

Remarks by the Chair of the Summit of the Americas Model OAS

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at the Plenary Session of the IX Summit of the Americas Model

Welcome, presidents and heads of government of the American Nations, to the Ninth Summit of the Americas, to the United States of America, and to the beautifully diverse city of Los Angeles California, the seat of the Hollywood entertainment industry!

Today, we have a vast diversity of our peoples present, which cannot be overlooked: diverse races, languages, cultures, geographies, and histories.

But, beyond those differences we are united by a common denominator, a hemisphere that is faced with an uncertain and dangerous world. The fact that we are all here today, shows our commitment to exercise democracy, peace among our nations, to ensure the prosperity of our economies and environments, while also aiming to transform the digital and public health systems of our nations, during these difficult times. We can be rational in the analysis of every commitment proposed here today. Therefore, reaching common grounds should not be impossible.

We must cooperate collaboratively to be more successful in addressing the numerous difficulties that have affected and continue to affect our nations throughout the pre and post COVID-19 pandemic stages.

Today, I would like to propose that we be diligent in our debates and talks as we tackle the political commitments, challenges and opportunities facing the hemisphere; social inclusion, economic recovery, climate change, democracy, health, digital transformation, and clean energy.

The commitments on the five thematic areas are important to our nations: health and resilience in the Americas- ensuring the equitable distribution of health supplies to all people in the Americas, while instituting systems to ensure the preparedness of the health systems in the various member states for present and future health issues. Our green future- climate change has severely impacted our nations' environments. We must be precise on what we want to achieve; the protection and restoration of our eco systems, the capture of emissions (the gases harmful to the ozone layer), the protection of our oceans, finding safe ways for production of goods and services, since we can

protect our environment and build our economy. Accelerating the transition to clean energy- the success of this is not only dependent on the public institutions only, private institutions are also needed for the diversification of the energy used to renewable energy, for e.g. solar systems, wind turbines, etcetera. Digital transformation- access to the internet and various technologies is at most, difficult for many in our nations. The unequal distribution, the lack of digital literacy are some of the many challenges faced. But, with progressive and consistent training and nationwide distribution, the equal distribution can become a reality. Democratic governance- strong inclusive democracies are needed, these commitments are geared toward ensuring that every country, the USA included, promotes to end discrimination (and provide the scope for diversity of government officials), ensuring that electoral processes are free and fair, etcetera.

The OAS and (its member states) has demonstrated throughout its history, that it can rise to new challenges. As we forward today and for the duration of this summit under the theme “Building a Sustainable and Equitable Future”, we have the responsibility to take the most practical and effective path toward resolving those problems and challenges.

Thank you!