



SOCIAL ACTORS' PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES  
OF THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS  
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**REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE  
WORKING GROUP OF THE NINTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS<sup>1</sup>**

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1. The recommendations contained in this document were formulated by the members of the thematic working groups of the following subregions: i) Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States, ii) Mesoamerica and iii) South America



### **Working Group Democratic Governance of Canada, the Caribbean and United States**

The active participation in this working group was limited to eleven (11) people. The understanding of the purpose of the working group's intention to discuss actions towards implementing the region's shared commitments on democracy, transparency governance and good regulatory practices, anti-corruption, human rights, rule of law etc. was discussed and the draft commitment under general view was accepted to include the following:

1. In strengthening regional cooperation in support of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, Civil Society can place emphasis on and serve as a non-partisan early warning system on potential alterations and disruptions of the democratic order.

Recommendation: Establish prior to the X Summit of the Americas a regional mechanism to evaluate and address emerging threats to democracy, including but not limited to -

- a. Digital Platforms which alter individual and group behaviors in a way that exacerbates in-group and out-group based divisions;<sup>2</sup>
  - b. The ways in which digital platforms encode algorithms and feedback loops which amplify concepts that seek to undermine democratic institutions by spreading misinformation, enhancing polarization and divisions which label fellow citizens and stakeholders as legitimate participants in democracy.
2. The flow of funding through a government that can minimize the available amounts or leave them to be disbursed on political agenda instead of merit or need.

Recommendation: OAS nations make commitments to work with local groups to develop multi-year plans fostering sector capacity and growth via multinational funding beyond the government, immediately within two years of the IX Summit.<sup>3</sup>

3. Creation of platforms (databanks) to achieve the objectives in Human Rights, Transparency and Anti-Corruption and Citizen Participation with a steering committee for each point. Mechanisms to address conflict of interests need to include sanctions with the oversight body being non-partisan and including at least one judicial officer preventing corruption becoming a virus.<sup>4</sup> Allow easy reporting, freedom of the responsible press, whistle blowing protection legislation, security systems to protect those willing to come forward including sanctuary where possible, and evidence demonstrated by a record of convictions for those involved in fraud and corruption.

Recommendation: Immediately, create mechanisms addressing issues of Human Rights, Transparency and anti-corruption to include databases to include nonpartisan citizens and at least one judicial officer to oversee these platforms. This oversight body can be established within 5 months post Summit with the capacity and training required to manage and

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2 Strengthening PASCA to include the sub-region of Canada, USA and the Caribbean bringing PASCA under the Inter-American Charter.

3 Leaders of communities need to be involved at every level of planning and implementation in matters pertaining to their development.

4 Good character fueled by Faith, Hope, Charity/Love, Humility, Perseverance, Patience and Obedience is the anti-dote to corruption.

administrate same. Invite recommendations and support from expert organization to help governments protect against digital threats to democratic processes.

4. Groups impacted by policies should be included in all discussions pertaining to their issues taking into account their differentiated needs, including but not limited to increased care burdens, physical safety, lack of digital access and access to employment and other economic opportunities. Contributions need to be transparent, level of consequences established and monitoring of implementation of the agreements be open. Concrete actions must be taken in coordination with civil society to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence against women including increasing of access to information pertaining to gender-based violence, combatting gender stereotypes and harmful practices and increasing access to justice. Maintain the disability community on all platforms ensuring information is related to all format –ASL etc.
5. Recommendation: Governments are to include groups impacted by policies pertaining to their social welfare in all discussions having all contributions monitored under a level of consequences agreed upon by the parties involved including gender-based violence re honoring the Convention of Belem do Para. This is to be on-going as a change in the implementation process and must be accompanied by on-going outreach, ensuring community leaders are directly involved. To be implemented by or before the X Summit.
6. The continuation of stereotypes and harmful practices, barriers to accessing markets and credit, land tenure rights (including for indigenous people), access to natural resources, all types of discrimination in hiring and employment. Consultation processes must meaningfully include groups impacted by decisions on law, policy, and programs, taking into account their different needs [...] opportunities. These processes must follow good practices with timely provision of information, multiple methods of information and clear and accessible reporting.

Recommendation: OAS Nations must establish policies that remove barriers including those practices of colonial definitions and legislative impositions that create discrimination. Open financial corridors to accommodate full and equitable economic participation of all, especially women, while reflecting Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. To be implemented by the X Summit and on-going.

Democratic Governance in the region of Canada, CARICOM and USA has evolved into a showdown of might. Civil Society is being introduced as the other scale in measuring democracy as we address Human Rights (liberty), Transparency and Anti-Corruption (Social Justice and Peace), Citizen Participation and Inclusion (Equity). Civil Society accepts the action plan with some additions to the commitments.<sup>5</sup>

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5. Participants in this group included persons from Bahamas, Belize, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago and USA.

## Working Group on Democratic Governance in Mesoamerica

### GENERAL PROPOSALS

1. **CHANGES TO THE DRAFT ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE.** Recalling the 2001 Declaration of Quebec City, which affirms that maintenance and strengthening of the rule of law and strict respect for the democratic system are, at the same time, a goal and a shared commitment, we ask and propose to the governments of the Americas to modify the text of the Draft Political Commitment for the Ninth Summit of the Americas, the Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance, prior to its approval, in accordance with the text contained in **Annex 1** of this presentation of the proposal by civil society organizations and actors.
2. **CIVIC AND DEMOCRATIC SPACES.** Recognizing the concerning advance of authoritarianism in the region, we recommend that governments take all available measures to guarantee the full exercise of human rights to individuals, peoples, and communities, removing all obstacles that restrict civic and democratic spaces. In particular, we recommend that governments review and adjust domestic law pursuant to the highest human rights standards to ensure that no undue restrictions are imposed on the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly; and that the work of civil society organizations and human rights defenders—who play a fundamental role in democratic systems—not be hindered in any way, neither *de jure* nor *de facto*.

Likewise, we recommend the immediate release of all persons who have been arbitrarily deprived of liberty or subjected to criminal prosecution without grounds or judicial guarantees, in retaliation for the exercise of their human rights, since political prisoners and prisoners of conscience cannot be permitted in democratic systems or under the rule of law.

3. **REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE SUMMIT PROCESS.** In view of the importance of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) as the main executing body of the Summit process, comprised of government officials from the countries of the Hemisphere, as well as the Joint Summit Working Group, made up of the international institutions and the Summits of the Americas Follow-up System (SISCA), we propose and urge the governments of the Americas to implement the changes and adjustments necessary for civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, workers, the private sector, and other social actors to have permanent representation in the SIRG and the Joint Working Group processes, as well as active and collaborative participation in the SISCA processes, as an exercise in inclusiveness, accountability, and transparency of the established processes and agreements.
4. **PROTECTION OF GIRLS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS:** Echoing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, and recognizing the right of children and adolescents to substantive protection from economic exploitation and the performance of work that is dangerous or to the detriment of their education, health, or development, as well as their right to protection from international trafficking in minors, the sale of children, their sexual

exploitation, and their use in pornography, sex tourism and everything that impedes their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development,

We urge the governments of the Americas to make the necessary adjustments to ensure that all the criminal codes of the continent fully incorporate the acts and activities listed in Article 3 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. They should do so while prioritizing the right of every child to life, from the moment of fertilization, above economic, political, ideological, touristic, or any other interests, complying by making these changes to their laws within a year.

In addition to legal frameworks, they should also implement public policies and institutional coordination to strengthen families as a fundamental institution for the development of persons, since it is within the family where children and adolescents must receive affection, security, guidance, and essential values for their comprehensive development as human beings capable of effectively exercising their rights.

5. Access to justice, reparations, and guarantee of non-repetition in cases of human rights violations and in the case of crimes against humanity in a comprehensive and expeditious manner, even without contemplating the transitional State, as a requirement for its application. Access to the right to the truth should also be considered, which is why archives must be saved, systematized, and digitized so memory of acts of human rights violations can be preserved and consulted when required.

#### **APPENDIX 1: Text of the proposed changes to the draft political commitment for the Ninth Summit of the Americas "Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance"**

*Draft Political Commitment for the Ninth Summit of the Americas Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance*

*Proposal for Changes of the Working Group on Democratic Governance - Mesoamerica*

Recognizing children, adolescents, youth, women, older adults, Afro-descendants, indigenous populations, rural populations, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees and/or in situations of mobility, LGBTIQI+ persons, and other neglected and excluded populations that suffer the greatest repercussions for the failure to uphold and respect democracy, human rights, transparency, and the rule of law in our countries, and that their contribution to governance, rights, the economy and all other sectors is essential to the full functioning of societies more committed to the full exercise of democracy.

#### **A. DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

1. Establish prior to the Tenth Summit of the Americas a comprehensive regional mechanism devised and implemented with the participation of actors from civil society, the private sector and other social actors, to investigate, evaluate, monitor, and follow up on proposed solutions to threats to democracy, whether they are new or emerging.

2. Strengthen regional cooperation to support implementation and compliance with the Inter-American Democratic Charter, including through the following measures:
  - a. Establish a regionally accepted definition of an “unconstitutional alteration or disruption” of democratic order under the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
  - b. Create independent councils and human rights bodies to advise the Organization of American States (OAS) Permanent Council in preparing analyses of the Hemisphere’s political crises so that the Democratic Charter can be applied, when appropriate, in a more consistent and coherent manner and serve as the basis for an early warning system on potential alterations or disruptions of democratic order.
  - c. Establish protocols that ensure transparency and foster the true independence of human rights councils and bodies in the application of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
3. Support free and fair elections through the following measures:
  - d. Allow all citizens to, in full exercise of the right to universal suffrage in the Americas and in accordance with their political constitutions or Magna Carta, without discrimination and/or any restriction for reasons of sex, age, sexual orientation, language, religion, political opinion, or of any other status, including social origin, economic position, migrant, refugee, or displaced person, birth, infected with a stigmatized contagious disease, genetic characteristic, disability, disabling mental condition, or any other social condition, vote in the elections of the country of which they are citizens, allowing those who reside abroad full access to suffrage by voting in the elections held in their countries of origin.
  - e. Accredite and support independent electoral institutions and provide them with the necessary budget, in accordance with the Political Constitution or Magna Carta, ensuring they are balanced or non-partisan in the areas established in the country's political system so that they can determine and/or certify the results of the elections.
  - f. Implement measures that protect the integrity of the electoral process and promote its accountability to voters, along with the transparency and impartiality of national electoral institutions and control mechanisms and transparency in the financing of candidates for elected public office, political parties, and election campaigns.
  - g. Guarantee the implementation of all civil and political rights; formal commitments in terms of human rights; and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter and international agreements to which the States are signatories, in order to secure and protect the ability of all political parties and individuals to stand for election, including those who oppose the sitting government, and thus protect the right of voters to choose their leaders in free and fair elections.
  - h. Allow all citizens to, in full exercise of the right to universal suffrage in the Americas and in accordance with their political constitutions or Magna Cartas, without discrimination and/or any restriction for reasons of sex, age, sexual orientation,

gender identity and expression, sexual and physical characteristics, language, religion, public opinions, or of any other status, including social origin, economic position, migrant, refugee, or displaced person, birth, chronic degenerative illness, disability, or any other social condition, vote in the elections of the country of which they are citizens, allowing those who reside abroad full access to suffrage by voting in the elections held in their countries of origin.

- i. Work to prohibit the adoption, protection, or maintaining of policies that directly or indirectly limit access to the electoral process for members of specific groups, in particular opposition political parties and persons facing vulnerability and exclusion.
  - j. Allow the Organization of American States and other international, regional, and local electoral organizations to conduct relevant electoral observation and to carry out electoral observation missions that help certify the legitimacy, monitoring, and transparency of the elections.
  - k. Work with legislative assemblies to prohibit intentional damage directed at electoral infrastructure, as well as threats of violence against workers, officials, electoral personnel, citizens, and their families, in order to facilitate the holding of elections without impediments.
  - l. Guarantee the constitutional order in the democratic process of the exercise of universal suffrage, pursuant to the political systems of each country, Political Constitution, or Magna Carta, without threats, without violence, without repression, without corruption, without electoral anomalies, to ensure respect for the democratic process exercised by the governed and future leaders.
4. Guarantee implementation of citizen, civil society, and social and political actor participation, as established in the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Political Constitution of each country, through follow-up and monitoring of the agreements established at the Summit of the Americas and the commitments of the Summit for Democracy for the full exercise of human rights and protection from authoritarianism and corruption.
  5. Guarantee the monitoring, investigation and follow-up of the right to freedom of expression and freedom of association, based on the American Convention on Human Rights, specific treaties on the matter, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Political Constitution or the Magna Carta of the country, in coordination with mechanisms of the American system, such as the IACHR, the MESICIC, and other international mechanisms and organizations, especially the United Nations system, for the expeditious and timely protection of journalists, media officials, communicators and social communicators, and human rights defenders—especially on environmental issues—migrants, social actors and professionals in general, enabling them to perform their work or profession safe from criminalization, physical or legal threats, or acts of repression directed against them or their families, and enact laws that prevent and prohibit impunity for attacks against these sectors, as well as the following measures:

- m. The development of the institutions, laws, regulations, comprehensive public policies, programs, and consultative processes needed to establish safe and nurturing spaces so these persons, groups, and sectors can adequately exercise their right to defend human rights.
  - n. Promote access to public information—including on the environment—citizen participation, access to judicial and administrative procedures, and unrestricted access to all rights.
  - o. Develop protection mechanisms and guarantee the protection—inside and outside the country—of sectors facing risk or vulnerability, accelerating processes to grant, supervise, and monitor protection measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as well as respect for and proper implementation of the measures ordered, with the timely granting of measures of prevention, protection, and refuge by States, and requiring compliance with the principle of non-refoulement.
  - p. Commit to fighting corruption and impunity, to allow access to justice, reparation of damage to victims, and non-repetition by carrying out independent, exhaustive, and diligent investigations, prosecuting and punishing, when appropriate, whoever is found responsible, in accordance with international standards on the matter, as well as with the Political Constitution or Magna Carta of each country, with respect to complaints and allegations of abuses and violations of human rights carried out by State and non-State actors.
  - q. Urge the member States of the Inter-American system—within the framework of compliance with the international obligations resulting from the American Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, as well as the OAS Charter—to sign the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court.
  - r. Guarantee peaceful demonstration for all citizens as an essential means of promoting and defending rights, and guarantee the exercise and enjoyment of the related rights: assembly, organization, expression, and participation in public affairs, all essential for the very existence of democratic societies. The States of the region must be guarantors of security and of the rights to life, integrity, personal liberty, and other human rights.
6. Recognize the existence of people who remain imprisoned for political reasons by action, omission, or acquiescence of governments and implement the actions ordered by the international human rights protection bodies, as well as take all measures to guarantee their immediate freedom and ensure the arbitrary detentions are not repeated on the same grounds.
7. The governments of the member states, in coordination with competent human rights organizations, civil society, community leaders, trade unions, and representatives of the private sector, must take all measures to eradicate forced labor, human trafficking, and the sexual exploitation of children, adolescents, and women, harassment and discrimination in the workplace, and all forms of slavery and forced labor; to guarantee

the protection of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, including protecting workers from reprisals for exercising those rights, in order to allow equal opportunities, equity, security, and human dignity, thus complying with the criteria for decent work established in the conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

8. In order to prevent, combat, eradicate, interrupt, and punish child labor, sexual abuse, and exploitation, as well as forced marriage, trafficking and trafficking of children and adolescents, the implementation of legal frameworks, public policies, and inter-agency coordination with an intersectional perspective is suggested.
9. Apply, promote, and protect the human rights of all excluded groups, including children, adolescents, youth, women, older adults, Afro-descendants, indigenous populations, rural populations, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees and/or persons in situations of mobility, LGBTQI+ persons, and other neglected and excluded populations.
10. Guarantee and protect the right of all persons, peoples, and indigenous, rural and Afro-descendant communities to access to land, territory, and a healthy and balanced environment, as well as access to the shared natural resources found on their lands and territories, pursuant to their free determination.
11. Respect, protect and guarantee the rights, cultures, and worldviews of all nations, indigenous peoples, and persons of African descent, in accordance with human rights, and defend the unique legal responsibilities of each State, as well as relations with indigenous governments.

## B. TRANSPARENCY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

1. Address the commitments of the Eighth Summit of the Americas Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance that depend on renewed efforts and focus to evaluate and follow up on whether all our governments have made concrete progress toward our commitments by carrying out the following actions:
  - a. Promote gender equity and equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the inclusion of children, adolescents, youth, women, older adults, Afro-descendants, indigenous populations, rural populations, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees and/or persons in situations of mobility, LGBTQI+ persons, and other neglected, excluded, and marginalized populations in order to promote anti-corruption measures, from the planning process through implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
  - b. Establish, in accordance with the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, measures and systems to encourage the reporting of irregularities and acts of corruption, including the laundering of money and virtual assets generated by illicit activities, as well as measures with actions based on OAS resolutions in coordination with the IACHR and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that provide effective protection—that is, protective actions independent of those of the

country—against potential retaliation or intimidation, use of physical force or threats for reporting persons as well as victims, witnesses, and justice and law enforcement officials in accordance with international obligations; ensuring the protection of witnesses, and assigning the necessary resources for the execution of preventive and protection measures.

- c. Implement public policies based on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption that make it possible to use the information contained in permanent platforms and tools to verify open, transparent, and accessible procurement and contracting processes in line with globally recognized good practices, such as the OECD Recommendations on Public Procurement, and explicitly address anti-corruption in relevant public contracts.
- d. Take up again the recommendations for open, transparent, and accessible procurement and contracting processes contained in the Lima Commitment section D on Prevention of Corruption in Public Works and Public Procurement and Contracting.
- e. Establish and implement comptrollerships or social oversight and invite governments to join the Inter-American Network of Electronic Government or to maintain their commitment to open government partnership (OGP) to promote measures enabling the prevention and detection of conflicts of interest based on the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.
- f. When access to information is restricted, access to security data should be allowed, and the practice of classifying information as confidential should be reduced as a general rule.
- g. Generating indicators disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sexual and physical characteristics is proposed to foster research, analysis, and production of statistics, as well as to evaluate the outcomes of policies on transparency and access to information in order to determine their real impacts and provide public access to these statistics for independent evaluation.
- h. In accordance with the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption and available instruments, enhance spaces for citizen participation and consultation, when appropriate, to guarantee the inclusion of civil society in the implementation of anti-corruption measures. Establish agreements, as well as a network of information and international legal cooperation, to combat bribery, international bribery, and organized crime in order to put an end to tax havens and stop corruption and impunity at the regional level.
- i. Establish and strengthen international cooperation mechanisms to combat money laundering and transnational crime as factors that are harmful to democratic institutions, the rule of law, and peaceful coexistence. Likewise, keep the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT)

from becoming instruments used by autocratic governments to mutilate the rights of civil society.

- j. Promote asset forfeiture laws, such that the assets gained through corruption can be recovered, establishing the pertinent mechanisms and all tools necessary for its application and for establishing what to do with the recovered assets, funds, and sums.
2. Adopt the recommendations received through the review process of the Mechanism for Follow-up, Implementation and Monitoring of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) and commit to gradually complying with them in order to satisfactorily address them before the Tenth Summit of the Americas, and report on progress achieved to address these recommendations through its participation in the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC. In this regard, our governments will consider the following actions:
    - a. Work based on the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption toward coordinating with the legislative assemblies to address the recommendations of the MESICIC on the approval or amendment of laws and regulations that combat corruption, impunity, and nepotism in government.
    - b. Based on the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, strengthen agencies and available instruments intended for supervision, follow-up, monitoring, and evaluation that have competence in matters of prevention, detection, investigation, or punishment of corrupt practices that give rise to disciplinary measures and to economic or criminal responsibility.
    - c. Based on indicators and on resolutions of the inter-American system, adopt the procedures necessary to analyze the outcomes of the systems, laws, measures, and mechanisms used to fight corruption.
    - d. Take the necessary legislative and administrative measures to improve international cooperation in the fight against corruption in order to expedite exchange of information in the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption.
    - e. Exchange experiences, best practices and measures designed to fight corruption.
    - f. Effectively involve civil society, the private sector, and social actors in the prevention of and fight against corruption, as well as in the follow-up and application of MESICIC recommendations, including through the implementation of mechanisms that encourage public consultations, in order to promote citizen participation in government.
  3. Integrate the commitments of the Summit of the Americas, the Summit for Democracy, and other relevant forums into the national action plans of the Open Government Partnership to include all initiatives that support free and independent media, fight corruption and impunity, promote restorative justice and democratic reformers, promote technology for democracy, defend transparent, free and fair elections and political

processes, demand that the corrupt be held accountable for their actions, protect those who fight against corruption, and combat all illicit practices.

4. Take the measures established by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) of 2021, in order to include mechanisms that effectively follow up on the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration on the strengthening of cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption in times of emergency to provide responses to crisis recovery, including by drafting, implementing, and, where appropriate, improving and strengthening anti-corruption policies and strategies, for which it will be necessary for countries to update and harmonize their legislation to meet the strictest international standards.
5. Take appropriate measures to address the political commitments in the UN General Assembly Resolution S/32-1, “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation,” including:
  - a. Develop and implement the measures needed to collect and share information and conduct monitoring, follow-up, and evaluations, consistent with domestic law, on the beneficial ownership of legal persons and legal arrangements, for use in the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption and recovery of proceeds of crimes
  - b. Criminalize the solicitation and acceptance of bribes, influence peddling, bribery, extortion, abuse of authority, and illicit enrichment by domestic and foreign public officials and international organizations.
  - c. Develop and implement measures to establish liability for legal persons that commit bribery and other cross-border offenses.
  - d. Strengthen the capacities of central authorities and other competent authorities responsible for international cooperation and asset recovery, as necessary, to continually take advantage of and expand on relevant expert knowledge to improve identification, tracing, freezing, seizure, forfeiture, and return of confiscated proceeds of crime, with a view to giving effect to requests for asset recovery.
  - e. Deny persons involved in the commission of corruption offenses and who knowingly benefit from such acts, and their immediate family, frontmen, and figureheads safe havens, asylum, and visas, where appropriate and consistent with domestic legal frameworks and international obligations.
6. Support transparency, access to information, accountability, public ethics, and data protection, as well as trust in our governments through good regulatory practices that protect people and enhance predictability and inclusion while supporting strong and resilient economies, including the following:
  - a. Establish, maintain, or improve our respective processes and mechanisms to develop regulations in an open and transparent manner, and take concrete steps to implement

good regulatory practices across the region, including through cooperative activities, sharing best practices, engagement with the private sector, and plurilateral and bilateral initiatives.

- b. Use good regulatory practices when developing and implementing regulations, including by conducting public consultations, engaging all interested persons, and relying on science and evidence in regulatory decision-making.
7. Strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels, so that they include the following:
    - a. Establish and implement effective measures to prevent and address corruption and abuses, including forced labor, in global supply chains by developing transparent public procurement standards, compliance requirements or codes of conduct, related to the sustainable procurement of goods and services.
    - b. Develop and establish mechanisms to prevent, monitor, investigate, mitigate, and, where appropriate, prosecute abuses and crimes, such as bribery and forced labor, in the public and the private sector procurement of goods and services, in partnership with labor inspectors and law enforcement authorities, and with trade unions and other private sector actors, as appropriate, and consider establishing or strengthening mechanisms to enforce consumer protection laws and increase related compliance measures.
    - c. Develop public policies for supply chains with transparency and integrity, incorporating human rights and gender approaches.

## C. PARTICIPATION AND CITIZEN INCLUSION

1. Formalize a regional mechanism to empower civil society and social actors to monitor and evaluate governments' compliance with the Summit commitments.
2. Put into practice the "Resolution on increasing and strengthening civil society and social actor participation in OAS activities and in the Summit of the Americas process" in order to consolidate democratic practices and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, along with the fight against corruption, including through the following:
  - a. Participatory processes to promote government accountability and the implementation direct democracy instruments, which establish the rights of citizens and the government's responsibility in the matter; where citizens can demand public services and how to access them; as well as citizen complaint mechanisms so their engagement can become a good practice that contributes to fostering public trust.
  - b. Participatory community development planning processes, particularly with respect to post-COVID recovery and resilience to climate change, that include historically marginalized groups like indigenous, rural, and Afro-descendant peoples and offer members of the community the opportunity to take part in designing the proposals;

undertake procedures and supervise the use of development resources, in compliance with human rights, with a gender and intersectionality approach.

- c. Periodic consultations for efficient follow-up and monitoring with indigenous community and leader participation, especially with respect to drafting policies that affect their way of life and their worldview.
  - d. Eliminate practices and administrative, civil, and/or criminal legal provisions that limit, hinder, or criminalize the work of activists, human rights defenders, civil society in general, companies, or the different civil society actors that engage in or promote the right to citizen participation and the rights derived from the exercise thereof, such as freedom of expression, opinion, organization, assembly, and mobilization.
3. Establish public-private partnerships with civil society participation to promote the prevention of and struggle against corruption; encourage the private sector to take collective measures to conduct business transparently and responsibly; and develop citizen observatories against corruption.
  4. Redouble efforts to provide inclusion and diversity in all aspects of governance, including through the following:
    - a. Incorporate the use of mainstreaming tools with gender perspectives when drafting and evaluating laws, regulations, and policies addressing differentiated effects for children, women, and men, including in efforts to address climate change, the digital economy, and health, among other sectors.
    - b. Include victims of violence, human trafficking, girls, boys, adolescents, youth, women, older adults, Afro-descendants, indigenous populations, rural populations, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees and/or persons in situations of mobility, LGBTQI+, and other underserved, excluded, and marginalized populations in post-COVID recovery planning, and take into account their different needs, including but not limited to those with the greatest burden of care, as well as physical safety, lack of digital access, access to employment, and other economic opportunities.
    - c. Address social, cultural, and legal barriers to full and equal economic participation and opportunity, including access to markets and credit, land tenure rights also for indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and rural women, along with access to the natural resources, discrimination in hiring and employment, access to safe and reliable care services for the elderly and children, and addressing the effects of gender-based violence on women's economic opportunities and their ability to mobilize and travel freely.
    - d. Establish mechanisms and offer training and sufficient resources for research, applying policies and laws against discrimination and gender violence in hiring practices, access to justice, financing, housing, infrastructure, social services, and other social and economic opportunities.

5. Collect and report demographic data, disaggregated by territory, gender, age and ethnicity, at the municipal level through qualitative and quantitative mechanisms to inform and improve equitable access to community development planning processes and public resources and services, especially among underserved populations, such as indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and LGBTQI+ persons.

D. FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION

1. Direct the Summit Implementation Working Group to work with the Joint Summit Working Group, civil society, social actors, and the private sector to take stock of governments' progress in implementing the action plan leading up to the Tenth Summit of the Americas
2. Urge the governments of the Americas to implement the changes and adjustments necessary for civil society organizations, social actors, academia, businesses, and unions to have permanent representation in the SIRG and the Joint Working Group processes, as well as active and collaborative participation in the SISCA processes, as an exercise in inclusiveness, accountability, and transparency of the established processes and agreements.
3. Reaffirm the validity of the commitment made at the Lima Summit—"Requesting that the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) assist States with resources and technical capacity-building, so that they can implement the commitments undertaken at this Summit in the area of strengthening democratic governance and the fight against corruption, including those commitments that refer to implementation of legislation, institution-building, training, and cooperation"—and the desires of the Ninth Summit in relation to building a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future in the Hemisphere.
4. Likewise, countries are urged to comply with paragraph 18 of the 2030 Agenda, which "...calls for countries to implement the Agenda in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law."
5. Provide technical assistance to the States Parties so that they designate a budget for executing the actions contained in this document, and to carry out the agreed-upon follow-up and implementation activities.
6. Make the national compliance reports derived from the agreements adopted on democratic governance in the region public and easily accessible.

### **Working Group on Democratic Governance in South America**

*Taking into account* the commitment to democracy that the Heads of State and Government of the Americas have signed, which has been an essential component of all the Summits of the Americas since the first Summit held in Miami in 1994;

*Concerned* at the degradation of democracies in the region, the establishment of authoritarian governments, and the implementation of actions and/or policies that are restrictive and regressive with regard to human rights and that significantly worsen the quality of life, such as the existence of countries that have not denounced the death penalty;

*Reaffirming* our obligations under the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and our commitments to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance against Corruption, and other commitments from previous Summits of the Americas on democracy, human rights, anti-corruption, transparency, governance, and inclusion;

*Acknowledging* that the values of democracy and maintaining and strengthening the rule of law are essential to advancing toward attaining the objectives proposed in the Political Commitment of the Ninth Summit of the Americas and the Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance with a view to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2020-2030 agenda;

*Acknowledging* that our leaders affirmed in the 2001 Declaration of Quebec City that the values and practices of democracy are fundamental to advancing in the achievement of all our objectives, and that maintaining and strengthening the rule of law and strict respect for the democratic system are, at the same time, a goal and a shared commitment and an essential condition of our presence at this and future Summits;

*Bearing in mind* that the Heads of State and Government of the Americas are bound and committed under the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance against Corruption, and international treaties duly ratified by Member States of the Organization of American States on protecting democracy, human rights, anti-corruption, transparency, governance, and inclusion;

*Expressing concern* that women and girls in all their diversity, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTQI+ people, people with disabilities, migrants, and vulnerable and marginalized people suffer the greatest repercussions for the failure to uphold and respect democracy, human rights, transparency, and the rule of law in our countries, and that their contribution to governance, rights, the economy, and all other sectors is essential to the full functioning of thriving societies;

*Disturbed* at the growing criminalization of the work of human rights defenders in some countries of the region and at the dearth of internal mechanisms for protection, leaving them in a state of defenselessness.

*Understanding* that all sectors of civil society, including organized communities, political parties, unions, and vulnerable groups, contribute to building governance, consolidating the economy, and the effective enjoyment of rights and all other areas necessary to achieve the objectives,

**We, the civil society organizations and representatives of the Working Group on Democratic Governance in South America, as the Ninth Summit of the Americas approaches, recommend the following:**

**1. Regarding the commitments on Democracy and Human Rights:**

1.1 We recommend that the States expand the concept of democracy, taking into account the constant progress made by American societies in the permanent search for the best standards of living, based on freedom and wellbeing, lifting up the sectors whose rights have been most violated.

1.2 Strengthen regional cooperation to support the Inter-American Democratic Charter, including through the following measures:

- a. We agree to establish a regional definition of "alteration or disruption of the constitutional order," in the understanding that the term "disruption" is not in the OAS Charter or in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, given that, based on a comprehensive review of inter-American jurisprudence and doctrine, it only refers to alteration.
- b. We recommend also defining through this work the meaning of the terms early warning, demonstration, and state of citizen tension.
- c. We recommend establishing a panel of independent experts, with notable and verifiable experience in human rights and democracy in the region, to develop the pertinent considerations for defining the aforementioned concepts. They would then be reviewed and approved by the OAS Permanent Council.
- d. We believe that independent councils must work transparently and inclusively with representatives and participants from all social sectors that bring American societies to life.
- e. We urge the countries of the region to recognize refugees and move more quickly to recognize the right to asylum of people seeking international protection.

1.3 Support and recognize free and fair elections through the following measures:

- a. We urge clarification of what is meant by "unreasonable restrictions" in the commitment to be signed by the Heads of State. **We also urge promotion, through civil society, of inclusion of vulnerable groups in elections processes in their countries** through informational workshops on electoral issues and the promotion of activities that enable their participation in the electoral dynamics.
- b. We recommend supporting and monitoring the initiatives that countries like Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and others have promoted to guarantee the electoral rights of people with Trans life experiences, since we are aware of the obstacles they face in terms of identification when exercising their right to elect and be elected.
- c. We recommend the development of a manual with measures intended to protect the integrity of the electoral process, with the ultimate goal of standardizing electoral processes and respect for them in the region.
- d. We view it as useful to prepare an inter-American protocol establishing a framework of responsibility for voters, inclusion of vulnerable groups, transparency and impartiality in national electoral institutions, and control mechanisms for elections.
- e. We must promote strategies to encourage the diverse candidates to run for office, which requires decisively combating the **political violence that discourages women and**

**other groups that lack political representation from participating.** We also recommend implementing **inclusion and empowerment programs** for elected candidates on representing non-visible population groups.

- f. **Prior to the election cycle, the permanent bodies of the inter-American system must listen to civil society organizations engaged in civic rights, especially organizations from the most vulnerable sectors, to ensure their observations are given careful consideration at the time of the election.** An example of this is the exercise of suffrage by persons deprived of liberty within the prison system, as well as the political representation of ethnic communities, whose right to democratic participation has been violated in many Latin American countries.

1.4 We propose that, through coordination with the Executive Council of the SIRG, States commit to establishing an **Inter-American Network of Civil Society Organizations, an ombudsperson body** charged with the following:

- a. Follow up on compliance with the political commitments made by the States during this and future Summits of the Americas,
- b. Exchange information with the National Coordinators appointed by the governments to represent the countries before the SIRG; and
- c. Submit an annual report on the progress of this process at one of the regular meetings of the SIRG through the Network's representative, who may not be replaced by the national coordinator. It is also recommended that this Network include the participation of civil society organizations from different countries and sectors to ensure it reflects the sexual, ethnic-racial, cultural, and religious diversity of the Americas and addresses the concerns of different social groups.

1.5 **On the duty of States to ensure the integrity and personal safety of any person, especially social communicators and journalists who are exercising their right to freedom of expression and doing their work of investigating, disseminating and socially sanctioning** acts of violence and/or corruption committed by public officials, we propose the following:

- a. Develop strategies to combat fake news through a regional fact-finding commission, involving the private sector in order to include all sectors of society in the defense of freedom of expression.
- b. In the framework of treaty compliance and enforcement, States should amend national legislation on freedom of the media to bring it into line with human rights standards, placing special emphasis on cases that deal with sanctions imposed by the government on journalists and the media when their reporting is not helpful to the current administration, requiring the involvement of a court with the guarantee of an appeal and res judicata for sentence execution.
- c. Promote research and study of self-censorship in the countries of South America and create a specialized working group, including members of civil society, that maintains contact with the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR with the purpose of publicizing the progress made.
- d. Include the university community (professors, students and researchers) and universities themselves in the category of vulnerable subjects, placing them at a similar level as journalists and the media. University students and universities contribute to creating and disseminating knowledge, which enables citizens to access quality information that makes it possible to raise questions about the government's

performance and the use of public funds to combat corruption. In this sense, it is important for States to recognize the need to protect independent universities and university communities within the framework of the Summit commitments.

**1.6 We propose the development of an inter-American evaluation plan on the protective measures available to human rights defenders and on strengthening or creating internal mechanisms to protect their human integrity.** At the same time, we propose holding discussion forums with senior representatives to discuss the challenges to and progress made on protecting human rights defenders, as well as developing a training and technical assistance program for judges and prosecutors on investigating and prosecuting cases of attacks on human rights defenders, strengthening reporting mechanisms and access to justice.

1.7 We propose devising and establishing inter-American mechanisms that ensure protection and compliance with the system's guiding principles in order to eliminate forced labor, child labor, and any form of violence against women, LGBTI+ people, Afro-American communities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants, and others, as well as harassment and discrimination in the workplace. We likewise urge the development—together with civil society, trade unions, and the private sector—of hotlines for protecting workers from reprisals for exercising these rights. We also urge States to hold talks on a possible inter-American convention on human rights and business, within the framework of the standards established in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

**1.8 We recommend encouraging the participation of vulnerable groups such as indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, women and girls, LGBTQI+ persons, migrants, and people with disabilities to ensure they can become an integral part of and/or lead the processes of developing human rights public policy and programs.**

1.9 We recommend creating a network of specialized centers that seeks to bring together public policies, programs, and initiatives related to the topics proposed, with special emphasis on tribal nations and indigenous peoples, taking as an example programs such as EuropeDirect of the European Union, which should be promoted by civil society and the private sector with the cooperation of the Organization of American States.

**1.10. The difficult context of forced human mobility on the continent is a result of a lack of conditions for and guarantees of the protection of the fundamental rights of persons, both in the countries of origin and in transit and destination countries, with multidimensional and supranational impacts across the region.**

We therefore propose that the American States take coordinated actions, with the support of international cooperation, civil society, and the migrant and refugee population, to conduct a review—from a rights approach—of the effectiveness and consequent updating of the regional instruments that have been created to protect persons in conditions of human mobility.

Moreover, based on the progressivity of human rights, and bearing in mind the challenges and problems that exist in terms of human mobility in our continent, we suggest States move forward in establishing a migration policy or framework for the Americas that employs a rights-based approach to address the challenges involved in migration, refuge, and internal displacement without ignoring the impacts of

problems like the climate crisis, the new issues with inequality following the pandemic, and expressions of racism, xenophobia, aporophobia, etc.

1.11 In the context of protecting activists and civil society, it is a fundamental mandate of human rights and democracy:

- a. To protect **the fundamental human right of all women and girls in their diversity to be free from all forms of violence and commit to urgently moving forward on a new autonomous global regulatory framework** to put an end to violence against women and girls.
- b. Similarly, it is essential to **incentivize reporting and establish measures to protect whistleblowers and victims of corruption.**

## **2. Regarding the commitments on transparency and anti-corruption:**

2.1 We urge States to address the commitments of the Eighth Summit of the Americas Lima Commitment on Democratic Governance that depend on renewed efforts and focus on confirming that all our governments have made concrete progress toward our commitments by carrying out the following actions:

- a. Implement and disseminate public consultations through technological platforms in legislative and policy-making processes, since they constitute a valuable instrument of participatory democracy. These platforms must be accessible to all citizens, easy to use, and interoperable.
- b. Promote gender equity and equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the inclusion of women and girls, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTQI+ people, people with disabilities, and migrants and vulnerable and marginalized populations in anti-corruption measures, from the planning process through to implementation and evaluation.
- c. Establish measures and systems that encourage and reward the reporting of irregularities and acts of corruption, including the laundering of money generated by illicit activities, as well as measures that protect confidentiality and protections against potential retaliation or intimidation, use of physical force, or threats for reporting persons, victims, and witnesses, along with justice and law enforcement officials, in accordance with international obligations, and guarantee access to impartial courts to resolve complaints.
- d. Create a network of members of civil society, the private sector, and the public sector for exchanging knowledge and developing measures that enable the prevention and detection of conflicts of interest.
- e. Design and develop a guide containing good international practices broken down by different variables, emphasizing the ones developed in the region on reporting acts of corruption and indicators to measure the efficiency of the reporting processes.
- f. Implement policies, platforms, and tools for open, transparent, and accessible procurement and contracting processes in line with globally recognized good practices, such as the OECD Recommendations on Public Procurement, and explicitly address anti-corruption in relevant public contracts.

2.2 As far as the recommendations received through the review process of the Mechanism for Follow-up, Implementation and Monitoring of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, we suggest the following:

- a. Create working groups with members of civil society and national legislative assemblies to follow up on the MESICIC recommendations.
- b. Carry out collaborative promotion with organizations that work on issue of corruption, knowledge on prevention, detection, investigation, sanctions, compensation to victims, and whistleblower protection.
- c. Prepare a manual with a guide to procedures and indicators that measure the impact of policies designed to combat corruption, to include, at a minimum, an analysis of the level of public spending on anti-corruption and transparency policies, as well as its impact on the perception and incidence of corruption.
- d. Create a plural network promoting legislative and administrative recommendations, doing so in cooperation and exchange with domestic and international organizations in the fight against corruption,
- e. Establish working groups made up of members of civil society, the private sector, and the public sector for exchanging knowledge and experiences, enabling constant and fluid feedback.
- f. Create an intercontinental collaboration network of civil society organizations to study, analyze, and issue recommendations regarding good practices related to reporting acts of corruption; the processes and technology developed for such purposes; and the application of international standards on protecting whistleblowers—including incentives to report—in order to promote the aforementioned recommendations to those in charge of the legislative processes. The aim is to initiate processes at the regional to improve regulation in this area.
- g. Promote the creation and build the capacities of civil society organizations dedicated to providing legal aid to whistleblowers and guaranteeing their protection.
- h. Adopt the procedures necessary to analyze the outcomes of the systems, laws, measures, and mechanisms used to fight corruption.
- i. Take the necessary legislative and administrative measures to improve international cooperation in the fight against corruption in order to improve the exchange of information in the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption.
- j. Effectively involve civil society, the private sector, and social actors in preventing and combatting corruption, including through the implementation of mechanisms that encourage public consultations, promote citizen participation in government, and enable civil society to participate in follow up and oversight, where appropriate.

2.3 We recommend the creation of a Conference on the Future of the Americas as an initiative of civil society organizations to integrate the commitments mentioned in this section with initiatives that support free and independent media, fight corruption, support social leaders and/or social activists, promote technology for democracy, and demand that corrupt actors be held accountable for their actions, among other things. Actions would be similar to those of the Conference on the Future of Europe, a joint initiative of the European Parliament, the Council, and the Commission charged with listening to Europeans, giving them the opportunity to express their opinion on the future of Europe through a series of dialogues and debates led by the citizens.

2.4 We recommend that the States adapt the measures established by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) of 2021. Consequently, they

must establish verification mechanisms in the form of public bodies and guarantee greater independence of the national courts. Additionally, civil society proposes that corruption risk analysis be performed and that the relevant authorities be notified of suspected cases of corruption.

**2.5 We propose enhancing efforts to develop or improve mechanisms for spotting corruption domestically, especially at the local level, as they remain few and uncoordinated.** This process must entail combining sound prevention policies to deliver tangible and sustainable results.

2.6 Hold an annual meeting on Transparency and Anticorruption to share good practices and evaluate States' performance in the matter using the national and global indicators that are widely accepted by the Secretariat for Political Affairs of the Organization of American States.

2.7 We recommend implementing a project comprised of an inter-American network that brings together national civil organizations and/or specialists in transparency and corruption to develop a regional anticorruption strategy in the interest of strengthening public and civil society institutions that address the issues specified in subparagraphs a) and b), with financing or support from the Organization of American States or related bodies.

2.8 Take appropriate measures to address the political commitments in the UN General Assembly Resolution S/32-1, "Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation," including:

- a. Develop and implement the measures needed to collect and share information, consistent with domestic law, on the beneficial ownership of legal persons and legal arrangements, for use in the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption and recovery of proceeds of crimes
- b. Criminalize the solicitation and acceptance of bribes and the bribery of national public officials, foreign public officials, and officials of public international organizations;
- c. Develop and implement measures to establish liability for legal persons that commit foreign bribery offenses.
- d. Strengthen the capacities of central and other competent authorities responsible for international cooperation and asset recovery.
- e. Deny persons involved in the commission of corruption offenses and who knowingly benefit from such acts, and their immediate family members, safe havens and visas, where appropriate and consistent with domestic legal frameworks and international obligations.

2.9 Support regulatory transparency and reliance by our governments on good regulatory practices that protect people, increase accountability, predictability, and inclusion, and support strong and resilient economies, including:

- a. Establish, maintain, or improve our respective processes and mechanisms to develop regulations in an open and transparent manner, and take concrete steps to implement good regulatory practices across the region, including through cooperative activities, sharing best practices, engagement with the private sector, and plurilateral and bilateral initiatives;
- b. Use good regulatory practices when developing and implementing regulations, including by conducting public consultations, engaging all interested persons, and relying on science and evidence in regulatory decision-making.

2.10 Strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels, to include:

- a. Establish and implement effective measures to prevent and address corruption and abuses, including forced labor, in global supply chains by developing transparent public procurement standards, compliance requirements or codes of conduct, related to the sustainable procurement of goods and services;
- b. Develop and establish mechanisms to prevent, monitor, investigate, mitigate, and, where appropriate, prosecute abuses and crimes, such as bribery and forced labor, in the public and the private sector procurement of goods and services, in partnership with labor inspectors and law enforcement authorities, and with trade unions and other private sector actors, as appropriate, and consider establishing or strengthening mechanisms to enforce consumer protection laws and increase related compliance measures.

### **3. Regarding the commitments on citizen participation and inclusion:**

3.1 We propose a regional mechanism for open consultations with communities regarding public plans and policies to be implemented by States that inform citizens how to participate in the consultations and whose purpose is to measure compliance with this political commitment, enabling the inclusion of society and the private sector in the public debate by adapting the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It is important that this regional mechanism guaranteeing accessibility to the entire population be widely disseminated by the States and that it contain simple language that can be easily understood. It is essential to ensure this mechanism is transparent and accessible to the different sectors of civil society, to citizens, and to residents of the region.

3.2 We consider it necessary to create a network of consulting organizations specialized in corruption and open government—with both domestic and international allies—that can help both the public and private sectors through the process of developing policies on preventing and combatting corruption, in addition to advising on conducting business responsibly and transparently. The European Union has implemented such an arrangement in some respects, such as with the European Federation of Agricultural Consultants.

3.3. Create or strengthen multi-stakeholder forums to implement and develop dialogue between governments, civil society, and social actors, in particular those representing underserved or marginalized populations, in order to strengthen democratic practices, respect for human rights, and fundamental freedoms, as well as anti-corruption efforts, including:

- a. Participatory processes to promote government accountability and public trust in government, such as by developing citizen charters establishing what citizens can expect from public services and how to access them;
- b. Community development planning processes, particularly with respect to the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery and to resilience to climate change, that include historically marginalized groups and offer members of the community the opportunity undertake procedures and supervise the use of development resources;
- c. Regular, effective, and meaningful consultations with indigenous communities, leaders, and officials, especially on the drafting of policies that affect their way of life.
- d. Open and transparent democratic processes to work with grassroots organizations that can mobilize and support communities in the local discussion process to define their priorities and implement actions, integrating the private and public sectors, along with

international organizations. In addition, we propose States promulgate laws that incorporate the UN's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights of the UN.

- e. Conduct participatory audits of existing policies, tools, and mechanisms.
- f. Establish a monitoring program to identify and learn from both the success and challenges of addressing social, cultural, and legal barriers to full and equal economic opportunity and participation.

3.4 We propose recognizing the crosscutting nature of public policies and the role of municipal governments in the fight against climate change and inequalities. In most cases, municipal governments go unnoticed, but therein lies an important opportunity given the challenges we face.

3.5 Strengthen small and medium-sized companies that focus on creating solutions for the environment, technological innovation, and Internet access through a regional mechanism financed by the Organization of American States that supports the strengthening of these companies and, if such companies do not exist, fosters their founding and market consolidation.

3.6. Redouble efforts to provide inclusion and diversity in all aspects of governance, including through the following:

- a. Increase the use of gender mainstreaming tools when drafting and evaluating laws to ensure that laws and policies address the differentiated effects of laws, regulations, and policies on men, women, and children, including in efforts to address climate change, the digital economy, and health, among other sectors.
- b. Include women and girls, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTQI+ persons, people with disabilities, migrants, and vulnerable and marginalized groups in recovery planning and take into account their different needs, including but not limited to increased care burden, physical security, lack of digital access, and access to employment, as well as other economic opportunities;
- c. Address social, cultural, and legal barriers to full and equal economic participation and opportunity, including access to markets and credit, land tenure rights including for indigenous peoples, along with access to the natural resources, discrimination in hiring and employment, access to safe and reliable care services for the elderly and children, and addressing the effects of gender-based violence on women's economic opportunities and their right and ability to mobilize and travel freely;
- d. Establish mechanisms and offer training and sufficient resources for research, applying policies and laws against discrimination in hiring practices, access to justice, financing, housing, infrastructure, social services, and other social and economic opportunities.

3.7 Collect and report demographic data at the municipal level through qualitative and quantitative mechanisms to inform and improve equitable access to community development planning processes and public resources and services, especially among underserved populations.

#### **4. Regarding the commitments on monitoring and implementation:**

4.1 The implementation and follow-up must include dissemination and training strategies on the use of the proposed mechanisms, as well as the generation of a communication strategy, providing citizens with a simple approach to the content of the reports, which will also encourage them to get involved with them.

4.2 Direct the Summit Implementation Working Group to collaborate in coordination with the Joint Summit Working Group, civil society, and the private sector to take stock of governments' progress in implementing the action plan leading up to the Tenth Summit of the Americas.