
XXX Meeting of IIRSA Technical Forum

Final Report

April 18, 2017

IDB-INTAL Auditorium

Buenos Aires, Argentina

On April 18, 2017, the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, hosted the XXX Meeting of IIRSA, COSIPLAN's Technical Forum, which was attended by delegations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, as well as by representatives of civil society organizations, the UNASUR General Secretariat, and COSIPLAN-IIRSA's Technical Coordination Committee. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Gustavo Beliz, Director of the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL), a unit of the Inter-American Development Bank, who welcomed all delegations and thanked the National Coordinations for their participation. Ms. Olga Roldán Vázquez, Under Secretary for Latin American and Caribbean Affairs, Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, took the floor to highlight that it was auspicious that the first activity presided over by her country on the day it took possession of the UNASUR Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT) was a meeting of COSIPLAN, which is a strategic Council for all 400 million South Americans. She said that transport, energy, and communications integration was a way of returning to the roots of South American unity.

Next, Fernando Álvarez de Celis, Under Secretary of Territorial Planning of Public Investment, Argentina's Ministry of the Interior, Public Works and Housing, in his capacity as President Pro Tempore of COSIPLAN, stressed Argentina's commitment to strengthening the physical integration process through this Council with the purpose of moving towards deeper integration. He mentioned the importance of making progress in key areas, such as the relationship between infrastructure and production, planning as a tool to address the consequences of climate change, the significant strengthening of the COSIPLAN Geographic Information System (GIS) to incorporate new information layers in coordination with other UNASUR Councils, and the implementation of an information system for planning the integration and development of border regions.

The UNASUR General Secretariat, represented by Pedro Barros Silva, Director of Economic Affairs, underscored the work being done by the General Secretariat to support the activities of the Councils and the coordination of their agendas.

COSIPLAN Outputs 2016

In 2016, COSIPLAN produced and made available to the public through its website a significant number of materials and a huge amount of information that reflect the efforts made by the governments in integrating their infrastructure. The CCT Secretariat presented the main results in terms of dissemination, focusing on three central elements: the COSIPLAN publications, website, and Project Information System (SIP).

I. COSIPLAN Publications

Four annual reports were drafted, namely the COSIPLAN Activity Report 2016, the COSIPLAN Project Portfolio Report 2016, the API Progress Report 2016, and a set of infographic sheets about Integration and Development Hubs and Countries. All of these documents were translated and published in English. A technical document on the Agua Negra Binational Tunnel Integration Territorial Program, and two documents on the Disaster Risk Management Methodology and its application in Chile and Peru were also published. These publications may be downloaded from <https://www.flipsnack.com/IIRSA/>.

II. COSIPLAN Website

Mention was made of the improvements introduced into the website, which help consolidate it as the Council's main dissemination tool. COSIPLAN has a set of interactive platforms that are interconnected and enable users to learn about the progress made in the different areas of work. These platforms are the Project Information System (SIP), Exporta Fácil, and Integration and Development Hubs. The website also provides a direct link to the COSIPLAN Geographic Information System (GIS).

Furthermore, reference was made to other dissemination activities related to strengthening the website, such as the incorporation of an online tool to display the publications and the sending of newsletters to the website's subscribers, the inclusion of a YouTube channel for the COSIPLAN videos, and the georeferencing of more than 600 projects using Google Maps. Between March 2016 and March 2017, www.iirsa.org/cosiplan received 125,000 visits.

III. Project Information System

This tool is unique in South America in that it contains the information about the COSIPLAN projects on an open access online platform that is kept up to date by every country's officials. The main changes made to the system was the redesign of the home page, the inclusion of dynamic visualizations that present the information on the projects grouped by Hub and by country, and the incorporation of the location of the projects georeferenced via Google Maps into the project files.

In 2016, the SIP received more than 68,000 visits. Taking into account the users' interest in the projects as well as the importance of bringing transparency to the information about such projects, a video about the SIP was shot, which is already available at www.iirsa.org/proyectos.

The delegations from the countries agreed that the use of the website can be further enhanced. To this end, it will be crucial that the websites of the ministries that form part of COSIPLAN have a direct link to the Council's site and that the UNASUR website has a visible link as well. In response to the importance attached to information dissemination and access by Argentina, this year the CCT Secretariat will work on enhancing the visibility of the website.

The presentation is attached as Annex 3.

Agua Negra Binational Tunnel Integration Territorial Program (PTI)

The Argentine delegation presented the work plan for the Agua Negra Binational Tunnel PTI, which was coordinated by the National Teams of Argentina and Chile.

The first activity is a Workshop that will be held in San Juan from May 10 to 12. On the first day, a visit will be made to the area where the entrance to the tunnel on the Argentine side will be located. The purpose is that the Enlarged Work Team becomes acquainted with the size of the project and its impact by gaining first-hand knowledge of the current geography, population and dynamics of the territory. The objective of the next two days will be to define a schedule for the implementation of the PTI actions and of continuous and flexible mechanisms for remote working as well as to promote coordination between the project and the PTI.

It was announced that the universities of the region had been invited to the Workshop, as their contribution will be crucial to define the capacity building and the economic and production actions on the basis of a thorough study recently conducted. The invitation was also extended to private sector actors, such as business chambers.

With the aim of facilitating the work of the binational teams in structuring, implementing and monitoring the PTI actions, the CCT Secretariat developed an Information System for the PTI that will be presented during the Workshop.

The main activities scheduled for 2017 are the following:

Activity	Date
Workshop on the PTI	May 10 to 12, San Juan
Workshop on the PTI	August 9 to 10, La Serena

The presentation is attached as Annex 4.

COSIPLAN Projects

The CCT Secretariat presented the status of the Portfolio as of 2016, highlighting that the active portfolio includes 453 projects underway whose implementation requires more than US\$163 billion and that, so far, 128 projects had been completed with an investment of more than US\$28 billion.

Next, the objectives of the 2017 update exercise were presented, which will focus particularly on the following:

- The five-year review of the Integration Priority Project Agenda (API), a topic that will be the subject of debate during the Special Meeting on API Review (April 18 and 19).
- The identification of the projects that currently involve a concession contract or another type of agreement that include maintenance. These projects are not properly reported in the SIP, which entails that there are projects at the execution stage but with all their investments made. The problem is that the SIP does not inform whether the infrastructure is operational and that the projects remain at such stage for long periods of time, i.e. it does not reflect the actual progress of the Portfolio.
- Projects proposed to be added or removed on the basis of each country's revision of its priorities as to how to become integrated with its neighboring countries.

The CCT Secretariat will contact all the National Coordinators to remind them of the tasks to be performed prior to the update exercise and their deadlines. Each National Coordination should carry out such activities not later than one week before the Videoconference Meeting on the respective Hub.

Below is the schedule of the videoconference meetings:

Integration and Development Hub	Date
Central Interoceanic and Peru-Brazil-Bolivia	May 16
MERCOSUR-Chile	May 23
Paraguay-Paraná Waterway	May 30
Capricorn and Southern	June 5
Andean	June 13
Guianese Shield	June 15
Amazon	June 22

The presentation is attached as Annex 5.

Next, the CCT Secretariat presented a proposal to shoot videos about strategic projects. The aim is to find modern ways to disseminate—in simple terms and with a view to the future—the current

and future benefits that the integration projects will bring to different places of the region. The videos will help promote COSIPLAN among governments and South American citizens alike.

The main features of the proposal to shoot the videos are the following:

- Include more than one project of several countries of the region in each video
- Produce short videos conveying one central message (two at the most)
- Highlight specific data on the projects and their benefits for the population
- Include images of people working at the site of the projects or of citizens using the resulting infrastructure
- Include the UNASUR-COSIPLAN logo
- Disseminate the videos through websites and social media

Activity	Date
Comments on the proposal to shoot videos about the projects and expression of interest in the projects proposed by the countries	May 26

The presentation is attached as Annex 6.

Disaster Risk Management

As the meeting was not attended by representatives of the Ministry of Public Works of Chile, which is the country responsible for the coordination of this topic, the delegations present agreed to organize a videoconference meeting on the work plan to move forward on this subject, to which the Presidency Pro Tempore of the UNASUR High Level Working Group for Disaster Risk Management will be invited as an advisor and observer.

Activity	Date
Videoconference meeting on the work plan	First fortnight of June (to be confirmed by Chile's Ministry of Public Works)

Freight Transport and Logistics

At the request of Peru's National Coordination, the CCT Secretariat delivered the presentation of the work plan on this topic, which includes the following activities:

I. Fourth Edition of the Online Course on Design and Management of Freight Transport and Logistics Policies

The objective of the course is to train officials from the various public-sector agencies from UNASUR countries that are involved in the drafting, implementation, and evaluation of public

policies, plans, programs, and projects in the freight logistics sector. The fourth edition of the course will be run between May 22 and July 16. The invitation to participate in it was launched on March 13 and, so far, there are 73 candidates from 10 countries. As the course is in high demand and the intention is to provide training to all the people interested in it and proposed by the countries, the possibility of organizing a fifth edition in the second half of the year is being analyzed.

II. Network of Experts in Freight Logistics

As COSIPLAN currently relies on an important critical mass of officials certified in the Online Course, there is an excellent opportunity to create a knowledge network at the South American level to address these issues and advise the Council on the basis of sound technical content. In addition, this network will provide continuity to the exchange of experiences, best practices, and knowledge launched during the training activities.

This network will be made up of the COSIPLAN National Coordinations, the participants certified in the online courses who are still public officials, and officials from a wide range of institutions related to freight logistics, as proposed by the COSIPLAN National Coordinators. The network will operate in a virtual environment, using the [IDB Community of Practice](#) platform, which provides a flexible and uninterrupted working scheme.

The coordination of the network will be the responsibility of the CCT Secretariat, and the technical facilitator of the activities will be Ms. Marelía Martínez, expert in freight logistics and director of the online courses.

III. Meeting of the Executive Technical Group

In order to follow up on these actions and analyze freight transport and logistics issues within the framework of COSIPLAN, a meeting of the Executive Technical Group to be held in Lima in September was included in the schedule.

Activity	Date
4 th Edition of the Online Course	May 22 to July 16
Network of Experts in Freight Logistics	New Deadline for Candidates: May 28 New Webinar Date: June 14
Meeting of the Executive Technical Group	September 12 and 13, Lima

The presentation is attached as Annex 7.

Planning for Border Integration and Development

The Argentine and Chilean delegations put forth a proposal to develop an online platform for planning the integration and development of border territories. The main objective of the platform is to consolidate all the information available on the authorized South American border crossings and the territories in which they are established in a single tool that is accessible over the Internet, so as to devise socioeconomic development and integration plans for such areas.

The platform is aimed at attaining three specific objectives:

- Plan and implement the public policies needed to improve infrastructure and leverage procedures at border crossings
- Make the information on the border areas available to national and subnational government agencies to improve the quality of life of those who inhabit such territories
- Disseminate information about the operations and documents needed for traffic in each border crossing, both for freight transport and for the movement of people.

The contents, functionalities, permits and uses of the platform will be the responsibility of the COSIPLAN member countries. The specific actions to be taken concerning this platform will be defined in the context of the COSIPLAN annual Work Plan.

The main characteristics of the platform would be the following:

- It will be accessible over the Internet and hosted in the COSIPLAN website.
- It will provide public information and restricted contents (internal information) to authorized government officials.
- It will contain an information file for each border crossing.
- The information provided through the platform will be the responsibility of designated government officials and updated on a regular basis.
- The COSIPLAN Technical Forum, through the Technical Coordination Committee (CCT) Secretariat will be in charge of the administration of the IT platform.

In order to analyze the proposal, the data fields that the system will contain and the criteria for selecting the border crossings whose information will be reported, a videoconference meeting will be held with the National Coordinations. Prior to this meeting, Argentina and Chile will submit the complete proposal for its reading and consideration.

The schedule of activities proposed to develop the platform is as follows:

PLATFORM DOCUMENT		
Activity	Responsible Party	Deadline
Submission of the proposal	AR-CH	April 2017
Dissemination of the document to the National Coordinators for comments	Secretariat	May 8, 2017
Submission of comments	National Coordinators	May 22, 2017
Videoconference meeting to discuss the proposal and the information to be gathered by the countries	National Coordinators	May 26, 2017
Consolidation of the final document	AR, CH and Secretariat	June 2017

PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION		
Activity	Responsible Party	Deadline
Identification of public information sources	Secretariat	May 2017
Submission of laws, decrees or regulations establishing the operation of the border institutions in each country	National Coordinators	May-June 2017
Validation of public information sources	National Coordinators	June 2017
Collection of specific information according to the sources validated by the National Coordinators	Secretariat	July 2017
Programming and design	Secretariat	June-October 2017

INTERNAL INFORMATION SECTION		
Activity	Responsible Party	Deadline
Identification of the officials who will supply internal information	National Coordinators	June-August 2017

The presentation is attached as Annex 8.

Integration through Ports and Waterways

The Brazilian delegation proposed that an online course on waterways be delivered to train public officials from both the central government and subnational governments, taking into consideration the contribution of the private sector, to close the knowledge gap on this subject. For this purpose, Brazil will design, with the support of the CCT, some general guidelines that address the needs of all the countries and will disseminate them for consideration by the National Coordinations.

Activity	Date
First proposal of contents for the online course	May 26

Air Integration

Brazil mentioned the need to create new air transport routes in areas where none is currently provided. The proposal involves adding flight routes that should avoid passing through large hub airports, which at present results in a waste of time and money. To this end, Brazil suggested different mechanisms to stimulate airlines, such as differentiated airport charges, tax incentives, and airport services, among others. Based on its own experience, Brazil observes that foreign airline companies are considerably interested in the Brazilian and in the overall South American air service market as they see in it a potential for growth.

Guyana stressed the need to promote integration working jointly with the airlines by supporting them in new markets, on the one hand, and by making policies to attract them to these new markets, on the other.

The need to plan bearing the future in mind and thinking of ways to connect South America with the other markets was also emphasized.

Regarding the meeting of the Executive Technical Group scheduled for this year, the following actions were identified:

Activity	Date
Proposed GTE meeting agenda (Brazil and Guyana)	2 nd fortnight of May
Videoconference meeting	1 st fortnight of June
Meeting of the Executive Technical Group	To be confirmed

Trade Integration through Postal Services

The Brazilian delegation presented the progress and activities underway in the context of the work plan coordinated by Brazil and Peru. Both countries mentioned that there is a broader working vision that deals with e-commerce, import, and customs postal processes in addition to Exporta Fácil. They also mentioned the need to integrate regional actions with global activities currently taking place in the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and in the World Customs Organization (WCO).

Furthermore, the National Coordination of Venezuela expressed the interest of its postal authorities in becoming included in the activities of this Executive Technical Group.

The UNASUR General Secretariat informed that it will provide assistance to move towards the formalization of an agreement between COSIPLAN and the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (UPAEP).

Activity	Date
Meeting of the Executive Technical Group	To be confirmed

The presentation is attached as Annex 9.

Participation of South American Social Organizations

I. Fundación Planeta

The representative of this Foundation gave a presentation on a more thorough approach to the issue of borders focused on natural resources and value chains. Indicating the concept of social responsibility.

The Foundation suggested becoming engaged in production integration by raising awareness among the small- and medium-sized enterprises of the region whose activities are related to topics dealt with by COSIPLAN and form part of a regional strategy to develop integration.

In addition, it proposed the identification of private companies already working on topics addressed by COSIPLAN independently from the public sector, with the aim of contacting them through the authorities working in the territory that notice their activity best so as to spur discussion and interaction with them.

II. Regional Coalition for Transparency and Participation

The representative of the Coalition highlighted the progress made over the last four years in data gathering and dissemination. Before, South America did not have a portal providing this information, and the only ones in place were created by NGOs to include their ideas or the data they managed to gather. At present, the governments provide information on the projects on

which they are working and their progress in the COSIPLAN Project Information System. In this context, the Coalition acknowledged the work done by Argentina and Chile in connection with border crossings and the possibility of putting the use of technology at the service of citizens.

Furthermore, she raised the need to carry out strategic social and environmental assessments of completed projects with the participation of citizens to establish the cumulative impact of the projects on the region.

List of Annexes

Annex 1: [Agenda of the XXX Meeting of IIRSA Technical Forum](#)

Annex 2: [List of delegations participating in the XXX Meeting of IIRSA Technical Forum](#)

Annex 3: [COSIPLAN Outputs 2016](#)

Annex 4: [Agua Negra Binational Tunnel Integration Territorial Program \(PTI\)](#)

Annex 5: [COSIPLAN Project Portfolio and Integration Priority Project Agenda \(API\)](#)

Annex 6: [Videos on Strategic Projects](#)

Annex 7: [Freight Transport and Logistics](#)

Annex 8: [Planning for Border Integration and Development](#)

Annex 9: [Trade Integration through Postal Services](#)