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## **SOUTH AMERICAN COUNCIL ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING (COSIPLAN)**

### **XIII MEETING OF THE COSIPLAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

On December 2, 2015 in the city of Montevideo, in the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, was held the XIII Meeting of the Coordinating Committee (CC) of the South American Council on Infrastructure and Planning (COSIPLAN) of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), in accordance with the 2015 Schedule of Activities.

The meeting was led by the delegation from the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, in its capacity as the Presidency Pro Tempore. Also in attendance were the delegations from the Republic of Argentina, from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, from the Federative Republic of Brazil, from the Republic of Chile, from the Republic of Colombia, from the Republic of Ecuador, from the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, from the Republic of Paraguay, from the Republic of Peru, from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and from the General Secretariat (SG) of UNASUR. The complete list of participants is included as Annex 1.

#### **1. OPENING**

The Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT) of Uruguay, through the National Director of Planning and Logistics of the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works, welcomed the attending delegations and wished them a productive working session, then wished the same to the representative of the Alternate National Coordinator of UNASUR, Alicia Arbelbide. He reminded them that among the most important topics for their consideration were the analysis of the 2016 Work Plan and revision of the corresponding Calendar of Activities.

The preliminary Agenda, which had been previously submitted to the countries, was considered and approved by the participating delegations. That Agenda appears as Annex 2.

#### **2. COSIPLAN 2015 ACTIVITY REPORT**

The COSIPLAN 2015 Activity Report was presented. For the first time, this was integrated into a document, given to all the delegations, which was organized according to the objectives and actions defined within the 2012-2022 Strategic Action Plan (PAE). In addition to facilitating follow-up of each action, the document combined all the Council's activities into a single document,

including those actions related to the IIRSA Technical Forum. This will also facilitate the mid-term evaluation planned for 2017.

After the document had been analyzed and comments had been exchanged between the delegations, the Coordinating Committee approved the 2015 Activity Report, which will be presented to the Council. That report is included here as Annex 3.

### **3. PROGRESS MADE BY THE WORKING GROUPS**

Working Group (WG) on Geographic Information System (GIS) and the Website: the Coordination from the Republic of Argentina reported on progress made by this Group. The completion of the first stage of development of the Geographic Information System (GIS) COSIPLAN, that was possible with the joint efforts of all countries and their installation in the computing platform of the Communications and Information Center of UNASUR. This tool will allow countries to geo-spatial analysis of the themes of the Council. Emphasizes that it will continue to work on perfecting the developed system, by adding new layers in accordance with what the countries use.

The participating delegations thanked the Coordination from Argentina and the technical team for the work done, an also thanked the General Secretariat of UNASUR for their support with the computer-logistics platform.

The presentation of the COSIPLAN GIS, made by the Coordination of Argentina, appears here as Annex 4.

Working Group on Telecommunications: the Coordination of the Republic of Paraguay reported on the progress made by this Group, focusing primarily on the consensus made in this WG meeting, held on November 30, 2015, regarding the evaluation of the offers presented. It is estimated that the evaluation will be finished around mid-December and that the PPT will receive it by December 15, 2015 to be sent to the Ministers. In accordance with UNASUR regulations regarding agreements with third parties, financial approval is estimated for December 19, 2015.

After the designated date it will be applied Article 63 of the UNASUR regulation, which mentions that the agreements and consensus reached, become approved fifteen days after of not getting response from the Member States.

The delegations thanked the Coordination of Paraguay for their work and their joint efforts with CAF and especially for the efforts made to carry out the activities within the established schedule.

The presentation made by the Coordination of Paraguay is included as Annex 5.

Working Group on Railroad Integration in South America: the Coordination of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay reported on progress made by this Group, reminding the delegates that this WG did not have any specific meetings during this year. However, in accordance with the mandate from the Ministers to establish a consultancy, the Terms of Reference were reformulated taking into account that the first stage, referring to the collection of information, has to be done by each country. Regarding the financing of the study and given the lack of availability of FIC funds (Common Initiatives Fund), the PPT reported that in order to not delay the study, the IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee was asked for financing. For that reason, this item must be included in the 2016 Activity Plan within the corresponding framework of the “Sectorial Process of Integration on Transport of Cargo and Logistics.”

Based on the experience gained during the joint technical work done within the framework of developing the SIG COSIPLAN, a proposal was made to create a coordinating team to support the technical teams of each country, in order to accomplish the necessary collection of information. The PPT and the Coordination of this WG, led by Uruguay, reported that they will essentially coordinate the technical teams of each country, and that they will have a videoconference to establish the criteria for collecting information, in order for it to be as homogeneous as possible.

The Sub-Groups on Bio-Oceanic Railway Corridors reported on the meetings held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

- Working Sub-Group on the Bio-Oceanic Railway Corridor Paranaguá – Antofagasta: the Coordination of the Republic of Paraguay reported the results of the meeting in which the presentation had been made regarding progress on technical studies and demand, as well as regulatory aspects, which the countries agreed to study in more depth.
- Sub-Group on the Central Bio-Oceanic Railway Corridor (CFBC): the Coordination of Bolivia reported on progress made, highlighting four studies already completed: the “Strategic Study and Corridor Resulting from the CFBC Project,” “Prospective Analysis of Trade, Market and Logistical Alternatives,” “Strategic Environmental Evaluation of the CFBC” and “Complementary Study of Alternatives for Routes, Layout and Final Alignment. Study of Basic Preliminary Design and Costs of Construction and Operation of the CFBC Project.” Bolivia agreed to circulate the results of these studies, which is expected to be done during the month of January, 2016.

Working Group on Financing Mechanisms and Guarantees: reported on the impossibility of coordinating a joint meeting with the WG on Financial Integration of the UNASUR Council on Economics and Finance. There was also mention of the funds offered by the Development Bank of China PR to CELAC, and that the scope of these funds is still pending further study. The Secretary General stated that there is no mandate that requires the UNASUR Council on

Economics and Finance to create a Working Group to deal with financing infrastructure projects. However, it is considered important to try to coordinate with that Council, because the Ministries of Economy of each country are the ones who make decisions about external financing.

After this discussion, the delegations agreed that this WG should be re-initiated, and given a working agenda focused on coordinating with those responsible for matters of financing infrastructure projects. It was agreed that the current stagnation needs to be broken, and there should be a high level policy decision.

It was agreed to hold the meeting to be organized by Brazil, and for the representatives of COSIPLAN to participate in that meeting, along with delegates of the UNASUR Economy and Finance Council. Brazil will prepare a tentative Agenda, which will be circulated to all the countries for their consideration.

#### **4. SEMINAR ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOCIAL VALUE CHAINS IN UNASUR**

The General Secretariat of UNASUR reported the results of the first “Seminar on Infrastructure and Social Value Chains in UNASUR”, promoted and coordinated by the Secretariat and COSIPLAN, and held at the UNASUR headquarters in Quito, Ecuador. That presentation is included here as [Annex 6](#).

It was agreed to continue working on this issue and articulate with greater dialogue with the Economy and Finance Council of UNASUR, which is working on a proposal on South-American value chains.

#### **5. NOTE PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNASUR**

The PPT of Uruguay read a note sent by the Secretary General of UNASUR, Dr. Ernesto Samper, addressing COSIPLAN. That note is included here as [Annex 7](#).

#### **6. 2016 WORK PLAN**

The COSIPLAN Work Plan for 2016 was presented, and was approved after some modifications, agreed by the delegates. The final text of that Plan is included here as [Annex 8](#).

#### **7. 2016 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

The Presidency Pro Tempore of Uruguay presented the 2016 Calendar of Activities, corresponding to the approved Work Plan.

The delegation from Venezuela reminded the meeting that it did not have, nor will have, any IIRSA Coordinators, and insisted regarding the posture of their country in that regard. In spite of this, it recognizes the contributions made by the IIRSA Technical Forum, as the technical entity within the COSIPLAN framework.

As a result of this situation, and after deliberations about it, it was pointed out that the IIRSA Technical Forum is made up of the member countries, and that they are the ones who determine needed actions, approaches, and activities, while the financial institutions that make up the CCT support the work to be done. In addition, they stated that in reality the position of National Coordinator belonged to COSIPLAN, but that it is the responsibility of the countries to participate in and coordinate the corresponding technical activities.

As a result of this exchange and based on the fact that in reality all the technical and political entities are part of COSIPLAN, and that formally the position of National Coordinator of IIRSA does not exist, it was decided that in the future the meetings will be announced as the IIRSA Technical Forum meetings, using that name, maintaining their historical correlative numerical order, and their nature as meetings for coordination of the topics set forth in the Work Plan.

After the deliberations and agreed modifications, the 2016 Calendar of Activities was approved. That Calendar is included here as Annex 9.

## **8. DECLARATION AND DOCUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE VI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSIPLAN MINISTERS**

The delegations proposed a draft of a Declaration for consideration of the Ministers of COSIPLAN and agreed to present the following documents to the Ministers:

- 2015 Activity Report of COSIPLAN
- Report of the 2015 Portfolio of COSIPLAN Projects
- Report of Progress made on the 2015 Agenda of Priority Integration □ 2016 Work Plan
- Guidelines for preparing a Work Plan for Territorial Border Integration
- Document on the Territorial Integration Program for the Binational Agua Negra Tunnel
- Document on the Implementation of “Easy Export” in Paraguay
- Documentation of the Installation and Operation of the SIG-COSIPLAN on the Technological Platform of the General Secretariat of UNASUR