



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)
First Ministerial-Level Meeting of 2019
June 27, 2019
Medellin, Colombia

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FINAL REPORT¹

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Néstor Popolizio Bardales, welcomed the foreign ministers, the national coordinators of the Summits of the Americas process, the Permanent Representative to the OAS, the delegates, the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, and the representatives of the institutions that make up the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which had recently joined the JSWG.

In calling the meeting to order, the Chair submitted the Draft Agenda ([GRIC/M.1/doc.41/19](#)) and the Draft Schedule ([GRIC/M.1/doc.42/19](#)) for consideration. There being no comments from the delegations, the agenda and schedule for the meeting were adopted.

1. Remarks by His Excellency Néstor Popolizio Bardales, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru

The remarks by His Excellency Néstor Popolizio Bardales, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, were published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.15/19](#).

In his address, the Peruvian Foreign Minister noted the main areas of progress in relation to the follow-up and implementation phase of the Lima Commitment. He referred to the States' recording of their progress in implementing the mandates contained in the Lima Commitment on the virtual platform of the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment. In particular, he mentioned the preliminary regional mapping of progress in its implementation as well as the database of good practices and regional capacities to prevent and combat corruption. He also said that the information recorded in the Mechanism would soon be made publicly accessible. The Minister of Foreign Affairs Peru thanked the States and the entities of the JSWG for their participation in the follow-up and implementation of the mandates of the Eighth Summit. He also thanked the OAS, in particular the Summits Secretariat, for its significant support in the Lima Commitment follow-up and implementation process.

1. First Ministerial-Level Meeting of the SIRG of 2019: [Video](#) | [Photo Gallery](#)

2. Remarks of the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Nestor Mendez

The remarks of the Assistant Secretary General were published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.18/19](#).

In his address, the Assistant Secretary General, speaking on behalf of the OAS Secretary General, underscored Peru's leadership of the Eighth Summit of the Americas process, including the ongoing follow-up and implementation phase that, he said, differed from previous processes by having a follow-up and implementation mechanism, which offered the assurance of a palpable improvement in the quality of democratic governance in the Americas ahead of the next Summit. He also reaffirmed the commitment of the OAS to supporting the Summits process in its role as Technical Secretariat of that process, and he offered, in his capacity as Chair of the JSWG, the collaboration of its member institutions, in addition to incorporating the perspectives of civil society and social actors, as well as through the launch of an integrated program within the OAS that would help to enhance coordination among its programs in order to address corruption in its different forms. In conclusion, the Assistant Secretary General wished the Chair of the SIRG success in his endeavors in the ongoing Lima Commitment follow-up and implementation phase.

3. Follow-up and implementation of the Lima Commitment “Democratic Governance against Corruption” Progress logging by States and JSWG organizations Presentation by the Chair of the SIRG, Néstor Popolizio Bardales, Minister of Foreign Affairs

The remarks of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru were published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.17/19](#).

The Chair of the SIRG, Foreign Minister Néstor Popolizio, highlighted the results of the first and second phases of the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment. In relation to the first stage, launched in January 2019, in which States and entities of the JSWG recorded their progress on the Mechanism's virtual platform, he reported that 24 actors had taken part: 16 States and 8 JSWG entities. In addition, he said that based on the information recorded by the States, the region was at an “intermediate” level in terms of implementing mandates in relation to countering bribery, responsibility of the judicial branch, and cooperation among financial institutions. He also said that a similar level of progress had been made with measures relating to penalties for public officials involved in acts of corruption. However, he underscored that the Hemisphere had still only made “preliminary” progress with respect to involving the private sector in the fight against corruption, transparency, accountability mechanisms, procurement and public works contracts.

In relation to technical assistance needs identified by States for fulfilling the mandates set out in the Lima Commitment, the Foreign Minister said that the majority of needs identified in that regard had to do with institution building in the area of democratic governance, followed by transparency, access to information, whistleblower protection, and human rights, including freedom of expression.

The Chair of the SIRG also reported that the States had had the opportunity to share successful experiences in preventing and combating corruption. The Summits Secretariat made a record of those initiatives in a Database of Good Practices and Regional Capacities as part of the second phase of the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment. Upon concluding his remarks, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru yielded the floor to the Permanent Representative of

Peru to the OAS, Ambassador José Manuel Boza Orozco, to provide a more detailed presentation on the results mentioned.

Presentation by Ambassador José Manuel Boza on progress in the first and second stages of execution of the Follow-Up and Implementation Mechanism

The Permanent Representative of Peru to the OAS, Ambassador José Boza, delivered a presentation, published as document [GRIC/M.1/INF.16/19](#), providing greater details about the level of progress made with the Lima Commitment, based on the information recorded by 16 States on the virtual platform of the Mechanism for Follow-Up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment since January 1, 2019. As part of his presentation, Ambassador Boza referenced the technical assistance challenges or needs identified by the States for fulfilling the mandates contained in the Lima Commitment. He also alluded to the Database of Good Practices and Regional Capacities for preventing and combating corruption created as part of the Mechanism based on the progress reported by the States (national good practices) and the entities of the JSWG (regional capacities and possible offers of cooperation).

4. Open Dialogue of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs

After the delegation of Peru concluded its presentation, Foreign Minister Popolizio invited the delegations to engage in an open dialogue. The delegations of Guatemala, Colombia, Paraguay, Canada, Argentina, Guyana, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Mexico, Uruguay, El Salvador, Bolivia, and the United States took the floor to commend the Government of Peru on its leadership and work in the follow-up and implementation phase of the Eighth Summit, as well as to highlight domestic efforts in the fight against corruption under the Lima Commitment. They also noted the efforts of the Summits Secretariat in that process.

5. Final considerations and adjournment of the meeting

The Chair of the SIRG expressed thanks for all the remarks and presented the following conclusions.

- As of the date of the meeting (June 27, 2019) the States had two weeks to review and present their comments, if any, on the information they had recorded on the Mechanism's Virtual Platform and in the Database of Good Practices and Regional Capacities. They were asked to convey those comments to the Summits Secretariat and the Chair of the SIRG.
- Those countries that had yet to register any information on the Mechanism's Virtual Platform would be able to do so in the coming days, so that all the information might be published in a timely manner on the web page of the Eighth Summit of the Americas.
- The states were requested to validate the respective technical assistance needs that they had registered on the Virtual Platform. That would be essential to enable the organizations of the JSWG to direct their offers of cooperation appropriately.

- It was hoped to announce cooperation initiatives both between states and between the latter and JSWG entities at the next meeting of the SIRG in 2019, as part of the third phase of the Mechanism for Follow-Up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment. That would also be an opportunity to hear from the JSWG institutions and civil society representatives.
- Those countries that were not yet part of the Mechanism for Follow-Up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment were invited to join in its work so as to move forward together with the delicate task of combating corruption Hemisphere.

There being no additional comments, the Chair adjourned the meeting.