



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

OEA/Ser.E
ASCA/doc.19/19.rev1
12 November 2019
Original: Spanish

NATIONAL HUBS: FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FOLLOW UP AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

As part of the efforts to promote and strengthen civil society and social actor participation in the Summits Process, and in support of the Chairmanship of the Process, the Summits Secretariat is promoting the establishment of National Hubs as a mechanism that seeks to highlight the work that civil society and social actors¹ have been undertaking in the different topics of the Summits Process. Based on how this effort is developed, the focus of the Hubs would differ according to the main theme of each Summit. In this regard, given that the VIII Summit of the Americas –which was held in Lima, Peru in 2018 - focused on the prevention and the fight against corruption, the National Hubs will focus on this topic. The Hubs will be identified as National Hubs: Anti-Corruption.

Background

Since the launch of the Summit Process in 1994, fighting corruption has been a key issue for the Heads of State and Government of the Americas. The Eighth Summit of the Americas reiterates the importance of this issue, which has led to the *Lima Commitment: “Democratic Governance against Corruption”* being adopted. The Lima Commitment recognizes how corruption impacts democratic governance, citizens’ confidence in institutions, the enjoyment of human rights, and sustainable development for the peoples of the Americas. The countries that participated in the VIII Summit also underscored the need for and importance of incorporating and facilitating the participation of civil society and social actors in this struggle.

For their part, the Hemisphere’s civil society and social actors have not been oblivious to the fight against this scourge, because of their commitment to strengthening democratic governance and eliminating enclaves of corruption. Their anti-corruption initiatives therefore deserve to be shared and promoted in the region.

Considering the will of the states and the potential of civil society and social actors to prevent and combat corruption, including social auditing, it is vitally important to create national anti-corruption hubs to coordinate the efforts being undertaken by these organizations and actors in this field in order to complement the efforts of governments.

1. Used in this context, the term social actor includes representatives of academia, labor unions, young people, indigenous peoples, intercultural and inter-ethnic communities, communities of people of African descent and the private sector.

National Hubs: Anti-Corruption

Mindful of the work already being done by civil society, by networks comprising these and a variety of social actors, the national hubs does not seek to duplicate what that segment has been doing based on its specific agendas. To the contrary, opportunity will be provided for integrated and coordinated promotion of self-managed national spaces (hubs) to help share and strengthen the sector's capability for effective participation, monitoring, and advocacy through the Lima Commitment monitoring and implementation process.

Objective of the national hubs

- To spotlight the work of civil society and social actors in preventing and fighting corruption, pursuant to the Lima Commitment mandates.
- Facilitate the exchange of good practices and the strengthening of civil society and social actors' capacities that are members of the nodes, for their active participation, monitoring and advocacy in relation to the Lima Commitment.
- Promote dialogue with government authorities, representatives of international, regional and inter-American organizations that are part of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), among others.
- Facilitate access to specialized information on various Summit Process-related issues (i.e., corruption), through webinars, online workshops, forums, etc.

Application and participation criteria

Each civil society organization and/or social actor wishing to be part of a national hub must fill out an application form for participation, which is available at the following link: bit.ly/Anti-corruptionHubs. In order to complete your request for participation, each representative must read and accept the *Terms and Conditions of the Principles for Participation*, as well as attach the supporting documents requested in the online application form.

The criteria for participating in the national hubs are the following:

- Demonstrated experience in the area of prevention and the fight against corruption, including thematic areas such as transparency, citizen participation, accountability, integrity in the public and / or private sector, among others.
- Experience of interlocution, advocacy or assistance at the local, national or regional level.
- Work in the following participating countries of the Summits Process: *Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.*

- To ensure broad representation, please limit registration to one (1) representative per organization.
- Accept the *Terms and Conditions of the Principles for Participation of Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors*

Selection Process

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat will establish a Selection Committee that will aim to select civil society organizations and social actors that will be part of the national hubs based on the criteria previously described. This committee will be composed of three representatives, including the OAS General Secretariat and two representatives of other entities of the JSWG.

The Summits Secretariat will notify the decision on the request for participation in the national hubs through the Summit CSO email (summitcso@oas.org).

Work methodology

Each national hub will be asked to appoint a Coordinator,^{2/} who will be the direct point of contact with the Summits Secretariat. The role of this representative will be to organize each hub's members, as well as the work they do, and report regularly to the Summits Secretariat on the progress they have made; and to promote and, on specific occasions, assist with activities organized by the Summits Secretariat during the VIII Summit follow-up and implementation phase.

To facilitate the national hub's work, the Summits Secretariat will create virtual forums for each national hub, through the [Summit Virtual Community](#). These virtual forums will be the official communication channel for each national hub. Also to be created is a virtual space, which will have information about the national hubs. It will also contain progress on work to be done over the next few months. The link to the platform will be: bit.ly/Anti-corruptionHubs.

Tentative Schedule of Activities

- **September 16, 2019** – Announcement to receive requests for participation in the national hubs is issued.
- **October 31, 2019** – Closure of call for the participation in the national hubs.
- **December 18, 2019** – Notification sent on the decision of the requests for participation received as of October 31, 2019.
- **December 31, 2019** - New deadline to receive requests for participation³.
- **January 31, 2020** - Launch of national hubs and virtual forums.

2. The coordinator is neither an employee nor staff member of the General Secretariat of the OAS, and does not represent legally the organization.

3. The results about the application received between November 1 and December 31, 2019 will be notified in a timely manner.