



PARTICIPATION OF SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

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**Guide for the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors
towards the Ninth Summit of the Americas**

The purpose of this guide is to provide civil society organizations and social actors information regarding their participation in the preparatory phase of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Los Angeles, California, United States, at the beginning of June 2022.

The guide includes information about the Summits Process, the methodology for participating in preparatory activities and parallel events of the Ninth Summit, the proposed schedule of activities, and contact information.

The preparatory phase provides civil society and social actors the opportunity to have an impact on the process by formulating recommendations that are presented to the participating states of the Summits Process for their consideration during the negotiation phase. This document explains the process for developing these inputs and presenting them to the National Coordinators and/or designated government representatives.

I. Summits of the Americas Process

The Summits of the Americas Process is a mechanism for regional dialogue that brings together the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere in order to discuss common policy issues, seek solutions, and develop a shared vision for future socio-economic and political development in the region. The declarations, political commitments, action plans, initiatives, and mandates that emanate from the Summits reflect the determination to develop effective, practical, and joint solutions to resolve the problems facing citizens of the Americas.

To date, eight (8) Summits of the Americas and two (2) Special Summits have been held.¹

This process includes a wide array of actors: participating states of the Summits Process, which comprise the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG);² government representatives that

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1. Miami, USA (1994); Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (Special Summit-1996); Santiago, Chile (1998); Quebec City, Canada (2001); Monterrey, Mexico (Special Summit-2004); Mar de Plata, Argentina (2005); Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (2009) Cartagena, Colombia (2012), Panama City, Panama (2015); Lima, Peru (2018).
 2. The SIRG is the core management body of the Summits Process and is comprised of government officials of the countries of the hemisphere, which are represented in the SIRG by their appointed National Coordinators.

participate in the OAS ministerial meetings; institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG)³ under the chairmanship of the OAS; civil society organizations and other social actors, such as: youth, women's organizations, labor unions, Afro-descendants, indigenous peoples, the private sector, academia, among others.

These actors participate in the three phases of the Process:

- Preparatory phase (July 2020 to June 2022);
- Summit of the Americas and parallel events (June 2022); and
- Implementation and follow-up phase of commitments emanating from the Summit (as from June 2022)

The **Ninth Summit of the Americas** will take place in **Los Angeles, California, United States, at the beginning of June 2022.**

The Government of the United States has proposed as the main theme of the Ninth Summit **“Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future,”** under which the following five (5) thematic pillars are envisaged:

Health and Resilience in the Americas

Our Green Future

Accelerating the Transition to Clean Energy

Digital Transformation

Democratic Governance

II. Methodology for Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors: Thematic-Subregional Working Groups

In order to ensure effective, representative, equitable, and inclusive participation in the preparatory process leading up to the Ninth Summit of the Americas and in the activities immediately prior to the Summit, civil society organizations and social actors are invited to join *thematic-subregional working groups*.

3. The JSWG coordinates the support of 13 inter-American and international institutions to the Summits process. These institutions are: the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Bank (WB), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

For purposes of the Ninth Summit, a “*thematic-subregional working group*” is understood to be a group comprised of civil society organizations and/or social actors from each sub-region⁴ of the Hemisphere and that the focus of their work is aligned with the thematic pillars of the Ninth Summit.

The main objective of the *working groups* is to enhance civil society and social actors’ impact during the preparatory phase of the Summit. These working groups will dialogue and formulate recommendations on the five (5) Summit thematic pillars, which will be presented later to the participating states of the Summits Process, through spokespersons appointed by each thematic group.

Methodology of the thematic-subregional working groups

Each working group shall:

1. Be comprised of civil society representatives and social actors from the following sub-regions: (a) Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States; (b) Mesoamerica; (c) South America; and that its work focuses on the corresponding thematic pillar.
2. Be self-managed.
3. Select a coordinator for each thematic-subregional group, who will oversee the work of the group and will be the point of contact for the Summits Secretariat (example: 3 coordinators for each theme). Furthermore, these individuals will present each group’s progress to the government representatives during the preparatory phase.
4. Present their progress reports in **English or Spanish**, given that these are the languages in which activities with civil society and social actors will be conducted.

It is envisaged that the inputs based on each group’s progress will be presented to the government representatives and be made available on the civil society and social actors’ section of the Summit Secretariat website.

Five (5) thematic working groups will be established per sub-region. Each of the groups will have one coordinator per sub-region.

- Health and Resilience in the Americas
 - Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States
 - Mesoamerica
 - South America
- Our Green Future
 - Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States
 - Mesoamerica
 - South America

4. The sub-regions include: (a) **Canada, the Caribbean, the United States**, (b) **Mesoamerica**: Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama; (c) **South America**: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

- Accelerating the Transition to Clean Energy
 - Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States
 - Mesoamerica
 - South America

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

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

Process to request participation in the working groups

In order to consider the participation of interested civil society organizations and social actors in thematic-subregional working groups, their request should be submitted from **February 9 -20, 2022**, using the following link: <https://summitamericas.typeform.com/to/CiPIaTcd>

The participation request form requires the following:

- Acceptance of the *Terms and Conditions of the Principles for Participation of Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors*.
- Identification of the thematic pillars of the Ninth Summit that are of interest for the organization or social actor (a maximum of 3 thematic pillars may be identified in order of priority for the organization/actor).
- Identification of organization representative(s) or social actor to participate in each thematic working group⁵ of interest.
 - In the case of civil society organizations, if the organization wishes to participate in more than 1 working group (up to a maximum of 3), organizations will be requested to assign representative(s) per thematic issue and subregion where they have presence. This information will be requested once the participation request of your organization has been approved.
 - In the case of social actors, they may participate in up to a maximum of 3 working groups but must choose a priority thematic pillar.
- General information about the civil society organization and/or social actor.

Civil society organizations and social actors that are to be part of a working group will be notified in the week of **March 1st**. The final list of the working groups will be posted on the Summits Secretariat web page.

5. There may be events and working group meetings that may take place at the same time.

Considering the current virtual format, it is recommended that members of the working groups identify virtual platforms to meet in order to prepare their contributions to be presented during the Summit preparatory process. That said, the Summits Secretariat will explore the possibility of providing virtual conference forums (Zoom) to enrich these exchanges.

Working groups are expected to begin convening the second week of March 2022.

III. Activities with civil society and social actors during the preparatory phase of the Ninth Summit.

In order to kick off an ongoing dialogue process with civil society and social actors, as well as to foster the exchange of ideas and recommendations on the theme of the Ninth Summit, the U.S. Government, with the support of the Summits Secretariat, plans to carry out the following activities:

- **Announcement of the Ninth Summit theme and thematic pillars**
- **Establishment of thematic-subregional working groups**
Working groups members will dialogue and formulate recommendations to be presented to government representatives during the preparatory phase.
- **Hemispheric Dialogue**
The Hemispheric Dialogue is a forum where representatives of the thematic-subregional groups may engage in dialogue and prepare and present the recommendations on the thematic pillars in the framework of the meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).
- **Submission of the working groups' draft inputs to be presented at the Dialogue between Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives**
The spokespersons of each thematic group will be asked to submit their draft recommendations on their thematic pillar for distribution to the participating states of the Summits Process no later than May 13th. This document will be the basis for the final report of the working groups on the activities leading up to the Ninth Summit.

IV. Parallel Events of the Ninth Summit

The government of the United States, in its capacity as the host country of the Ninth Summit, will provide a forum for civil society and social actors, youth, and the private sector to meet on the days prior to the Ninth Summit and engage in dialogue with High-Level Government Representatives of the Americas.

The activities below have been envisaged in the framework of the Ninth Summit.

- **Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors:** Forums that will offer participants the opportunity to (a) finalize their inputs to be presented at the *Dialogue between Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives*. The thematic-subregional working group format will be used; (b) participate in conversations with experts on topics of interest; (c) learn about civil society and social actors' current projects and initiatives on the thematic issues of the Ninth Summit, and (d) establish partnerships with other organizations and/or actors.

- **The Dialogue between Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives:** Forums in which civil society representatives and social actors will interact with high-level representatives of the participating states in the Summits Process.

*A document with the guidelines for the participation of civil society and social actors in the days prior to the Ninth Summit will be distributed shortly. This document will indicate the format of the activities described above.

V. Calendar of Activities towards the Ninth Summit of the Americas*

2022		
Announcement of the Ninth Summit theme and its thematic pillars	Week of February 14 th	Virtual
Invitation to participate in the Thematic-Subregional working groups	February 9 th - 20 th	Virtual
Establishment of the Thematic-Subregional working groups	Week of March 1 st	Virtual
Hemispheric Dialogue with Civil Society and Social Actors	Week of April 18 th	Hybrid
Process to request participation at the Ninth Summit of the Americas	Mid-March	Virtual
Confirmation of approval of request for participation	April - May (TBD)	Virtual
Accreditation for the Ninth Summit of the Americas (Online registration)	May (TBD)	Virtual
Accreditation pick-up	June 4 th - 5 th	In person
Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors	June 6 th - 7 th	Hybrid
The Dialogue between Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives	June 8 th	Hybrid
Ninth Summit of the Americas	June 9th – 10th	Hybrid

*These are approximate dates. Civil society and social actors will be notified in a timely manner of any changes to the dates.

VI. Contact Information of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat

- If you have any questions, please contact: summitso@oas.org.
- For further information on the Summits Process, please visit our web page and follow us on social media:

- www.summit-americas.org



- Would you like to receive information and news on the Summits Process? Sign up to be on the Summits Secretariat's list of contacts at: <http://www.summit-americas.org/brief/subscribe.html>.
- In the coming weeks, information will be provided about accreditation and registration to participate in the parallel events for civil society and social actors of the Ninth Summit of the Americas.