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SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
MEETING AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL (2011)
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**REMARKS DELIVERED TO THE MINISTERIAL SIRG BY SHERRY TROSS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS SECRETARIAT**

Thank you, Excellency,
Distinguished Heads of Delegation,
Secretary General Insulza,
Distinguished National Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators for the Summits process,
Representatives of the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to address this meeting at the Ministerial level of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) on the subject of progress in the implementation of Summit mandates, a function entrusted to this group by the Heads of State and Government at the Second Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile and reaffirmed in subsequent Summits. In the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain in 2009, Member States indicated their intention *“to continue to provide annual national reports to the OAS on the actions and progress made towards achieving the specific objectives set at the Summits of the Americas.”* The Declaration of Commitment further instructed the General Secretariat of the OAS, in accordance with its central role in supporting the implementation of Summit mandates, to report annually to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) on actions and progress towards supporting Summit objectives.” This brief report responds to this mandate.

The reports of Member States on the implementation of Summit mandates remains of critical importance to the Summits process, perhaps even more so in a pre-Summit year. National reports represent the primary source of information for demonstrating that Summit commitments are being advanced through actions and initiatives both at the national and hemispheric levels. Further, these reports offer evidence of the real impact on people’s lives as a result of Summit-related actions, and serve to underscore the importance of the Summits process.

A preliminary analysis of the reports reveals some important factors that I would wish to share with this body, particularly in the context of Sixth Summit preparation:

- (i) Summit decisions, adopted at the highest level, have been translated into a range of concrete actions that have had demonstrable impact. This has been reflected in

- quantitative or qualitative indicators of progress, depending on the measure deemed most appropriate by the reporting Member State;
- (ii) Reported initiatives often reflect the benefit of partnerships and collaboration. These partnerships cover a range of formulations including the sharing of best practices among countries, country initiatives executed in collaboration with international institutions, as well as a range of public-private partnerships;
 - (iii) Many mandates are cross-cutting in nature. While the reporting of an initiative may be linked to a particular paragraph or theme, in many cases that single initiative may represent fulfillment of additional mandates;
 - (iv) Overall, the reporting suggests that while there remains much to be done, there have been significant advances in the fulfillment of Summit mandates.

As of today, a third of Member States have submitted their national reports on implementation. We look forward to receiving the remainder in the coming months to develop a fuller picture with respect to mandate implementation.

In this regard, I would like to provide an update on the Summits of the Americas Follow-Up System (known by its acronym SISCA). This system was developed by the Summits Secretariat two years ago with the aim of facilitating follow-up for the presentation of national reports. Based on feedback received from Member States in recent months, the Summits Secretariat undertook a review of SISCA and has redesigned the system to improve its user-friendliness and its functionality. The revamped version will enable reporting by theme and simplify the process of inputting information in the system in order to make the process less time and labor intensive. Additionally, the new system includes a report function designed to extract information which will facilitate the drafting of national reports. The revamped system, has also introduced new language functionality and is now available in the four official languages of the OAS. It will also allow for the Institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group to both enter implementation data and generate reports.

I am pleased to report that the updated version of the Summits of the Americas Follow-Up System went live this week and we look forward to working with Member States to demonstrate the functionality of the new system.

In sum, the Summits Secretariat is committed to supporting the process of reporting on implementation in a comprehensive way in order to capture the contributions and actions of all implementing authorities or entities.

Additionally, the Summits Secretariat continues to work in other ways to facilitate implementation of Summit mandates. The Summits Virtual Community, launched at last year's General Assembly in Lima, is increasingly being used to widen the participation of civil society and other social actors in consultations prior to Ministerial meetings. The hemispheric virtual consultations held to date have highlighted the vast potential of this new medium for helping to advance inclusive dialogue and consultation.

The 12 institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group have likewise been diligent in reporting on implementation. The partner institutions presented a detailed report to the SIRG at its regular meeting in April on initiatives they have undertaken individually to advance the implementation of Summit commitments as well as initiatives that have been successfully implemented in partnership with each other. Some highlights of implementation have been incorporated into the publication, entitled "Collaborating to Implement Summits Mandates", that has been distributed today. A more detailed

report on implementation will be published electronically on the Summits Secretariat website in the coming weeks.

Madam Chair, Delegates, from the reports received it is evident that shared effort in implementation has been a hallmark of the Summits process, and that the level of implementation of mandates is perhaps greater than is generally known. In the lead up to the Sixth Summit therefore, the Summits Secretariat is committed to highlighting outstanding examples of successful initiatives that respond to Summit mandates. This will be accomplished through the continued publication of the bi-weekly news brief, *Did You Know*, the use of social media, greater accessibility to information in the online Summit of the Americas Follow-up System (SISCA) and the publication later this year of a compiled joint report that features implementation by both Member States as well as the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group. We look forward to receiving the information to advance this initiative.

In closing, Madame Chair, distinguished Ministers/Heads of Delegation, Delegates, I take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of the Summits Secretariat to continue to work closely with Member States on the reporting and implementation of mandates from past Summits. These reports are essential in helping this body to assess successful past initiatives and current realities, and facilitate the formulation of concrete actions for the next Summit.

I thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to the feedback from Member States.

Thank you.