



Organization of
American States

SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
First Regular Meeting of 2011
April 11, 2011
Simón Bolívar Room
OAS Headquarters, Washington, D.C.



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FINAL MEETING REPORT

1. Adoption of the agenda

Upon 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 meeting's draft agenda (document [GRIC/O.1/doc.2/11](#)) for consideration by the delegations; it was adopted without modifications.

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

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States welcomed the participants and spoke of the important initiatives led by the Government of Colombia at the national and international levels, through which the country had demonstrated an open and sound leadership style. The Secretary General stressed the importance that this leadership style will have in the preparations for the Sixth Summit of the Americas and in ensuring its success.

The Secretary General emphasized the importance of this First Regular Meeting of 2011 in beginning to determine the guidelines for the Sixth Summit's theme.

He also gave an optimistic view of the region by highlighting the progress made in economic growth and the role that politics has placed in the development of the Americas. He said that the Sixth Summit offers an ideal opportunity for tackling the Hemisphere's problems and for creating the conditions necessary to make this a promising decade for the Americas.

The Secretary General's address was published as document [GRIC/O.1/doc.5/11](#).

3. Presentation and consideration of the SIRG's draft Work Plan for the period April 2011 to April 2012

SIRG Chair, Ambassador Jaime Girón, and Ms. Sherry Tross, the Executive Secretary of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, presented the SIRG's draft Work Plan for the period April 2011 to April 2012, which was duly distributed to all the delegations as document [GRIC/CA-VI/doc.1/11](#). The Chair's document sets out background information on the SIRG: its functions, mandates, structure, and authorities. It also details the activities the SIRG is to carry out during this period in preparation for the Sixth Summit of the Americas. The final section of the document contains a provisional calendar of SIRG meetings up to April 2012, with the individual topics to be addressed by each.

The Chair of the SIRG submitted the draft Work Plan to the member states for their consideration, and they approved it with one modification, requested by the delegation of Argentina, for the date of the Second Regular Meeting of the SIRG in 2011 to be changed to September 15 and 16, 2011. The approved version of the Work Plan was published after the meeting as document [GRIC/CA-VI/doc.1/11 rev. 1](#).

During the meeting, the delegation of Canada spoke about the SIRG's draft Work Plan for the period April 2011 to April 2012, and it recommended the inclusion of parallel events, such as consultations with civil society and indigenous peoples, for discussions which could be leveraged to improve the final declaration of the Sixth Summit.

4. Presentation by the Summit Chair on progress by the host country in preparation for the Sixth Summit

The presentation given by Ambassador Jaime Girón, National Coordinator of Colombia and Coordinator of the Sixth Summit of the Americas, was distributed as document [GRIC/O.1/doc.6/11](#).

- **Comments by the delegations**

The delegations thanked the Coordinator of the Sixth Summit of the Americas and Chair of the SIRG for his work in reporting the progress made by the host country in preparation for the Sixth Summit; they noted their agreement with the four thematic areas presented by the Government of Colombia; and they agreed that Cartagena offers the Hemisphere a great opportunity to send a message about unity and about partnerships for development.

They also reiterated their support for the Summits process to ensure that the Sixth Summit is successful in promoting regional efforts through a brief, categorical declaration, and they welcomed Colombia's intent to identify mandates that are clear, specific, measurable, and equipped with the resources needed for their execution.

The delegations supported the Government of Colombia's stated goal of building on the progress made at earlier Summits, and they called for use to be made of past experience so that the mandates do not overlap with topics that are being addressed by other hemispheric forums.

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago noted the importance of dealing with the recurring obstacle of ensuring that the Summit's message reaches the peoples of the Americas, and it suggested developing a tangible topic with which all the Hemisphere's people can identify.

The delegation of Canada stressed the importance of incorporating the positive results from other inter-American hemispheric forums into the Summits process, and it also expressed its interest in placing the topics of democracy and good governance in a more central position on the Sixth Summit's agenda.

The delegation of Grenada supported the four thematic areas presented by Colombia and suggested that attention be paid to problems affecting the most vulnerable sectors of the Hemisphere's peoples, particularly women and girls.

The delegation of Venezuela supported Colombia's view of the Americas as a Hemisphere of opportunities and with opportunities, and it reaffirmed its support for the creation of a tangible declaration based on unconditional cooperation.

The delegation of Jamaica applauded the focus that Colombia had placed on the integration of infrastructure; it emphasized poverty and inequality as topics of particular importance for small, developing island states and middle-income countries; and it expressed its interest in including the topics of education and training, and of the skills shortage and insufficient technology, on the Sixth Summit's agenda.

The delegation of Peru recommended reviewing ways to improve the process whereby the OAS follows up on Summit mandates and ways in which the topics proposed by the Sixth Summit can be executed in conjunction with other bodies of the inter-American system in order to ensure coordination among different institutions.

The delegation of Nicaragua suggested including in the Sixth Summit's draft document the topic of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) as an example of partnership for development that was complementary, unconditional, and respectful.

The Coordinator of the Sixth Summit of the Americas again thanked the delegations for their support of the Summits process and called on the member states to continue to furnish information on the implementation of mandates in order to keep on board, in the formulation of the Sixth Summit's initiatives, those initiatives that were still pending execution and those that had been met.

Finally, the Coordinator of the Sixth Summit spoke about the meeting of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) held on the morning of April 11, to which he invited the JSWG organizations

as partners in the Summits process, in order to explore the possibility of fine-tuning of their agencies' priority lines of action with the future mandates of the Summit in order to create greater synergy within the inter-American system.

At the conclusion of this topic, the SIRG took note of the presentation that had been given, along with the member states' comments.

5. Presentation of member states' national reports on their progress implementing Summit mandates

Ms. Sherry Tross, Executive Secretary of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, gave a presentation on the member states' national reports on their progress with implementing the Summit mandates. Her presentation was distributed as document [GRIC/O.1/doc.4/11](#).

There being no comments from the delegations, the SIRG took note of Ms. Tross's presentation.

6. Presentation by the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) on the implementation of Summit mandates

On behalf of the OAS in its role as the coordinator of the JSWG, Ms. Sherry Tross, the Executive Secretary of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, began the presentation by the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) on the implementation of the Summit mandates. Then, representatives of the different agencies represented on the JSWG gave presentations on their initiatives and actions taken in pursuit of Summit mandates. This presentation was distributed as document [GRIC/O.1/doc.7/11](#).

- **Comments by the delegations**

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago thanked the members of the JSWG for their presentations and reiterated the need to identify concrete examples of success, such as the Inter-American Social Protection Network, to be used as starting points to direct the Hemisphere's priorities and to report on the achievements in its work toward the Sixth Summit.

7. Other business and adjournment of the meeting

After exhausting all the items on the agenda and there being no comments from the delegations, the Chair adjourned the meeting.