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REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF MANDATES FROM THE FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

(United States 2010)

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I – INTRODUCTION

The United States of America remains committed to the implementation of the Summit of the Americas. The Summit of the Americas is the only hemispheric meeting of all the democratically-elected leaders, and it provides a foundation for unity, purpose and cooperation in the hemisphere. The steps our governments take to implement the objectives of the Summit of the Americas can lead to tangible outcomes that make the promise of the Summit a reality for our people.

President Barack Obama attended the Fifth Summit of the Americas with the goal of fostering an equal partnership "based on mutual respect and common interests and shared values." His message established the commitment of the United States to work cooperatively in the Americas to address our common prosperity and security, combat inequality, promote liberty and justice, and create a partnership to address climate change and energy security, which will promote renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create jobs.

It is in this spirit that I submit the following report summarizing the efforts of the United States to fulfill some of the major commitments under the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, "Securing our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability."

Ambassador Carmen Lomellin
U.S. National Summit Coordinator

II. PROMOTING HUMAN PROSPERITY

Leaders committed to address the economic and financial crisis, and to enhance cooperation and work together to restore global growth and achieve needed reforms in the world's financial systems. (Paragraph 7)

Economic Recovery

- President Obama led efforts to substantially increase the resources available to a reformed International Monetary Fund through contributions to a renewed and expanded New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB). The United States also supported expanding the Inter-American Development Bank's short term crisis response through changes in lending limits and capital ratios.

- As President Obama noted at the Summit, the United States worked with its G20 partners, setting aside over a trillion dollars to ensure assistance to those countries that are the most vulnerable.

Leaders recognized the importance of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises to improving human prosperity and social inclusion. They called upon international and regional financial institutions to increase lending and expand access to credit. (paragraph 20)

Microfinance Growth Fund for the Western Hemisphere

- President Obama announced a $100 to $250 million microfinance fund organized by the IDB Multilateral Investment Fund, with the support of the United States Treasury and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC), and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF).

- In November 2009, OPIC's Board approved a loan of up to $125 million for the microfinance growth fund. The fund's initial capitalization is expected to be approximately $140 million, of which approximately $28 million will be contributed as equity.

- The IDB held a signing ceremony at its annual meeting in March in Cancun. The fund has officially been established and will begin making investments soon.

Leaders committed to exchange information on policies, experiences, programs and best practices in combating poverty. They supported establishing the Inter-American Social Protection Network. (paragraph 9)

Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN)

- President Obama announced his support for the Inter-American Social Protection Network, which includes sharing best practices on the development of conditional cash transfer programs.

- Secretary of State Clinton joined then-President Bachelet of Chile, President Uribe of Colombia, New York City Mayor Bloomberg and the heads of the OAS and IDB to successfully launch the IASPN in New York City on September 22, 2009.

- The United States awarded a grant to the OAS to implement activities of the IASPN including maintaining the website that was launched in March 2010, providing virtual training tools, and facilitating training workshops.

- The United States and Chile signed a memorandum of understanding on development cooperation, which includes enhancing social protection networks.

- The United States provides bilateral assistance that supports social protection programs in ten countries in the region, including more than $10 million in support of social protection programs in Central America.

Leaders emphasized giving priority to improving tertiary, technical-vocational and adult education. They also set a new education goal to increase the tertiary education participation rate to a minimum of 40 per cent by 2020. They urged countries to exchange best practices and support the efforts of other countries to achieve this target. (paragraph 38)

Scholarships

- The President announced that 1500 students from marginalized groups would receive scholarships to learn English in our binational centers, and 1300 students would receive scholarships to study in the United States over the next five years through the Scholarships for Education and Economic Development (SEED) program.

- Programs are in place to achieve both of these goals. In 2009, SEED provided 270 scholarships to participants from Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala,

Honduras, and Nicaragua. SEED will provide at least 250 new scholarships per year.

Leaders committed to continue investing in young people by implementing policies and programs that would expand their economic opportunities and provide access to comprehensive education and training for in-demand skills. (paragraph 39)

Education Partnerships for At-Risk Youth

- The President proposed a pilot program to form partnerships with countries that have the highest levels of inequality, significant numbers of unemployed and at-risk youth, and considerable potential for leveraging additional public and private sector resources. This program will focus on youth at risk such as out of school youth, under-employed youth, and ex-gang members.

- In November 2009, The United States signed a $2 million cooperative agreement with the International Youth Foundation to implement Obra, a program that will build three public-private partnerships in sub-regional hubs centered in Jamaica, Guatemala and Peru, to raise awareness of youth-at-risk issues and strengthen services to improve education and employment prospects for youth throughout the region.

- Obra was launched in Kingston, Jamaica on April 14, 2010. The launch kicked off partnership-building activities and included a workshop that allowed partners from each sub-region to review the many challenges facing the region's young people and identify what is working to support youth.

- Over the life of the project, Obra will improve employment and educational outcomes for 1,000 youth at risk, and partnerships will be used as a platform to share best practices.

Leaders committed to continue promoting increased corporate social responsibility and improved competitiveness. They acknowledged the third Americas Competitiveness Forum, which was held in Chile in September 2009. (Paragraph 13)

Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF)

- The United States Secretary of Commerce will host the fourth ACF November 14-16, 2010, in Atlanta.

- The Forum provides a platform for nearly a thousand officials from the public sector, private

sector, and civil society to discuss ways to enhance the region's competiveness.

Leaders committed to work for the full and equal participation of women in the political life and decision-making structures of our countries through laws and public policies that promote respect for women's human rights and fundamental freedoms. (Paragraph 11)

Inter-American Year of the Woman

- In March, 2010, Secretary of State Clinton and Brazilian Foreign Minister Amorim signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Advancement of Women. The MOU will promote increased cooperation in areas including eliminating violence against women, combating trafficking of women and children, promoting the participation of women in decision-making processes, and promoting equality in the workplace, economic opportunity, and improved livelihoods for women.

- In October 2009, the United States hosted a conference entitled ACCESS for seventy women entrepreneurs from countries participating in the Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas partnership. The conference not only provided a forum for providing information and materials relating to access to markets, finance and technology, it also laid the foundation for a sustainable mentoring network for business women throughout the region.

III. PROMOTING ENERGY SECURITY, PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Leaders committed to develop strategies that will advance hemispheric energy cooperation including promoting access to reliable, efficient, affordable and clean energy, sharing best practices and experiences, increasing energy efficiency, diversifying energy sources, and minimizing environmental impact. They committed to convene a meeting to implement this initiative. (Paragraph 56)

Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA)

- President Obama invited countries of the region to participate in an Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas; a voluntary and flexible framework for advancing energy security and combating climate change.

- Just two months following the Summit, the United States worked with the Government of Peru and the Institute of the Americas to hold the Americas Energy and Climate Symposium in Lima in June 2009.

- Secretary of Energy Chu announced the Low-Carbon Communities of the Americas initiative to promote clean energy, an Energy Efficiency Center with Peru, and the 2010 Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas.

- Thirty-two governments participated in the Energy and Climate Ministerial, which took place April 15-16 in Washington, DC at the IDB and OAS.

- ECPA is comprised of initiatives that focus on energy efficiency; renewable energy; cleaner fossil fuels; energy infrastructure maintenance and development; energy poverty; sustainable urban development. ECPA will also soon include initiatives on sustainable forests, land use, and adaptation.

- The United States is supporting the OAS, which serves as the ECPA information clearinghouse and manages a website, www.ecpamericas.org, to facilitate public understanding of ECPA.

- As of May 2010, the United States and other governments have launched nearly a dozen ECPA initiatives and projects.

IV. STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SECURITY

Leaders emphasized the need to cooperate to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. They reaffirmed the value of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA) and its model legislation as a basis for such cooperation. (paragraph 75)

Convention on Illicit Trafficking in Firearms (CIFTA)

- President Obama announced that ratification of CIFTA is a priority for his Administration, and he offered technical assistance to trace illicit firearms and control, store, or destroy excess national stockpiles.

- The United States provided the OAS a $1 million grant to provide marking equipment to states in the hemisphere in order to increase hemispheric capability to trace firearms and identify illicit trafficking routes and suppliers.

- The United States signed eTrace agreements with all seven Central American states, and fourteen of the fifteen Caribbean states. Expanding eTrace participation throughout the hemisphere is a priority for 2010 and will be aided by the introduction of a Spanish version of the eTrace software in 2010.

- The United States has assessed and offered stockpile management and destruction assistance to a number of states in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The leaders recognized the importance of addressing the threats, concerns and other challenges to security in the Hemisphere that are diverse, multidimensional in scope and impact on the well-being of our citizens. (Paragraph 68) They committed to fostering public policies designed to prevent crime, violence and insecurity, and to strengthen the channels of communication and the exchange of information, practices, and experiences in combating and preventing crimes affecting public security. They sought to strengthen national and regional capacities through increased cooperation and technical assistance. (paragraph 71)

Caribbean Basin Security Dialogue

- President Obama announced a multiyear regional citizen safety initiative with the Caribbean, including $45 million this year.

- The United States and the Caribbean held successful technical security meetings in 2009, one in Suriname in May, and a second in Barbados in August, a third in the Dominican Republic in November, and a fourth in Washington this past April.

- The Inaugural U.S.-Caribbean Security Cooperation Dialogue will be held in Washington on May 27, 2010. All members of CARICOM, the Dominican Republic, and partner nation observers (the EU, the U.K., France, Spain, the Netherlands, Canada and Colombia) will be invited to the Dialogue.

Public Security Cooperation

- President Obama asked the Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland Security to meet with all of their counterparts in the hemisphere to address violent crime in our communities.

- Attorney General Holder met with his CARICOM counterparts in Barbados in May, and met with hemispheric counterparts at the OAS REMJA in February 2010. In addition, the Department of Justice led the U.S. delegation to the second Ministers of Public Security of the Americas meeting in the Dominican Republic in November 2009.

Merida Initiative

- The Merida Initiative is an unprecedented partnership between the United States and Mexico to fight organized crime and associated violence while furthering respect for human rights and the rule of law. Based on principles of shared responsibility, mutual trust, and respect for sovereign independence, our efforts have built confidence that is transforming our bilateral relationship.

- Merida was conceived in 2007 as a multi-year, $1.4 billion effort. The United States Congress has appropriated $1.3 billion since the program's inception in 2008.

- The United States and Mexican governments are building on the foundations of the Merida Initiative to establish four strategic areas to guide our cooperation and institutionalize our partnership: Disrupt Organized Criminal Groups; Strengthen Institutions; Create a 21st Century Border; and Build Strong and Resilient Communities in Both Countries.

Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI)

- CARSI, in coordination with Merida – Mexico and the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, continues to support the seven nations of Central America in the strengthening and integration of security from the U.S. Southwest border to Panama, including the littoral waters of the Caribbean.

- Through 2009, the United States has contributed $165 million to CARSI activities (with up to an additional $100 million planned for 2010) in the region.

- CARSI activities intend to strengthen justice sector institutions, foster more collaborative relationships between citizens and law enforcement to more effectively address crime at the community level; and increase collaboration and information sharing by and among justice-sector institutions with their U.S. law enforcement colleagues.

V. STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and declared their support for the ratification and effective enforcement of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. (Paragraph 80)

Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (IACAC)

- In support of the IACAC and the Follow-up Mechanism (MESICIC), the United States provided a $1 million grant to the OAS's Department of Legal Cooperation efforts to fight corruption. The grant will assist ten countries in development of their Plan of Action projects, which will focus on the implementation of the recommendations formulated by the MESICIC.

Leaders reiterate their commitment to protect and promote human rights in the Hemisphere, and to the strengthening of the inter-American human rights system, with due respect for its autonomy and independence. (Paragraph 83)

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

- On November 10, 2009, the United States announced a voluntary financial contribution of over $1.3 million to support the activities of the IACHR.

- This contribution will support the work of its Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women, the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Afro-descendants and against Racial Discrimination, the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families.

- The United States has announced continued financial support for the Commission's Unit for Human Rights Defenders. The United States also provided a grant to the IACHR to contribute to regional efforts for the promotion and defense of democracy and human rights in Africa and the Americas through strengthened collaboration between the OAS /IACHR and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.