



Organization of
American States



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
MEETING AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL (2009)
June 3, 2009
Salón Palestina, Centro Social Hondureño Árabe
San Pedro Sula, Republic of Honduras

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REPORT OF THE MEETING

1. PREPARATIONS

On May 29, 2009, the most recent revision of the Draft agenda (GRIC/M.1/doc.1/09 rev 2) was sent to Member States.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair, Senator the Honorable Dr. Lenny Saith Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago welcomed participants to the Ministerial SIRG and presented the agenda for the consideration of the delegates. There having been no objections or amendments to the agenda, it was approved.

The Chair acknowledged the presence of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Jose Miguel Insulza and offered him the floor.

a) Welcoming Remarks by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States

The Secretary General extended a warm welcome to the participants and indicated that in the interest of time he would be very brief. He informed that the OAS had began its role in the following up of the mandates of the V Summit and would be participating in the Ministers of Finance Meeting scheduled to be held in Chile in July 2009, as well as the meeting for High Level Authorities on Public Security in August. The Secretary General reminded Member States that the implementation of mandates was strictly within their domain and that the organization was willing to give the necessary technical support. He also informed the participants that the package which they had received at their table contained a CD with a summary of the work of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the report of the Joint Summit Working Group. He recommended that they read the reports.

The complete text of the Secretary General's presentation can be found at http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG_060309/remarks_insulza_en.doc

b) Statement by the Chair of the SIRG

Senator the Honorable Dr. Lenny Saith, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, thanked the Secretary General for his remarks and also took the opportunity to express his gratitude to those who had contributed in the crafting of a pragmatic agenda for the Hemisphere.

The Chair expressed his delight in having to welcome Summit participants to Trinidad and Tobago; he also stated that the Summit presented the opportunity for the leaders of the Hemisphere to adopt a collective approach to much needed action in the areas of concern in the region. He emphasized that to many the Summit was more about accomplishments than participation. He echoed the feeling of many that a common agenda on social and economic issues as well as security and governance were addressed within an ambience of mutual respect. The Senator informed that given the difficult times, the theme of the Summit was a poignant one, through which the leaders demonstrated their commitment to bringing prosperity to the Hemisphere. He reminded Member States that the time had come for the delivery of the promises made in the Declaration which was negotiated by all states and which also received the inputs of all actors. He advised that the commitments were pragmatic and that collaboration among social actors and Member States would be necessary for their implementation. The Chair stated that the meeting in Peru would demonstrate the first steps in addressing one of the issues of the summit in the area of energy. He also urged Member States to act on the Haitian issue and Ministries of Foreign Affairs to disseminate the outcomes of the Summit.

The Chair concluded by addressing the vulnerability of all states to the impact of the present economic situation. He recommended that states must forge ahead and should never forget their duty to face challenges head on.

The complete text of Senator the Honorable Dr. Lenny Saith's statement can be found at http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG_060309/statement_tto_en.doc

c) Presentation by the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat

The Chair presented the floor to David Morris, Director of the Summits Secretariat who informed that Dr. Cristobal Dupouy, the Head of the Implementation and Follow up Unit of the Secretariat, would be making a presentation on the proposed mechanism for the follow up process. Dr. Dupouy informed participants that in seeking ways to improve the Summits mechanism and in order to propose specific and viable solutions, the Summits of the Americas Secretariat had worked actively and in conjunction with the General Secretariat and Member States, to prepare a draft proposal for mandates follow-up system. He informed that this system was a mechanism to provide Member States with tools necessary to facilitate the achievement of the goals established in the mandates, so that they can be measured in the medium and long-term through results-based management. Dr. Dupouy informed further that another aim was to implement a new mandate follow-up method in order to modernize and optimize processes involving all Summits of the Americas stakeholders.

In explaining the system Dr. Dupouy stated that the Summits of the Americas mandate follow-up system was an online interagency work tool for both the entry of information by entities linked to the system and for public consultation. He also stated that it was also an online interactive forum where government entities enter Summit mandate-related goals and progress, as well as a forum for the entry of qualitative information, such as policies, strategies, limitations encountered, and steps to be taken for the effective fulfillment of mandate-related goals.

He opined that the follow-up system represented an effort to facilitate fulfillment of the commitments assumed at the Summits and provided Member States with an array of appropriate tools to promote, provide support for, and strengthen the inter-American agenda.

He opined that the mandates follow-up system sought to facilitate efforts to renew commitments to undertake collective actions by identifying and exchanging best practices and sharing lessons learned, in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of actions at the national and international levels. Dr. Dupouy concluded by stating that the system created an important forum, not only for institution-building, but, especially, for the exercise of democracy.

The complete text of the presentation can be found on http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2009/SIRG_060309/presentation_sisca_sp.doc

Please access SISCA at http://www.summit-americas.org/SISCA_CD/default.htm

3. Comments by Heads of Delegation of the Member States.

A number of delegations requested the floor and indicated that:

- The implementation of the mandates was of grave concern and that the momentum must be continued by implementing the mandates.
- The meeting of Finance Ministers in Chile was a welcome event and that they were looking forward to attending.
- Effective implementation is one of the means of keeping faith with the commitment by the leaders of the Hemisphere.
- In the areas of mandates and follow up there should be an institutionalization of the summit and its agencies.
- Support will be given to Colombia as the host of the Sixth Summit to ensure that it would be successful.
- The report of the Joint Summit Working Group should be supported.
- States were ready to consider new working processes that will strengthen the Summit process.
- The contribution from the youth and other social actors should be applauded.
- They looked forward to the Sixth Summit in Colombia and hoped that it will continue the goodwill which was exhibited in Trinidad and Tobago.
- The Fifth Summit was a historic one because of the environment of equality and respect which pervaded all meetings.

4. Host country of the VI Summit of the Americas

The Representative of Colombia took the floor to present its offer to host the Sixth Summit of the Americas. He indicated that Colombia had the necessary technical capability as well as the experience for hosting such a meeting. He also promised that as host they would ensure that a well rounded agenda would be presented for the consideration of the Member States.

The Representative of Paraguay in taking the floor expressed his country's support for the hosting of the Sixth Summit by Colombia. He also indicated that Paraguay would seek to be the host at another time. The Representative of Argentina indicated that although the agenda presented by Trinidad and Tobago was a good one it did not however present two very important issues to the region. He expressed the hope that Colombia would ensure that the political and economic realities of the region would be reflected in the agenda.

The Representatives of Argentina and Uruguay expressed their support for the decision by Paraguay to defer its offer to host the Sixth Summit of the Americas in order to allow Colombia to do so with the understanding that Paraguay would host the Seventh Summit. Trinidad and Tobago offered to share the lessons learnt, during the hosting of the Fifth Summit, with Colombia. Trinidad and Tobago also recognized the work done by Colombia in hosting the 38th OAS General Assembly and indicated that Colombia is well prepared for these events.

Since there were no objections to Colombia's proposal the Chair announced that it was agreed by consensus that Colombia will host the Sixth Summit of the Americas in 2012.

5. Other Business

There being no issues under this agenda item the Chair thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting at 11.20 a.m.