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PLENARY SESSION OF THE NINTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, JOSEPH BIDEN, AT THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION

I'll be very brief. I want to thank you again for participating in the summit.

I think we're off to a strong start. I heard a lot of important ideas raised. And notwithstanding some of the disagreements relating to participation, on the substantive matters what I heard was almost unity — uniformity: rational migration policy, doing something about the need to provide access to recovery and funding, a situation where we concluded that we must work on the environment and climate change, and so many other things.

And there's no reason why the Western Hemisphere can't be the most forward-looking, most democratic, most open and peaceful secure region in the world.

We can lead the world and — with the potential that exists in our people and our values. And so, the way we achieve that vision, I think, is by working together. And that's what we're doing these last couple of days. It's going to take a challenge that's — impacts on all of us — and to unlock the opportunities and the benefits that are available.

But notwithstanding the disagreements, think back to what we heard today. We heard almost total agreement on the substantive things that we should be doing.

So, let's get down to real specifics in the next couple days as to what those substantive things are, how they're implemented, who implements them, how we agree on them, what differences we have on them, so we get down to as — as the expression in English goes, “to brass tacks.” There's probably a better Spanish or other phrase for it than mine. But get down to really what's at stake so we can solve some serious problems.

Thank you all, and enjoy the rest of the day.