



**Organization of
American States**

SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
Second Regular Meeting of 2010
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Simón Bolívar Room
OAS headquarters, Washington, D.C.



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FINAL MEETING REPORT

1. Adoption of the Agenda

In opening the meeting, Ambassador Jaime Girón, Chair of the SIRG and the Republic of Colombia's National Coordinator for the Sixth Summit of the Americas, presented the draft agenda for the delegations' consideration; it was adopted without modifications.

2. Address by the Chair of the SIRG, Ambassador Jaime Girón

In his opening address, Ambassador Girón spoke of the numerous commitments acquired at the previous Summits of the Americas, which had received neither the resources nor the time necessary to bring about their implementation.

He said that on the basis of the recommendations received from the member states in April 2010, the Colombian Government was planning for the Sixth Summit of the Americas to have two central themes: one possibly to be presented by Colombia at the OAS General Assembly in June, and the other to be determined in accordance with the prevailing circumstances as the time for the Sixth Summit in April 2012 draws near.

The Chair of the SIRG emphasized the need for clarity about the level of compliance with the most important mandates handed down from the earlier Summits.

He emphasized the work that the Chair of the process has been carrying out, in coordination with the multilateral organizations represented on the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), toward identifying the main concerns and priority working areas that will help define the theme for the Sixth Summit. He also called on those organizations to contribute financial and technical resources for implementing the Summits' mandates.

He underscored the need for the Declaration of Cartagena to be concise and with a limited number of mandates, and he said that it would be negotiated within the SIRG, with most meetings

held at OAS headquarters in Washington; however, closer to the date of the Sixth Summit, the lead agency of the process would meet in the Summit's host city.

Finally, he spoke of the need to open up a space within the SIRG for the member states to discuss their expectations about the Summits process and its strengthening. In that regard, it would be useful to exchange points of view on the institutionalization of the process.

For the full text of this presentation, see: http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2010/SIRG_120910/remarks_giron_en.doc

3. Address by José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States

Among other matters, the Secretary General reiterated his support for the Summits of the Americas process and, in particular, for the success of the Sixth Summit, with real and tangible results for the people of our Hemisphere.

The Secretary General echoed the message given by the Chair of the SIRG regarding the need to begin a process of reflection for strengthening the process and for allowing progress to be made on issues including its institutionalization and its relationship with other multilateral hemispheric forums. He therefore recommended that the member states submit their recommendations for raising the importance of the Summits process within the multilateral framework, and that they clarify their expectations of it.

He recommended that the member states set aside a space for dialogue within the SIRG for sharing experiences and best practices regarding their countries' level of compliance with the mandates from the past Summits: why they have not been met, and what difficulties have been encountered in doing so.

He emphasized the contributions that the Joint Summit Working Group's multilateral agencies had made to the Summits of the Americas process, including their support for the Chair of the process in defining the Sixth Summit's theme. He also stressed the need to forge partnerships with those organizations in order to secure the financial and technical resources and experience required to implement Summit mandates.

He thanked the most recent contributions that the member states (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, and the United States) had made to the SIRG Specific Fund, which was essential for the operations of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and for the activities pursued by that area of the General Secretariat. He called on the other member states to make contributions, in order to ensure the Secretariat has adequate funding.

Finally, he reiterated his support for the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and formally introduced its new Executive Secretary, Sherry Tross.

For the full text of this presentation, see: http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2010/SIRG_120910/remarks_insulza_en.doc

4. Address by the Executive Secretary of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, Sherry Tross

In her first message to the SIRG, the new Executive Secretary of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat reiterated her uttermost commitment toward cooperating with the Chair of the SIRG and the host country team in planning and carrying out the Sixth Summit of the Americas in 2012.

She underscored the interest of the Summit Chair and of the OAS Secretary General in strengthening and improving the Summits process by focusing on its architecture; on the funding of its mandates; on the importance of the meeting between the Heads of State and Government; on the imperative of making the process transparent, accessible, and inclusive; on the implementation of the existing mandates; and on the need to ensure a Summit that produces fewer mandates with measurable results.

She said that the best practices and lessons learned throughout the 16-year-long life of the process should be kept in mind. She reiterated the Summits of the Americas Secretariat's commitment toward the SIRG and its Chair, and said she was ready to hear and respond to the needs and recommendations of the member states, who at the end of the day are responsible for directing the Summits process.

In addition, she referred to the importance of the tools that the Summits of the Americas Secretariat has deployed to support the member states' efforts in implementation, in the dialogue with the multilateral agencies involved in the process, and in expanding citizen participation: the Summits of the Americas Follow-up System of the Americas (SISCA; <http://www.oas.org/summit/sisca/Home/tabid/692/language/en-US/Default.aspx>) and the Summits Virtual Community (SVC; <http://summit-americas.org/svc>).

For the full text of this presentation, see: http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2010/SIRG_120910/remarks_tross_en.doc

5. Presentation by the Summit Chair on the host country's progress in preparing for the Sixth Summit, and report on activities related to the Summits process during the second half of 2010

Ambassador Jaime Girón, Chair of the SIRG and the Republic of Colombia's Coordinator for the Sixth Summit of the Americas, presented the draft organizational structure of the office of the Chair of the Sixth Summit for consideration by the member states.

In his address he noted that the President of the Republic has reaffirmed Colombia's commitment toward the Summits process; that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the support of a

Ministerial and Interagency Committee in the process of defining the theme; that it will be assisted by a group of experts and advisors and will receive support from an interinstitutional working team; and that within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, two specialized teams have been established to deal with, respectively, thematic aspects and logistical matters.

He announced that the date set for the Sixth Summit was April 14 and 15, 2012, and that it will be held in the Julio César Turbay Ayala Convention and Exhibition Center in the city of Cartagena de Indias (a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Colombian National Heritage Site). He emphasized what the city had to offer as the host of the event. He also presented a possible logo or institutional image based on the hummingbird, a particularly agile animal found in all the countries of the Hemisphere.

He presented a summary of the work carried out to date under the Colombian Government's leadership to define the theme of the Sixth Summit, with the following topics currently receiving the most attention:

- Technology and innovation at the service of social policy: education, health, and public services.
- Reforestation and its role in preserving water sources and the environment.
- Use of technology to improve the health conditions and education of rural communities.

He noted that in working to define the theme, Colombia has received contributions from the multilateral organizations represented on the Joint Summit Working Group, which had prepared strategic documents dealing with the challenges facing the region.

Finally, he reported that note had been taken of the recommendations made at the meetings held with think-tanks, including the Meeting of Western Hemisphere Think-Tanks held on September 20 in Washington, D.C.

For the full text of this presentation, see: http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2010/SIRG_120910/presentation_col_advances_en.ppt

6. Presentation by the Summit Chair on Colombia's Work Plan toward the Sixth Summit of the Americas (activities with each of the process stakeholders)

Ambassador Jaime Girón, Chair of the SIRG and the Republic of Colombia's Coordinator for the Sixth Summit of the Americas, placed before the member states the provisional general overview of the activities that could take place as a part of the preparations for the Sixth Summit. In particular, he noted:

- I. During December 2010: Selection of Summit theme;
- II. Between January and May 2011: Drafting of the technical support document and the draft declaration;

- III. In June 2011, at the SIRG Ministerial to be held during the OAS General Assembly: Presentation of the Draft Declaration and its technical support document;
- IV. Between July 2011 and March 2012: Negotiation process;
- V. April 14 and 15, 2012: The Sixth Summit.

For the full text of this presentation, see: http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2010/SIRG_120910/presentation_col_work_plan_en.ppt

7. Reports by the Chair of the CISC, Ambassador Luis Alfonso Hoyos

Ambassador Luis Alfonso Hoyos, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the OAS and Chair of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), gave the two following presentations:

- On the Inter-American Ministerial Meetings held during 2010

He said that the mechanism for ministerial dialogue at the inter-American level that the OAS General Secretariat^{1/} supports in its capacity as technical secretariat offers a great opportunity for strengthening the Summits of the Americas preparation and follow-up processes. He said it meant that work was underway on building a two-way street in which not only does the Summit of the Americas grant mandates to the sectoral areas, but those areas also play a strategic role in the implementation of those mandates and, in turn, submit recommendations to the Heads of State and Government, thereby ensuring ties and coordination between the ministerial processes and the Summits of the Americas process.

Among the ministerial meetings held, the Chair of the CISC made particular note of the Meeting of Ministers of Energy and Climate Change of the Americas, held in Washington, D.C., in April 2010; the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development, held in Cali, Colombia, on July 8 to 9, 2010; the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Sustainable Development, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on November 17 to 19, 2010; and the Fiftieth Anniversary and Meeting of the PAHO Directing Council in Washington, D.C., on September 27 to October 1, 2010.

For the full text of this presentation, see: http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2010/SIRG_120910/rep_cisc_mini_en.doc

- On the activities carried out by the Summits process social actors during the second half of 2010

He said that in response to the interest displayed by the various social actors involved in the Summits process, opportunities for dialogue and debate on the mechanisms had continued to be

¹ The Pan American Health Organization and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture serve as the technical secretariats for the health and agriculture ministerial processes, respectively.

offered whereby social actors can participate and make contributions. Through those activities, cooperation with the social actors had continued in a more meaningful way in preparation for the Sixth Summit.

Among the activities carried out by the social actors in the process, the Chair of the CISC emphasized the involvement of civil society organizations, think-tanks, and representatives of youth, people of African descent, and indigenous peoples.

For the full text of this presentation, see: http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2010/SIRG_120910/rep_cisc_sa_en.doc

8. Report from the Summit Chair on the results of the consultations held to set the theme for the Sixth Summit

Ambassador Jaime Girón, Chair of the SIRG and the Republic of Colombia's Coordinator for the Sixth Summit of the Americas, gave a summary in which he described the results of the internal consultations held toward determining the theme; the results of the consultations with the multilateral organizations represented on the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), on the basis of which they prepared working documents for Colombia's consideration; and other exercises carried out with the leaders of hemispheric think-tanks.

9. Comments from the member states

The following comments were made during the open dialogue among the delegates of the member states in attendance at the second regular meeting of the SIRG in 2010:

Regarding the general plans presented by the Summit Chair for the Sixth Summit

- They supported the direction that Colombia has chosen for the process toward the Sixth Summit, as indicated in the proposed Work Plan.
- They asked for a calendar to be published on the internet, listing all the events in one way or another related to the Summits process.
- Based on their experiences, they offered their support and advice to Colombia as the host country for the Sixth Summit.
- Earlier experiences in the process must be taken into consideration.
- They noted Colombia's efforts to ensure a space for dialogue among the Heads of State and Government during which time they can discuss circumstances arising as the Summit approaches.
- They recommended that the forum be private and not bound to an agenda, and that it facilitate natural interaction among the leaders.
- They welcomed Colombia's intent to avail itself of the facilities that the OAS offers the Summits process as a forum for their discussions, through both the capacity

available at headquarters and its contacts with the permanent missions to the OAS in Washington.

- They congratulated Colombia on selecting a hummingbird as the logo for the Sixth Summit.

Regarding the topics of the Sixth Summit

- They welcomed the consideration of the topic of education as one of the themes of the Sixth Summit, since education is the key for moving from poverty to development.
- They noted the contribution that the topic of technology and innovation could make toward the common goal of increased efficiency and effectiveness.
- They recommended considering the possibility of including such topics as access to housing, the conservation of energy, and protecting the planet.
- They recommended establishing synergies among the topics and between the Summits.
- They suggested investigating what had already been said regarding the topic(s) chosen in other venues.
- They suggested improving the level of compliance with the mandates from previous Summits that are related to the selected topic(s).

Regarding the format of the Declaration of the Sixth Summit

- They applauded the goal of ensuring that the top event on the inter-American agenda deals with a limited number of pertinent, viable commitments.
- They called on all the member states to agree on a Declaration that will facilitate consensus and that contains mandates with the financial resources necessary to ensure their implementation; that take into account the real situation in all of the member states; that respond to the needs of the Hemisphere's peoples; that in one way or another are priority issues for all the States; that will lead to concrete, tangible, and visible results with an impact on citizens' lives; and that will strengthen social inclusion, sustainable growth, security, and the progress of the citizenry.
- As for the thematic document, they were looking forward to receiving from Colombia a document that is innovative in its format and content, in which the mandates are not an end in themselves but an impetus for coordinated, pertinent cooperation.

Regarding the Summits of the Americas process

- They reaffirmed their commitment to the Summits of the Americas process.
- They recommended avoiding the duplication of efforts, and consequently working to ensure that the architecture of the process guarantees that the mandates of the Summits, of the OAS General Assembly, and of the inter-American ministerials are

in alignment, without any confusion of their objectives or repetition of things already decided on at other venues.

- They supported commencing a process of reflection aimed at exploring mechanisms for strengthening the Summits process, including, among other matters, the different points of view that exist regarding its institutionalization.
- They supported the consultation and participation in the process of social stakeholders representing all sectors of the population, such as indigenous peoples, the private sector, and others, by creating partnerships between them and the governments and receiving their recommendations in the negotiation process, but also by hearing their points of view about the expectations they have of the process.
- Coordinated efforts with the multilateral agencies associated with the JSWG are essential to the process, both in following up on the implementation of the mandates from previous Summits and in preparing for the next Summit.

Regarding the implementation of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas

- It would be desirable to ensure that the objectives of the Fifth Summit are met prior to the Sixth Summit, for which the current level of compliance with the Fifth Summit's mandates will have to be determined.
- A methodology and format for presenting the member states' annual national reports must be agreed on.
- The Summits of the Americas Follow-up System offers a tool that can assist the member states in their efforts to report on Summit mandate implementation at the national level.
- The Summits of the Americas Secretariat must analyze the challenges, progress, and successes of the Fifth Summit's mandates and present the results to the member states in a study².

² On this point in particular, the Secretary General of the OAS called on the member states to present their annual national reports within the framework of the Summits of the Americas process.