreements, as well as a network of information and international legal cooperation, to combat bribery, international bribery, and organized crime in order to put an end to tax havens and stop corruption and impunity at the regional level.
  - i. Establish and strengthen international cooperation mechanisms to combat money laundering and transnational crime as factors that are harmful to democratic institutions, the rule of law, and peaceful coexistence. Likewise, keep the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT) from becoming instruments used by autocratic governments to mutilate the rights of civil society.
  - j. Promote asset forfeiture laws, such that the assets gained through corruption can be recovered, establishing the pertinent mechanisms and all tools necessary for its application and for establishing what to do with the recovered assets, funds, and sums.
2. Adopt the recommendations received through the review process of the Mechanism for Follow-up, Implementation and Monitoring of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) and commit to gradually complying with them in order to satisfactorily address them before the Tenth Summit of the Americas, and report on progress achieved to address these

recommendations through its participation in the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC. In this regard, our governments will consider the following actions:

- a. Work based on the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption toward coordinating with the legislative assemblies to address the recommendations of the MESICIC on the approval or amendment of laws and regulations that combat corruption, impunity, and nepotism in government.
- b. Based on the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, strengthen agencies and available instruments intended for supervision, follow-up, monitoring, and evaluation that have competence in matters of prevention, detection, investigation, or punishment of corrupt practices that give rise to disciplinary measures and to economic or criminal responsibility.
- c. Based on indicators and on resolutions of the inter-American system, adopt the procedures necessary to analyze the outcomes of the systems, laws, measures, and mechanisms used to fight corruption.
- d. Take the necessary legislative and administrative measures to improve international cooperation in the fight against corruption in order to expedite exchange of information in the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption.
- e. Exchange experiences, best practices and measures designed to fight corruption.
- f. Effectively involve civil society, the private sector, and social actors in the prevention of and fight against corruption, as well as in the follow-up and application of MESICIC recommendations, including through the implementation of mechanisms that encourage public consultations, in

order to promote citizen participation in government.

3. Integrate the commitments of the Summit of the Americas, the Summit for Democracy, and other relevant forums into the national action plans of the Open Government Partnership to include all initiatives that support free and independent media, fight corruption and impunity, promote restorative justice and democratic reformers, promote technology for democracy, defend transparent, free and fair elections and political processes, demand that the corrupt be held accountable for their actions, protect those who fight against corruption, and combat all illicit practices.
4. Take the measures established by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) of 2021, in order to include mechanisms that effectively follow up on the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration on the strengthening of cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption in times of emergency to provide responses to crisis recovery, including by drafting, implementing, and, where appropriate, improving and strengthening anti-corruption policies and strategies, for which it will be necessary for countries to update and harmonize their legislation to meet the strictest international standards.
5. Take appropriate measures to address the political commitments in the UN General Assembly Resolution S/32-1, "Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation," including:
  - a. Develop and implement the measures needed to collect and share information and conduct monitoring, follow-up, and evaluations, consistent with domestic law, on the beneficial ownership of legal

- persons and legal arrangements, for use in the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption and recovery of proceeds of crimes
- b. Criminalize the solicitation and acceptance of bribes, influence peddling, bribery, extortion, abuse of authority, and illicit enrichment by domestic and foreign public officials and international organizations.
  - c. Develop and implement measures to establish liability for legal persons that commit bribery and other cross-border offenses.
  - d. Strengthen the capacities of central authorities and other competent authorities responsible for international cooperation and asset recovery, as necessary, to continually take advantage of and expand on relevant expert knowledge to improve identification, tracing, freezing, seizure, forfeiture, and return of confiscated proceeds of crime, with a view to giving effect to requests for asset recovery.
  - e. Deny persons involved in the commission of corruption offenses and who knowingly benefit from such acts, and their immediate family, frontmen, and figureheads safe havens, asylum, and visas, where appropriate and consistent with domestic legal frameworks and international obligations.
6. Support transparency, access to information, accountability, public ethics, and data protection, as well as trust in our governments through good regulatory practices that protect people and enhance predictability and inclusion while supporting strong and resilient economies, including the following:
    - a. Establish, maintain, or improve our respective processes and mechanisms to develop regulations in an open and transparent manner, and take concrete steps to implement good regulatory practices across the region, including through cooperative activities, sharing best practices, engagement with the private sector, and plurilateral and bilateral initiatives.
    - b. Use good regulatory practices when developing and implementing regulations, including by conducting public consultations, engaging all interested persons, and relying on science and evidence in regulatory decision-making.
  7. Strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels, so that they include the following:
    - a. Establish and implement effective measures to prevent and address corruption and abuses, including forced labor, in global supply chains by developing transparent public procurement standards, compliance requirements or codes of conduct, related to the sustainable procurement of goods and services.
    - b. Develop and establish mechanisms to prevent, monitor, investigate, mitigate, and, where appropriate, prosecute abuses and crimes, such as bribery and forced labor, in the public and the private sector procurement of goods and services, in partnership with labor inspectors and law enforcement authorities, and with trade unions and other private sector actors, as appropriate, and consider establishing or strengthening mechanisms to enforce consumer protection laws and increase related compliance measures.
    - c. Develop public policies for supply chains with transparency and integrity, incorporating human rights and gender approaches.

## C. PARTICIPATION AND CITIZEN INCLUSION

1. Formalize a regional mechanism to empower civil society and social actors to monitor and evaluate governments' compliance with the Summit commitments.
2. Put into practice the "Resolution on increasing and strengthening civil society and social actor participation in OAS activities and in the Summit of the Americas process" in order to consolidate democratic practices and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, along with the fight against corruption, including through the following:
  - a. Participatory processes to promote government accountability and the implementation of direct democracy instruments, which establish the rights of citizens and the government's responsibility in the matter; where citizens can demand public services and how to access them; as well as citizen complaint mechanisms so their engagement can become a good practice that contributes to fostering public trust.
  - b. Participatory community development planning processes, particularly with respect to post-COVID recovery and resilience to climate change, that include historically marginalized groups like indigenous, rural, and Afro-descendant peoples and offer members of the community the opportunity to take part in designing the proposals; undertake procedures and supervise the use of development resources, in compliance with human rights, with a gender and intersectionality approach.
  - c. Periodic consultations for efficient follow-up and monitoring with indigenous community and leader participation, especially with respect to drafting policies that affect their way of life and their worldview.
- d. Eliminate practices and administrative, civil, and/or criminal legal provisions that limit, hinder, or criminalize the work of activists, human rights defenders, civil society in general, companies, or the different civil society actors that engage in or promote the right to citizen participation and the rights derived from the exercise thereof, such as freedom of expression, opinion, organization, assembly, and mobilization.
3. Establish public-private partnerships with civil society participation to promote the prevention of and struggle against corruption; encourage the private sector to take collective measures to conduct business transparently and responsibly; and develop citizen observatories against corruption.
4. Redouble efforts to provide inclusion and diversity in all aspects of governance, including through the following:
  - a. Incorporate the use of mainstreaming tools with gender perspectives when drafting and evaluating laws, regulations, and policies addressing differentiated effects for children, women, and men, including in efforts to address climate change, the digital economy, and health, among other sectors.
  - b. Include victims of violence, human trafficking, girls, boys, adolescents, youth, women, older adults, Afro-descendants, indigenous populations, rural populations, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees and/or persons in situations of mobility, LGBTQI+, and other underserved, excluded, and marginalized populations in post-COVID recovery planning, and take into account their different needs, including but not limited to those with the greatest burden of care, as well as physical safety, lack of digital access, access to employment, and

other economic opportunities.

- c. Address social, cultural, and legal barriers to full and equal economic participation and opportunity, including access to markets and credit, land tenure rights also for indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and rural women, along with access to the natural resources, discrimination in hiring and employment, access to safe and reliable care services for the elderly and children, and addressing the effects of gender-based violence on women's economic opportunities and their ability to mobilize and travel freely.
  - d. Establish mechanisms and offer training and sufficient resources for research, applying policies and laws against discrimination and gender violence in hiring practices, access to justice, financing, housing, infrastructure, social services, and other social and economic opportunities.
5. Collect and report demographic data, disaggregated by territory, gender, age and ethnicity, at the municipal level through qualitative and quantitative mechanisms to inform and improve equitable access to community development planning processes and public resources and services, especially among underserved populations, such as indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and LGBTQI+ persons.

#### **D. FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Direct the Summit Implementation Working Group to work with the Joint Summit Working Group, civil society, social actors, and the private sector to take stock of governments' progress in implementing the action plan leading up to the Tenth Summit of the Americas
2. Urge the governments of the Americas to implement the changes and adjustments necessary for civil society organizations, social actors, academia, businesses, and

unions to have permanent representation in the SIRG and the Joint Working Group processes, as well as active and collaborative participation in the SISCA processes, as an exercise in inclusiveness, accountability, and transparency of the established processes and agreements.

3. Reaffirm the validity of the commitment made at the Lima Summit—"Requesting that the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) assist States with resources and technical capacity-building, so that they can implement the commitments undertaken at this Summit in the area of strengthening democratic governance and the fight against corruption, including those commitments that refer to implementation of legislation, institution-building, training, and cooperation"—and the desires of the IX Summit in relation to building a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future in the Hemisphere.
4. Likewise, countries are urged to comply with paragraph 18 of the 2030 Agenda, which "... calls for countries to implement the Agenda in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law."
5. Provide technical assistance to the States Parties so that they designate a budget for executing the actions contained in this document, and to carry out the agreed-upon follow-up and implementation activities.
6. Make the national compliance reports derived from the agreements adopted on democratic governance in the region public and easily accessible.

## Working Group on Democratic Governance of South America

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Taking into account the commitment to democracy that the Heads of State and Government of the Americas have signed, which has been an essential component of all the Summits of the Americas since the first Summit held in Miami in 1994;

Concerned at the degradation of democracies in the region, the establishment of authoritarian governments, and the implementation of actions and/or policies that are restrictive and regressive with regard to human rights and that significantly worsen the quality of life, such as the existence of countries that have not denounced the death penalty;

Reaffirming our obligations under the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and our commitments to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance against Corruption, and other commitments from previous Summits of the Americas on democracy, human rights, anti-corruption, transparency, governance, and inclusion;

Acknowledging that the values of democracy and maintaining and strengthening the rule of law are essential to advancing toward attaining the objectives proposed in the Political Commitment of the IX Summit of the Americas and the Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance with a view to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2020-2030 agenda;

Acknowledging that our leaders affirmed in the 2001 Declaration of Quebec City that the values and practices of democracy are fundamental to advancing in the achievement of all our objectives, and that maintaining and strengthening the rule of law and strict respect for the democratic system are, at the same time, a goal and a shared commitment and an essential condition of our presence at this

and future Summits;

Bearing in mind that the Heads of State and Government of the Americas are bound and committed under the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance against Corruption, and international treaties duly ratified by member states of the Organization of American States on protecting democracy, human rights, anti-corruption, transparency, governance, and inclusion;

Expressing concern that women and girls in all their diversity, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTQI+ people, people with disabilities, migrants, and vulnerable and marginalized people suffer the greatest repercussions for the failure to uphold and respect democracy, human rights, transparency, and the rule of law in our countries, and that their contribution to governance, rights, the economy, and all other sectors is essential to the full functioning of thriving societies;

Disturbed at the growing criminalization of the work of human rights defenders in some countries of the region and at the dearth of internal mechanisms for protection, leaving them in a state of defenselessness.

Understanding that all sectors of civil society, including organized communities, political parties, unions, and vulnerable groups, contribute to building governance, consolidating the economy, and the effective enjoyment of rights and all other areas necessary to achieve the objectives,

We the civil society organizations and representatives of the Working Group on Democratic Governance in South America, as the IX Summit of the Americas approaches, recommend the following:

## **1. REGARDING THE COMMITMENTS ON DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS:**

- 1.1 We recommend that the States expand the concept of democracy, taking into account the constant progress made by American societies in the permanent search for the best standards of living, based on freedom and wellbeing, lifting up the sectors whose rights have been most violated.
- 1.2 Strengthen regional cooperation to support the Inter-American Democratic Charter, including through the following measures:
  - a. We agree to establish a regional definition of “alteration or disruption of the constitutional order,” in the understanding that the term “disruption” is not in the OAS Charter or in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, given that, based on a comprehensive review of inter-American jurisprudence and doctrine, it only refers to alteration.
  - b. We recommend also defining through this work the meaning of the terms early warning, demonstration, and state of citizen tension.
  - c. We recommend establishing a panel of independent experts, with notable and verifiable experience in human rights and democracy in the region, to develop the pertinent considerations for defining the aforementioned concepts. They would then be reviewed and approved by the OAS Permanent Council.
  - d. We believe that independent councils must work transparently and inclusively with representatives and

participants from all social sectors that bring American societies to life.

- e. We urge the countries of the region to recognize refugees and move more quickly to recognize the right to asylum of people seeking international protection.
- 1.3 Support and recognize free and fair elections through the following measures:
  - a. We urge clarification of what is meant by “unreasonable restrictions” in the commitment to be signed by the Heads of State. We also urge promotion, through civil society, of inclusion of vulnerable groups in elections processes in their countries through informational workshops on electoral issues and the promotion of activities that enable their participation in the electoral dynamics.
  - b. We recommend supporting and monitoring the initiatives that countries like Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and others have promoted to guarantee the electoral rights of people with Trans life experiences, since we are aware of the obstacles they face in terms of identification when exercising their right to elect and be elected.
  - c. We recommend the development of a manual with measures intended to protect the integrity of the electoral process, with the ultimate goal of standardizing electoral processes and respect for them in the region.
  - d. We view it as useful to prepare an inter-American protocol establishing a framework of responsibility for voters, inclusion of vulnerable groups, transparency and impartiality in national electoral institutions, and

- control mechanisms for elections.
- e. We must promote strategies to encourage the diverse candidates to run for office, which requires decisively combating the political violence that discourages women and other groups that lack political representation from participating. We also recommend implementing inclusion and empowerment programs for elected candidates on representing non-visible population groups.
  - f. Prior to the election cycle, the permanent bodies of the inter-American system must listen to civil society organizations engaged in civic rights, especially organizations from the most vulnerable sectors, to ensure their observations are given careful consideration at the time of the election. An example of this is the exercise of suffrage by persons deprived of liberty within the prison system, as well as the political representation of ethnic communities, whose right to democratic participation has been violated in many Latin American countries.
- 1.4 We propose that, through coordination with the Executive Council of the SIRG, States commit to establishing an Inter-American Network of Civil Society Organizations, an ombudsperson body charged with the following:
- a. Follow up on compliance with the political commitments made by the States during this and future Summits of the Americas,
  - b. Exchange information with the National Coordinators appointed by the governments to represent the countries before the SIRG; and
  - c. Submit an annual report on the progress of this process at one of the regular meetings of the SIRG through the Network's representative, who may not be replaced by the national coordinator. It is also recommended that this Network include the participation of civil society organizations from different countries and sectors to ensure it reflects the sexual, ethnic-racial, cultural, and religious diversity of the Americas and addresses the concerns of different social groups.
- 1.5 On the duty of States to ensure the integrity and personal safety of any person, especially social communicators and journalists who are exercising their right to freedom of expression and doing their work of investigating, disseminating and socially sanctioning acts of violence and/or corruption committed by public officials, we propose the following:
- a. Develop strategies to combat fake news through a regional fact-finding commission, involving the private sector in order to include all sectors of society in the defense of freedom of expression.
  - b. In the framework of treaty compliance and enforcement, States should amend national legislation on freedom of the media to bring it into line with human rights standards, placing special emphasis on cases that deal with sanctions imposed by the government on journalists and the media when their reporting is not helpful to the current administration, requiring the involvement of a court with the guarantee of an appeal and *res judicata* for sentence execution.
  - c. Promote research and study of self-censorship in the countries of South



- America and create a specialized working group, including members of civil society, that maintains contact with the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR with the purpose of publicizing the progress made.
- d. Include the university community (professors, students and researchers) and universities themselves in the category of vulnerable subjects, placing them at a similar level as journalists and the media. University students and universities contribute to creating and disseminating knowledge, which enables citizens to access quality information that makes it possible to raise questions about the government's performance and the use of public funds to combat corruption. In this sense, it is important for States to recognize the need to protect independent universities and university communities within the framework of the Summit commitments.
- 1.6 We propose the development of an inter-American evaluation plan on the protective measures available to human rights defenders and on strengthening or creating internal mechanisms to protect their human integrity. At the same time, we propose holding discussion forums with senior representatives to discuss the challenges to and progress made on protecting human rights defenders, as well as developing a training and technical assistance program for judges and prosecutors on investigating and prosecuting cases of attacks on human rights defenders, strengthening reporting mechanisms and access to justice.
- 1.7 We propose devising and establishing inter-American mechanisms that ensure protection and compliance with the system's guiding principles in order to eliminate forced labor, child labor, and any form of violence against women, LGBTI+ people, Afro-American communities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants, and others, as well as harassment and discrimination in the workplace. We likewise urge the development—together with civil society, trade unions, and the private sector—of hotlines for protecting workers from reprisals for exercising these rights. We also urge States to hold talks on a possible inter-American convention on human rights and business, within the framework of the standards established in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- 1.8 We recommend encouraging the participation of vulnerable groups such as indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, women and girls, LGBTQI+ persons, migrants, and people with disabilities to ensure they can become an integral part of and/or lead the processes of developing human rights public policy and programs.
- 1.9 We recommend creating a network of specialized centers that seeks to bring together public policies, programs, and initiatives related to the topics proposed, with special emphasis on tribal nations and indigenous peoples, taking as an example programs such as EuropeDirect of the European Union, which should be promoted by civil society and the private sector with the cooperation of the Organization of American States.
- 1.10. The difficult context of forced human mobility on the continent is a result of a lack of conditions for and guarantees of the protection of the fundamental rights of persons, both in the countries of origin and in transit and destination countries, with multidimensional and supranational impacts across the region.

We therefore propose that the American States take coordinated actions, with the support of international cooperation, civil society, and the migrant and refugee population, to conduct a review—from a rights approach—of the effectiveness and consequent updating of the regional instruments that have been created to protect persons in conditions of human mobility.

Moreover, based on the progressivity of human rights, and bearing in mind the challenges and problems that exist in terms of human mobility in our continent, we suggest States move forward in establishing a migration policy or framework for the Americas that employs a rights-based approach to address the challenges involved in migration, refuge, and internal displacement without ignoring the impacts of problems like the climate crisis, the new issues with inequality following the pandemic, and expressions of racism, xenophobia, aporophobia, etc.

- 1.11 In the context of protecting activists and civil society, it is a fundamental mandate of human rights and democracy:
  - a. To protect the fundamental human right of all women and girls in their diversity to be free from all forms of violence and commit to urgently moving forward on a new autonomous global regulatory framework to put an end to violence against women and girls.
  - b. Similarly, it is essential to incentivize reporting and establish measures to protect whistleblowers and victims of corruption.

## **2. REGARDING THE COMMITMENTS ON TRANSPARENCY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION:**

- 2.1 We urge States to address the commitments of the Eighth Summit of the Americas Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance that depend on renewed efforts and focus on confirming that all our governments have made concrete progress toward our commitments by carrying out the following actions:
  - a. Implement and disseminate public consultations through technological platforms in legislative and policy-making processes, since they constitute a valuable instrument of participatory democracy. These platforms must be accessible to all citizens, easy to use, and interoperable.
  - b. Promote gender equity and equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the inclusion of women and girls, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTQI+ people, people with disabilities, and migrants and vulnerable and marginalized populations in anti-corruption measures, from the planning process through to implementation and evaluation.
  - c. Establish measures and systems that encourage and reward the reporting of irregularities and acts of corruption, including the laundering of money generated by illicit activities, as well as measures that protect confidentiality and protections against potential retaliation or intimidation, use of physical force, or threats for reporting persons, victims, and witnesses, along with justice and law enforcement officials, in accordance with international obligations, and

- guarantee access to impartial courts to resolve complaints.
- d. Create a network of members of civil society, the private sector, and the public sector for exchanging knowledge and developing measures that enable the prevention and detection of conflicts of interest.
  - e. Design and develop a guide containing good international practices broken down by different variables, emphasizing the ones developed in the region on reporting acts of corruption and indicators to measure the efficiency of the reporting processes.
  - f. Implement policies, platforms, and tools for open, transparent, and accessible procurement and contracting processes in line with globally recognized good practices, such as the OECD Recommendations on Public Procurement, and explicitly address anti-corruption in relevant public contracts.
- 2.2 As far as the recommendations received through the review process of the Mechanism for Follow-up, Implementation, and Monitoring of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, we suggest the following:
- a. Create working groups with members of civil society and national legislative assemblies to follow up on the MESICIC recommendations.
  - b. Carry out collaborative promotion with organizations that work on the issue of corruption, knowledge on prevention, detection, investigation, sanctions, compensation to victims, and whistleblower protection.
  - c. Prepare a manual with a guide to procedures and indicators that measure the impact of policies designed to combat corruption, to include, at a minimum, an analysis of the level of public spending on anti-corruption and transparency policies, as well as its impact on the perception and incidence of corruption.
  - d. Create a plural network promoting legislative and administrative recommendations, doing so in cooperation and exchange with domestic and international organizations in the fight against corruption,
  - e. Establish working groups made up of members of civil society, the private sector, and the public sector for exchanging knowledge and experiences, enabling constant and fluid feedback.
  - f. Create an intercontinental collaboration network of civil society organizations to study, analyze, and issue recommendations regarding good practices related to reporting acts of corruption; the processes and technology developed for such purposes; and the application of international standards on protecting whistleblowers—including incentives to report—in order to promote the aforementioned recommendations to those in charge of the legislative processes. The aim is to initiate processes at the regional to improve regulation in this area.
  - g. Promote the creation and build the capacities of civil society organizations dedicated to providing legal aid to whistleblowers and guaranteeing their protection.

- h. Adopt the procedures necessary to analyze the outcomes of the systems, laws, measures, and mechanisms used to fight corruption.
  - i. Take the necessary legislative and administrative measures to improve international cooperation in the fight against corruption in order to improve the exchange of information in the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption.
  - j. Effectively involve civil society, the private sector, and social actors in preventing and combatting corruption, including through the implementation of mechanisms that encourage public consultations, promote citizen participation in government, and enable civil society to participate in follow up and oversight, where appropriate.
- 2.3 We recommend the creation of a Conference on the Future of the Americas as an initiative of civil society organizations to integrate the commitments mentioned in this section with initiatives that support free and independent media, fight corruption, support social leaders and/or social activists, promote technology for democracy, and demand that corrupt actors be held accountable for their actions, among other things. Actions would be similar to those of the Conference on the Future of Europe, a joint initiative of the European Parliament, the Council, and the Commission charged with listening to Europeans, giving them the opportunity to express their opinion on the future of Europe through a series of dialogues and debates led by the citizens.
- 2.4 We recommend that the States adapt the measures established by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) of 2003. Consequently, they must establish verification mechanisms in the form of public bodies and guarantee greater independence of the national courts. Additionally, civil society proposes that corruption risk analysis be performed and that the relevant authorities be notified of suspected cases of corruption.
- 2.5 We propose enhancing efforts to develop or improve mechanisms for spotting corruption domestically, especially at the local level, as they remain few and uncoordinated. This process must entail combining sound prevention policies to deliver tangible and sustainable results.
- 2.6 Hold an annual meeting on Transparency and Anticorruption to share good practices and evaluate States' performance in the matter using the national and global indicators that are widely accepted by the Secretariat for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States.
- 2.7 We recommend implementing a project comprised of an inter-American network that brings together national civil organizations and/or specialists in transparency and corruption to develop a regional anticorruption strategy in the interest of strengthening public and civil society institutions that address the issues specified in subparagraphs a) and b), with financing or support from the Organization of American States or related bodies.
- 2.8 Take appropriate measures to address the political commitments in the UN General Assembly Resolution S/32-1, "Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation," including:

- a. Develop and implement the measures needed to collect and share information, consistent with domestic law, on the beneficial ownership of legal persons and legal arrangements, for use in the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption and recovery of proceeds of crimes
  - b. Criminalize the solicitation and acceptance of bribes and the bribery of national public officials, foreign public officials, and officials of public international organizations;
  - c. Develop and implement measures to establish liability for legal persons that commit foreign bribery offenses.
  - d. Strengthen the capacities of central and other competent authorities responsible for international cooperation and asset recovery.
  - e. Deny persons involved in the commission of corruption offenses and who knowingly benefit from such acts, and their immediate family members, safe havens and visas, where appropriate and consistent with domestic legal frameworks and international obligations.
- 2.9 Support regulatory transparency and reliance by our governments on good regulatory practices that protect people, increase accountability, predictability, and inclusion, and support strong and resilient economies, including:
- a. Establish, maintain, or improve our respective processes and mechanisms to develop regulations in an open and transparent manner, and take concrete steps to implement good regulatory practices across the region, including through cooperative activities, sharing best practices, engagement with the private sector, and plurilateral and bilateral initiatives;
  - b. Use good regulatory practices when developing and implementing regulations, including by conducting public consultations, engaging all interested persons, and relying on science and evidence in regulatory decision-making.
- 2.10 Strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels, to include:
- a. Establish and implement effective measures to prevent and address corruption and abuses, including forced labor, in global supply chains by developing transparent public procurement standards, compliance requirements or codes of conduct, related to the sustainable procurement of goods and services;
  - b. Develop and establish mechanisms to prevent, monitor, investigate, mitigate, and, where appropriate, prosecute abuses and crimes, such as bribery and forced labor, in the public and the private sector procurement of goods and services, in partnership with labor inspectors and law enforcement authorities, and with trade unions and other private sector actors, as appropriate, and consider establishing or strengthening mechanisms to enforce consumer protection laws and increase related compliance measures.
- ### 3. REGARDING THE COMMITMENTS ON CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION:
- 3.1 We propose a regional mechanism for

open consultations with communities regarding public plans and policies to be implemented by States that inform citizens how to participate in the consultations and whose purpose is to measure compliance with this political commitment, enabling the inclusion of society and the private sector in the public debate by adapting the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It is important that this regional mechanism guaranteeing accessibility to the entire population be widely disseminated by the States and that it contains simple language that can be easily understood. It is essential to ensure this mechanism is transparent and accessible to the different sectors of civil society, citizens, and residents of the region.

3.2 We consider it necessary to create a network of consulting organizations specialized in corruption and open government—with both domestic and international allies—that can help both the public and private sectors through the process of developing policies on preventing and combatting corruption, in addition to advising on conducting business responsibly and transparently. The European Union has implemented such an arrangement in some respects, such as with the European Federation of Agricultural Consultants.

3.3. Create or strengthen multi-stakeholder forums to implement and develop dialogue between governments, civil society, and social actors, in particular those representing underserved or marginalized populations, in order to strengthen democratic practices, respect for human rights, and fundamental freedoms, as well as anti-corruption efforts, including:

a. Participatory processes to promote government accountability and public trust in government, such

as by developing citizen charters establishing what citizens can expect from public services and how to access them;

b. Community development planning processes, particularly with respect to the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery and to resilience to climate change, that include historically marginalized groups and offer members of the community the opportunity to undertake procedures and supervise the use of development resources;

c. Regular, effective, and meaningful consultations with indigenous communities, leaders, and officials, especially on the drafting of policies that affect their way of life.

d. Open and transparent democratic processes to work with grassroots organizations that can mobilize and support communities in the local discussion process to define their priorities and implement actions, integrating the private and public sectors, along with international organizations. In addition, we propose States promulgate laws that incorporate the UN's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights of the UN.

e. Conduct participatory audits of existing policies, tools, and mechanisms.

f. Establish a monitoring program to identify and learn from both the success and challenges of addressing social, cultural, and legal barriers to full and equal economic opportunity and participation.

3.4 We propose recognizing the crosscutting nature of public policies and the role of municipal governments in the fight

against climate change and inequalities. In most cases, municipal governments go unnoticed, but therein lies an important opportunity given the challenges we face.

- 3.5 Strengthen small and medium-sized companies that focus on creating solutions for the environment, technological innovation, and Internet access through a regional mechanism financed by the Organization of American States that supports the strengthening of these companies and, if such companies do not exist, fosters their founding and market consolidation.
- 3.6. Redouble efforts to provide inclusion and diversity in all aspects of governance, including through the following:
  - a. Increase the use of gender mainstreaming tools when drafting and evaluating laws to ensure that laws and policies address the differentiated effects of laws, regulations, and policies on men, women, and children, including in efforts to address climate change, the digital economy, and health, among other sectors.
  - b. Include women and girls, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTQI+ persons, people with disabilities, migrants, and vulnerable and marginalized groups in recovery planning and take into account their different needs, including but not limited to increased care burden, physical security, lack of digital access, and access to employment, as well as other economic opportunities;
  - c. Address social, cultural, and legal barriers to full and equal economic participation and opportunity, including access to markets and credit, land tenure rights including for

indigenous peoples, along with access to the natural resources, discrimination in hiring and employment, access to safe and reliable care services for the elderly and children, and addressing the effects of gender-based violence on women's economic opportunities and their right and ability to mobilize and travel freely;

- d. Establish mechanisms and offer training and sufficient resources for research, applying policies and laws against discrimination in hiring practices, access to justice, financing, housing, infrastructure, social services, and other social and economic opportunities.

- 3.7 Collect and report demographic data at the municipal level through qualitative and quantitative mechanisms to inform and improve equitable access to community development planning processes and public resources and services, especially among underserved populations.

#### **4. REGARDING THE COMMITMENTS ON MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION:**

- 4.1 The implementation and follow-up must include dissemination and training strategies on the use of the proposed mechanisms, as well as the generation of a communication strategy, providing citizens with a simple approach to the content of the reports, which will also encourage them to get involved with them.
- 4.2 Direct the Summit Implementation Working Group to collaborate in coordination with the Joint Summit Working Group, civil society, and the private sector to take stock of governments' progress in implementing the action plan leading up to the Tenth Summit of the Americas.



Conclusions of the Thematic  
Working Groups of Civil Society  
Organizations And Social Actors

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# Recommendations of the Thematic Working Group on Our Green Future<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> The recommendations contained in this document were formulated by the members of the thematic working groups of the following subregions: i) Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States, ii) Mesoamerica and iii) South America



## Recommendations presented by Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors of Working Group on Green Future on the Draft Political Commitment for the IX Summit of the Americas "Our Green Future"

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We, the Heads of State and of Government of the Americas, recognize the urgent need to conserve and restore ecosystems, and we commit to:

- A. Advancing the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, national deforestation and conservation commitments, and regional efforts to eliminate deforestation and ecosystem conversion. We will strengthen our efforts toward making:

A broad and meaningful commitment, as a result of the effects of climate change, to contribute to the exercise of taking ambitious actions, urging the actors involved, interest groups, and government entities throughout the Americas to conduct follow-up, monitoring, and verification of the agreements in terms of the participation commitments to sustainable development to ensure they are fulfilled within the framework of the inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge, the protection of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and campesinos, as well as of their cultural resources, and of future generations, gender equality, and children of all conditions and social status. For which, the GFWG proposes the following:

1. Coordinate the participation and joint work of all sectors, interest groups, and government entity stakeholders in the creation and implementation of State control strategies related to the socioeconomic and environmental system of the mining sector, evaluating gold extraction processes at scale to encourage elimination of mercury use in view of its polluting effects, insofar as artisanal mining to extract gold as an ancestral natural resource impacts the healthy coexistence of communities in their territories.
2. Promote and urge opinion leaders and members of the OAS, the UN, and other organizations, to issue a declaration, in support of the "regions and nations vulnerable to climate change," as due to unsustainable agricultural practices and the improper practice of deforestation. These areas are prone to potential natural disasters that impact communities, leading to increased poverty, food insecurity, and population growth due to displacement from rural areas to urban areas, creating chaos in the processes to bring together the customs and traditions of our communities, leading to malnutrition and lack of access to dignified living conditions, so as to establish ecological restoration processes for the polluted areas, as regards migratory species and shared habitats, in the spirit of the Minamata Convention.
3. Urge developed-country governments and developing-country governments to "ratify," "accept," "approve," and "adhere" to treaties, since non-ratification of them limits the investment of international cooperators, contributing to the negative impact on sustainable and environmentally-sustainable development of the entire region in areas vulnerable to climate change.
4. Establishment of a GFWG subgroup is recommended, of which the functions for the defense of the environment will be defined from an academic, technical, scientific, socio-cultural, and economic perspective that is inter-agency in nature, the purpose of which will be to coordinate fortnightly review of international environmental treaties between interested parties, in view of the scope of the commitments made in

the Paris Agreement and in the Glasgow Pact.

- a. Coordinate the participation of private international donors and governments in order to generate innovative and alternative strategies for financing climate action and adaptation action plans, given that the goals for mobilizing resources promoted by developed countries were not met as a result of the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Objective 13.
- b. Verify the execution times of the guidelines to be followed as agreed upon in the treaties, and inform and publicize to opinion leaders the exercise and progress made by governments on prevention, protection, conservation, and regeneration of ecosystems.
- c. Raise awareness surrounding the ancestral recognition of territories belonging to indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and other disadvantaged communities, as well as women and girls, whether or not they are more vulnerable, by promoting resilience in the territories with incentives that guarantee access to food, health, and housing. Additionally, establish spaces for raising awareness through environmental education, with initiatives, objectives, and demographic data defined to provide the skills and abilities needed to adapt the regional labor force to the new environmental eco-economy, in view of the 2030 objectives.
- d. The GFWG subgroup proposes interceding and defending compliance with the agreements vis-à-vis indigenous cultural growth and exaltation in all regions, urging stakeholders to include, within the framework of economic and

cultural development strategies, social investment for the creation of a regional repository of cultural resources for protection and conservation, including their knowledge and stories, promoting, compiling and researching everything about traditional environmental practices on land, water, and forests. The First Peoples of the Community of Santa Rosa Trinidad, San Andrés and Providencia, Galapagos, among others, shall be taken as models, along with the communities settled on the coasts.

**B.** Pursuant to the guidelines set forth in Agenda 2030, a call is issued for stakeholders—especially those among indigenous communities, campesinos, persons of African descent, women and girls, and other disadvantaged communities—to, by the end of 2022, formalize their broad and active participation in the framework of the commitments made by their governments, the OAS, the UN, and other organizations for which the guidelines and agreements described above are also implemented. The following is therefore proposed:

1. Strengthen support for social actors and civil society organizations vis-à-vis public-policy entities to ensure that the financial resources delivered by developed countries to developing countries reach the intended destination as set forth in the agreements reached between the stakeholders on the 2030 agenda, and the commitments of the Bonn Challenge, so as to manage implementation of an eco-sustainability plan to reach net zero deforestation by 2030, forming, as applicable, the nationally determined contribution (NDC) for each country, the aim of which is net zero admissions, conserving or protecting 30% of all land and water by 2030 (30x30).
2. Establish a viable and transparent timeline

- for preparing the corresponding financial plan and inclusive investment, and guarantee accountability to citizens with respect to execution of the plan.
3. Ratify and take up once again the Lima Commitment in terms of gender equity, gender equality, and feminine empowerment (women and girls) by imbuing them with political, social, and cultural power from an ethnic environmental approach, considered vital to ensuring steady progress for the working dynamics of civil society organizations and the GFWGs. This means that the working groups need support to effect policy change and impact changes in attitude with regard to access to social, health, and education services—with a diversity and ethnic approach—for women and girls, something that is today still denied to them.
  4. It is therefore proposed to invite the Summit of the Americas Secretariat to administer actions on gender equity, gender equality, and empowerment of women and girls described in the call to action on this issue issued between 1994 and 2018 in order to call for implementation, in the Plenary Declaration of Lima Peru, on gender equity and empowerment, initiating a process to deploy working groups to further effect change in policies and culture toward the end of 2022.
  5. Within the framework of the implementation of public policies for sustainable development, the following is proposed:
    - a. Mobilize resources for developing the non-timber products industry and other alternative lifestyle measures for the forests.
    - b. Formalize environmental education in academic institutions for local communities with a gender and ethnic approach with the aim of creating opportunities in the sector for developing economic resilience surrounding the family in their communities.
  6. Guarantee recognition and re-signification of the work of women and girls vis-à-vis their performance and active participation in their different activities, as well as the performance of leadership within government, with free exercise of decision-making regarding administration and organizational processes for developing public policies surrounding technological innovation and a new vision for the environmental economy for sustainable development.
  6. Promote the participation of regional youth organizations for managing development plans and public policies for implementing innovative net zero emission solutions. Toward this, promote awareness-raising among different stakeholder groups and actors to encourage them to take part in processes for monitoring the loss of forests and land classification with the objective of highlighting areas of significant biological and ecological interest.
  7. Support monitoring of the guidelines of the National Zero Net Deforestation Plan for 2030 in order to establish tree cover percentages, the impacts of fragmentation, habitat degradation, and the loss of species and high-value forests, with the aim of measuring the impact of the targets, aims, and corrective measures for 2030.
  8. Implement sustainable development plans within public policies, including by articulating actions on the management of renewable energy and energy efficiency. We, therefore, recommend the following to the heads of government of the Americas:

- a. Support the commitment that the total area of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) within a country will remain constant and with existing levels of intact biodiversity.
  - b. Meet commitments to halve deforestation by 2023 and reach zero deforestation by 2030.
  - c. Discuss a regional ban on the harvest of native hardwood trees in high-value forests by 2030.
9. We urge governments to ensure that the commitments of the agreements, the Net Zero Challenge, and Plan 2030 in terms of biodiversity broaden the context of the guidelines of their agreements by establishing Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) to be prioritized for conservation, taking the following steps:
- a. Establish a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Regional Coordination Group for the region, made up of government, landowners and managers, members of civil society, scientists, and other environmental organizations to provide resources to identify, map, and monitor KBA regional areas by December 2022.
  - b. Identify KBAs in order to protect species and habitats, as well as connectivity corridors, as a first step towards conservation, by June 2023.
  - c. Implement monitoring and conservation practices in select KBAs by 2024.
  - d. Include high carbon non-forest ecosystems like grasslands, wetlands, and blue carbon ecosystems in the KBA designation.
  - e. Encourage governments to “ratify” the Bonn Challenge, Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere by the end of 2023, contributing to the sustainable development of the region.
10. Urge the heads of government to develop financial plans and sustainable and sustainable-environmental investment, so that they facilitate incentives for reforestation, the contribution of which is direct and non-transferable and the objective of which is the restoration of lands on ethnic and campesino territory damaged by illegal farming practices.
- a. Promote the creation of a national administrative decree that prosecutes companies with environmental and business management systems that do not contribute to mitigating the effects of environmental impact by the end of 2022.
  - b. Ensure that banks and other financial institutions implement affordable incentives for businesses (especially SMEs) that support reforestation, reclamation, and remediation by 2024.
- C.** By COP27, update—as appropriate—the 2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to incorporate national deforestation commitments, pursuant to the standards established in the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is recommended to include a commitment to designate land ownership and management by indigenous and other forest-dwelling and disadvantaged communities as a conservation strategy and a key factor in conservation.
- D.** In the interest of eliminating deforestation from agricultural production and consumption, including through policies and collaboration with producers, retailers, consumers, and commodity trading companies, it is essential that the governments of the Americas, led by

their Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Economy, present action plans with net deforestation zero agriculture plans, but with high productivity, incentivized by strengthening land protectors. This has a positive impact on forest conservation and proper care of forested areas by combining ancestral traditions, technology, and innovation as a means of building strength. These action plans will be presented at a meeting organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in early 2023. Therefore, governments are issued the following recommendations:

1. Establish public policies that reduce deforestation rates, promoting multicultural ethno-educational and environmental training, employing the inclusive and participatory work methodologies of Afro-descendant, indigenous, Roma, and campesino communities, as well as engaging consumers, producers, women, children in general, and older adults.
  2. Provide training in food systems mapping for Caribbean agricultural professionals through the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).
  3. Provide regional support for transitions to shade house farming, hydroponics, and vertical farming in SIDS.
  4. OAS States must join the Food and Land Use Coalition by the end of 2023 and ensure that:
    - a. Capital flows no longer directly or indirectly support deforestation.
    - b. Trade agreements in the region include terms to prevent deforestation.
    - c. Due diligence requirements for financial institutions are included. Corporations are required to demonstrate transparency and traceability throughout their value chains.
- d. The funds reach food producers, especially small farmers, who will implement the transition to more sustainable production methods.
  - e. The rights and livelihoods of farmers, indigenous peoples, and local communities are respected and included in the new green economy.
- E.** Report on annual progress as of the second half of 2022 towards eliminating deforestation and propose concrete measures to implement sustainable solutions and technologies that reduce deforestation and biodiversity loss in accordance with the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation.
- a. With the support of IICA, actors, and interest groups, create a regional report format, through consultation with local actors.
  - b. Establish a regional group of experts to provide technical support for developing and implementing sustainable solutions based on nature.
- F.** Guarantee security measures for environmental defenders in accordance with the principles and guidelines of the Escazú Agreement by working with stakeholders to develop a national plan in early 2023, aimed at:
- a. Responding to information provided by environmental defenders on threats or incidents of violence and releasing that information to the public.
  - b. Enacting and enforcing laws that fully protect environmental defenders and the resources they defend. We, therefore, commit to guaranteeing due process of law for environmental crimes

- and the protection of environment defenders; and
- c. Require that environmental impact assessments are conducted, where required by law, and comply with legal provisions during and after operations, addressing the vulnerabilities and particularities faced by land defenders, with an inclusive and intersectional approach that provides protection by taking into account the technology and connectivity deficiencies in the territories.
  - d. Establish the Green Futures Working Group as a network for CSOs, opinion leaders, and social actors to promote and make visible the development of mechanisms for legal consultation, complaints, and social justice based on protecting CSOs and environmental leaders, for which it is proposed that the NETWORK make this political commitment at the highest level.
  - e. It is proposed that the OAS Regional Society of Conservation Professionals be re-established and linked to the existing OAS Environmental Law Advisory Group, incorporating the exercise of civil society organizations (CSOs) and formalizing a connection related to the defense and legitimization of environment defenders' voices.
  - f. Identify the regulatory and legislative processes for the environmental management carried out by the environmental investigation agencies in order to promote the creation of a Regional and local Environmental Ombudsperson's Office (EEO). This office must provide humanized attention to environmental groups, social actors, and CSOs in order to protect their lives.
  - g. Together with heads of State and the private sector, coordinate implementation of monitoring pollutants that can have a lasting impact, such as oil spills, establishing a risk management plan for human health.
  - h. Strengthen the work of CSOs such that the monitoring of pursuit of environmental investigations is transparent and supported by control entities, which, with the creation of the network of cooperators and environmental management promoting the donation of resources and the self-management of them; in order to lead and support the investigation of processes from a legal and technical framework, the work of which must be made visible and disseminated by means of communication that make it possible to amplify the voice of CSOs and enable them to broaden their range of action by coordinating on cross-border environmental situations.
- G.** In order to decrease the amount of carbon emitted from land use and increase carbon storage, we propose the following:
- a. Support the role of sectors that generate large CO<sub>2</sub> emissions—such as the energy, mining, agricultural, steel, cement, and transportation sectors, among others—in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by improving practices that increase productivity and efficiency, and integrate inclusive climate-smart production approaches that reduce carbon and methane emissions and improve resilience to the effects of climate change, providing technical support to producers and campesinos to transform land or farm use by promoting sustainable and economically-sustainable development

in rural areas, ethnic territories, and campesino territories.

- b. Provide training opportunities at the national level for agriculture for local farmers through IICA to ensure they can be integrated into the process of transitioning to a green economy.
  - c. Following the guidelines of the objectives for sustainable development, we propose creating a data network for digitalization, restoration, and visibility of local farms to capture emission levels more effectively, in order to promote the correct use of grasslands, hydrographic basins, and wetlands, so as to guarantee greenhouse gas emissions and agricultural development within the framework of previously established objectives.
- H.** H. We will join the Agricultural Innovation for Climate Mission and support increased aggregate public investment in agricultural innovation for climate-smart agriculture and food systems over the next five years, leading to new initiatives. We, therefore, urge governments to consolidate these initiatives through State policies, in order to guarantee compliance with them.

Strengthen networks of local and regional food systems so that countries can contribute to rural development, urging the establishment of public policy to ensure that within the food production chain, farmers and campesinos earn a respectable percentage of the profits, which encourages and contributes to increasing land restoration and producing crops that are healthy for the environment, for wellbeing, and for human health, such that local food security is prioritized.

- I.** We will conserve and restore high-carbon ecosystems, including old-growth forests, wetlands, peatlands, and primary forests, in consultation with stakeholders, including

indigenous peoples, peasant farmers, Afro-descendants, and other disadvantaged communities, urging reduction of pressure for land conversion through sustainable or alternative economic activities.

- J.** We will maximize the potential contribution of nature-based solutions in strategies to achieve the ambitious goals of reaching net zero emissions and in the implementation of NDCs, following the 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway. This policy will focus especially on industries that generate large emissions, promoting vulnerability studies on climate change and environmental health in all the countries of the region and the Hemisphere.

To harness the power of the ocean and other bodies of water to mitigate climate change:

- K.** We will establish a watchdog working group to conduct monitoring actions on plastic pollution in the oceans, coordinating efforts and facilitating exchanges between governments, civil society, academic and scientific institutions, government institutions, economic development agencies, business associations, regional youth representatives in the Working Group on Ocean Plastic Pollution, and other stakeholders to support global action to combat plastic dumping in different types of water bodies, including through a possible new global instrument, promoting incentives that promote a culture of environmental health, technical-construction housing innovation in urban and rural areas, and around the reuse of solid and plastic waste as a source of renewable energy and a circular economy based on energy efficiency.

- L.** We recommend working jointly and interdisciplinarily in environmental research processes through the implementation of environmental research centers in the regions to develop capacities in waste management and promote circular economy approaches throughout the plastic lifecycle, promoting

the implementation of innovative projects that take into account land, river, and marine sources of plastic pollution throughout the region, including abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing equipment. Of great importance is the contribution of voluntary policy work to the common goal of combating the discharge of plastic pollution in the different types of water bodies, and supporting the strong participation of stakeholders, especially indigenous, Afro-descendant, and campesino communities, as well as other disadvantaged communities.

Therefore, we urge governments to commit to developing technological solutions based on the value chain of an energy system that is grounded in renewable energies, using carbon sequestration technology and methane emissions management, to comply with the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, making a transition from fossil fuels part of the solution by developing an energy system hand in hand with sustainable economic development, while also encouraging manufacturers to incorporate design changes into products containing plastic components.

- a. Support technological energy efficiency processes by facilitating solid waste collection systems and plastics recycling, repair, or reuse, such as longer warranty periods.
- b. Support the development and funding of a regional recycling facility for SIDS by December 2023.
- c. Actively support a ban on single-use plastic by December 2025.

**M.** Direct coordination efforts aimed at reducing and mitigating oil spills and wastewater discharges and restoring coastal ecosystems affected by these forms of pollution; develop mechanisms of international law to prosecute the governments of the countries that fail to comply with international environmental and maritime regulations and the standards

established in the MARPOL agreement. Coordination will include the development and implementation of transparent processes for evaluating the damage caused by these forms of pollution and establishing adequate mechanisms for repairing the damage suffered by the people and communities affected by these pollutants.

**N.** We recommend implementing sources of renewable energy, through clean energy, to reduce levels of environmental pollution and develop energy efficiency for the entire planet. This is in view of its importance for the development and wellbeing of the territories and communities where it is produced, benefiting the different social actors and vulnerable communities that inhabit the territories. We also recommend adopting public-private plans to promote the development of technological solutions capable of taking advantage of the energy potential of the oceans and other bodies of water in a sustainable way. We urge support of the NDC alliance known as the Climate and Health Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA). Blue Carbon Ecosystems (BCE) are fragile and important for curbing climate change, as they act as nurseries for fish and marine life. The following are therefore needed:

- a. Blue carbon ecosystem mapping and monitoring systems by 2024.
- b. Designate best-practice measures for incorporating remediation into environmental management plans. Promoting regular evaluations of polluting industries, including review of discharges of contaminated waste to waterways, to aid in prevention and avoid acidification, deoxygenation, and ocean warming.
- c. Support the establishment and operation of marine protected areas within the Americas.



- O.** Implement decarbonization processes in the maritime transport sector, including by establishing green corridors that use cleaner fuels and collaboration in the decarbonization of all sea and river ports of the three subregions of the Americas (North America, the Caribbean, Canada, Mesoamerica, and Latin America) and the Hemisphere. Because the health of our oceans determines the measures to accelerate action in terms of adapting to climate change, the following is therefore recommended:
- a. Support the establishment and operation of marine protected areas within the Americas and conduct monitoring to establish a baseline for water quality and marine life.
  - b. Encourage monitoring of sedimentation, noise, and ultrasonic pollution that can have a devastating effect on fish and marine mammals.
  - c. Prevent the discharge of contaminated waste, such as carcinogens, radioactive isotopes, or bio-accumulating toxins.
  - d. Commit to minimizing the impacts of ocean use on the wellbeing of fishers in the region.
- P.** We will conserve “blue carbon” ecosystems such as mangroves, salt marshes, seagrass beds, and river grass beds, ratifying the guidelines of the Paris Agreement and the Ramsar Convention, promoting the restoration, preservation, and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems, eliminating all kinds of harmful practices to mitigate climate change.
- Q.** We will engage in the dialogue on oceans and climate created by COP26 to promote ocean-based climate solutions and identify opportunities to incorporate those solutions into climate action. For this reason, we will adopt plans aimed at reducing the environmental impact of productive activities that are essential for the economic systems of the countries of the Hemisphere, mainly those associated with the growing demand for critical minerals to

make the low-carbon energy transition visible, incorporating public institutions (Ministries of Industry, ST&I, among others) as well as private institutions for a coordinated effort that incorporates technology and innovation.

To accelerate action on adaptation to climate change, we recommend the following:

- R.** Publish and implement national adaptation plans and strategies in conjunction with civil society, academic and scientific institutions, economic development agencies, business associations, local communities, and other social actors, to communicate adaptation priorities that generate resilience in all sectors and at all scales.

Support the establishment of bodies that recognize and take into account civil society leadership at the national and regional levels for monitoring and oversight of the commitments made by States.

Taking into account the valuable participation of children and adolescents throughout the Americas, inclusively and while promoting advocacy and change towards sustainable development, as well as guiding interest groups and government entities, so that the national action plans include deadlines and concrete actions, expanding the context of training for environmental experts and social actors.

- S.** Incorporate climate risks into sector-specific plans, policies, operations, and budgets to build resilience across sectors, along with strategic public policies that mobilize the health sector, minimizing the climate impact on human health in ethnic communities, campesino communities, rural and urban areas, and for stakeholders, as well as for migrants between subregions and the Hemisphere.

We, therefore, recommend that the heads of government of the OAS, regional scientists, the private sector, and CSOs finalize a regional plan for the oil and gas sector by the end of 2023, and

an international eco-sustainable development plan with a zero-burn policy before June 20, 2022. Incorporate the guidelines of the Paris Agreement as far as reducing existing GHG emissions by 28% by 2030, securing the signatures of oil and gas companies operating in the region of the Global Methane Commitment by December 2022, since studies show that reducing methane is the most effective way to slow global warming.

**T.** Establish resilient monitoring and evaluation systems for adaptation measures, ensuring the measures are accessible to all communities, including indigenous, campesino, Afro-descendant, and rural communities, taking into account the impact on women and children.

- a. Provide technical support for establishing regional best practice monitoring and evaluation guidelines and systems by 2025.
- b. Provide support for establishing a baseline for marine animals for the establishment of marine protected areas by 2025.

**U.** Improve access to climate information, through decision support tools and early warning systems to improve understanding of and response to climate impacts across sectors and scales. Strengthen legislative measures by implementing long-term economic diversification plans based on technological development and innovation as an alternative to productive activities with significant environmental impact, incorporating environmental sustainability criteria, formalized in intersectoral spaces with the support, participation, and contribution of civil society organizations, producers, and conservation groups. We therefore recommend the following:

- a. Support the mobilization of resources for resilience-building activities.
- b. Create a regional disaster data system that

registers, monitors, and forecasts future environmental events.

- c. Promote the financing of climate insurance for housing and other key sectors.

**V.** Strengthen education and training in environmental matters, coordinating an intersectoral intervention, with the involvement of the general public, of public and private academic institutions responsible for formulating policies, and of adaptation professionals, as well as people who work in industries related to the issue for the current generation and for the next, with a gender, ethnic, sociocultural, and human rights approach, understanding communication campaigns and strategies for environmental and health education as an implementation strategy, through public policies for sustainable development. We, therefore, propose the following:

- a. Update educational curriculum to reflect global, regional, and national climate priorities and actions.
- b. Specialized training and scholarships for youth from disadvantaged communities and SIDS on climate change and sustainable development.
- c. Support for the creation of globally recognized climate-specific training programs in regional tertiary learning institutions.
- d. Foster partnerships across the region for learning exchanges and scholarships for students and young professionals.

**W.** Engage and commit the governments of the Americas and the Hemisphere to meeting the goals and deadlines set forth in this document, assigning local leaders and decision-makers according to their national roles to oversight,

monitoring, and follow-up of the agreements; we, therefore, urge developed countries to fulfill their financing commitments to developing countries to fight climate change, support the ecological transition, and reduce emissions, established starting with the Copenhagen Climate Conference of 2009, contributing to safeguarding and ensuring a healthy, sustainable, inclusive, equitable, and resilient continent.



Conclusions of the Thematic  
Working Groups of Civil Society  
Organizations And Social Actors

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# Recommendations of the Thematic Working Group on Clean Energy<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> The recommendations contained in this document were formulated by the members of the thematic working groups of the following subregions: i) Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States, ii) Mesoamerica and iii) South America

“Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future”

### **Accelerating the clean energy transition**

Clean Energy, an attempt to define the Summit of the Americas, from the point of view of the most vulnerable groups, strategies and actions.

Why do we need a differentiated approach based on race/ethnicity and cultural factors for clean energy and climate change? Despite exposure to repeat severe weather events, these populations have demonstrated exceptional resilience and strength in recovery. The high vulnerability and exposure to climate change of Afro-descendent, indigenous in the LAC region derives in part from their history of forced migration and their resulting geographic concentration in coastal cities.

In addition, as a result of historical and systemic racism and structural bias, a lack of inclusive policies and programs, and other discriminatory practices, populations are disproportionately concentrated in low-income neighborhoods without access to infrastructure or with access to poor quality infrastructure, as well as in environmentally sensitive areas prone to flooding, erosion, and other adverse weather events.

Overwhelming evidence indicates that projects and programs in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation, renovation, and clean energy use must adopt an ethnic diversity perspective.

Severe geological and weather events have had a disproportionately negative impact on Afro-descendent and indigenous communities, as well as coastal, riverine, and highland populations.

Opportunities to incorporate a focus on Latin America's Afro-descendent and indigenous populations and to consider their geographic locations as centers of innovation for attracting renewable energy and other technologies for adaptation and mitigation are a real possibility.

Building on the draft political commitment

Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, where the Heads of State and Government of the Americas committed to the following clean energy principles, we have also added elements of value to what was proposed by the leaders and make the following recommendations.

### **ACCELERATING THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION**

#### **Recommendations**

1. We recommend that the countries of the Americas accelerate the implementation of all substantive international agreements and treaties to accelerate the clean energy transition and sustainable development, including: The Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the subsequent COP 21 conferences, the Kyoto Agreement, the Escazu Agreement as a tool for the protection of environmental democracy in the Americas, and the protection of the right to life of environmental leaders and their organizations that care for and protect our environment and habitat.
2. Take note of Principle 10 of the Rio+20 Declaration, develop and implement an action plan to advance the achievement of a regional agreement or other instrument to ensure the full implementation of the rights of access to information, participation, and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. We call on the leaders of the countries of the Americas to adopt the necessary measures to reduce emissions, mobilize funds, and promote adaptation and resilience. In addition to presenting ambitious reduction targets for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030 that are aligned with reaching net zero by mid-century. Incorporate conservation of clean energy sources, and climate resilience in new public infrastructure plans in all countries of the Americas.

4. Create follow-up, monitoring, evaluation, and implementation mechanisms for the commitments signed in relation to the clean energy transition in the Americas. (Presentation of proposals and policies by each government in a period of 6 months for evaluation by a commission).
5. Develop regional and country strategies with a differential ethnic approach for Afro-descendent peoples and indigenous communities to promote sustainable development in a manner consistent with the cultural identity of their populations.
6. Secure land tenure for rural populations and the implementation of payment for ecosystem services programs; support forest management and coastal erosion programs.
7. Create trusts—with contributions from the public-private sector—to finance climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and programs and new forms of clean energy.
8. Ensure that actors implementing projects in the region include the ethnic-racial variable in all survey forms for collecting information on climate change, including the Program for the Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, Recognition, Justice, and Development.
9. Implement the COICA Declaration on the protection of 80 percent of the Amazon Basin and strengthen local and territorial governance systems.
10. That the replacement of coal and inefficient fossil fuels with clean energy technologies be done as part of an integrated economic development plan with the private sector. End public financing of new and unabated coal-fired power generation projects by the end of 2027 (verify in the environmental legislation of each country and its progress or reduction) and implement financing mechanism for business ventures based on clean energy generation and use, including in the natural gas and the mining and energy sector.
11. Involve all stakeholders in the renewable and non-renewable energy sector to generate a consensus agenda toward clean energy transition.
12. Encourage the private sector and multilateral banks to facilitate clean energy projects.
13. Promote policies that stimulate the development of all clean energy sources (wind, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, biogas, biomass, mini-hydroelectric, geothermal), such as tax reductions, lower costs with energy payments, trade exchanges with countries in the region, and training on the energy sector, among others.
14. Encourage public-private partnerships with the aim of developing more private sector investment in clean energy, creating economic conditions that favor development initiatives, access to financing, and the construction of energy projects, among others. Regulations, tariffs, financing, and due process in relation to human rights and customs delays. Generate and propose efficient commitments by country based on clean energy policies, ordinances, and programs.
15. Public institutions in the countries should develop training programs in the areas of the electricity sector with a focus on clean energy, so that young people can become professionals in clean energy technology, with the purpose of contributing and putting forward innovative ideas on this subject and stimulate research into the development of new technologies.

16. To work with the private sector and multilateral development banks to identify and finance infrastructure for quality clean energy generation that follow international best practices for environmental and human rights standards and procurement and reach underserved communities.
17. Promote the implementation of the Global Methane Pledge, including through the development of conscientious, transparent, verifiable action plans at the country level for mitigating the effects of methane gas.
18. Share best practices in transportation infrastructure and the use of clean energy in public transportation and inclusive, equitable, energy-efficient urban designs that take into account the needs of populations with unmet basic needs and take account of persons with disabilities, women, and girls as well as ethnic communities, who disproportionately bear the brunt of the climate crisis.
19. Support and promote the Renewables in Latin America and the Caribbean (RELAC) initiative and its objectives, which include significantly increasing the number of Latin American and Caribbean countries taking part in the initiative by COP28 in 2023.
20. Promote principles that foster the generation of strategies for good management in the mining sector, especially in the case of minerals and metals that drive the energy transition and are therefore experiencing rapid growth, particularly with the inclusion of sustainable mining management plans that avoid open-pit mining or mining on other scales.
21. Allocate COVID-19 recovery funds to green investments that serve communities with unmet basic needs, with a focus on gender inclusion, ethnic communities, and other differently abled communities that disproportionately bear the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis.
22. Establish and implement goals for scaling up offshore renewable energy, as appropriate, by 2023.



Conclusions of the Thematic  
Working Groups of Civil Society  
Organizations And Social Actors

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## Recommendations of the Thematic Working Group on Health and Resilience<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> The recommendations contained in this document were formulated by the members of the thematic working groups of the following subregions: i) Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States, ii) Mesoamerica and iii) South America



## Recommendations presented by Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors of Working Group on Health and Resilience on the Draft Political Commitment for the IX Summit of the Americas “Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas”

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We, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, commit to:

1. Achieving, by the Tenth Summit of the Americas, consensus on a Plan of Action on Health and Resilience in the Americas, beginning in the current year 2022 and ending in 2030.
2. Addressing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, fostering investments in scientific studies to identify and document COVID-19 with the secondary complications caused by the virus and application of the vaccine through this Action Plan, in order to assess and strengthen the capacity and resilience of health, telehealth, and telemedicine systems and health value chains at the national and regional levels, ensuring that health policies focus on the individual and resilience, including physical and mental health and taking into account the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on – and the unique needs of – those in vulnerable circumstances and marginalized groups in the member states, that include:
  - Women
  - Children
  - Adolescents
  - Older adults
  - Persons with disabilities
  - The LGTBI Community
  - Indigenous and Afro-descendant populations
  - Faith-based communities
  - Migrants
  - and other groups in vulnerable circumstances.
3. Including new strategies to guarantee a universal health system and eradicate the growing divide impacting the unemployed, people with little education and training, and other groups with economic and social difficulties without income of their own, affected by COVID-19 and future pandemics or endemic diseases.
4. Encouraging countries to implement international leadership programs in sexual reproductive health and family planning, with the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), by adopting international standards of human rights in health, such as:
  - a. Protocols for the care of women, children, adolescents, and the elderly, people with disabilities, the LGTBI community (based on the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and other inter-American instruments of protection containing principles and rights relevant to LGTBI people), indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, faith-based communities, and migrants, especially pregnant women and the children conceived as a result of violence and sexual abuse, with a non-discriminatory focus on the human rights of the victims tailored to their particular needs.
  - b. Producing a booklet on sexual and reproductive rights of the visually impaired in Braille to make its dissemination easily accessible, and in digital media, for those with hearing disabilities, including accessible language for people lacking

technological skills.

- c. Incorporating age-appropriate sex education material in school curricula, respecting and applying multilateral instruments and treaties to protect human rights, including the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the other Inter-American protection instruments that contain principles and rights relevant to LGTBI persons, emphasizing, in particular, the protection of children's rights and family life in educational programs and public policies.
  - d. In particular, we believe it is appropriate to immediately review any practice that modifies the sexual characteristics of intersex persons without sound medical reasons and without the full informed consent of the intersex person.
5. Promoting sexual and reproductive rights; the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and other Inter-American protection instruments that contain principles and rights relevant to LGTBI persons.
  6. Making every effort to develop an Action Plan that includes, *inter alia*, the identification of national and international cooperation measures to:
    - a. Promote the harmonization and convergence of the standards governing the health systems of the Americas by establishing national plans and public budgets.
    - b. Creating comprehensive auditing, monitoring, and follow-up mechanisms that help ensure proper compliance with the action plans, in order to provide effective, efficient, and inclusive health services with quality and warmth for our

populations, especially those in vulnerable situations and those that have been historically marginalized.

- c. Strengthening education and training of professionals in the field of medicine, comprehensive public health, and biomedical scientific research by establishing a selection system in accordance with the needs of each region to meet the needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children, adolescents, older adults, people with disabilities, the LGTBI community, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, faith-based communities, migrants, and other vulnerable groups; and based on each professional's merits.
- d. Adopting comprehensive policies within the plan of action for inclusion in health, education, and employment for people with disabilities, especially children and adolescents (with Down syndrome, autism, difficulty seeing, hearing, and speaking) based on the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.
- e. Urging member states to strengthen mental health care services in the prevention of problematic use of psychotropic substances, suicidal behavior, and mental illness, with comprehensive care and social inclusion of individuals through access to, and coverage of community-based mental health care services that include sexual orientation and gender identity.
- f. Prioritizing food security and drinking water to allow for a post-pandemic and post-natural disaster transition process tailored to the circumstances.
- g. Creating legal norms to support transparency, monitoring, and follow-up of donated medicines to ensure that they

- are distributed equitably among citizens without discrimination.
- h. Encouraging auditing of financing mechanisms to encourage the participation of financial institutions in the strengthening of health care systems for pandemic preparedness and response.
  - i. Increasing funding for technological research and development in order to expand the capacity of member states to produce medical supplies for regional health resilience and avoid budgetary waste due to their expiration and related forms of corruption.
  - j. Encouraging auditing and transparency in the review of current health budgets and promoting ethical behavior to prevent corruption through proper oversight by entities or committees that are autonomous vis-à-vis governments. Promoting the strengthening of citizenship and continuing the pursuit of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability.
  - k. Ensuring that member states foster the creation and financing of health budget observatories, in partnership with civil society, so as to guarantee citizen control and accountability.
  - l. Making the most of the practice of evidence-based alternative medicine and using digital tools (Telemedicine, Telehealth) to strengthen cooperation and the sharing of best treatments for the development and use of these techniques and technologies, while respecting professional ethics and confidentiality standards.
  - m. Facilitating access to treatment and preventive care to strengthen national and regional capacity to prevent, detect, and respond effectively to outbreaks of infectious and contagious diseases, improve the capacity of health personnel, and strengthen the corresponding national surveillance systems by endowing them with a legal framework with regard to health care issues. Model Inter-American Care Act.
  - n. Incorporating, in a comprehensive manner, the voice of patients and other relevant stakeholders (women, children, adolescents, older adults, people with disabilities, the LGTBI community, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, faith-based communities, migrants, and other vulnerable groups) in government consultations regarding health measures, regulatory approval, and financing; and taking best practices in the Hemisphere into account, including ancestral knowledge of health-related matters. Taking into consideration the “Inter-American Principles on the Human Rights of All Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Persons, and Victims of Trafficking in Persons,” established in the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
  - o. Prioritizing non-communicable diseases as they are the drivers of health loss and mortality across the globe, creating universal access to health and the financial sustainability of public health systems as these diseases are responsible for the majority of the costs faced by public health systems.
  - p. Avoiding contamination of water and the environment, prioritizing drinking water to allow for a post-pandemic and post-natural disaster transition process tailored to the circumstances.
  - q. Adapting a cross-cutting One Health concept in other efforts to improve health outcomes across the region.

- r. Creating the conditions needed to strengthen the capacity to manufacture and market safe, effective, and high-quality medical products in the region and to adopt policies that support sustained multisectoral participation (health, science and technology, industry, and commercial sectors), taking into consideration the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol and ILO Convention 169.
  - s. Creating the conditions needed to obtain the raw material for medicines and thus be able to strengthen, process, manufacture, transport, and market these products for our health systems, with a view to maintaining transparency in the manufacture and sale of safe medical products. Respecting offshore processing rights (Respetando la fabricación al derecho de la maquila). Regarding indigenous and Afro-descendant populations
  - t. Strengthening organizations working for health and human rights through financial and technical support, *inter alia* for developing an action plan that contains an equity perspective on resilience and the economic, social, and cultural needs of our communities, in order to prepare for and respond to current and future emergencies, paying special attention to the needs and difficulties faced by populations in discriminatory conditions, so that they maximize both individual and collective self-sufficiency and self-determination.
7. Ensuring that the ministers and responsible authorities of the member states develop and implement the plan of action with comprehensive input (by the private sector, civil society, and social actors), establishing a follow-up mechanism through annual fora of health stakeholders, with the support of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and other members of the Joint Summit Working Group and Autonomous Oversight Bodies, as necessary.
- 8. Ensuring in health emergencies that the member states guarantee attention to: contraceptive requirements, infectious and contagious diseases (with the highest morbidity and mortality rates, such as HIV and tuberculosis), and hormonal treatments that include transgender persons as well as patients requiring treatment for terminal illnesses, and that people living with HIV can have their antiretrovirals in time to have quality supplies for special tests.
  - 9. Ensuring that member states play an active role in the establishment of protective structures, within the provision of health care services, that guarantee the inclusion of the systems developed by indigenous and Afro-descendant populations, recognizing their ancestral knowledge, and promote investment in scientific studies to identify and document COVID-19 and its complications.
  - 10. Strengthening transparency practices in comprehensive health budgets in the member states of the Americas, including anti-corruption practices.
  - 11. Encouraging member states to promote non-discrimination in urban and rural health care to safeguard the most precious legal asset of human beings, which is life; updating international legal norms on violence in all its manifestations, and providing mechanisms for essential services, including first aid and the creation of shelters for women survivors of domestic violence

## IN CONCLUSION:

In addition to the proposals related to the commitment to enhance health care, we believe that this Summit of the Americas affords a unique

opportunity to hold comprehensive annual forums, work together in consensus, and guarantee the functioning of mechanisms for monitoring and following up on health-related commitments and the implementation of plans of action.

The health crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the scant ability of the health systems of the member states to deal with the negative impacts and ensure appropriate use of resources. Given the havoc wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, we recommend:

That there be multi-stakeholder regional forums as of September 2022 to promote policies and achieve resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable health ecosystems and economies and that by 2030 the following goals be achieved:

- a. That access to the health system is guaranteed in all (rural and urban) population areas of the member states.
- b. That health workers are guaranteed labor rights in accordance with ILO standards and international pandemic or endemic protocols to protect their life and thus reach their full potential.
- c. Promoting access to financing for member states with transparency, audit, and anti-corruption mechanisms to strengthen public health systems.
- d. Applying international standards to prepare the Hemisphere for future health threats and other related issues; in addition to guaranteeing a multisectoral mechanism for follow-up.
- e. Encouraging member states to create internal and external cooperation policies to develop resilient health care systems.
- f. Health commitments must be imbued with a comprehensive vision that covers the health needs of population groups without discrimination (women, children, adolescents, older adults, people with disabilities, the LGTBI community, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, faith-based communities, migrants, and other vulnerable groups).
- g. Transform health economies and make them the engine of recovery and economic growth in the region and place people and their communities at the center of health (including physical and psycho-social) care policies.



Conclusions of the Thematic  
Working Groups of Civil Society  
Organizations And Social Actors

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## Recommendations of the Thematic Working Group on Digital Transformation<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> The recommendations contained in this document were formulated by the members of the thematic working groups of the following subregions: i) Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States, ii) Mesoamerica and iii) South America.

## Working Group on Digital Transformation of Canada, the Caribbean and United States

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Members of The Digital Transformation Working Group (Canada, USA, and the Caribbean), including Equality Now, Equality Bahamas, Latino Community Foundation, RespectAbility, Organization for Social Media Safety, and Rotary International respectfully submit this report in advance of The IX Summit of the Americas. The effective recommendations provided in this report should be adopted to strengthen and complement The Draft Political Commitment for the IX Summit of the Americas: Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation.

### II. RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Commitment 1: To facilitate affordable, universal broadband access to the Internet for all peoples of the Americas by 2030**

Governments must prioritize reliable, accessible, affordable, and meaningful connectivity, regardless of ability to pay, for their citizens in order to secure the benefits of an inclusive digital society for everyone. In order to form a thriving digital ecosystem, governments must adopt a comprehensive human rights-based approach that aims at closing the digital divide.

Internet usage is growing with the expansion of 5G technology in many regions including within the Americas. Unfortunately, meaningful connectivity is still a challenge. In 2021, the International Communication Union (ITU), reported that nearly 3 billion people have never used the Internet. The majority of those offline are women, thereby reinforcing gender inequalities.

Men remain 21% more likely to be online than women, rising to 52% in the world's least developed countries (LDCs). Governments have not adequately developed policies to address the digital gender gap.

Until we manage to close this significant gap, we cannot meet the Sustainable Development Goal target 9.c for universal Internet access. To be offline means missing out on learning and earning, accessing valuable services, and participating in democratic public debate. The digital divide deepens existing gender inequalities, pushing women further to the margins of society.

#### **Recommendations**

We encourage Governments to:

- Acknowledge, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, that access to broadband Internet is a human right.<sup>20</sup>
- Adopt measures to ensure everyone has equal access to a secure and open Internet by addressing factors such as level of employment, education, poverty, literacy, migrant status, race, and geographical location that disenfranchise women and other groups.
- Adopt policies and regulations that foster universal and equitable access to the Internet, including fair and transparent market regulation, universal service requirements and licensing agreements.
- Strengthen universal access strategies with modern, ambitious Universal Service & Access Fund<sup>21</sup> mandates, and include institutional

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<sup>20</sup> See, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La of 16 May 2011, A/ HRC/ 17/ 27) <sup>21</sup> See, Universal Service & Access Funds: An Untapped Resource to Close the Gender Digital Divide, March 2018, <available at: <https://webfoundation.org/docs/2018/03/Using-USAFs-to-Close-the-Gender-Digital-Divide-in-Africa.pdf>

coordination in the policy design and implementation stages.

- Universal broadband access is accompanied with universal connection to the Internet. ‘Access’ can be misused by ISPs seeking to present unconnected Wi-Fi, fiber, and infrastructure as access in order to gain market image and gain favor from governments interested in universal connectivity. Connectivity must not rely on redundant systems such as in-ground fiber and Wi-Fi hotspots/units installed on streetlights, buildings, and street furniture.
- Provide free public Internet in low-income areas and city centers to increase access for people experiencing poverty.
- Ensure high quality, consistent Internet access in rural areas.
- Provide flexible subcontracting opportunities for community-led nonprofits, recognize, and tackle linguistic barriers, and involve ethnic media partnerships to advertise broadband funding programs.
- Develop a universal standard of acceptable Internet speeds to ensure high quality and consistent Internet use for all, while recognizing that the current standards are too low.

**Commitment 2: To expand digital government transformation and improve the digital literacy and cybersecurity capacity of citizens, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders**

#### **Recommendations**

We encourage Governments to:

- Acknowledge that digital literacy and

cybersecurity needs reflect the social dynamics found online—including how both anonymity and ‘influencer’ status create space for new and old forms of predatory practices (e.g., predatory financial services, misinformation, harassment, isolation)—and address them. By proactively monitoring trends online, key trusted figures can disseminate reliable actions to the public and leverage well-known, neutral stakeholders.

- Provide training and programs for digital literacy and cybersecurity to the public and incentivize members of the private sector and civil society organization to do the same, prioritizing people in situations of vulnerability including women, youth, elderly people, LGBTQ+ people and human rights defenders.
- Combine digital literacy with provision of devices, internet access, and other necessary resources and services, such as bank accounts, to enable participation.
- Develop both programs and alternatives for older people who have not engaged with smart devices or used the Internet and implement a policy to prevent them from being forced to transition to digital platforms for the benefit of service providers.

**Commitment 4: To expand opportunities for businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, to participate in e-commerce and utilize digital technologies and logistics services to improve their operations**

#### **Recommendations**

We encourage Governments to:

- Prioritize micro-businesses such as small shops, street vendors, and individuals



operating hyper-local businesses which have a greater need for low-cost Internet connection and use the opportunities available online.

- Provide and encourage the development of grants and initiatives to increase access to digital technology and enable and increase participation in digital economies.

**Commitment 7: To promote respect for human rights on the Internet and in the dissemination and use of emerging digital technologies**

**a. Towards a Universal Declaration on Digital Rights**

The rapid expansion of digital technology is bringing extraordinary opportunities as well as profound disruption to our global society. The need to recognize access to broadband Internet as a human right is greater than ever.

As we accelerate into our digital future-of fast paced digital transformation, high Internet speeds, algorithms, machine learning, web 3, the blockchain and the metaverse-this new ecosystem is reflecting, replicating and indeed amplifying the biases and discrimination of existing structural inequalities of the physical world, such as racism and misogyny. Online channels have created tremendous opportunities for free expression, organizing and collective action on a global scale and for countering oppression; however, rights and freedoms are infringed upon, existing discriminations and biases are amplified, and old and new forms of violence and crime are perpetrated online in globalized multijurisdictional, barely regulated space with increasing impunity. International and national laws and systems fail to keep pace with technological advances and their consequences.

A bold, transformative, universally agreed and

feminist Declaration on Digital Rights grounded in international human rights law and principles will help ensure that the rights of all people, particularly the most vulnerable and those who suffer systemic discrimination, are protected in the digital space.

**Recommendations**

We encourage Governments to:

- Develop<sup>22</sup> an intersectional feminist Universal Declaration on Digital Rights-implemented through robust national laws-that articulates the rights of all people in the digital space, guarantees protection of fundamental rights, regulates human interactions, and addresses the accountability of governments, the technology industry and other players responsible for this space. It must specifically address the needs of marginalized people including people with disabilities, ensuring that the technologies in use are accessible.
- Provide safeguards that protect online users from threats of violent social media interactions such as, cyber bullying, disinformation, privacy violations.
- Commit to preventing and eliminating online harassment and violence, recognizing this disproportionately affects women, LGBTQI+ people, and young people.

**b. Addressing online violence against women and girls**

Today, the scope and scale of Internet and digital connectivity and increasingly affordable access to camera ready technology, coupled with gendered notions of male entitlement and the intensification of misogyny online, is enabling online violence against women, girls and children to occur at unprecedented levels across the world.

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<sup>22</sup> In collaboration with other governments, the United Nations, the OAS, INTERPOL and industry, and other stakeholders particularly the technology industry and civil society organizations.

Key challenges to addressing online sexual exploitation and abuse (OSEA) include:

- Many laws pre-date important technological advances, such as camera-ready technology, and do not adequately respond to the Internet's global and ever-evolving nature.
- Inconsistencies internationally and nationally in definitions of OSEA, and the application of digital service providers' and platforms' terms and conditions for use, make it difficult to identify and prosecute perpetrators.
- Measures to prevent and detect OSEA have been mostly left to digital service providers and platforms because of the different contractual, criminal, and private law obligations placed on them in different countries. Consequently, there has been heavy reliance on voluntary measures implemented by digital service providers and platforms.
- There is an inherent tension between digital rights and freedoms, such as privacy and freedom of expression, and the right to protection and safety from online harm.
- Investigating and prosecuting cases of sexual abuse and exploitation is extremely challenging for law enforcement, partly because criminal activity is often not confined to one country or territory. Complex cases can involve multiple offenders and/or victims, various platforms, in different countries.

## Recommendations

We encourage Governments to:

- Review and update national and regional legislation and policies to ensure that they are aligned to the digital age and fully protect people from online violence including gender-based violence such as image-based sexual abuse, doxing, and technology-enabled sex trafficking.

- Adopt legally binding standards that clarify the role, responsibility, and accountability of digital service providers and platforms, in preventing, detecting, and reporting online violence and sexual abuse on their platforms.
- Strengthen national capacity and international cooperation to prevent, detect and prosecute cases of online violence.
- Conduct up-to-date research and analysis on online violence against women and girls, including online sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Protection and access to justice for human rights defenders.

### **Commitment 9: To promote transparency and accountability in the use of digital technology, including the responsible and ethical use of trustworthy artificial intelligence, while protecting privacy and human rights**

Today, privacy is not just about one's data. Developers can aggregate data about a person to train a machine learning model that is subsequently used to make predictions about other people. Organizations may use these correlative patterns to classify data into groups. It then becomes possible to probabilistically infer those other individual cases are like or unlike members of the group, such that a particular categorization does or does not apply to a third party who was not in the original data set. This result disempowers individuals about whom inferences are made and who have no control over the data sources from which the inferential model is generated. Machine learning thus exposes the need to recognize two categories of data: one, personal data, and two, data that can be processed to make inferences about persons.

Threats include, but are not limited to:

- Invasions of privacy and data breaches, which include the non-consensual sharing of intimate images, searching for and publishing private or identifying information about a particular individual on the Internet, or

the mass disclosure of private information through hacking.

- Biases which include sex and race discriminatory recruitment practices, gender and racial biases (that alarmingly range from insurance offers to predicting someone's propensity for criminal behavior), and lack of diversity in the data used to train machine learning systems, which can produce discriminatory outputs from artificial intelligence (AI) systems making decisions about people's lives and the information people are fed.
- Machine learning provides pathways to use data and make probabilistic predictions-inferences-that are inadequately addressed by the current regime. At this present time, it is possible to aggregate myriad individuals' data within machine learning models, identify patterns, and then apply the patterns to make inferences about other people who may or may not be part of the original data set.

Also, the use of algorithmic decision-making systems is often not apparent to the end user at first sight. Additionally, information regarding the systems, including the processes, relevant documentation, and accountable persons, is not readily accessible to independent individuals and entities in order for them to be able to be informed and seek recourse and redress.

## Recommendations

We encourage Governments to:

- Adopt legally binding regulations and standards governing the use of AI in the public and private sector, including providing redress to citizens negatively impacted by AI systems.
- Mandate Human Rights Impact assessments for technologies used in public administration and potentially carrying risks of harm to citizens.

- Administer and set guard rails for AI programmers to mitigate the risk of face-recognition discrimination and coding biases.
- Develop frameworks to ensure collaboration between the technology sector and other sectors including law enforcement, civil society organizations and academia on principles and practices that will promote responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence.

## **Commitment 11: To prevent the shutting down, blocking, or throttling of Internet, telecommunication, or social media platforms;**

Mostly driven by political and national security concerns, Internet shutdowns are a growing pandemic. The Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue regarded Internet shutdowns, regardless of the justification, a violation of Article 19(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights because the interruption to Internet access is disproportionate. The Report called on States to ensure maintenance of Internet access at all times, including during times of political unrest.

It has also been found by the Internet Society (ISOC) that Internet shutdowns not only have a human rights impact but a technical and economic one as well. By shutting down the Internet users' trust is undermined which sets in motion a number of consequences for the local economies, including impacting the reliability of critical e-government services, accessing key public health information and restricting online participation for even the most mundane of tasks. Internet shutdowns affect many sectors of society.

## Recommendations

We encourage Governments to:

- Condemn Internet shutdowns, particularly through country-specific statements issued during regional and international human

rights platforms and sessions.

- Adopt measures to ensure that Internet shutdowns are not permitted on any grounds, including public order or national security grounds. The measures should require Internet intermediaries to be transparent about any traffic or information management practices they employ.
- Build resilient infrastructure by distributing more Internet exchange points, along with increased diversity of Internet connectivity at international borders to frustrate efforts of Internet shutdowns.
- Highlight the impact of Internet shutdowns on civil and political rights and increase awareness and attention of such human rights violations on economic, social and cultural rights, particularly linking to the broader achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda through the Broadband Commission and High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPPF) studies.

**Commitment 12: To collaborate on the development and implementation of interoperable, standards-based policies for cybersecurity and consumer protection, including safeguards to prevent and address cybercrime;**

Due to the complex nature of cyber breaches and crimes-occurring across borders and not only impact national security, companies' integrities but the protection of consumers' rights and interests-there is a need for measures and tools that include policies, security safeguards, guidelines, technologies, and best practices that are used to protect the cyber environment, computer and ICT systems, organizations, and users' assets.

In the development and implementation of these policies, there must be a proper balance between the interests of law enforcement and respect for fundamental human rights, such as the right to

freedom of expression, privacy and protection of individuals, as enshrined in applicable international and regional human rights treaties.

## **Recommendations**

We encourage Governments to:

- Increase capabilities, particularly in law enforcement by expanding understanding of police and judicial officers about cybercrimes and equipping them with tools to investigate and prosecute criminals.
- Strengthen regional and international cooperation and dialogue between States, the United Nations, the OAS, INTERPOL, the technology industry, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.
- Review and update national legislation and policies to ensure that there are no gaps in law that result in infringement of fundamental human rights in the name of protection from cybercrime or cybersecurity.
- Prevent cybercrime (financial, mental, physical, etc.) and crimes with a digital component by creating standards that include third-party experts for research analysis, data collection from affected sub-populations (e.g., young students, seniors, low-income families), and oversight of app security measures which can protect populations.

## **III. CONTRIBUTORS**

This report was made by civil society members of The Digital Transformation Working Group (Canada, USA, and the Caribbean). Please find information about some of the contributing organizations below:

**Equality Now** is an international human rights NGO and a registered civil society organization of the Organization of American States (OAS). Equality Now's mission is to achieve legal and systemic change that addresses violence and discrimination against all women and girls

around the world. Founded in 1992, Equality Now is a global organization with partners and supporters in every region. Ending sexual violence, ending sexual exploitation, ending harmful practices and achieving legal equality are the main areas of Equality Now's work. Regarding digital transformation, Equality Now works to ensure that the human rights of all women and girls are fully realized in the digital world and that governments and the private sectors proactively work to combat online sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls.

**Equality Bahamas** is a feminist organization promoting women's and LGBTQI+ people's rights as human rights through advocacy, public education, and community engagement. It uses international and regional mechanisms such as Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Belém do Pará to advocate for constitutional and legislative reform, feminist policymaking, and development of programs and services in recognition and toward the expansion of human rights. Its work prioritizes people in situations of vulnerability including young people, people experiencing poverty, informal workers, people with disabilities, and migrant people. Digital transformation is in progress and there must be a feminist approach to ensure that these communities are not left behind or their vulnerabilities exacerbated. They must be centered, and it must be recognized that until they have full access-including properly functioning devices, reliable Internet connection, digital literacy, and tools and services such as banking and payments systems-digital transformation is not complete, equitable, or effective and these systems cannot be used to the effect of their exclusion or inability to participate.

**Latino Community Foundation** is a philanthropic nonprofit organization whose sole mission is to build an ecosystem of civically engaged philanthropic leaders, investing in Latino-led organizations, and increasing civic and political participation by Latinos in California. To date, LCF has invested nearly \$20 million to build Latino leadership in the state. Between 2010-2016, the LCF

campaigned to increase broadband adoption rates in underserved, low-income Latino communities in the state. LCF launched the Get Latinos Connected Campaign, a campaign that successfully connected 2,135 Latinos to the Internet, provided training to more than 5,000 Latino families, and ensured greater access to hardware for low-income families. The campaign focused on creating a culture of technology and educated Latino families about available low-cost hardware and Internet options. LCF also trained and deployed a cohort of 26 community tech promoters (community outreach workers) that worked in key Latino communities to help sign up families to low-cost Internet at home and troubleshoot their tech needs.

**Respectability** is a diverse, disability-led nonprofit that works to create systemic change in how society views and values people with disabilities, and that advances policies and practices that empower people with disabilities to have a better future. People with disabilities make up the largest minority group in the United States. Disabilities increase the digital divide in affected populations due to insufficient financial resources or skills and tools which would enable them to fully benefit from Internet access. This low accessibility to Internet resources may itself be another factor limiting its use by people with disabilities. We support digital accessibility: the inclusive practice of removing barriers that prevent interaction with, or access to websites, digital tools and technologies, by people with disabilities.

**Organization for Social Media Safety** is the first consumer protection organization exclusively focused on social media. We work to make social media safe for everyone. We protect against all social media-related dangers including depression/suicide, hate speech, sexual crimes, human trafficking, propaganda and anti-democratic practices, and cybercrimes. We work with academic institutions and global partners to identify evidence-based practices, recommendations, and strategies for individuals, families, schools, government agencies, and those impacted by the social dynamics influenced by social media platforms. The digital world is growing more interconnected and touches

every part of our lives. Without proactive monitoring and resources to prevent malicious actors online, our families, friends, neighbors, and democratic institutions are at risk. As universal connection to the Internet grows, our efforts to protect through education, advocacy, and technology extends across cultures, languages, and countries.

## Working Group on Digital Transformation of Mesoamerica

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**Emphasizing** the Inter-American Democratic Charter ratified by all member states, we suggest the application of the instruments, treaties, decrees, and resolutions in their countries of origin.

**Recalling** the Declaration of Quebec City of 2001, which affirms that upholding and the strengthening of the rule of law and strict respect for the democratic system are both a shared purpose and commitment, we request and propose to the governments of the Americas that they modify the text of the Draft Political Commitment for the IX Summit of the Americas Regional Program for Digital Transformation, prior to its approval, in accordance with the proposal put forward by Civil Society Organizations and Actors.

**Creating** controls on the use of platforms that protect the confidentiality and privacy of individuals' personal data to prevent them from being used for other purposes without their consent (in countries with dictatorships) based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

***Text of the proposed changes to the draft political commitment for the Ninth Summit of the Americas "Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation"***

**Draft Political Commitment for the IX Summit of the Americas Regional Program for Digital Transformation**

**We, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas,**

**AFFIRMING** the essential role of dynamic and resilient digital ecosystems for supporting thriving digital economies by modernizing preparedness and response to address climate change and health phenomena, combating corruption, promoting inclusion of all peoples, fostering and protecting above all respect for everyone's dignity, respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, electoral and judicial processes with audited digital systems geared to transparency; increasing competitiveness and preventing monopolies, and paving the way for investment and improving public services;

**EMPHASIZING** that the 2019 Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) highlighted the magnitude of the digital divide by underlining the importance of Internet access, digital education, access to public services, access to a virtual health consulting portal, digital jobs with transparency, and security in the use of digital tools, especially among economically vulnerable, marginalized, or rural communities. Promoting the application of international instruments on transparency in the digitization of state data, which should be audited before, during and after that process, in accordance with international treaties and anti-corruption resolutions.

**RECOGNIZING** the need for greater

regional cooperation, including cooperation among the private sector, civil society and other social actors, to formulate policies that shape digital ecosystems to increase economic growth, regional competitiveness, and responsible and ethical use of technology, while observing human rights;

We hereby undertake to:

1. Facilitate competitively priced, universal broadband Internet access to all peoples of the Americas by 2030;
2. Expand the transformation of digital governance to include open-signal telecommunications, authorized by each member state and that form part of the private telecommunications company. Respect privacy and human rights, while creating anti-corruption and transparency tools; improving digital education, and the cybersecurity capabilities of citizens, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders;
3. Strengthen cooperation on responsible digital trade that does not violate human rights, including commitments to facilitate cross-border data flows, while ensuring the protection of privacy;
4. Expand opportunities for companies, without discrimination, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, to participate in e-commerce, use digital technologies and digital logistics services to improve their operations, while maintaining ethical standards, privacy, and respect for the law.
5. Promote financial inclusion through the use and acceptance of digital payment platforms, at the commercial and state level, as well as broader, optional digital banking services for citizens; especially in rural and indigenous populations that do not have access to traditional financial services subject to regulations on transparency,

anti-corruption, and money laundering while maintaining standards of ethics, privacy, and equity for all.

6. To advance the use of digital tools and platforms to expand equity, inclusion, and access to the Internet for the citizens of the member states thereby reducing the digital divide, including through greater and more inclusive use of e-government, e-commerce, financial, health, educational, civic participation, and cultural preservation technologies, with a focus on strengthening human rights and privacy.
7. Promote respect for human rights, the dignity of individuals, privacy and the laws of each state, and their application in the use of the Internet and in the dissemination and use of emerging and digital technologies; criminalizing and penalizing digital violence and cybercrime in the legislation of the States to ensure safe virtual environments for all people without discrimination.
8. Apply digital tools that include the digitization of open signal television media with frequencies authorized by each member state to prepare for and respond efficiently to critical incidents involving, *inter alia*, health, climate, environment, the economy, and violation of human rights.
  - a) Encourage the protection and support of television and radio media, with the radio spectrum allowed in each member state, since they communicate to a specific segment of the population that has difficulty in acquiring the Internet, as was evident during the pandemic and the natural risk alerts.
9. Ensure that the member states guarantee transparency based on the accreditation of legitimate governments to the OAS, accountability in the use of digital

technology, including the ethical use of reliable artificial intelligence, while protecting the dignity of individuals, privacy, and human rights; with accountable governments.

- a) Demand from the providers of social platforms and networks the mechanisms that guarantee the above-mentioned protection.
- b) Strengthen administrative, economic, fiscal, and security mechanisms in the use of personal and commercial information, to prevent the use of artificial intelligence, algorithms, or interoperability to unilaterally influence the manipulation of social behavior, especially in relation to the manipulation of educational content, moral content, public opinion, and electoral preferences.
- c) Encourage the use of digital technology in electoral matters where these are independent of the branches of government of the member states, accredited by the OAS, and audited before, during, and after an election with transparent results. The necessary measures shall also be adopted to safeguard personal data and other sensitive information generated or compiled through the use of electoral technology, in order to prevent them from being used for other purposes without the consent of the persons concerned.
- d) Establish and implement the international resolutions adopted by the OAS on auditing, transparency, and efforts to combat corruption with inclusion of governments in coordination with the Inter-American e-Government network or maintain their commitment to Open

Government Partnership (OGP), so as to promote measures to prevent and detect conflicts of interest based on the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.

10. Support the development of open, interoperable, secure, and reliable communication network structures. Ensure that member states develop regulatory policies that expand connectivity, promote competition, and foster innovation.
  - a) Require platform providers to furnish mechanisms that guarantee the protection of personal data.
  - b) Encourage implementation of the use of open digital television networks approved by the member states.
11. Avoid shutting down, blocking, or throttling Internet, telecommunications, or social networking platforms; unless:
  - a) They violate the human rights, protection, and safety of children, or contravene the Inter-American Observatory regulations on the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents for commercial gain.
  - b) Ensure the blocking of any pornographic material that promotes sexual violence, psychological violence, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, pedophilia, child abuse, increased criminality, and other offenses by applying protocols protecting women, children, adolescents, older adults, people with disabilities, and the LGTBI community. (Based on the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights and other inter-American protection instruments



containing principles and rights relating to LGBTBI people).

- c) Ensure protection of telecommunications as a human right guaranteeing free expression in each country based on the universal declaration of human rights and political constitutions or magna carta of each country. Technology can be used to incorporate telecommunications in digital platforms, not to get rid of them.
12. Collaborate in the development, implementation of interoperable policies based on cyber security, protection, and consumer privacy standards, including the Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression, and the Internet adopted at the OAS, political constitutions or charters and universal declaration of human rights in order to safeguard, prevent, and address cybercrime and all activities conducive to citizens engaging in unethical or undemocratic practices.
13. Develop and implement by 2023 in the region the application of digital programs for transformation in the Americas based on the present shared commitments, and
14. Mandate ministers and competent authorities, with the support of the members of the Joint Summit Working Group and OAS Electoral Affairs Group, to ensure, with a focus on resolutions adopted and on the Inter-American Democratic Charter, that technology is used correctly in the electoral processes to support the process of determining and implementing the program through the Summits of the Americas Process via the Summit Implementation Review Group.

# Working Group on Digital Transformation of South America

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to systematize the positions and contributions of a wide range of social actors and civil society organizations. Stakeholders and organizations conveyed their approaches and opinions regarding digital transformation in the Americas using the participation channels provided.

## MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS AND POSITIONS:

Digital transformation implies digital access as a human right, with an open, interoperable and secure internet network, and with broad access to digital technologies, ensuring the digital inclusion of all members of society. Multisectoral strategic partnerships are recommended to expedite the building of an Internet infrastructure to improve access and foster the development of the Internet ecosystem.

Digital transformation should seek to promote transparency and accountability in the design and use of digital technology. This includes the responsible and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the establishment of independent audits with a human rights approach for the largest technology platforms.

This is indispensable now that in recent years countries with authoritarian governments have passed control laws enforced with the use of technology, such as classification of the population by social scores, with punishments that include restrictions on mobility and limited access to basic resources, and even partial or total seizure of economic assets, accompanied by censorship of all manifestations of freedom of expression. Therefore, it is essential that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights set specific standards for the Hemisphere to ensure respect for human rights

on the Internet, as well as the use and impact of emerging and digital technologies, including the protection and privacy of personal data of citizens, especially groups and civil society organizations involved in whistle blowing, monitoring, and control.

A rights-based approach to digital transformation can lead to the recognition and protection of rights such as: digital citizenship, personal information management, virtual privacy, the right to privacy (*derecho al olvido*) and anonymity, cyber peace and information security, privacy in the digital environment, internet neutrality, digital security, freedom of digital expression, education, and digital literacy.

For the success of digital education and health measures, digital transformation must ensure electricity coverage, Internet access, devices that allow access to the network and, above all, make it possible to implement training programs to ensure digital literacy. Priority needs to be given to implementation in communities with less accessibility and to the most vulnerable groups (remote rural areas, indigenous groups, people with disabilities, older adults, and so on), in order to improve the quality of life and citizens' access to rights (access to health care, education, work, social participation, etc.).

Regarding digital inclusion, it is necessary to work on a policy of implementation of ethnic digital communication, where Afro-descendant peoples can develop their ancestral knowledge through digital tools; bolstering training processes and the production of digital content mindful of the inclusion and preservation of their culture, with the participation of young people and communities seeking to improve living conditions and generating individual and collective opportunities.

Digital transformation must abide in its implementation by rules that allow for reliable and responsible AI, with verifiable and auditable algorithms developed using databases without biases and prejudices. Otherwise, it will expand and reinforce inequality and marginalization.

Digital transformation must consider decentralizing data and information to avoid control and manipulation.

Digital transformation must promote the creation of open-source tools in order to make cost-free tools available to local, regional, and national governments and thereby enhance the effectiveness of their actions. It is also important to develop an entrepreneurial ecosystem by providing government support for seed projects for innovative, dynamic, and high-social-impact projects. Simultaneously, physical education, mathematics, and engineering should be strengthened, and an effort made to ensure cross-cutting innovation and technology in other areas.

Digital transformation must recognize the right to identity. All citizens must have access to their IDs and citizenship, and these must not be curtailed for political reasons. The diaspora must have the right to vote (e-democracy), using digital technologies and databases that protect identities.

Digital transformation must be developed together with policies to prevent cybercrime and generate a digital security context that ensures, *inter alia*, the right to privacy.

Digital transformation requires new regulatory frameworks and public policies for the prevention of digital violence, in order to safeguard human rights, with a clear gender focus, avoiding polarization and manifestations of authoritarianism, discrimination, hatred, harassment, extortion, aggression, incitement to violence, and defamation through technologies, all of which impair people's physical and mental integrity. Digital violence is also expressed by ignoring the role of various social actors, by the prevalence of misinformation, and

in multiple ways that require interdisciplinary approaches. Likewise, in addition to prevention, it is also necessary to establish reporting mechanisms to ensure access to justice in the event of digital violence. A differential perspective is needed for all of the above, given the specific effects that hate speech has on women, ethnic minorities, and people of diverse sexual orientations.

Digital transformation must consider risks in digital justice mechanisms. Regulatory frameworks and processes must be generated to guarantee human rights in this context, including the right to privacy, transparency, access to information, and access to justice, the right to due process, to an adequate defense, and to legal assistance, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Digital transformation should favor open government practices at all levels of government, with readily available open data, accessibility, interoperability and reusability, to guarantee the right to public information and favor accountability and social and economic values, while ensuring the protection of privacy.

Digital transformation has an important role to play in efforts to combat corruption. Digital platforms for public integrity enhance the quality of our democracies.

Digital transformation must recognize the central role of digital education, with a gender focus and within a framework of interculturality, for social inclusion, universalization of the right to education, the right to academic freedom, and access to knowledge, including understanding new forms of learning in contexts of free access to information as well as broad access to the Internet, new technologies, digital libraries, and online publications; and guaranteeing copyright. At this point, it is essential to guarantee digital training for teachers who are not necessarily familiar with digital techniques, as well as the delivery of sufficient efficient and quality tools and/or equipment, including technical support for their maintenance.

Digital transformation should help to build an intelligent citizenry, focused on social innovation, with broad information distribution channels and networks and a global approach. Another proposal is to create smart cities, in which the efficient and intelligent use of technology becomes one of their most important pillars. Along the same lines, useful technological solutions need to be designed to ensure intelligent implementation of policies to overcome global challenges and ensure sustainable living. These solutions have two characteristics: they are smart (they solve everyday problems), and they are cheap (feasible, affordable, practicable, and replicable). The creation of smart cities is based on the following pillars: 1) Evidence-based public policies, 2) A focus on people and their quality of life, 3) Substantiated and sustainable decisions, 4) Technology (efficient and intelligent use), 5) Global vision. As a result, the city will improve its administrative management, increase its competitiveness and economic development, and reduce inequality gaps.

Digital transformation should take advantage of the new digital channels for local democratic participation as a way to improve the prioritization of public investments.

Digital transformation must place technology at the service of people with disabilities, in order to improve their quality of life by enabling access to health, rehabilitation, support, education, and employment, so that they can live their lives with equal rights and in dignity.

Digital transformation is dynamic and thus requires permanent follow-up of the commitments made at the IX Summit of the Americas, which is why civil society actors and organizations propose the creation of the Digital Transformation Observatory of the Americas. This observatory should include the participation of actors from the public sector, private business, civil society, and social actors, and publish annual progress reports and updates of its priorities in accordance with the interests of the different stakeholders. The observatory will be able to provide recommendations and follow up on the adoption of regional public policies with a focus on:

i) the development of digital culture, ii) education and digital literacy, iii) greater participation of young people in cyber diplomacy, and iv) commitments to reduce gender gaps in digital education. In addition, joint regional cooperation can be advanced for the prevention of cyberbullying and all forms of digital violence, and for greater access to the Internet in rural areas.



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## Initiatives Fair

The Initiatives Fair allowed civil society organizations and social actors that have been implementing projects related to the thematic pillars of the IX Summit to present them to a diverse audience that included government officials, representatives of regional and international institutions, other representatives of civil society organizations and social actors, the media, among others.

**Initiatives**  
**Fair**



## MESOAMERICA

### TECNOLOGÍAS COGNITIVAS PARA LA INCLUSIÓN DIGITAL

LED BY:



[www.socdia.org](http://www.socdia.org)

**OBJECTIVE:** Technologies to produce software for specific purposes of health management, education, and empowerment and should be available to disadvantaged groups of society.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Rina Familia**  
Dominican Republic  
[rina.familia@gmail.com](mailto:rina.familia@gmail.com)  
<http://rinafamilia.info>

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### EL VEEDOR DIGITAL, PRIMER PORTAL CIVICO DE LA DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Fundación Justicia y Transparencia

LED BY:



[www.elveedordigital.com](http://www.elveedordigital.com)

**OBJECTIVE:** Access to participatory democracy.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Trajan Vidal Potentini Adames**  
Dominican Republic  
[trajanopotentini1@gmail.com](mailto:trajanopotentini1@gmail.com)

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### OBSERVATORIO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS NICARAGUA

Asociación Cívica por la Democracia

LED BY:



[www.derechoshumanosnicaragua.org](http://www.derechoshumanosnicaragua.org)

**OBJECTIVE:** This is a digital platform for reporting and building democratic memory in Nicaragua. It is meant to be a reliable source of information to cross-reference data for future encounters with the justice system and for freedom and democracy for Nicaraguans.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Lilliam del Carmen Robelo Corea**  
Nicaragua  
[lcorea@acdnicaragua.org](mailto:lcorea@acdnicaragua.org)

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## SOUTH AMERICA

### EDUCACIÓN DIGITAL PARA TRANSFORMAR

Grooming Argentina

LED BY:



[www.groomingarg.org](http://www.groomingarg.org)

**OBJECTIVE:** The objective of this initiative is to build a public policy on digital education as the main transformation tool promoted by states in the area



# DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

of education. This initiative recognizes children and adolescents as subjects of digital rights, promoting digital education as the main pillar of promotion and protection against the new challenges and threats that come together in the different digital platforms.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Hernán Navarro**  
Argentina  
hernan.navarro@groomingarg.org

**OBSERVATORIO LATINOAMERICANO DEMOCRACIA DIGITAL**

D&D Internacional - Democracia Digital

**LED BY:**



[www.democraciadigital.pe](http://www.democraciadigital.pe)

**OBJECTIVE:** The objective is to officially launch the Latin American Digital Democracy Observatory. The Observatory gathers and catalogs best digital practices that are promoted in Latin America and the Caribbean, under three categories: citizen, civil society, and the private sector. These are online initiatives that seek to effect change in society and positively influence democracy using digital technologies. The Observatory hopes to publicize these digital best practices for them to be replicated in more corners of the region.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Elaine Ann Ford Deza**  
Peru  
eford@ddint.org

**MONITOR CIUDAD**

Ciudadanía Sin Límites

**LED BY:**



[www.monitorciudad.com](http://www.monitorciudad.com)

**OBJECTIVE:** Use technology and citizen participation to document the lack of access to water and energy in 4 Venezuelan states, so as to pressure the public agencies into providing more access.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Jesus Alexander Armas Monasterios**  
Venezuela  
jesusalexander09@gmail.com

**POLITON - LA PLATAFORMA DEL MONITOREO CIUDADANO DIGITAL**

Politon - Fortaleciendo la democracia

**LED BY:**



[www.politon.org.pe](http://www.politon.org.pe)

**OBJECTIVE:** The main objective of the initiative is to empower young citizens to monitor their authorities through a technological platform that allows them to communicate directly with them, learn about their government/work plans and rate the performance of their administration. The





application also provides information on citizen participation mechanisms such as: participatory budget, demand for accountability, legislative initiative, constitutional reform, revocation and removal of authorities, neighborhood councils, etc. In addition, each participant will be able to create an online user who will receive scores for each community contribution made on the platform, which can then be exchanged for democratic prizes. Finally, digital citizens will be able to participate in real-time voting on the main problems of their district in order to solve them with the appropriate authority.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Jose Manuel Guzman  
Valderde**

Peru

[jgcompol1@gmail.com](mailto:jgcompol1@gmail.com)



**CANADA, THE CARIBBEAN,  
AND THE UNITED STATES**

**CITIZEN’S CHARTER IN THE  
BAHAMAS: A MODEL FOR  
MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE  
BETWEEN THE PEOPLE  
AND THE GOVERNMENT**

ORG Bahamas Foundation (Organization  
for Responsible Governance)

**LED BY:**



[www.orgbahamas.com](http://www.orgbahamas.com)

**OBJECTIVE:** The Bahamas Citizen’s Charter was developed to foster greater citizen participation and build a sustainable space for feedback and collaboration between the public and the government. It is intended to serve as commitments from government to make services accessible, equitable and transparent to citizens.

The Bahamas Citizen’s Charter creates a stronger framework to collect citizen feedback on the effectiveness of government services. Governmental leaders will be provided the citizen insights for consideration and invited to respond directly to the citizenry. ORG looks to institutionalize the Bahamas Citizen’s Charter annually across the agencies of most direct citizen interest. ORG also holds that the Charter offers a standardized and regular schedule of exchange that can foster rational, timely, and open two-way dialogue toward improved effectiveness and efficiency of government services

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Matthew Aubry**

The Bahamas  
[maubry@orgbahamas.com](mailto:maubry@orgbahamas.com)

**ANONYMITY, ANTI -RETALIATION,  
AWARDS : WHISTLEBLOWER  
RIGHTS FOR TRANSNATIONAL  
COOPERATION IN THE  
WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

National Whistleblower Center

**LED BY:**



[www.whistleblowers.org](http://www.whistleblowers.org)

**OBJECTIVE:** Educational seminars for civil society organizations in Canada, the Caribbean islands, Meso-, and South America to help civil society organizations and government officials to understand the value of whistleblowing and the tenets of whistleblower best practices with a view to capacity building.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Siri Nelson**

United States  
[siri.nelson@whistleblowers.org](mailto:siri.nelson@whistleblowers.org)

**MESOAMERICA**

**INFORME DE LIBERTAD DE  
ASOCIACIÓN EN NICARAGUA**

Federación Red Nicaragüense por la  
Democracia y el Desarrollo Local (Red Local)

**LED BY:**



<https://bit.ly/3d2R4cv>



**OBJECTIVE:** The Nicaraguan NGO Networks Platform Popol Na and Fundación del Río, have released two complementary reports on the breakdown in freedom of association in Nicaragua. The objective is to raise awareness, at the hemispheric level, about the deteriorating situation with respect to this right within Nicaragua, and about its implications in the countries of the Americas.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**  
**Amaru Ruiz Aleman**  
Nicaragua  
amaruruiz18@gmail.com

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**ESCUELA DE INCIDENCIA POLÍTICA**

Asociación Nacional Cívica Femenina, A.C.

**LED BY:**



www.ancifem.org

**OBJECTIVE:** Promote the empowerment of women, their participation, and involvement in decision-making forums in their communities and consolidate the democratic culture from a gender perspective, human rights, and alliance building, through the development of leadership skills and skills for political advocacy within the context of the following guiding principles: 1. Equal opportunity 2. Civil-Political Participation and 3. Life free of violence.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**  
**Aida del Carmen Saucedo García**  
Mexico  
aidadelcarmen.saucedo@gmail.com

**SOUTH AMERICA**

**CONSULTORIAS ITINERANTE  
EM IMIGRAÇÃO**

Venezuela Global

**LED BY:**



www.venezuelaglobal.org

**OBJECTIVE:** Support migrants and refugees in their migratory regularization process and for the issuance of documentation for their insertion into the formal labor market.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**  
**William Adrian Clavijo Vitto**  
Venezuela  
william@venezuelaglobal.org

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**DEMOAMLAT**

Transparencia Electoral

**LED BY:**



www.demoamlat.com

**OBJECTIVE:** DemoAmlat is an initiative of Transparencia Electoral. Its mission is to solidify a network of regional stakeholders (researchers, academics, election authorities and officials, members of political parties, and civil society organizations, among others) committed to defending and promoting democratic values.



**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Eduardo Repilloza Fernandez**

Venezuela

eduardo.repilloza@transparenciaelectoral.org

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**FORO PERMANENTE  
DE JUVENTUDES**

Foro Permanente de Juventudes

**LED BY:**



[www.foropermanente.com](http://www.foropermanente.com)

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide a political innovation platform for young people in 9 types of leadership (political, student council, cultural, women's, religious, International, NGOs, business, and community) to strengthen democracy.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Sophia Santi Guevara**

Venezuela

sophia.santig@gmail.com

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**ESCENARIO NACIONAL  
FORO CIUDADANO DE  
LAS AMÉRICAS PERÚ**

Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo Ciudadano

**LED BY:**



<https://www.sites.google.com/view/forociudadanoamericas/fca-perú>

**OBJECTIVE:** Coordination of social organizations to combat corruption.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Molvina Zeballos**

Peru

molvina@desco.org.pe

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**CONTRATACIONES ABIERTAS  
(OPEN CONTRACTING  
PARTNERSHIP)**

Open Contracting Partnership

**LED BY:**



[www.open-contracting.org](http://www.open-contracting.org)

**OBJECTIVE:** Public procurement is the largest marketplace in the Americas. Our initiative seeks to improve public sector expenditure as a whole, through open data and collaboration with citizens. Citizens are the direct beneficiaries. Indirectly, our initiative assists public officials and civil society organizations across the hemisphere, as well as other stakeholders in the public procurement market (the private sector, academia, and the media).

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Oscar Alejandro**

**Hernandez Guarin**

Colombia

ohernandez@open-contracting.org

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**TRANSPARENCIA  
EN DEMOCRACIA**

Medellín Global, Centro de Estudios  
Internacionales Estratégicos

**LED BY:**



**Medellín Global**

Centro de Estudios Internacionales Estratégicos

[www.medellinglobal.org](http://www.medellinglobal.org)

**OBJECTIVE:** Enable citizens with limited experience with and knowledge of politics to better understand the meaning of public affairs and the implications of whether or not they are properly familiar with the leaders ruling over the State

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Sergio Escobar**

Colombia

[direccionejecutiva@medellinglobal.org](mailto:direccionejecutiva@medellinglobal.org)

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## CANADA, THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE UNITED STATES

### WORKING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ADOLESCENTS AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

LED BY:



[www.orgbahamas.com](http://www.orgbahamas.com)

**OBJECTIVE:** Implementing risk communication campaigns targeting vulnerable groups (adolescents, persons living with HIV, and women and girls) about preventative and control measures against the spread of COVID-19 and capacity-building for young people to engage with their communities and government officials in improving COVID-19 response.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**  
**Quacy Asheeke Grant**  
Social Actor- Guyana  
[quacygrant@gmail.com](mailto:quacygrant@gmail.com)

### INTERSECTIONALITY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ACTIVISM

Organisation Trans d’Haiti

LED BY:



[www.otrah.org](http://www.otrah.org)

**OBJECTIVE:** To provide new objectives and give visibility to marginalized groups, such as female individuals who are also HIV-positive people; and

to create spaces where they can feel included.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**  
**Dominique St Vil**  
Haiti  
[Dominique19099@gmail.com](mailto:Dominique19099@gmail.com)

### HUMAN DIGNITY FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

Latter-day Saint Charities

LED BY:



[www.latterdaysaintcharities.org](http://www.latterdaysaintcharities.org)

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide vaccinations, improve maternal and neonatal health, improve availability of drinking water, and improve mobility for the disabled.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**  
**Dennis Lange Beltrán**  
United States  
[sr.dennislange@gmail.com](mailto:sr.dennislange@gmail.com)

## MESOAMERICA

### RESOLUTIVOS DEL CONGRESO TRANS EN MÉXICO

Agenda Nacional Políticas Trans

**OBJECTIVE:** To include trans people in the issues of work and education, health, justice, right to identity, feminism, and transfeminism. The objective is to make visible the problems of the trans population, as well as protective laws.

**CONTACT:**  
**Rosa Maria Trejo Villalobos**



Social Actor - Mexico  
ross.mary15@hotmail.com

**MATERIAL AUDIOVISUAL  
E IMPRESO DE HUMAN  
LIFE INTERNATIONAL**

Human Life International

**LED BY:**



[www.hli.org](http://www.hli.org)

**OBJECTIVE:** We want to share and display - as well as give away - materials about our issues and what we do around the world.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Luis Martínez Guzmán**  
Mexico  
lmartinez@hli.org

**SOUTH AMERICA**

**UNIDOS POR LA  
CALIDAD DEL AGUA**

A.C. Liderazgo y Visión

**LED BY:**



[www.unidosxelagua.com](http://www.unidosxelagua.com)

**OBJECTIVE:** Contribute to environmental defense processes that promote water sanitation and thus reduce infectious-contagious, epidemiological, and viral diseases in the central region of Venezuela.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**María Gabriela Martínez  
Montenegro**

Venezuela  
gabymontenegro97@gmail.com

**CASA LA MORADA**

Todas Nosotras Violeta

**LED BY:**



[www.instagram.com/todasnosotrasvioleta/](http://www.instagram.com/todasnosotrasvioleta/)

**OBJECTIVE:** Support women, youth and girls with respect to sexual and reproductive rights and in combating gender-based violence.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Yolimar Coromoto**

Venezuela  
yolimar.mejias@gmail.com



**SOUTH AMERICA**

**LÍDERES DESDE LA ESCUELA**

**OBJECTIVE:** This initiative targets young people 15 to 18 years old attending school in Colombia’s Pacific region, most of them from the indigenous populations, by providing training based on the resources they have in their own territory. The Colombian Pacific boasts many tributaries, which numerous industries use indiscriminately to extract minerals, resulting in significant levels of water and environmental pollution. There are also cases of environmental activists being assassinated, besides deforestation. Characterizing the assets of these young people, we managed to stir them to an environmental awareness of the territory, leading to clean energy generation initiatives and ventures.

**CONTACT:**

**Dineth Gisela Cujar Tenorio**  
Social Actor- Colombia  
comunicaciones.integral@gmail.com  
twitter.com/gisecujar

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Hernando Umaña Zapata**  
Colombia  
onaldep@gmail.com

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**TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO  
ELECTRICO DE LUJO**

Organización Nacional para el Desarrollo  
de los Pueblo (ONALDEP)

**LED BY:**



www.ongonaldep.org

**OBJECTIVE:** Promote electric transportation for the immediate care and protection of the environment, as a significant contribution towards dealing with all the havoc caused by global warming. This initiative is intended to impress upon the heads of state the urgent need to implement clean energy.





# OUR GREEN FUTURE

## CANADA, THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE UNITED STATES

### CREATING THE AFRODESCENDANTS DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (ADF)

Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SUDECC)

**LED BY:**



[www.sudecc.com](http://www.sudecc.com)

**OBJECTIVE:** a) support the establishment of an international policy to support Afro-descendant populations in their process of adapting to and mitigating climate change by virtue of the fact that these populations are located in highly vulnerable regions; and b) reduce outward migration by reducing sociodemographic and socioeconomic gaps, facilitating the allocation of technical and credit assistance to ensure sustainable food security and sovereignty.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Julio Cesar Guity-Guevara**  
United States  
[julio.guity@gmail.com](mailto:julio.guity@gmail.com)

**AMAZON X LABS** Conservation X Labs

**LED BY:**



[www.conservationxlabs.com](http://www.conservationxlabs.com)

**OBJECTIVE:** Through open and directed innovation, and in close collaboration with strategic local partners, the program will identify and scale solutions with the greatest impact for conservation

and nature-based development. Building on the ASGM Challenge and Amazon Colab, Amazon X Labs will integrate various programmatic elements across CXL in an overarching Amazon Strategy that includes: Bringing together emerging technology with local Amazonian efforts for better conservation and nature-based development (ASM, Fire Challenges, Open Foundry); Scaling solutions to build nature-based economies and enhance protection of natural resources (Amazon Colab); Building opportunities for the next generation of conservation leaders (Conservation University and partnerships); and Integrating conservation and health solutions (One Health Strategy).

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Jennifer Marion Adeney**  
United States  
[marion@conservationxlabs.org](mailto:marion@conservationxlabs.org)

**80 X 2025 INITIATIVE**

Amazon Watch

**LED BY:**



[www.amazonia80x2025.earth](http://www.amazonia80x2025.earth)

**OBJECTIVE:** The Initiative “Amazonia for Life 80% by 2025” seeks to avert the tipping point in the largest forest on the planet. The indigenous peoples across the basin and allies are raising their voices to make a call to protect the Amazonia and safeguard our future.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Leila Salazar-López**  
United States  
[leila@amazonwatch.org](mailto:leila@amazonwatch.org)



**MESOAMERICA**

**PROPUESTA DE EDUCACIÓN  
AMBIENTAL PARA LA  
REUTILIZACIÓN DE PLÁSTICOS  
DE UN SOLO USO PARA LA  
CONFECCIÓN DE ECO BLOQUES  
EN LA VILLA DE LOS SANTOS.**

**OBJECTIVE:** Repurpose single-use plastics to produce eco-blocks for artwork in schools, parks, and communities.

**CONTACT:**

**Dallys Nuvia Gutierrez**  
Social Actor - Panama  
dallysnuvia31@gmail.com

**SOUTH AMERICA**

**CAPTURA DEL CARBÓN**

Fundación Misión Verde

**LED BY:**



**Fundación Ecologica  
Misión Verde**

**OBJECTIVE:** The initiative seeks out native and disturbed areas or forests to assess the importance of conserving them and the benefit of annual carbon capture to lower the CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and lower climate change in part. This initiative also seeks funding for rural efforts to pursue clean family farming.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**John Oswaldo Galvez Maza**  
Ecuador  
fmisionverde@hotmail.com

**EL PACÍFICO COLOMBIANO UN  
POTENCIAL PRODUCTOR DE  
AGUA POTABLE - LA LLUVIA  
COMO ENERGIA LIMPIA**

Coalición de Comunidades  
Afrodescendientes

**OBJECTIVE:** Repurpose single-use plastics to produce eco-blocks for artwork in schools, parks, and communities.

**CONTACT:**

**Laura Rossi Centeno**  
Colombia  
LAROS7619@hotmail.com



# WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

## CANADA, THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE UNITED STATES

### FROM RECOMMENDATION TO IMPLEMENTATION

CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago (CCoTT)

**LED BY:**



[www.cedawtt.org](http://www.cedawtt.org)

**OBJECTIVE:** To highlight key treaties/commitments made by governments in the hemisphere and which impact all citizens, and engage all stakeholders to a) increase awareness and sensitization; b) identify inter-connectivity and alignments; c) identify gaps/challenges which hinder implementation; d) identify inter-connecting treaties (global and regional) and how they can be leveraged to advance substantive equality and the achieving the 2030 agenda; and e) create action-oriented and inclusive approaches to address gaps.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Terry Ince**  
Trinidad and Tobago  
[tdi4consulting@gmail.com](mailto:tdi4consulting@gmail.com)

## MESOAMERICA

### ABCDESPAÑOL

Prolider

**LED BY:**



[www.prolider.org.do](http://www.prolider.org.do)

**OBJECTIVE:** Gender-based literacy to prevent premature unions and child marriage.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Catalina Gutiérrez**  
Dominican Republic  
[cgutierrez@prolider.org.do](mailto:cgutierrez@prolider.org.do)

### OBSERVATORIO DE PARTICIPACIÓN POLÍTICA DE LAS MUJERES EN GUATEMALA

Women's Democracy Network, Guatemala

**LED BY:**



[www.wdn.org.gt](http://www.wdn.org.gt)

**OBJECTIVE:** Establish the Observatory for Women's Involvement in Politics as a mechanism for information and political and citizen training, to promote citizen participation and the participation of young women and women in general in politics.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Zoila Karina Flores Arriola**  
Guatemala  
[karinafloresarriola@gmail.com](mailto:karinafloresarriola@gmail.com)



# WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

## SOUTH AMERICA

### MUJERES LISTAS PARA LAS LISTAS

Centro de Liderazgo e Innovación para Mujeres de las Américas

#### LED BY:



[www.facebook.com/CLMAmericas/](https://www.facebook.com/CLMAmericas/)

**OBJECTIVE:** The Center for Leadership and Innovation for Women of the Americas has developed the Women of the Americas Campus. This campus provides training and capacity building programs for women social and political leaders on issues such as women's rights, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG5), electoral issues (parity, alternation and political harassment) that allow them to empower themselves and develop a network of contacts in politics on their way to becoming future local or national authorities.

#### REPRESENTATIVE:

**Nadia Ramos**

Peru

[nadiaramos.Perú@gmail.com](mailto:nadiaramos.Perú@gmail.com)

### ESCOLAS DE LIDERANÇA E FORMAÇÃO POLÍTICA PARA MULHERES

Red de Mujeres por la Democracia Brasil (WDN Brazil)



[www.instagram.com/wdnbrasil/](https://www.instagram.com/wdnbrasil/)

**OBJECTIVE:** To equip participants with strategies to enhance leadership skills, increase prospects to access and influence decision-making and power structures, as well as to encourage candidates for the 2022 general elections in Brazil.

#### REPRESENTATIVE:

**Silvia Rita Oliveira De Souza**

Brazil

[silviaritasouza@gmail.com](mailto:silviaritasouza@gmail.com)



**MESOAMERICA**

**ESCUELA DE FORMACIÓN LIDERES AFRODESCENDIENTES EN DDHH**

Sombrilla Centroamericana

**OBJECTIVE:** School to give Afro-descendant leaders training in human rights.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Karol Yimene Cabrera Sanchez**

Honduras

ycalderon.odeco@gmail.com

**NUEVO DIÁLOGO ENTRE AMÉRICA LATINA Y ESTADOS UNIDOS**

Women’s Democracy Network, Guatemala

**LED BY:**



www.colmex.mx

**OBJECTIVE:** The objective of this exercise is to help in articulating an agenda on the U.S.-Latin America and the Caribbean relationship to create political impact and media resonance in multilevel audiences in the United States, especially among officials involved, legislators, businessmen, social organizations and audiences interested in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to improved dialogue at the regional level. The purpose is to provide context, input, and possible lines of action from Latin America, in order to trigger informed debates and relevant decisions regarding inter-American relations through the work of this Summit.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Karen Iniestra**

Social Actor - Mexico

kareniniestra@gmail.com



**SOUTH AMERICA**

**CONSEJOS MUNICIPALES DE JUVENTUD Y EMPRENDIMIENTO SOCIAL**

Centro de Liderazgo e Innovación para Mujeres de las Américas

**LED BY:**



www.facebook.com/  
JuntosConstruimosBuga/

**OBJECTIVE:** Municipal Youth Councils (MYCs) can guide social entrepreneurship initiatives, wherein young people get an opportunity to develop transformative ideas out of their professional and economic pursuits; a balance can be struck between social and business development, and even more so if young people can do it through their own initiatives.

**REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Jorge Alberto Calero Martinez**

Social Actor- Colombia

jorgecalerobuga@gmail.com

A hand holding a microphone is the central focus of the image. The background is a vibrant blue with a low-poly, geometric pattern of various shades. A horizontal dotted line is positioned above the text.

# **Thematic Discussions**

The objective of the thematic discussions was to provide a space for an exchange of ideas and good practices on the thematic pillars of the IX Summit and related topics. This space contributed to further deepening the knowledge and awareness of participants of the Civil Society Forum of these topics from different perspectives.

These thematic discussions were divided into two stages. The first stage consisted of a discussion by experts, and the second involved an exchange between experts and participants of the Civil Society Forum, which allowed them to raise questions or comments.



### **STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS IN PROTECTING FORESTS FROM ILLEGAL DEFORESTATION**

**OBJECTIVE:** to bring the many stakeholders together to discuss how best to protect environmental defenders from harassment and assassination, as well as strengthen their role in protecting a natural resource that mitigates climate change. At the end of the dialogue, the participants better understood who to collaborate with and how to work together to further the work of environmental defenders.

#### **SPEAKERS**

- **Andrea Crosta**, Earth League International (ELI)
- **Joseph Berra**, Human Rights Professor, University of California, Los Angeles
- **Amaru Ruiz**, Presidente de Fundación

del Rio, Observador de la Sociedad Civil Nicaragüense en las Negociaciones de Cambio Climático ante CMNUCC

- **Jose Fernando Ochoa Pineda**, Executive Director and Founding Member at Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste (DAN)
- **Sarah Gardiner**, Police Advisor at Oxfam America

**MODERATOR:** **Soledad Garcia Muñoz**, REDESCA Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).



### **ADVANCING DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY: THE ENDEAVOR OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS**

**OBJECTIVE:** to address the importance of strengthening democratic governance by highlighting the accomplishments of civil society organizations and social actors in the anti-corruption field. This session helped underscore the role that civil society has to play in holding governments accountable and demanding transparency/good governance

#### **SPEAKERS**

- **Marcelo Espinal Vallejo**, Director, Ciudadanía y Desarrollo
- **Patricia Gálvez**, Centro Ecuatoriano de Desarrollo y Estudios Alternativos (CEDEAL)
- **Sonjé Greenidge**, Integrity Barbados
- **Enrique de Obarrio**, Citizen Forum of the Americas

**MODERATOR: Richard Feinberg,**  
University of California - San Diego.

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### **BUILDING SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE CITIES OF THE FUTURE**

**OBJECTIVE:** to stimulate a high-level discussion between pioneering and leading city representatives and stakeholders from the Americas who have or are increasingly embracing the circular economy development paradigm. The goal was also to highlight the practical experiences and solutions found to enable cities to engage in the transition process towards sustainability, circularity, resilience, and inclusiveness.

#### **SPEAKERS**

- **Kristin Miller**, Executive Director, Ecocity Builders
- **Manuel Olivera**, Regional Director for Latin America, C40 Cities regional representative
- **Mario Coronado**, Director of Public Affairs, Telefónica Hispanoamérica
- **Kevin de Cuba**, Co-Founder, Americas Sustainable Development Foundation (ASDF)
- **Laura Faber O'Connor**, Chief Sustainability Officer, Los Angeles Mayor

**MODERATOR: Angel Cárdenas**, Angel Cárdenas, Manager of Urban Development and Creative Economies, Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina (CAF).

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### **STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

**OBJECTIVE:** to assist to identify the current gaps in our health systems and actions to be taken to safeguard our health systems and citizens from future health emergencies. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed weaknesses in almost all health systems, including in the Americas, and highlighted that many countries currently lack the minimum capacities necessary to rapidly detect and respond to known vulnerabilities and likely public health emergencies.

#### **SPEAKERS**

- **Mariana Faria**, Resource Mobilization, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)
- **Patricia Wu**, Vice President, and Managing Director, C&M International
- **Carlos G. Guerrero Orozco**, Derechos Humanos y Litigio Estratégico Mexicano (D.L.M.)
- **Luis Lopez Resindez**, Comunidades Indígenas en liderazgo (CIELO)
- **Dr. Felicia Knaul**, University of Miami, co-chair of Inter-American Health Task Force

**MODERATOR: Katie Taylor**, Executive Director, Pan-American Development Fund (PADF).

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### IMPROVING MIGRANTS' INTEGRATION IN THE AMERICAS

**OBJECTIVE:** to highlight the need for generating opportunities to integrate migrants into labor markets and foster their inclusion in societies across the Americas, encouraging collaboration amongst migrant groups, civil society, businesses, and governments to fully harness these transformational opportunities to develop more inclusive societies for all, particularly migrants, and highlighting migrants' contributions to host countries.

#### SPEAKERS

- **Maria Angélica Montesinos Licona**, Programs Coordinator, Asylum Access Mexico
- **Cynthia Juárez Lange**, Senior Counsel at Fragomen, Latter-day Saint Charities
- **Angelica Salas**, Executive Director, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
- **Leo Martellotto**, President, Junior Achievement Americas

**MODERATOR:** **Maria Moreno**, Chief Executive Officer, USA for International Organization for Migration (IOM).

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### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNET

**OBJECTIVE:** to discuss and analyze the implications of digital transformation in four thematic pillars: (a) deterioration of public debate, (b) accessibility and digital inclusion, and (c) moderation of content on the Internet from a multisectoral perspective, and (d) how digital surveillance tools, from hacking to facial recognition, are used to target activists, racial and ethnic minorities, and workers. Participants were able to deepen their understanding of the concept of digital transformation for the strengthening of human rights, particularly in terms of freedom of expression, and will have been able to identify and suggest actions along these lines for monitoring the commitments of the states arising from the IX Summit.

#### SPEAKERS

- **Agustina Del Campo**, Director of the Center for Studies on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information (CELE) at Universidad de Palermo.
- **Samuels Carlton**, a Vice-Chair of ICANN's At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), a foundation member, and the inaugural Secretary for the Latin America and Caribbean Regional At-Large Advisory Organization (LACRALO) of ICANN.
- **Nick Clegg**, President, Global Affairs, META
- **Tamara Taraciuk Broner**, Acting Americas director, Human Rights Watch.

**MODERATOR: Pedro Vaca Villarreal**, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR).

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## **GENDER EQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

**OBJECTIVE:** to inform, from an intersectional approach, on the progress and persistence of gaps that hinder or stimulate the full exercise of rights, paying special attention to the progress made in eliminating gender gaps, the role of the women's movement, as well as to the strengthening of gender and inclusive institutions in the region.

### **SPEAKERS**

- **Rosina Wiltshire**, OAS Electoral Observation Missions Gender Expert
- **Tarcila Rivera Zea**, Quechua activist, member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- **Karina Flores Arriola**, Women's Network Democracy

**MODERATOR: Caroline Bettinger-López**, Gender Policy Advisor to the White House.





Scan the code  
to watch the full  
session

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# Recommendations presented at the **Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and High-Level Government Representatives**\*

*\*The event Agenda and the list of representatives  
can be found at the end of this section.*



During the session on Democratic Governance, the spokespersons with Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada; and Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States.

## INTRODUCTION

As previously mentioned, the Civil Society Forum, held on June 6 and 7, 2022, offered participating civil society organizations and social actors the opportunity to (a) finalize the recommendations to be presented at the Dialogue with High-Level Government Representatives; (b) participate in talks with experts on Summit priorities and other related topics; and (c) provide a space to present projects related to the core themes of the IX Summit, helping to highlight their work and share good practices.

The Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and High-Level Government Representatives, held on June 8<sup>th</sup>, offered civil society organizations and social actors, through spokespersons of the thematic working groups, the opportunity to present recommendations and interact with high-level representatives of the countries taking part in the IX Summit of the Americas. Around 300 representatives of civil society and social actors participated in the Forum and Dialogue.



The following are the statements delivered by each of the spokespersons of the thematic groups at the Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors, and High-Level Government Representatives:



## Statement of the Working Group on Health and Resilience

### Spokespersons:

- Canada, the Caribbean and the United States: **Kendale Trapp**, Empower Yourself Belize Movement
- Mesoamerica: **Sandra Cerrato**, Instituto para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Mujer Lenca de Honduras
- South America: **Jackeline Ruiz**, social actor

My name is Sandra Cerrato Flores, and I am here today with my colleagues Jackeline Ruiz and Kendale Trapp. We are the spokespersons and representatives of the roundtables on Health and Resilience in the Americas. Today, in the framework of the IX Summit, we will present a summary of the recommendations of the civil society organizations of the Americas for the draft political commitment of the nations of the Americas to implement an action plan from the current year, 2022, until 2030.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we stopped administering treatments for chronic, infectious, and contagious diseases, as well as hormone treatments—including gender-affirming processes—and mental health treatments, and at this momentous event we present the following recommendations:

1. Achieve, by the Tenth Summit of the Americas, agreements and actions on health and resilience in the Americas, in order to evaluate health value chains at the national and regional levels, placing the person at the center of health and resilience policies, including both physical and psychological health. These include:
  - Women
  - Children
  - Adolescents
  - Older persons
  - Persons with disabilities
  - The LGBTI community
  - Indigenous and Afro-descendent communities
  - Faith-based communities
  - Migrants
  - Other groups in vulnerable circumstances
2. The Health and Resilience action plan includes the implementation of programs for leadership in sexual and reproductive health and family planning; international standards on human rights in health, including protocols of care for vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and the unborn.
3. Member states should guarantee in health emergencies attention to contraceptive requirements, infectious and contagious diseases (with the highest morbidity and mortality rates, such as HIV and tuberculosis), hormone treatments that include transgender persons, as well as patients requiring treatment for terminal illnesses. They should also see to it that people living with HIV receive their antiretroviral drugs in a timely manner to ensure quality supplies for special tests.
4. We consider it appropriate to immediately review any practice that modifies the sexual characteristics of intersex persons without

- reliable medical reasons and without the full informed consent of the intersex person.
5. Strengthen the expansion of education and training of professionals in the fields of medicine, comprehensive public health, and biomedical scientific research by establishing a selection system according to the needs of each region, based on the merits of the professional.
  6. Health care workers should be guaranteed their labor rights, as recognized by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
  7. Take advantage of the practice of evidence-based alternative medicine and harness the benefits offered by digital application tools (telemedicine, telehealth); and strengthen cooperation and exchange of better treatments for the development and use of these techniques and technologies with professional ethics and confidentiality. Ensure the inclusion of the systems of indigenous and Afro-descendent populations and acknowledge their ancestral knowledge. Promote investment in scientific studies to identify and document COVID-19 and its complications.
  8. Priority attention should be given to non-communicable diseases, as the drivers of health loss and mortality across the globe, by establishing universal access to health and the financial sustainability of public health systems, since such diseases are responsible for the majority of costs in public health systems.
  9. Avoid water and environmental contamination and clean drinking water to allow for transition and adaptation in the wake of pandemics and natural disasters as circumstances require, adapting a crosscutting one health concept in other efforts to improve health outcomes throughout the region.
  10. Create the conditions to strengthen the capacity to manufacture and market safe, effective, and high-quality medical products in the regions, in order to adopt policies that support sustained multisectoral participation (health, science and technology, industry, and commercial sectors). Consider the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol and ILO Convention No. 169.
  11. Create the conditions to obtain raw material for medicines in order to be able to strengthen, assemble, manufacture, transport, and market such products for our customers. Health systems, in order to maintain transparency in the manufacture and marketing of safe medical products. With manufacturing respecting the law governing assembly. Of indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples.
  12. Include a voice for patients and all the aforementioned vulnerable groups in comprehensive government consultations on health measures, regulatory approvals, and funding.
  13. Urge member states to strengthen community-based mental health services for the prevention of problematic use of psychoactive substances, which should include sexual orientation and gender identity, with an emphasis on enhancing the response capacity in the event of social and health crises and mental health care for groups in vulnerable situations.



## OUR SUSTAINABLE GREEN FUTURE

### Statement of the Working Group on Our Sustainable Green Future

#### Spokespersons:

- Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States: **Onika Stellingburg**, Social Actor
- Mesoamerica: **Dallys Gutiérrez**, Centro Familiar Afro Santeño
- South America: **Laura Azucena Rossi Centeno**, Coalición de Comunidades Afrodescendientes

On behalf of the working subgroups on Our Sustainable Green Future— South America, Mesoamerica, North America, Canada and the Caribbean— it is worth noting the consensus arrived at on the basis of arduous efforts, building on more than 25 years of negotiations between the parties, civil society organizations and commercial interest groups, and remarkable initiatives in the implementation of forums, partnerships, treaties, and environmental management strategies. Thus, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Framework Convention, the Plan of Action for the International Decade for People of African Descent and the Programme of Action for the International Decade for Indigenous Peoples, the Minamata Convention, the Paris Agreement, the Escazú Agreement, the Bonn Challenge, and the Lima Commitment, among others, make up a large

part of the solutions mechanism for the global commitment to mitigate climate impact.

Therefore, we call on governments to reflect and reevaluate the procedural models with which they have been addressing environmental issues because as of 2022, the scope and results of the work implemented—which, according to reports presented by scientists and entities responsible for monitoring the behavior of the planet—are not at all favorable, leaving us with troubling questions about the role we play as thinking individuals in the face of an imminent deterioration of the planet.

Have you ever wondered?

What are we not doing right? Is it an effect or a consequence that lack of awareness of adaptation generates changes in the mental and emotional state of people, to the extent of propitiating massacres and murders of women and children in educational institutions?

After so much research and evidence, what needs to be done to prevent forest fires, the melting of the Arctic ice, the pollution of glaciers, different bodies of water, our 14 seas, our oceans, as well as many islands in the Hemisphere, the Pacific coast, mangroves, among others? What needs to be done to prevent the pollution of the entire ecosystem? Is it a lack of political will? There are so many questions that arise from reflection on the events we are currently living in our daily lives, as well as impotence that we all feel against the voracious drive to grow economically.

Therefore, we propose to the Heads of State and Government of the Americas:

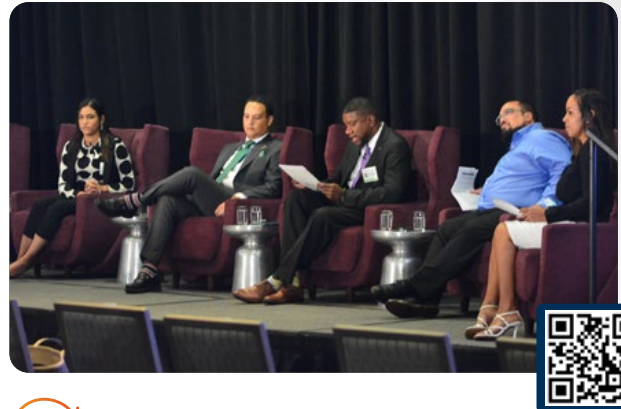
To engage different social, commercial, and governmental stakeholders, whether academic, scientific, economic or political, in order to develop and promote strategies with an ethnocultural, gender, technological innovation and social-investment approach.

Whose actions are ambitious, forceful, and demonstrate results in the short and medium



term, creating alternative models for sustainable economic development, based on consistent public policy, whose mobilization and allocation of economic resources address environmental action mechanisms applicable in areas facing the conversion of ecosystems, involving the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs); incorporating the Our Sustainable Green Future Working Group, coordinated by the Organization of American States (OAS), under political action guidelines agreed upon by all the countries in the Glasgow Climate Pact, together with the Marrakech Partnership Platform and the Durban Platform, for the purpose of monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of actions carried out by stakeholders.

As representatives of the Our Sustainable Green Future working subgroups, we call on countries to ratify treaties, implement the 2030 goals, and establish and formulate aggressive measures where oversight bodies have the power to prosecute those who do not comply with the duty to safeguard our planet, be they natural or legal persons, regardless of nationality, ethnicity or gender, since the greenhouse effect, temperature changes, pollution of water bodies, the air we breathe, and the environment as a whole, is not the responsibility of any nation in particular but of humankind; therefore, if there are human rights, there are also locations that, as human beings, we must fulfill for our homes, the places where we live, and for our planet Earth.



**CLEAN ENERGY**

## Statement of the Working Group on Clean Energy

### Spokespersons:

- Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States: Hernando Viveros Cabezas, Social Actor
- Mesoamerica: Danilsa Peña, Social Actor
- South America: Dineth Gisela Cujar, Social Actor

Clean Energy, an attempt to define the Summit of the Americas, from the point of view of the most vulnerable groups, strategies and actions.

In the transition to clean and affordable energy, why do we need a differentiated approach that takes into account racial/ethnicity, cultural, social, and environmental factors or membership of vulnerable communities and communities in extreme poverty?

Despite exposure to repeat severe weather events, these populations have demonstrated exceptional resilience and strength in recovery. The high vulnerability and exposure to climate change of Afro-descendent, indigenous, campesino and rural populations in the Americas derives in part from their history of forced migration and their resulting geographic concentration in coastal cities and urban population centers.

Situations linked to systemic and historical racism, cultural bias, and lack of inclusive policies and programs must be taken into account, so that government measures to develop policies, plans and programs on the clean and affordable energy transition focus on the most vulnerable populations.

Severe geological and weather events have had a disproportionately negative impact on coastal, riverine, and highland populations.

Opportunities to incorporate a collective response from the governments of the Americas to current challenges for a fair—in regional terms—energy transition must consider geographic locations for science, innovation and technology centers, so that adaptation and mitigation are a real possibility.

The world is on track to producing more than twice the amount of coal, oil and gas by 2030 than would be consistent with keeping the rise in global temperature to below 1.5 °C, according to the United Nations. In line with the International Energy Agency's Net Zero by 2050 Roadmap, we recognize the need for an immediate end to the exploration and expansion of new fossil fuel reserves.

Based on the draft political commitment for the IX Summit of the Americas *Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition*, we present the following recommendations to the Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

### **Accelerating the clean energy transition**

#### Recommendations

1. We recommend that the countries of the Americas accelerate the implementation of all substantive international agreements and treaties to accelerate the clean energy transition and sustainable development, including: The Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the subsequent COP 21 conferences, the Kyoto Agreement, the Escazu Agreement as a tool for the protection of environmental democracy in the Americas, and the protection of the

right to life of environmental leaders and their organizations that care for and protect our environment and habitat.

2. Take note of Principle 10 of the Rio+20 Declaration, develop and implement an action plan to advance the achievement of a regional agreement or other instrument to ensure the full implementation of the rights of access to information, participation, and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. We call on the leaders of the countries of the Americas to adopt the necessary measures to reduce emissions, mobilize funds, and promote adaptation and resilience. In addition to presenting ambitious reduction targets for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030 that are aligned with reaching net zero by mid-century. Incorporate conservation of clean energy sources, climate resilience in new public infrastructure plans in all countries of the Americas.
4. Create follow-up, monitoring, evaluation and implementation mechanisms for the commitments signed in relation to the clean energy transition in the Americas. (Presentation of proposals and policies by each government in a period of 6 months for evaluation by a commission).
5. Secure land tenure for rural populations and the implementation of payment for ecosystem services programs; support forest management and coastal erosion programs.
6. Create trusts—with contributions from the public-private sector—to finance climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and programs and new forms of clean energy.
7. Ensure that actors implementing projects in the region include the ethnic-racial variable in all survey forms for collecting

- information on climate change, including the Program for the Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, Recognition, Justice and Development.
8. Implement the COICA Declaration on the protection of 80 percent of the Amazon Basin, forest and mangrove restoration; strengthen local and territorial governance systems, as well as the restoration of forests, wetlands and mangroves to favor carbon capture and storage, and that renewable energy sources are not contaminated.
  9. That the replacement of coal and inefficient fossil fuels with clean energy technologies be done as part of an integrated economic development plan with the private sector in the medium term.
  10. End public financing of new and unabated coal-fired power generation projects by the end of 2027 and implement financing mechanisms for business ventures based on the clean energy generation and use, including in the natural gas and the mining and energy sector.
  11. Involve all stakeholders in the renewable and non-renewable energy sector to generate a consensus agenda toward clean energy transition.
  12. Promote policies that stimulate the development of all clean energy sources, such as tax reductions, lower costs with energy payments, trade exchanges with countries in the region, and training in the energy sector, among others.
  13. Promote and encourage public-private partnerships with the aim of developing more private sector investment in clean energy, creating economic conditions that favor development initiatives, access to financing, especially the global climate fund, and the construction of energy projects, among others. Regulations, tariffs, financing, and due process in relation to human rights and customs delays. Generate and propose efficient commitments by country based on clean energy policies, ordinances and programs in partnership with impacted communities.
  14. Public institutions in the countries should develop training programs in the areas of the electricity sector with a focus on clean energy, so that young people can become professionals in clean energy technology, with the purpose of contributing and putting forward innovative ideas and stimulating research into the development of new technologies and investment in research, development and innovation (R&D&I) projects for the energy transition.
  15. To work with the private sector and multilateral development banks to identify and finance infrastructure projects associated with science, technology and innovation for quality clean energy generation that follow international best practices for environmental and human rights standards and procurement and reach underserved communities.
  16. Promote the implementation of the Global Methane Pledge, including through the development of conscientious, transparent, verifiable action plans at the country level for mitigating the effects of methane gas.
  17. Share best practices in transportation infrastructure and the use of clean energy in public transportation and inclusive, equitable, energy-efficient urban designs that take into account the needs of populations with unmet basic needs and take account of persons with disabilities with a gender perspective, as well as ethnic communities, who disproportionately bear the brunt of the climate crisis.
  18. Support and promote the Renewables in

Latin America and the Caribbean (RELAC) initiative and its objectives, which include significantly increasing the number of Latin American and Caribbean countries taking part in the initiative by COP28 in 2023.

19. Promote principles that foster the generation of strategies for good management in the mining sector, especially in the case of minerals and metals that drive the energy transition and are therefore experiencing rapid growth, particularly with the inclusion of sustainable mining management plans that avoid open-pit mining or mining on other scales.
20. Establish and implement sustainable development goals for scaling up offshore renewable energy, as appropriate, by 2023.



## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

### Statement of the Working Group on Digital Transformation

#### Spokespersons:

- Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States: **Jorie Dugan**, Equality Now
- Mesoamerica: **Rommel Lopez**, White and Blue Support for Nicaragua
- South America: **Mariano Mosquera**, Universidad Católica de Córdoba

Emphasizing enforcement of the Inter-American Democratic Charter by the member states.

In 2011, the presidents of the Americas renewed in Canada their commitment to hemispheric integration and national and collective responsibility to improve the economic well-being and security of our peoples. At the IX Summit of the Americas the Digital Transformation project is a new political commitment to contribute to the development of technology in our countries that will benefit all our people equally, in all areas of government, education, health, manufacturing, communication, and entrepreneurship.

1. Consider digital transformation to encourage regulatory frameworks.
2. Recognize the key role of digital education.
3. Create a smart citizenry focused on social innovation and encourage and develop alternatives for the older persons.
4. Expand opportunities for businesses to adopt policies and regulations that encourage universal, equitable access to the Internet, including fair-market regulation that includes microenterprises, universal services, and licensing agreements without discrimination.
5. Recognize the Internet as a civic space.
6. Adapt technology to put it at the service of persons with disabilities, in order to improve their quality of life by facilitating access enabling them to lead a dignified life with equal rights.
7. Develop the gender approach in the area of inclusion and universal digital rights.
8. Consider the risks in digital justice mechanisms for the protection of human rights with an emphasis on rights defenders and minors, particularly in relation to crimes of violence with sexual content online.

9. Apply digital tools, including digitalization of television media and development of open communication network architectures.
  10. Ensure transparency based on the accreditation of legitimate governments with the OAS and accountability in the use of digital technology with responsible governments.
  11. Promote the creation of open-source tools in electoral matters accredited by the OAS, audited before, during and after an election using electoral technology.
  12. Recognize the right to identity of citizens, so that they can access their identity and citizenship documents; the right to vote of for citizens living abroad (e-democracy); digital technologies and databases that protect identities and privacy.
  13. Implement the international resolutions adopted at the OAS with the Network of E-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean or maintain the commitment to the Open Government Partnership, in order to promote measures that prevent and detect conflicts of interest.
  14. Avoid shutting down, blocking or throttling Internet, telecommunications or social media platforms; the use of artificial intelligence to create disinformation.
  15. Protect telecommunications, as a human right to freedom of expression in each country, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the constitutions of each country, in order to incorporate them into different digital platforms, in particular because they are linked to the broader achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, through the Broadband Commission and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
  16. Collaborate in the development and implementation of interoperable rule-based policies for cybersecurity, consumer protection, and consumer privacy.
  17. Encourage cooperation between member states, the United Nations, the OAS, INTERPOL, the technology industry, and civil society organizations for the eradication of digital crimes.
  18. Develop and implement by 2023 digital programs in the region for transformation in the Americas.
  19. Establish the Digital Transformation Observatory of the Americas and develop and adopt clear universal digital rights with the participation of social actors.
  20. In accordance with resolutions and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, ministers, competent authorities with the support of the members of the Joint Summit Working Group, and the OAS electoral affairs group, should seek to ensure that technology is used correctly in electoral processes, with auditing before, during and after elections in order to legitimize them.
- The above recommendations have their legal grounding, as established by the OAS, in the following international treaties:
1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  2. Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression
  3. Convention on the Rights of the Child, IACHR resolution 1/2020, "Pandemic and Human Rights in the Americas"; IACHR resolution 4/2020 "Human Rights of Persons with COVID-19."
  4. Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities

5. Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará.”
6. American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
7. Joint statement of the founding members of the OAS LGBTI Core Group
8. Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons
9. American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man
10. Inter-American Principles on the Human Rights of All Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Persons, and Victims of Trafficking in Persons
11. Declaration of Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy
12. Inter-American Convention on the Rights of the Author in Literary, Scientific and Artistic Works
13. Model Inter-American Law to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women in Political Life.

Technological support:

1. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
2. Universal Declaration of Human Rights to safeguard, prevent, address cybercrime
3. Inter-American Model Law 2.0 on Access to Public Information
4. Inter-American Convention against Corruption

Local legal basis:

1. Constitution of each member state

With implementation support:

1. Inter-American Cooperation Mechanism for Effective Public Management (MECIGEP)
2. Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
3. Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)
4. Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCyT)
5. OAS Cybersecurity Program
6. Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime
7. Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)



**Statement of the Working Group  
on Democratic Governance**

**Spokeswomen:**

- Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States: **Gale Mohammed-Oxley**, Social Actor

- Mesoamerica: **Adela Panezo Asprilla**, Centro Familiar Afro Santeño
- South America: **Vanessa Neumann**, Asymmetrica

Our Americas region has changed; therefore, our nations are called upon to come together, join forces, engage in dialogue, and respect our peoples. We are concerned about the decline of democracy in the region, the establishment of authoritarian leaders, the persistence of structural inequalities, and the implementation of restrictive and regressive actions and/or policies on human rights that significantly worsen quality of life in all countries, including those that have not renounced the death penalty.

Governments exist with the consensus of the people for whom they work, not the other way around. It is their obligation to provide the necessary tools and opportunities so that all people can lead a dignified life while respecting the rights of others to do likewise.

After intense work in the regional subgroups and their unification, we, the representatives of the civil society and social actors for the topic democratic governance, present our proposals, which we have organized around three main issues.

First, human rights:

The civil society representatives participating in the IX Summit of the Americas condemn the dictatorships in Nicaragua, Cuba, and Venezuela, and urge States to condemn dictatorships and take the following steps to promote the right to democracy of the peoples of the Americas:

1. Eliminate all forms of political violence and arrange the immediate release of all persons deprived of liberty for political reasons in all countries.
2. Protect vulnerable and especially exposed groups, such as the Afro-descendent community, indigenous peoples, corruption whistleblowers, human rights and environmental defenders, LGBTIQ+ communities, persons with disabilities,

children, women, adolescents, youth, older persons, migrants, refugees, stateless persons, academics, journalists, and those in mobility situations.

3. Eradicate harassment and discrimination in the workplace, sexual abuse and exploitation, forced labor, forced marriage and unions, and trafficking in persons; and eliminate all forms of violence, both political and that violates human dignity.
4. Ensure and protect the right of indigenous, rural and Afro-descendent peoples and communities to access land, territory, and a healthy and balanced environment, as well as their right to self-determination.
5. Achieve a regional agreement on migration, refugees, and internal displacement that also adopts structural measures to prevent the expulsion and exodus of migrants and respects the right to political asylum and international protection.
6. Ensure the independence of the different branches of government—particularly the judiciary and access to justice—and of national and subnational electoral bodies. Let there be no more impunity in the Americas.
7. Guarantee the physical security and juridical personality of civil society organizations, and the non-criminalization of national or international cooperation with them, including in the management and execution of these resources.
8. Stop the spread of organized crime within the political classes and state capture, which take advantage of populism to dismantle democratic institutions.
9. Expand the participation of civil society and social actors in the inter-American system, the Summits Process, and the OAS General Assembly.

10. Ensure respect for freedom of the press, freedom of conscience, and freedom of opinion and expression.
11. Condemn the destabilizing actions of the Sao Paulo Forum and the Puebla Group in the Hemisphere, as well as the interference of the Cuban dictatorship in other States.

#### In the area of transparency and anticorruption

1. Adopt measures for transparency in the expenditure, management, and execution of the public budget.
2. Encourage and facilitate the reporting of irregularities and acts of corruption, including money laundering, while protecting whistleblowers and identifying and providing redress to victims of corruption.
3. Promote awareness and effectiveness of integrity measures.
4. Implement and disseminate public consultations through accessible and user-friendly technological platforms in legislative and public policy-making processes for community development.
5. Penalize corruption and demanding transparency in the management of public funds.
6. Guarantee resources to work in the fight for democracy and against corruption.
7. Prosecute State officials involved in acts of corruption and impose the appropriate penalties on them.
8. Demand that multilateral organizations and agencies condition financing and cooperation to respect for human rights and probity in public administration.
9. Strengthen PASCA by adding the Caribbean

region, the United States, and Canada.

#### In the area of citizen participation and inclusion:

1. Increase international cooperation to ensure access to education, health, and justice for all, with special attention to the vulnerable.
2. Promote the inclusion of youth, identities, and persons with disabilities in the decision-making chain in States.
3. Promote strategies to encourage the nomination of diverse candidates and the integration of vulnerable groups in electoral processes in all countries.
4. Implement the necessary changes so that civil society organizations, social actors and the private sector have permanent representation in the SIRG and Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) processes, as well as active and collaborative participation in SISCA.
5. We urge member states to set up working groups that include representatives of civil society and national legislatures to implement the recommendations of MESICIC.

To follow up on the agreements of this Summit, strategies for dissemination and training in the use of the proposed mechanisms should be included, as should the work between the SIRG, the JSWG, civil society, and the private sector, in order to evaluate the progress made by governments in implementing of the plan of action prior to the Tenth Summit of the Americas.

In essence, good character nurtured by the values of faith, hope, charity, love, humility, perseverance, patience, fairness, non-violence, and non-discrimination are the antidote to corruption. Our governments need to create mechanisms that address human rights, transparency and anti-corruption issues, in order to achieve real, effective



democratic governance. Nations have the great challenge of overcoming corruption and lack of transparency, while deepening unity, brotherhood, and cooperation among peoples and governments, taking into account the right to self-determination and dignity of each one. Respect for the rights of others is peace. Benito Juárez

## Agenda - Dialogue between Civil Society, Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives

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June 8, 2022. Los Angeles, California

**9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

**Initiative Fair:** Visit by Government Representatives

**MODERATOR: Gustau Alegret,** Journalist, Managing Editor & Anchor of Press Club & Cuestión de Poder, NTN24

**10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

- **Keynote Speaker: Samantha Power, USAID Administrator**

**11:30 A.M. – 11:35 A.M.**

- Opening remarks by **H.E. Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS**
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### DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

**11:36 A.M. – 11:41 A.M.**

Civil Society and Social Actors Spokespersons:

- **Gale Mohammed-Oxley**, Social Actor
- **Adela Panezo Asprilla**, Centro Familiar Afro Santeño
- **Vanessa Neumann**, Asymmetrica

**11:42 A.M. – 11:53 A.M.**

- Response by the Heads of Delegation: **Antony J. Blinken**, Secretary of State of the United States
- Response by the Heads of Delegation: **Hon. Mélanie Joly**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada
- Response by the Heads of Delegation: **Erika Mouynes**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama.

**11:54 P.M. – 12:26 P.M.**  
**PANEL DISCUSSION**

### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

**12:27 P.M. – 12:32 P.M.**

Civil Society and Social Actors Spokespersons:

- **Rommel Lopez**, White and Blue Support for Nicaragua
- **Jorie Dugan**, Equality Now
- **Mariano Mosquera**, Social Actor

**12:33 P.M. – 12:40 P.M.**

- Response by the Heads of Delegation: **Marta Lucía Ramírez**, Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.
- Response by the Heads of Delegation: **Amb. Janice Miller**, National Summit Coordinator of Jamaica

**12:41 P.M. – 12:56 P.M.**

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

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### HEALTH AND RESILIENCE

**12:57 P.M. – 1:03 P.M.**

Civil Society and Social Actors Spokespersons:

- **Sandra Cerrato Flores**, Instituto de Desarrollo de la Mujer Lenca de Honduras
- **Kendale Trapp**, Empower Yourself Belize Movement
- **María Jackeline Ruiz**, Social Actor

**1:04 P.M. – 1:11 P.M.**

- Response by the Heads of Delegation: **Amb. Paul Fernando Duclós Parodi**, National Summit Coordinator of Peru
- Response by the Heads of Delegation: **Amb. Washington Abdala**, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the OAS

**1:12 P.M. – 1:27 P.M.**  
**PANEL DISCUSSION**



## CLEAN ENERGY

### 1:28 P.M. – 1:33 P.M.

Civil Society and Social Actors Spokespersons:

- **Hernando Viveros**, Social Actor
- **Danilsa Peña**, Social Actor
- **Gisela Cujar**, Social Actor

### 1:34 P.M. – 1:41 P.M.

- Response by the Heads of Delegation: **Alfonso Rodríguez**, Deputy Minister of Energy Saving and Efficiency, Dominican Republic
- Response by the Heads of Delegation: **Sebastián Kraljevich**, Permanent Representative of Chile to the OAS.

### 1:42 P.M. – 1:57 P.M.

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

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## GREEN FUTURE

### 1:58 P.M. – 2:03 P.M.

Civil Society and Social Actors Spokespersons:

- **Laura Azucena Rossi Centeno**, Coalición de Comunidades Afrodescendientes
- **Dallys Gutiérrez**, Centro Familiar Afro Santeño
- **Onika Stellingburg**, Social Actor

### 2:04 P.M. – 2:11 P.M.

- Response by the Heads of Delegation: **Gustavo Manrique Miranda**, Minister of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador
- Response by the Heads of Delegation: **Carlos Eduardo Correa Escaf**, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia

### 2:12 P.M. – 2:27 P.M.

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

### 2:28 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

#### CLOSING SESSION

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Declaration of Commitment  
and Action Plan of  
the **VI Young Americas Forum**

## *For a Meaningful Participation of Young People in the IX Summit of the Americas*

Original: Spanish  
Final Version

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Declaration of Commitment and Action Plan has been written by the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) based on the contributions provided by more than 27,000 young people from countries of the hemisphere, as part of the youth consultation process of the VI Young Americas Forum<sup>23</sup>, held for the period 2019 – 2022.

It compiles the process of youth participation and action as well as the systematization of contributions, concerns, proposals and concrete recommendations for the IX Summit of the Americas “Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future.”

This ongoing, open and inclusive youth consultation process was carried out through three main components:

- **Youth participation**, through Virtual Consultation and Youth Dialogues, on-site, hybrid and virtual, developed and implemented by leaders of youth organizations, under the mentorship and support of YABT.
- **Entrepreneurship in Action**, promoted through the Talent and Innovation Competitions of the Americas (TIC Americas) program<sup>24</sup>.
- **Virtual Campaigns and Policy Labs**, through which informed recommendations are generated with the collaboration of experts on youth issues

The contributions made by the young people who participated in the process were systematized

according to the 5 C's of Youth Development: Climate Change, Collaborating with Youth, Combating Corruption, Connectivity and Digital Transformation and COVID-19. Priority areas for youth and the result of the ongoing consultative process aimed at the young people of the hemisphere.

### WE HIGHLIGHT,

That according to the World Economic Forum's 2021 Global Risks Report<sup>25</sup> we, young people, are experiencing our second major global crisis in a decade, facing challenges to our education, employment, economic prospects, and mental health; still, we continue to take action to advance the priority issues of our struggle and ensure that political leaders, organizations and more people join our movement.

In 2022, we, the young people of the hemisphere, express our concern about the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on health, the economy, and access to fundamental services in the most vulnerable sectors and in people in a situation of migration. We emphasize that the pandemic has generated obstacles in our professional development and job opportunities. Similarly, the pandemic has affected the mental health of young people; however, this issue is not yet a priority on government agendas: mental health crisis in most vulnerable sectors is still neglected.

At the same time, as youth we have expressed our concern about climate change, about the uncertainty regarding the future of the planet and about the time remaining before reaching a global environmental crisis; despite the fact that the effects of global warming are visible, such as the rise in sea level and temperature, the acidification of the oceans and the melting of glaciers, we believe that commitments for the climate and the implementation of concrete policies in all national, regional and international agendas are still lacking, so we focus our attention on the actions established by governments.

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<sup>23</sup> The Young Americas Forum is the participation platform, for young people in the Americas to be actively involved, as social actor, in the Summits of the Americas, the OAS General Assemblies and other high-level meetings. More details at: [www.yabt.net/foro](http://www.yabt.net/foro). <sup>24</sup> The Talent and Innovation Competitions of the Americas (TIC Americas) program is a global business support and accelerator platform for young entrepreneurs aged 18-34. More details at: [www.ticamericas.net/](http://www.ticamericas.net/) <sup>25</sup> 16th edition of the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report, available at: <https://es.weforum.org/reports/the-global-risks-report-2021>

Likewise, in scope of the commitments made during the VIII Summit of the Americas for Democratic Governance, we urge the governments of the region to recognize the fight against corruption as a historic, important and urgent turning point to be addressed. We believe that there is still no effective promotion of political participation by youth: we see that political polarization is leaving youth leadership behind, prioritizing supporters of the system in power, so that youth policies are made invisible under agendas that do not meet our true needs. We express our concern of seeing ourselves limited to being political or electoral capital, given the lack of inclusive spaces for dialogue and participation in decision-making. We request more spaces to actively participate in the development of more sensitive public policies, with special focus on those that involve our development: in the field of education, job creation and entrepreneurship.

### **CONSIDERING:**

The contributions of the 5,540 young participants, who through youth organizations and networks, in collaboration with public, private and civil society entities in their respective countries, took up the challenge and commitment to organize 168 on-site, virtual and hybrid Youth Dialogues, as well as 9,260 young people who participated to the virtual consultations, campaigns, policy labs, that were part of the preparatory process officially established in 2019 on the way to the VI Young Americas Forum in Los Angeles, California.

### **GIVING CREDIT:**

To the young people who participated in the different stages of this process, through their opinions and contributions in response to each of the five Political Commitments for the IX Summit of the Americas, as well as the initiatives of the 11,800 entrepreneurs that, through the Entrepreneurship in Action programs, generated innovative and sustainable proposals on various topics such as: environment and environmental education, agriculture and nutrition, plastic waste reuse and recycling, renewable energy, manufacturing, trade and finance, health, biotechnology, water sanitation, creative industries, sports and ecotourism, information technologies,

gender equality and reduction of social inequality; all of them contributing to the sustainable recovery of the region in a post-pandemic context.

### **ACTION PLAN: RESPONDING TO THE POLITICAL COMMITMENTS OF THE IX SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**

The following are our proposals and requests focused on fulfilling the five Political Commitments of the IX Summit of the Americas: (1) Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas; (2) Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition; (3) Our Green Future; (4) Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation and (5) Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance.



### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

*Responding to the Political Commitments “Clean Energy and Our Green Future” of the IX Summit of the Americas*

#### **1. CLEAN ENERGY:**

- 1.1. We, young people, reiterate our interest in fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. We believe that the development model based on the extraction of natural resources should be reviewed and rethought. We urge to rethink production processes and consumption models at a global level, and to implement practices that allow the sustainable use of mineral and energy resources, considering environmental, social and governance factors.
- 1.2. We ask the governments to encourage research for the development and application of new energies in the region; to encourage investment and use of these technologies in a more inclusive way: to invest in renewable

energy mechanisms both in industries and in homes, small and medium-sized enterprises. We are committed to collaborating on initiatives ensuring the access for all sectors to these technologies, including the development of biofuels.

- 1.3. We propose to create a Young Americas Dialogue cluster, to be held quarterly in the cities, in innovative spaces where youth leaders, academia, government and private companies participate, to define the most urgent environmental needs of the region and to propose articulated solutions that are evaluated, scaled and taken into account at the national level and have international visibility; generate youth networks for climate change activism.

## **2. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND TECHNOLOGIES:**

- 2.1. As native youth of the digital age, we live the benefits, but also the effects, of new technologies on our lives and on our Human Rights. As young people, we commit ourselves to oversee the environmental impact of the industries and technologies that we use in partnership with regulatory agencies, demanding the appropriate actions to remedy it, collaborating to solve challenges of access to environmental information in the face of the current climate crisis.
- 2.2. We request increased financial support for projects that promote sustainable solutions to reduce pollution, and to encourage the development of technologies that contribute to preserving the environment through entrepreneurship. We call on State entities in partnership with companies to encourage the use of more sustainable transport models and to create projects for cities that allow us to promote pedestrian mobility and ecological transport, to the benefit of the environment and the health of the population. We are interested in strengthening the water sources of our cities through reforestation.

## **3. CARBON CONTROL:**

- 3.1. We urge the strengthening of measures to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions: we propose to promote reforestation and carbon management actions through regional programs that involve collective measures. We also propose projects to measure and report the carbon footprint generated by large industries.
- 3.2. It is urgent to stop the indiscriminate felling of forests and highlight the importance of protecting indigenous territories such as the Amazon and other relevant territories, as pillars in the fight against deforestation and other activities related to illicit economies that harm our ecosystems: such as drug trafficking and illegal mining.

## **4. PROTECTION TO ECOSYSTEMS:**

- 4.1. We young people require a commitment on the part of companies towards the environment, as well as responsibility on the part of the States when creating and enforcing laws and public policies for the conservation of ecosystems. It is necessary to achieve and demonstrate verifiable results in the quality of life of populations.
- 4.2. We are committed to disseminating information and promoting education for tourism as a guide to avoid the deterioration of marine and land ecosystems due to this activity. At the same time, it is important to promote initiatives for the preservation of land and ocean biodiversity.

## **5. WATER SAVING AND SANITATION:**

- 5.1. Climate change affects the hydrological cycle, causing serious alterations in our environment as human beings, such as the lack of access to drinking water and diseases related to water pollution: we must develop sustainable climate action projects focused on water saving and sanitation, to guarantee access and improve the quality of water and

sewage services; as well as strengthening public policies regarding water in the communities, promoting responsible consumption and educating the population in co-responsibility with other sectors of society.

## **6. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:**

- 6.1. 6.1. We are committed to promoting a circular economy, raising awareness of the impact of practices carried out on a daily basis on the environment, and being critical of the information on the origin of the products we consume; We require the governments to spread greater awareness campaigns on waste management, to promote to a greater extent practices of collecting plastic waste and the harnessing of organic waste; As young entrepreneurs, we are committed to training ourselves on cleaner production tools to create sustainable businesses. We propose strategic alliances between countries to adopt technologies for waste processing and management.
- 6.2. We propose a cross-sectional approach to environmental and sustainable education, to internalize environmental justice and solidarity: to integrate environmental conservation strategies and notions of responsible consumption into study plans, from basic levels, as well as a recognition system for those who carry out actions in favor of the environment. Long-term results of environmental education can be measured in daily activities such as the increase in the use of public transport, the reduction in the demand for single-use plastics, the increase in the demand for sustainable organic crops, among others.
- 6.3. It is necessary to encourage technology-based enterprises that help solve social and ecological problems: we propose strategic partnership between countries to adopt and develop technologies for waste processing

and management; We suggest creating an accessible fund for projects developed by women to reduce the effects of climate change, through sustainability activities in their communities. We urge greater inclusion of girls and women in study programs and careers with a STEM<sup>26</sup> focus, promoting their participation in scientific and technological work to face the challenges of climate change.

## **7. FOOD SECURITY TO FACE CLIMATE CHANGE:**

- 7.1. As young people, we are interested in allying with and following up on entities and companies that have implemented climate actions and that are willing to support us with financing and training to develop sustainable agricultural projects, through programs that generate collective solutions for achieving food security; We propose to provide education in sustainable agriculture to population in general: consumers, producers, peasants, private and public entities, thus empowering people from the perspective of self-sufficiency. It is necessary to encourage existing sustainable agricultural education and training processes and promote programs according to the needs of our communities.
- 7.2. We propose to encourage emerging small-scale agricultural initiatives that use traditional regenerative practices. This through associations of large companies with local agricultural projects and by supporting inter-scale associations that help smaller agricultural companies to integrate their value-added products in the international market, providing them with the initial investment necessary to comply with international standards.





## COMBATING CORRUPTION

*Responding to the Political Commitment “Democratic Governance” of the IX Summit of the Americas*

### 1. YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION:

- 1.1. We call on governments to build and institutionalize scenarios of citizen participation, without political instrumentalization, where youth are included and are protagonists, through the articulation of networks of educational institutions, public and private, to include and strengthen those spaces that do not have a considerable reach due to their conditions and territorial contexts: the decentralization of spaces for debate and action strengthens the confidence and capacities of youth to confront corruption.
- 1.2. We agree that it is still difficult to promote or channel proposals outside of political parties and institutional mechanisms for participation spaces, so it is necessary to promote dynamics of social program co-creation and government improvement from universities and other civic spaces, such as volunteer programs and laboratories aimed at young people in underserved communities. We propose to create a high-level internship program in state structures for young professionals, as well as educational programs that provide us with tools and specific knowledge about government structures and audit processes, preparing us to occupy decision-making spaces.

### 2. QUALITY EDUCATION:

- 2.1. It is necessary to develop youth political leadership through education, so we propose to reinforce content related to ethics,

politics, government and humanities in the educational curriculum of all countries, as well as provide tools to combat corruption to the population, through the creation of citizen schools as an initiative of the civil sector; this without ceasing to include training in life and decision-making skills through programs aimed at young people and adolescents in situations of vulnerability.

- 2.2. We are committed to actively participate in the elaboration of public policies, with special focus on those involving our development, such as educational policies: university autonomy must be considered essential to achieve quality education, while establishing quality standards for all Higher Education Institutions. We agree that access to quality education at all levels is a latent need in the region. Therefore, we propose to create an evaluation standard for the study centers of the hemisphere based on the principles of open government.
- 2.3. As young people we can lay the foundation for stronger international partnerships that overcome political changes, so curricula must also incorporate virtual and face-to-face educational exchanges among institutions across the region. Including standardized international dialogue in educational curricula will ensure students' access to the benefits of global perspectives and collaborative relationships.

### 3. HUMAN RIGHTS AND MULTILATERALISM:

- 3.1. We young people commit ourselves to promoting multiculturalism in institutional spaces. We urge governments to highlight the realities of indigenous and Afro-descendant youth from their intersectionalities of gender and sexual orientation; serve all young people without distinction of socioeconomic status, people with disabilities, young women and children, especially youth in rural areas and migrants, so that they do not remain in the informal sector. We call to create channels so that vulnerable groups with little access

to digital connectivity can be heard.

- 3.2. We urge governments to include commitments to existing migration regulation policies, in the stages of prevention, attention and return, from economic and political factors. The biggest challenge is to increase the guarantees of survival for migrants, to ensure the right to education for migrant children and to provide alternatives for legalization, security and basic rights. We request greater social protection and welfare conditions for people in a situation of human mobility, as well as promotional actions for labor insertion that take advantage of the abilities and skills of young migrants. We express our urgency to guarantee accessibility at all educational levels and to bring these opportunities to vulnerable populations, such as indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.
- 3.3. We commit ourselves to promoting international cooperation and multilateralism in security, trade and education: we propose to create youth policy nodes and border meetings around issues such as migration, innovation and international trade; we seek participation not only through the mechanisms of civil society, but also in the different spaces convened by the Entities, Organizations and Dependencies of the OAS.

#### **4. OPEN GOVERNMENT AS AN ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY:**

- 4.1. Young people see with concern that impunity persists in acts of corruption, since it is encouraged by the States in multiple ways: it is frequently given by opportunities to profit through public money that should be used for goods and services. The role of the private sector is also important, so it is necessary to incorporate integrity and good-corporate-governance certifications in all types of companies in order to avoid acts of corruption.
- 4.2. We propose the use of open data as a tool

for social development and the design of better public policies: applying open government principles, through the publication of management indicators and the simplification of information access procedures. We demand from governments minimum standards of capacity and integrity for the exercise of public service, to strengthen the training and certification of public officials in management and control positions, as well as to implement training spaces in ethics and transparency.

- 4.3. We young people commit ourselves to be observers and auditors in the public processes of resources for youth, as well as to promote the evaluation of the tangible and significant impact of state projects in our communities, for which we propose the creation of an observatory of youth in which technology tools are used to monitor the actions of interest in order to contribute to the fight against corruption. We also call on the States to encourage the rest of the citizenry to be controllers and guarantors in the management of public funds.

#### **5. ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION AND VIOLENCE:**

- 5.1. We declare that it is urgent to highlight the constant violation of the fundamental Human Rights that young people, women, indigenous communities live in the region, as well as sexual and gender diversities, as an effect of corruption, impunity and discrimination in access to public services and in justice enforcement.
- 5.2. It is necessary to spotlight the violence that is exercised illegally from the States, which persists through formal institutions through forms such as harassment and persecution, illegal repression, torture and murder. We demand greater protection for people who report acts of corruption.
- 5.3. It is necessary to put an end to extractive activities that directly affect indigenous peoples and punish serious environmental

damage: we propose to recognize at the international level the figure of “ecocide” as a crime before international bodies. At the same time, we urge States to take actions to protect environmental activists and indigenous peoples, as we recognize the violence that is exercised in a structural, systematic and intersectional manner. We urge governments to establish safe spaces and real guarantees for young leaders who denounce and make visible environmental crimes, rejecting impunity in the face of these. We propose to adopt the Earth Charter as an instrument of International Law and Democracy, to promote a culture of Non-Violence and Peace as a basis to eradicate the social and economic inequality that gives rise to violence.



## CONNECTIVITY AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

*Responding to the Political Commitment “Digital Transformation” of the IX Summit of the Americas*

### 1. REDUCE THE DIGITAL GAP:

- 1.1. The Post-COVID-19 scenario is an example of how young people have had to innovate and make a leap towards connectivity and the digitization of businesses and services. We believe that it is a task for governments to guarantee equal access to technology. It is necessary to recognize our Digital Rights, since there are still gaps in connectivity infrastructure in the countries of the region and internet access is still unequal. We propose a Digitization and Connectivity Plan that includes digital education aimed especially at vulnerable communities, as well as the expansion of connectivity in each country with the increase of Wi-Fi networks, optical fiber and the corresponding physical infrastructure. All this, through agreements

between governments and private companies.

- 1.2. We ask for incentives for projects that use technological development as a tool to favor the accessibility and efficiency of basic services and as a means to favor production and employability. Entrepreneurship programs with an emphasis on encouraging telecommuting will allow young people to join the labor market, closing economic, social and gender gaps.
- 1.3. We also propose the creation of digital applications for communication in the Americas, which promote the strengthening of labor and academic actions throughout the hemisphere by the means of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), considering areas of difficult access, allowing to integrate the social sector in its different rural, urban and peri-urban areas. This in order to reduce the digital divide through education, especially in vulnerable communities and indigenous populations that practice agriculture.
- 1.4. Companies have reinvented themselves and adapted their business models, which is why we reiterate the importance of providing digital literacy programs from childhood: promoting Digital Literacy processes in the entire population, particularly young people. The foregoing in a partnership between educational institutions, civil society organizations and the media, led by the States. We commit to promoting the formalization of work and commerce, for which we propose incentives for the computerization of businesses, as well as advancing to hybrid models that take advantage of the technologies that were implemented during the pandemic.
- 1.5. We require policies for the creation of job opportunities, financing options for youth entrepreneurship and comprehensive education in the current context of employment and technological development. For this reason, we propose

to focus training and curricula on the use of Industry 4.0 technologies: that schools and colleges teach robotics and programming skills; that universities promote skills for the development of Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT) and Big Data. It is also necessary to strengthen accounting and financial skills in school programs, aimed at entrepreneurship. For this we propose to create and promote platforms that accompany the vocational guidance of students according to the needs of the labor market. The foregoing with a gender perspective and non-discrimination.

## **2. SECURITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE USE OF DATA:**

- 2.1. We call to strengthen digital security and the ethical use of data, both at the level of data management and in the prevention of cyberbullying. We also propose creating spaces for digital education based on the cybersecurity component, since the lack of expertise in this area impacts the security of Latin American countries.
- 2.2. Likewise, we propose to implement technological methods that allow transparent access to state information on accountability, such as the implementation of Blockchain and Big Data technology in public administration.



### **COVID-19**

*Responding to the Political Commitment “Health and Resilience” of the IX Summit of the Americas*

#### **1. SOLIDARITY-BASED ECONOMIC RECOVERY:**

- 1.1. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it

difficult to acquire goods and services, mainly affecting the most vulnerable sectors of the population: women, children and adolescents, especially from indigenous peoples. Given this, we believe that the reactivation of industries must be based on solidarity: we propose to follow up on programs to promote collaborative economy projects with a gender perspective, to integrate the different actors and sectors of the productive chains and strengthen local enterprises; we must make small and medium-sized companies visible, promoting associativity, fair and sustainable trade through inclusive, cooperative and decentralized public policies.

- 1.2. It is necessary to assess the impact of the pandemic from a gender perspective: confinement put young women and girls at greater risk of violence, due to the increase in school dropout, lack of access to medical services and the cultural burden of domestic and care tasks: it is necessary to implement new safety and support programs for affected women and girls.
- 1.3. COVID-19 has also widened the gender gap in earning opportunities: employment policies must consider domestic and caregiving dynamics to motivate young women to continue working. Reducing the gender gap in entrepreneurship is more important than ever to create jobs and spur innovation in a post-COVID-19 world, which is why we propose to create training and support platforms for entrepreneurship among young women.

#### **2. HYGIENE AND DISEASE PREVENTION:**

- 2.1. We commit ourselves to promoting sustainable initiatives to ensure access to drinking water for communities and to promote hygiene measures and the rational use of water as a basis for preventing infectious diseases.

### **3. PROPOSALS FOR POST-PANDEMIC MENTAL HEALTH:**

- 3.1. The pandemic affected the mental health of young people, especially those who live in countries in social and political conflict. It is urgent to make visible suicide, depression, stress, anxiety, among other psychological pathologies in youth, derived from their losses and confinement, which will have long-term effects on our families and communities. We must promote comprehensive programs and build a post-COVID-19 mental health policy, through open and collaborative platforms, developing inclusive communication strategies regarding mental health, ensuring the incorporation of content on managing emotions in all programs education in the region.
- 3.2. In addition to expanding the coverage of health systems in terms of immunization, prevention and care for diseases, public policies are required that guarantee easy access to mental health services for any person. We propose to include mental health care as a priority issue in the regional agenda, so that sufficient budgets are allocated to it by the States.
- 3.3. As youth, we commit ourselves to promoting initiatives and campaigns that guarantee free or low-cost access to well-being and stress management techniques. We also propose to value and support the ancestral knowledge of our communities, as alternative solutions to the effects caused by COVID-19, as well as its aftermath.

### **4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AFTER COVID-19:**

- 4.1. The pandemic not only generated immediate and serious effects on work and income, but it has drastically accelerated digitization and automation processes: companies reinvented their business models. As young people, we prioritize spaces for dialogue about the future of work after this pandemic. There is

still a lack of policies that support productive activities, decent work, entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation and formalization, to generate educational inclusion in vulnerable communities, promoting training and visualizing youth participation in the formal economy. Given the increase in youth unemployment and the precariousness of existing jobs, we call on governments to carry out the educational and labor reforms necessary for better and greater access to work through education in coordination with the global labor market.

- 4.2. As young people, we are committed to strengthening the use of spaces for citizen participation guided by peers, in order to create a network of young people with a social purpose, as well as promoting the use of networks for research purposes to update our regions. We propose the creation of groups trained to identify young people in vulnerable situations and help them find educational and employment opportunities. We call for public-private partnerships to create greater employment opportunities for youth as an alternative to migration.
- 4.3. The percentage of youth unemployment should decrease with the support of programs for the formalization of entrepreneurships. We propose a commercial formalization campaign through incentives and streamlining bureaucratic procedures, in which HUBs and incubators are the key spaces to ensure the implementation of a business idea, as a strategy to alleviate poverty. These spaces should be implemented in universities and government agencies focused on youth.
- 4.4. The pandemic made it clear that there is a link between the ability to obtain employment and the possibility of obtaining an adequate level of education: although online resources have increased due to the pandemic, many young people in vulnerable situations continue to lack access to technology to access resources and opportunities to learn online. This coupled with an outdated

educational system. After the pandemic, we need to assess the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of young people, highlighting that the vulnerable population needs access to continuing education in the digital age to strengthen their job skills.

# 3

Recommendations  
from others  
**Social Actors** on  
the occasion of  
the **IX Summit  
of the Americas**





## Declaration of the Labor Movement of the Americas

*Los Angeles, USA, June 2022*

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The Trade Union movement of the Americas, represented by its hemispheric organization, the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), and the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE-OAS), gathered virtually from the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, on May 31, 2022, presents the following Declaration to the IX Summit of the Americas:

We regret not being able to attend the IX Summit of the Americas, since the representatives of the regional trade union movement are participating in the International Labor Conference of the International Labor Organization (ILC - ILO), the first one that takes place in person since the year 2019. We are developing an important participation in the different commissions and debates of the Conference, where we express the legitimate voice of the workers of the Americas.

We share the terms under which this Summit, which takes place under the slogan "Building a sustainable, resilient and equitable future", is convened, considering that the pandemic has exposed, more than ever, the structural problems of our economies, as well as the social inequality that prevails in the continent, added to the fact that the measures adopted by most countries to mitigate the effects of the pandemic have been insufficient.

The context of the pandemic has also shown the importance of having workers' organizations that can represent the legitimate interest of those who have been particularly affected in their jobs, income and health and who may fall into the cycle of poverty and exclusion if adequate labor and social protection policies are not implemented.

The deficit in terms of effective Social Dialogue makes responses even more difficult, since unilateral measures by governments and employers only increase the difficulties for working people. For

this reason, it is essential to guarantee the exercise of the right of freedom of association, collective bargaining at all levels and in all sectors of activity, whether public or private, as well as the right to strike, in such a way that it allows expressing the points of view of trade union organizations not only on labor relations at the company level but also on more general problems that directly or indirectly affect workers.

Debates such as the deepening of democracy, social policies, macroeconomic approaches, among others, demand a public position and alternative proposals from trade unions due to the socio-political function they fulfill and which is not exhausted, as has been said, in claims related purely to immediate professional interests.

For these reasons, we consider the contribution made by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights through its Advisory Opinion No. 27/21 of May 5, 2021, substantive. It has revealed a broad view of the phenomenon of freedom of association, collective bargaining and strike, and their relationship with other rights and with a gender perspective. We fully share the opinion of the Court insofar as it states that:

- The rights to freedom of association, collective bargaining and to strike are human rights protected in the framework of the inter-American system, and this places the states under obligation to adopt mechanisms for guaranteeing them, including access to effective judicial recourse against actions in violation of these rights, prevention, investigation, and sanction of the perpetrators of violations of trade union rights, and to adopt specific measures for the effective exercise of these rights;

- Respect for and guarantee of these rights is essential to defend labor rights and fair, equitable, satisfactory working conditions;
- Labor law sets a minimum threshold for the protection of worker rights, and for this reason, worker rights recognized in labor laws cannot be abrogated in peius through collective bargaining;
- Union autonomy cannot be used to protect measures that would limit the exercise of women's trade union rights, but to the contrary, obliges the states to adopt positive measures that will allow women to enjoy formal and material equality in the workplace and in labor unions;
- The states are under the obligation to adapt their laws and practices to new conditions on the labor market, regardless of the kind of technological developments that produce these changes; and they must understand their obligations to protect worker rights under international human rights law, and for this purpose, foster the real participation of worker representatives and employer representatives in the design of employment policies and laws.

These considerations made by the highest human rights body in the region provide more than enough foundation for trade union organizations to be protagonists of policies, plans and programs to overcome the crisis.

Progress in the region towards a human-centered recovery is currently compromised by the fallout from the war and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which is affecting economies, household incomes, jobs, and access to food and basic needs of people.

From the Trade Union movement of the Americas, we ratify our commitment with peace, sovereignty and self-determination of peoples and nations, as was expressed in the Document from TUCA's 4th

Congress. Peace is built with dialogue, not weapons. In this regard, we firmly advocate a negotiated solution, with an immediate ceasefire and the total withdrawal of Russian military units from Ukraine, with security guarantees for all parties involved.

Likewise, we express our solidarity with the internally displaced persons and refugees of this conflict, as well as with the millions of people affected by other military conflicts, while we make a call to strengthen humanitarian aid in all regions of the planet where it is required.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the new global scenario posed by Russia's war and invasion of Ukraine, make us ratify the validity of the Development Platform of the Americas (PLADA) as a powerful instrument for action in the region. In this direction, the essential lines of the actions of TUCA and of COSATE itself, aimed at collaborating with these purposes in the national space and within the OAS, have their source of inspiration in the resolution adopted at the 4th Congress of the TUCA, whose pillars of action and prioritization are detailed below and seem relevant to us in relation to the topic addressed at the IX Summit of the Americas:

#### **A) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DECENT WORK, THE CENTER OF AN ALTERNATIVE AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS**

For TUCA and COSATE, development as a people's concept and program is based on the principles of social, economic and environmental justice, gender equality and equity, democracy and human rights. On this basis, it assumes and promotes "decent work, freedom of association, universal social protection, grassroots empowerment with effective presence of the State and the implementation of public policies to regulate economic and social activities, in order to guarantee the satisfaction of the population's needs".

Sustainable development involves questioning and "challenging the current economic order, the commercialization and financialization of the

commons and the inequalities that cement the patriarchal and discriminatory system”, therefore, “we are committed to a model that places care and the sustainability of life at the center, based on a profound change in social metabolism and a new relationship with the environment”. Territorial and gender-based social movements, cannot, in any case, remain excluded from this debate.

We also reaffirm our commitment to defend social security and occupational health as human rights and strategic elements of decent work. We reject any proposal to privatize social security in the region, since individual capitalization reproduces and enhances existing inequalities and results in impoverishing workers of retirement age.

The pandemic has demonstrated the relevance of public protection and health systems, since the countries in the region that had stronger systems were able to better cope with the onslaught of COVID 19. The Pandemic revealed the significant deficits for workers who have been on the front lines of the fight against COVID, in particular for healthcare workers, caregivers (mostly women) and essential services and production workers.

The production and distribution of vaccines against COVID are crossed by the power of transnational pharmaceutical companies, even though in most cases, their scientific development and production have been stimulated by public resources and state support.

The commercialization of vaccines constitutes a real obstacle for Latin America and the Caribbean to have effective access. Protected by patents, intellectual property and confidentiality clauses, pharmaceutical companies have subjected countries to unworthy conditions for access to immunization. In our region, this becomes more important in the face of fragile health systems, privatized and put at the service of profit.

The TUCA and COSATE reaffirm the universality and gratuity of health, especially access to vaccines in the framework of the COVID 19 Pandemic, and

we urge governments to establish COVID as an occupational disease, in order to have the necessary regulations to protect workers who are on the front line of action, as well as service and production workers considered essential.

On another topic, in a continent with extremely high percentages of informality and job insecurity, capitalization as the systems' panacea is a notion irrefutably unsustainable. Another element to consider, as part of the reality of our labor markets, is the situation of groups that show irregular labor trajectories, such as women with family responsibilities due to non-shared care, or who suffer discrimination in employment, such as the wage gap which affect the density of their social security contributions. Distribution or pay-as-you-go systems which are based on solidary, redistributive, contributory, and non-contributory mechanisms, on the other hand, are not “automatic takers” of these labor market dysfunctions, and, therefore, constitute an instrument for reducing these inequalities.

The current global situation together with the devastating effects of the pandemic require stability and collaboration. At this critical moment for our peoples, the Organization of American States -OAS- has fallen short in its mandate to promote regional unity and cooperation. In this regard, we call on the OAS to put an end to policies and practices that exacerbate differences in the region and instead serve as a forum for dialogue and cooperative action to address the serious economic and social problems that exist today in the Americas.

## **B) DEFENDING DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION TO EXPAND OUR RIGHTS**

For TUCA and COSATE, the democratic question in our region is vital and needs to be defended and deepened, not only because it is a civilizational value, but also because the attacks on freedom always have the workers as the first victims of the consequences of democratic interruption (violence, torture, assassinations, disappearances).

In addition, democracy enables people's growth in terms of rights and liberties.

We also bring forward, as the ILO did in its founding act in 1919, that social justice is the foundation of universal and permanent peace.

As was stated in the 4th TUCA Congress, we reaffirm that peace is not only the absence of conflict, but "will be especially the consequence of fair economic and social conditions for the majority of the population". We emphasize that a substantive part of the democratic functioning of a society cannot do without democratizing, in turn, the media, to fully comply with freedom of expression and enable access to plural information, since it is a true public good and basic human right that the State must guarantee.

### **C) PROTECT THE WORK PROVIDED IN THE NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (DIGITAL PLATFORMS, TELEWORKING, ETC.)**

The world of work is subject to rapid changes, which in many cases require certain adaptations of labor legislation to effectively reach and protect those who work in new scenarios.

The States must undertake actions to avoid that these transformations have a negative impact on both employment conditions and workers' income, since the omission in which they have mostly incurred thus far has caused that many of the new ways of working are used to circumvent social protection regulations, by simulating autonomous relationships instead of dependent ones and, therefore, making work more precarious.

We claim that the protective spirit of labor legislation should be retaken without falling into approaches that, under the argument of the equality of the parties in contractual relations, deny the radical asymmetry that exists between workers and employers when setting working conditions.

### **D) ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES, PROMOTING INCLUSION. GENDER EQUITY & EQUALITY**

Finally, we affirm the need to definitively enshrine gender equality. We demand policies that comply with the objectives indicated in the TUCA Congress in the sense of unleashing greater autonomy for women, for them to develop capacities to make free and informed decisions about their lives, in order for them to be and do according to their own aspirations and desires in the historical context that makes them possible and in its physical, economic and political dimensions.

The pandemic worsened gender inequalities, therefore, States must redouble their efforts to guarantee the right to a life free from all forms of violence and discrimination, breaking down the barriers that hinder women inclusion into the world of work, make care burdens excessive, widen income gaps and limit women's participation in political and social spheres, among others.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated violence against historically discriminated sectors, such as women, youth, indigenous peoples, the Afro-descendant population, the LGBTIQ+ population; but we have also seen criminalization and violence against social activists and militants, including trade unionists, has risen dangerously in the region. Countries like Colombia, Brazil, Honduras and Guatemala continue to be the most dangerous for the militancy of trade unionists, environmentalists and other human rights defenders.

The lack of government action, impunity and the failure to adopt concrete measures for their protection and defense operate as the main drivers of criminalization and violence.

### **IN CONCLUSION, WE EXPRESS THAT:**

**We are strong supporters of an institutionalized Social Dialogue to recover from the crisis and achieve a future of work with social justice and sustainable**

## **development.**

We understand that social dialogue is, effectively, a primary mechanism to generate trust between governments and social actors in the world of work; reach fair, equitable and lasting agreements; prevent and resolve conflicts; promote responsible business conduct and strengthen sustainable companies, but fundamentally we conceive that it should tend to materialize greater margins of equality between the actors in the world of work. In post-pandemic reconstruction, the cost cannot be paid by workers. We point out that collective bargaining is an essential instrument of social dialogue as it constitutes the means by which workers and employers, in the exercise of freedom of association, agree on basic working conditions and set the terms of their relationship.

In this sense, social dialogue and collective bargaining can play a central role in promoting green and sustainable recovery processes in the countries of the region, based on just transition frameworks that favor the creation of green jobs, reduce carbon emissions and put workers at the center, articulating the principles of decent work, environmental justice and social justice.

We believe that the States must address the regulation of the new ways of working on digital platforms and teleworking in a way that considers the inequality of the parties in these relationships and, consequently, protects the conditions in which the work is provided.

We reiterate what has been said on previous occasions about the value of PLADA as a contribution of trade unionism to the debate on options/models for the development of the Americas, and we require the expansion of spaces to ensure the presence of representative social actors from the region with an agenda that contemplates the interests of all countries.

We also reaffirm our intention to strengthen ties with the Inter-American Commission and Court and with the Commissioner for Economic,

Social and Cultural Rights, calling on the OAS to continue working to guarantee the exercise of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR), and, in particular, those referring to labor and trade union rights, freedom of association and collective bargaining, as a key condition to combat inequality.

We must promote the development and implementation of campaigns and actions against violence against women through the countries' ratification of Convention 190, since the confinement caused by the pandemic increased the risk of suffering situations of harassment and violence in the workplace and at home.

Trade unionism in the Americas will continue its work of accompaniment and advocacy with the governments of the region so that this fundamental instrument is ratified.

The TUCA and COSATE ratify that they will continue accompanying the work of the trade union organizations in each country of the region, defending together with them the democratic rights and especially the interests of the working class. We inform that with this objective the TUCA National Tables have been installed in Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala as priority countries for our strategic agenda in the current period.

Mindful of the global geopolitical tensions in full swing, stemming from the war and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we once again reiterate our commitment to peace and firmly advocate a negotiated solution, with an immediate ceasefire and total withdrawal of the Russian military units in Ukraine, with security guarantees.

In this regard, we also call on the governments of the region to adopt concerted public policies within the framework of tripartite social dialogue and in accordance with the guidelines expressed in this document, in order to mitigate the economic and social effects of the armed conflict in Ukraine in our region and underpin a recovery centered on people through Decent Work and with Social Justice as a horizon.

Finally, being consistent in our vision of regional integration without exclusions, we believe that the Summit of the Americas should bring together all the countries of the region, regardless of the ideological political option of their governments, in order to build joint solutions to the serious problems of the region. The Americas must be a territory of peace where respect for sovereignty, self-determination, and non-interference in the internal affairs of the countries constitute the cornerstone in the relationship between the nations of the hemisphere and in favor of their peoples.

### **TRADE UNION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF LABOR (COSATE – OAS)**

#### **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)**

#### **Labor’s Demands for the Summit of the America’s Migration Declaration- COSATE- CSA**

The pandemic has laid bare the need for sweeping changes to fix the economic and political systems that are failing workers, and the global labor movement has responded with a clarion call for a new social contract that ensures equality, inclusion, climate friendly jobs, rights for all workers, and universal social protection. Coherent, rights-based migration governance is an essential part of the larger structural change we need to create an economy that respects and protects all workers and promotes democracy in the workplace and the community.

Trade unions have outlined a clear set of demands to ensure that migration policy frameworks adhere to human and labor rights standards, and do not further criminalize migrants or empower the private sector to dictate the terms of migration governance. To do that, States must move beyond temporary or circular migration programs and put the focus on regularization, humanitarian resettlement, and policies that promote sustainable development and

decent work for all in countries of origin, transit and destination.

To this end, it continues to be imperative to adopt structural policies in the face of the impacts of extreme weather events in the region related to climate change as well as the need to adopt just transition measures that promote jobs and decent working conditions in order to prevent thousands of families from leaving their countries in search of a better life. Furthermore, unilateral coercive measures against some countries in the region must be put to an end, as they have been politically counterproductive and have aggravated the economic and social situation in the region, thus acting as factors that stimulate migration.

In most cases, circular or temporary migration programs favor job insecurity, but even more so, they subject migrant workers to systematic separation from their families. This not only hinders the work and educational trajectories of entire families, but also inhibits the mechanisms that grant access to social protection.

An America’s Declaration could serve as an important vehicle to help address the root causes that compel people to migrate, encourage pathways out of irregularity, and enhance regular migration channels that promote shared prosperity and advance workers’ rights. However, the reality we see in practice on the global and regional levels is quite different. We urge States in the Americas to shift priorities and approaches to meet the needs and demands of workers.

**Demand #1** – Collective worker voice and participation. Trade unions have demanded transparent processes that give workers a seat at the table and ensure our freedom to stand together and receive a fair return on our work. This requires authentic social dialogue and guarantees to adhere to our Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Workers’ agency is fundamental to achieving fair migration and decent work for all. Freedom of association is an enabling right that shifts the power dynamics so that workers can protect and

advance their interests through collective actions and negotiations with employers. Without realizing this shift, we can never hope to reverse entrenched patterns of discrimination and exploitation against migrant workers. Removing barriers to organizing is critical to defending excluded workers of all sorts, because unions provide concrete mechanisms to enforce labor standards and remedy disputes.

We urge States to engage in social dialogue at the national and regional level with trade unions and workers' organizations to further the development of decent work and fair migration. An America's declaration should also reaffirm the importance of the ILO's tripartite mechanisms and conventions as necessary foundations for building a fair migration governance framework.

It is of fundamental importance to promote the ratification of labor migration conventions. Convention 143, which incorporates migrant workers in irregular conditions, is especially important given that, according to statistics, the largest flows of migrants do so in this condition due to a lack of migratory regularization policies. In a similar vein, it is important to have national and institutionalized tripartite spaces, to coordinate public policies regarding migration issues and to achieve a governance scheme that guarantees effective participation of social actors.

**Demand #2** – Commitment to decent work, quality public services and sustainable development. Trade unions have demanded policies that protect and empowers worker in countries of origin, transit and destination, and policy coherence that produces positive labor market outcomes for all working people, regardless of race, gender or migration status.

States in the America's must make the promotion of decent work the driving principle not just for regular pathways, but also for addressing root causes of migration and spurring sustainable development. Decent work policies enshrine universal rights, generate economic growth, promote public health and social cohesion, and reduce racial, gender and

status inequities that undermine our democratic institutions. Unions are calling for investment in inclusive and quality public services and trade strategies that help creation of decent, climate-friendly jobs, accompanied by just transition measures to promote resilience and guarantee that no one is left behind in dealing with the impacts of the climate crisis and in industrial transformation processes. These shifts are essential to reducing the root causes that force families to migrate as a means of survival.

Public employment services should be strengthened, both at the national and regional level. For this, it is necessary to have public officials who are familiar with and trained in migration issues. Public services must maintain a systematic and institutionalized relationship with local social actors. A strengthened network of public services has implications in the fight against those private employment agencies that operate fraudulently and violate the rights of migrants.

**Demand #3** – Non-discrimination mandates. Trade unions have demanded commitments to combat xenophobia and racism, end all forms of discrimination, and ensure equal treatment and access to justice and quality public services for all. All countries must strongly condemn the use of migration and migrants as part of hate speech, electoral campaigns, or other situations that stimulate xenophobia and violence against the migrant population. Furthermore, the intersectionality of inequality must be analyzed and addressed since it only deepens the vulnerability of migrants, who are often already victims of inequalities of gender, age, religion, etc.

The pandemic has revealed the essential nature of work that has long been invisible and undervalued, much of which is performed by migrants; a significant percentage of these are women migrant workers, such as those in health and social care and domestic work. This amplifies the imperative for States to recognize the principles of equal protection and equality of treatment for all workers, regardless of their status or whether they are in the informal or formal economy. We call for policy coherence that

incorporates migration governance into broader economic, social, racial, environmental, and gender justice initiatives. Migrants, whatever their race, class, gender identity, immigration status or sector, must be part of social protection policies in the destination countries in which they work. Migrant workers must also have access to concrete status protections when they exercise their rights and help to enforce labor laws.

States have recognized the systematic violations of migrant workers' rights, including rampant issues of wage theft. However, they must go further in calling for the development of justice mechanisms that allow migrants, whether still in the destination country or after return to their country of origin or a third country, to easily and fairly obtain remedies for the systematic violations they face in the workplace. The concept of "portable justice" should be part of the regional Declaration, and states should task the ILO with using its tripartite mechanisms to develop international standards around remedying wage theft and other routine workplace violations for migrants.

**Demand #4** – Diverse channels for regular migration. Given that serious humanitarian concerns dominate our migration discourse today, trade unions have demanded that the implementation process prioritize regularization schemes and increase humanitarian resettlement options and other rights-based channels—which allow migrants the freedom to move, settle, work, and fully participate in society—over expanding temporary or circular work programs.

Not all regular pathways are fair or equitable. We call on States to redouble efforts to regularize undocumented migrants and promote family unification. In the context of rapidly escalating mass human displacement, much of which is driven by the climate crisis, the imperative to increase resettlement commitment and capacity grows ever more urgent. Now is the time to emphasize and expand humanitarian pathways for climate migrants and others in ways that ensure full worker rights, facilitate social and family cohesion, and provide options for permanent residence and

meaningful participation in civic life.

**Demand #5** – Just models for labor migration and adherence to international standards. Trade unions have demanded a new approach to labor migration that empowers migrants and reduces employers' control over the process. This framework must include binding regulation of the recruitment industry and be guided by ILO's fair recruitment principles and guidelines to ensure equity and safeguard rights and standards for all.

States must take steps to fundamentally restructure labor migration pathways, so they end the commodification of migrant workers and the systematic exploitation by recruiters and employers. Temporary labor migration programs must not be positioned as a false solution to origin country development or to humanitarian crises, climate displacement, or other forms of forced migration. Instead, labor migration pathways must allow workers to fully exercise the freedom of association, as well as the option for family unity, permanent residency and eventual citizenship if they desire it. As workers, we expect an America's declaration to be firmly based on international human rights as well as humanitarian and labor law, requiring governments to commit, explicitly, to aligning their legislative frameworks with the relevant instruments. It must promote the ratification of the ILO core conventions as well as the migration-specific conventions. The ILO should be the lead UN agency on the governance of labor migration, as it has a rights-based, constitutional mandate and expertise in labor.

**Consejo Sindical de Asesoramiento Técnico de la CIMT - OEA (COSATE)**

**Confederación Sindical de trabajadoras y trabajadores de las Américas (CSA)**



## Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples Summit of the Americas

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### **IX Summit of the Americas - Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future**

*Los Angeles, California - June 8, 2022*

Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas and the Caribbean have been participating in the Summit of the Americas processes for decades, making significant contributions to a world that we want to have for future generations. The themes of the IX Summit of the Americas are critical to the well-being of Indigenous peoples throughout the hemisphere. Our Nations have much to contribute to building a more sustainable, resilient and equitable future for all. To realize these goals, the member states of the Organizations of American States must work collaboratively with Indigenous peoples on the basis of mutual respect, recognition of our inherent rights as affirmed in the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and implementation of the commitments set out in the OAS Plan of Action on implementation of the Declaration [ OAS AG/RES.2976 (LI-O/21)].

Some states took advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to deepen the violation of the human rights of our peoples. As Indigenous peoples, we have shown resilience for 500 years and we should not have to wait another 500 years to build our future. Indigenous peoples have demonstrated to the world that our traditional ways of life have been focused on building a sustainable, resilient, and equitable life. The reality of the lives of our peoples in Abya Yala is one of impoverishment, marginalization, and inequity. Indigenous peoples and rights defenders are still suffering prosecution and death for their way of thinking. The recognition of collective property rights over our lands, territories and resources is a historical obligation that remains unfulfilled. We, Indigenous peoples, are still displaced because of climate change, hydroelectric projects, reforestation and pseudo-conservationist policies of the States. This legal and moral debt must be settled in order to talk about building truly democratic, resilient, and equitable societies.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- In accordance with Section IX of the OAS Action Plan on the implementation of the Declaration [OAS AG/RES.2976 (LI-O/21)], we recommend the drafting of a report on progress and compliance with the Plan in the OAS countries. To this end, the ACIP will convene a meeting with the OAS Secretariat to form a Working Group/Multilateral Commission to draft the report.
- In view of the post-COVID 19 and environmental crisis, we suggest the drafting of a study on ancestral knowledge and technologies of Indigenous peoples for the preservation of the Environment and Mother Earth, contextualizing the reports to identify Indigenous experiences of sustainable community ecosystems.

### **BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT, AND EQUITABLE FUTURE**

The process of rebuilding from the COVID-19 pandemic provides an important opportunity to build a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future. However, this can only be effectively accomplished by proactive measures to respect and to implement the rights contained in the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We demand State governments and the Organization of American States (OAS) ensure implementation of our rights as Indigenous peoples and that this is reflected in the commitments made by State governments at the IX Summit of the Americas: Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future. Whether these commitments relate to Health and Resilience, the Green Future, Clean Energy Transition, Digital Transformation, or Democracy and Human Rights, all efforts should reflect the objective in the Plan of Action on implementation of the American Declaration in a crosscutting and

intercultural way.

## **THE ACTION PLAN ON HEALTH AND RESILIENCE IN THE AMERICAS**

The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly exposed the marginalization and inequalities that affect us as Indigenous peoples in relation to many sectors, including the economy and healthcare systems, especially in South and Central America. This is particularly the case for Indigenous women and girls, Elders, and gender-diverse individuals, who have suffered disproportionately as a result of the pandemic. An Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas is greatly needed. It must be implemented in an inclusive and equitable way. In developing the Action Plan, States must engage with Indigenous peoples in the full recognition of our health rights.

This includes incorporating our right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical, mental, and spiritual health described in Article 18 of the American Declaration, including the re-insertion of “traditional games and sports” in Article 28(2). It requires that our health systems, traditional medicines, and practices be fully respected and supported.

## **OUR GREEN FUTURE**

Similarly, respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples must be at the forefront of actions to secure a green future. We are stewards of the land, water and air, and hold traditional knowledge about conservation that can be beneficial for all. If we are to meet the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, reducing deforestation, and protecting the environment and nature for future generations, we must all work together, as Indigenous peoples, State governments and civil society, based on the recognition of the rights of Indigenous peoples and use of Indigenous wisdom advisory panels.

There should be a strong commitment to acknowledging our rights including, under Article 19, a fundamental right to a healthy, safe, and

sustainable environment. Under Articles 25 and 29, we have a right to conserve, restore, and protect the environment and to manage our food systems and our lands, territories, and resources and to maintain and determine our own priorities with respect to our political, economic, social, spiritual and cultural development. We must be actively involved in developing and determining environmental and development programs that affect us. Affirming and respecting these rights will not only support equity but also help address key environmental challenges.

Sometimes, focus is only on the environment. Instead, economic and environmental justice must be achieved simultaneously to make the necessary structural changes to prevailing economic models in order to better the lives of Indigenous peoples and to respect Mother Earth.

## **ACCELERATING THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION**

The rights related to our green future are also of paramount importance in supporting a transition to green energy infrastructure and technologies. Energy conservation mechanisms, net-zero emission goals, nature-based solutions, and climate resilience must not only consider the needs of Indigenous peoples; we must be active and equal partners in the development and implementation of these plans and programs.

As stated in the American Declaration Plan of Action, and consistent with Articles 23 and 29 of the American Declaration, and article 32 of the UN Declaration these goals must promote the sustainable development of Indigenous peoples while ensuring full respect for our rights, including establishing or strengthening consultation mechanisms in order to ensure the free, prior, and informed consent of the concerned Indigenous people is sought, taking into account ongoing processes in other international forums.

## **A REGIONAL AGENDA FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

Efforts towards the digital transformation must also recognize the disproportionate barriers Indigenous peoples face in accessing the digital economy. Our communities often lack internet services and digital literacy skills. We call upon State governments, pursuant to Article 27, to work with our communities to support equal opportunities for Indigenous peoples to access the digital economy, including through the training and employment of Indigenous peoples in this area. While this access is invaluable, it is important that these efforts be guided by respect for our right to determine our own economic, social, and political development.

## **INTER-AMERICAN ACTION PLAN ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

The Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance must provide concrete actions to support the exercise of our political and cultural rights, and the recognition of our rights more broadly. Facilitating democratic governance and participation must include recognition of the right to participate set out in Article 14, our rights to association, assembly, organization, and expression set out in Article 20, and our right to self-determination, autonomy or self-government in matters relating to our internal and local affairs, and the means for financing our autonomous functions, as set out in Article 21. These efforts must also recognize our right to promote, develop and maintain our institutional structures and distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices, and juridical systems, as set out in Article 22.

Moreover, as provided for in the American Declaration Plan of Action, State governments should disseminate the contents of the American Declaration across all sectors and incorporate our rights as Indigenous peoples in all spheres of public life.

The Inter-American Action Plan must include a legal binding convention on Indigenous languages, as an outcome of the International Decade on Indigenous Languages.

## **CONCLUSION**

In closing, while pursuing each of these commitments, we urge State governments to commit themselves to the adoption in their domestic law of the provisions of the American Declaration as well as promoting capacity building for Indigenous peoples and communities. Only then can we achieve the full enjoyment of our human rights within a framework of equality, respect, and non-discrimination, which includes active participation in OAS processes in our own right as Indigenous peoples, nations and governments, including Summits of the Americas. Only then will we be able to collectively achieve a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future.

State governments must make significant commitments to the realization of the rights of Indigenous peoples.



Delivery of the Founding Declaration to María Celina Conte, Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat

## Founding Declaration of the “WE ARE WOMEN LEADERS” (SOMOS LIDERESAS) Regional Network on the occasion of the Civil Society Forum at the IX Summit of the Americas

*Los Angeles, California, United States, June 8, 2022*

We, representatives of the women’s organizations participating in the Civil Society Forum of the IX Summit of the Americas, representing different countries and organizations, have arrived at this Summit after several months of preparation, committed to a broad view of the reality of women and their needs, which motivates us to promote the creation of the “WE ARE WOMEN LEADERS” (SOMOS LIDERESAS) regional network of women’s organizations (hereinafter, “the Network”).

Accordingly, we agree:

1. To officially form the founding group of the Network.
2. To continue working to strengthen the Network by establishing national chapters in the countries of the Americas.
3. To follow up on the mandates of the IX Summit of the Americas related to women’s rights

and establish a mechanism to monitor their implementation.

We also request the Summits Secretariat and the Organization of American States (OAS) to recognize the Network and its national chapters and to promote it by providing technical assistance and funding with a view to ensuring the full inclusion of women in regional decision-making and the management of donations to member organizations.

### MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the interlinking of women leaders to strengthen and advance their empowerment and leadership in decision-making and public policies with a human rights, gender, and intersectionality perspective in the countries of the Americas.

<b>ORGANIZACIÓN</b>	<b>REPRESENTANTE</b>	<b>PAÍS</b>
Women's Democracy Network Brazil	Silvia Rita Souza	Brazil
Cátedra Abierta Latinoamericana Matilda y las Mujeres en Ingeniería	Adriana Páez Pino	Colombia
Women's Democracy Network Guatemala	Karina Flores Arriola	Guatemala
Instituto para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Mujer Lenca de Honduras (IDESMULH)	Sandra Rosaura Cerrato Flores	Honduras
Asociación Nacional Cívica Femenina, A.C. (ANCIFEM)	Aida del Carmen Saucedo García	Mexico
Red Mujeres, Desarrollo, Justicia y Paz, A.C.	Elvia Ramirez Leon	Mexico
Agencia Nacional de Políticas Trans	Rosa María Trejo Villalobos	Mexico
Centro Familiar Afrosanteño CEFAS Panamá	Adela Panezo Asprilla	Panama
Centro Familiar Afrosanteño CEFAS Panamá	Dallys Nuvia Gutiérrez Melgar	Panama
Centro de Liderazgo de las Mujeres de las Américas	Nadia Ramos Serrano	Peru
CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago (CCoTT)	Terry Ince Leigh	Trinidad and Tobago
Red Sororidad Pacto Entre Ellas Éxodo	Alinis del Carmen Aranguren Agreda	Venezuela

## VISION

“WE ARE WOMEN LEADERS” is a network of women's organizations in the Americas that promotes the leadership and empowerment of women in all their diversity, in order to influence public policies for a more egalitarian society that respects human rights.

## VALUES

- ♀ Respect
- ♀ Sisterhood
- ♀ Commitment
- ♀ Leadership
- ♀ Equality
- ♀ Diversity

## OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen ties among the members of the Network and give voice to the topics on which we are experts through monthly virtual meetings and the promotion of face-to-face meetings within the framework of international forums in the region.
2. To promote empowerment and leadership in decision-making for the Network's leaders and organizations by strengthening their capacities in forums for effective action and experience-sharing on women's rights, gender-focused public policies with technology, empowerment, and effective leadership, with at least one workshop per semester.

3. To advance and follow up on public policies related to women's human rights in accordance with the mandates of the Summit of the Americas through the preparation of an annual regional report.

## TOOLS

The Network will rely on the following tools to achieve the above-proposed objectives:

- ♀ Virtual dialogues: Spaces for interaction between organizations with very specific purposes. They allow prompt and focused exchanges.
- ♀ Communication channel: It is imperative that the Network have a dedicated interaction channel, which could be through the WhatsApp group that would be used for more informal communications and quick exchanges of information, as well as through the email distribution list for formal communications and invitations.
- ♀ Member database: The Summits Secretariat will be requested to provide an up-to-date database with names, positions, and contact information that will be available to the Network members in order to streamline and optimize their communication.

- ♀ Coordinating (or Executive) Committee: composed of a Chair, a Vice Chair, Spokespersons, and other positions to be determined as needed. The first Coordinating Committee will be composed of eight (8) organizations that are part of the Network's founding group and will serve for a period of one (1) year, until June 8, 2023.

- ♀ Frequency: the members of the Network will hold meetings at least every two months, in addition to such other activities (cooperation activities, workshops, dialogues, etc.) as the Coordinating Committee may determine.

## COMPOSITION AND OPERATION

- ♀ The Network will comprise women's civil society organizations established or working in the Americas, the membership of which is approved by a simple majority of the organizations present (in person or virtually) at a regular assembly. During the first six months after the establishment of the Network, the Summits Secretariat will be requested to coordinate the operations and logistics of the Network, as well as maintain its institutional memory.



## Message from the Second Interreligious Forum of the Americas

*Los Angeles, June 6-8, 2022*



The IX Summit of the Americas takes place under the shadows of the extraordinary COVID-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine and elsewhere, looming fuel and food crises, and ongoing crises in the movement of refugees and displaced persons worldwide, but of special concern in the Western Hemisphere.

In this setting, the Second Interreligious Forum of the Americas (FIDELA) convened in Los Angeles, on June 6-8, 2022, and shares its concerns in support of the IX Summit of the Americas. FIDELA was attended in person by over 100 religious leaders and representatives of faith-based organizations, and policy experts from throughout North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, and was made available to a larger online audience. Significantly, participants included a diverse group of Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Reformed Christians, Baptists, Evangelicals, Adventists, Orthodox Christians, Latter-day Saints,

Jews, Muslims, Bahá'ís, Indigenous, Afro-Latino Americans and Caribbeans, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, and others, including representatives of youth, who came together to share their distinctive insights, values, and concerns regarding the needs of the Western Hemisphere, within the framework of interreligious cooperation that inspires us to work together for peace, justice and solidarity.

Taking in consideration the objectives of and discussions at the IX Summit of the Americas regarding sustainability, resilience, and equity; recognizing the distinctive experience and expertise of religious actors; and in an effort to contribute to calls for action and change, FIDELA participants identified the following priority concerns of religious voices regarding the human impact of inequalities in the hemisphere, shortfalls in protection of human dignity, and the need for purposeful action that truly gives a preferential option to those most vulnerable:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the need for urgent health system reforms, including addressing ongoing immunization



vital because of the fundamental importance of these rights in promoting citizen participation and undergirding the contributions that religious and belief communities and others make to democratic life in the Western Hemisphere.

For more information, please contact the organizers of the Second Interreligious Forum of the Americas at [secretariat@interreligiousforum.org](mailto:secretariat@interreligiousforum.org)

issues, transnational preparation for future pandemic events, improvements to assure equitable access and quality, and the need to assure that mental health services have an expanded and integral part of health systems.

- Policies aimed at eliminating all invidious discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, indigenous heritage, and sexual orientation should be supported, taking care to assure that fairness for all is achieved.
- The continuing and expanding crises associated with refugees and displaced persons need to be addressed effectively, paying attention to root causes of the problem, urgent needs of those affected, and finding long term solutions.
- Integral solutions to environmental challenges including climate change and Amazon deforestation, and taking into account concerns of all stakeholders, including loss and damage, need to be identified and implemented.
- Priority action must be taken to redress the lost educational opportunities for children, especially those without full Internet access.
- Governments should engage the teachings, skills, and networks of religious and interfaith communities in promoting democratization and in addressing challenges of violence and corruption
- Continued vigilance in protecting freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression is



# 4

## Road ahead



A process for building collectively, the Summits of the Americas process brings participating states, multilateral organizations, civil society organizations, and social actors together to discuss issues of fundamental relevance to the region and work on forging agreements and on executing joint efforts with a commitment to bringing about a more just and equitable Hemisphere.

The participation forums created within the IX Summit of the Americas process have been informed by the priorities and interests that civil society itself has voiced over the years, in an effort to foster multi-stakeholder, inclusive, and diverse dialogue and to showcase their work across the region. These forums represent an ongoing exchange in the pursuit of ensuring that their voices are increasingly heard.

We at the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs of the Organization of American States, appreciate civil society organizations and social actors, and commend them for taking an active role in the preparatory phase and in the activities undertaken during the IX Summit of the Americas, which was held under the theme “Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future.” The efforts and contributions featured in this publication are just a token of their commitment that has enriched the debate towards the construction of the inter-American hemispheric agenda, reflected in the mandates that the Heads of State and Government adopted.

The Summits process continues. Civil society organizations and social actors have a key role to play in monitoring and implementing initiatives at the local, national, and regional levels, serving as catalysts, change agents, and agents for empowering society in all its diversity. We invite you to keep the contributions coming, to ensure a productive follow-up and implementation phase for the mandates from the IX Summit.



**James Lambert**  
Secretary for  
Hemispheric Affairs



**María Celina Conte**  
Director of the Summits  
of the Americas Secretariat







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for more people



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