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**EXECUTIVE TECHNICAL GROUP ON  
TRADE INTEGRATION AND FACILITATION**

Crowne Plaza, Santiago, Chile

August 23, 2016

**1. BACKGROUND**

Some of the objectives of the COSIPLAN Strategic Action Plan (PAE) 2012-2022 are to promote the development of the region by identifying and executing infrastructure projects that should strengthen physical integration, following sustainable socioeconomic development criteria, and preserving the environment and the balance of ecosystems.

Bearing these objectives in mind, the application of an indicative territorial planning methodology led to the identification of some projects that are structuring in nature, which made it possible to set up an Integration Project Portfolio. Furthermore, by means of the implementation of methodologies as well as the development of sectoral processes and complementary actions, attempts have been made at facilitating the execution and operation of the undertakings and the attainment of the objectives pursued.

At the IV Ordinary Meeting of COSIPLAN Ministers (2013), Argentina and Chile were appointed as coordinators of the Executive Technical Group (GTE) on Border Integration and Facilitation. During the first meeting of this GTE, which was held in 2014, the countries agreed to move forward in the consideration of this matter. The GTE met again in 2015, where the countries agreed to include cross-border integration as a line of action of the COSIPLAN indicative territorial planning process.

At the VI Ordinary Meeting of COSIPLAN Ministers (2015), the Guidelines for the Design of a Work Plan on Cross-Border Territorial Integration Planning were approved.

The COSIPLAN Work Plan 2016 provides for the organization of a new meeting of the GTE to work on concrete proposals that help make headway in cross-border integration planning. To this effect, the distribution of working documents and consideration of the subject in advance to the GTE face-to-face meeting has been provided for.

## **2. ELEMENTS FOR A WORK PLAN ON CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIAL INTEGRATION PLANNING WITHIN COSIPLAN**

Pursuant to the guidelines approved at the XXVIII Meeting of COSIPLAN Ministers in December 2015, the countries aim at leading the work on territorial planning and sectoral processes with a comprehensive vision focused on regional border integration and cross-border movement facilitation plans, by creating a new line of action in which both issues converge on an integrated scope of work that addresses the complementarities of cross-border territories.

To such end, the purpose is to develop the following instruments:

- A Conceptual Framework for Cross-Border Integration within COSIPLAN
- A Methodology for Cross-Border Integration Territorial Planning
- A Border Observatory
- A Regional Technical Assistance Fund
- Training Mechanisms

**Conceptual Framework:** In order to design the Conceptual Framework for Cross-Border Integration, agreement has been reached to perform the following tasks:

- Identify the dimensions of analysis of border integration that will be addressed within the competence of COSIPLAN
- Identify the bilateral border regions (BBRs) and the projects of each country in them
- Define the expanse of the territories involved
- Analyze the border crossings and their optimization

As a starting point for this work, at the XXIX Meeting of IIRSA Technical Forum, held on April 6, 2016, in Montevideo, it was agreed to provide the first elements, beginning with a survey of up-to-date information on the circumstances at the border crossings with regard to border control and the population living at the immediate area of influence.

## **3. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

a) Present a proposal to survey information to learn about the following:

- i) The border control and territorial management models in the area of the different border crossings;
- ii) The type of population in the area of influence of each border crossing and their particular circumstances;
- iii) Achievements, experiences, lessons learned, and challenges.

b) Share suggestions for the development of the proposal.

- c) Exchange preliminary ideas on the following:
- i) The dimensions of analysis of border integration that will be addressed within the competence of COSIPLAN;
  - ii) The criteria for identifying the bilateral border regions (BBRs);
  - iii) The criteria for defining the expanse of the territories involved; and
  - iv) A survey of each country's projects in such regions.

To this end, the meeting will be organized in round tables where there will be an exchange of ideas on the topics already mentioned and brief documents containing the conclusions will be drafted. As a result of the event, the goal is to gather the elements that will help build the conceptual framework, which is expected to be further elaborated later on, along with the development of the other activities included in the work plan.

#### **4. METHODOLOGY**

Round tables will be organized as follows:

##### **Round Table 1: Border Crossings: Efficiency Standards for the Operation of Border Crossings**

- Infrastructure and services standards
- Technology and communications standards – criteria for a swift mechanism for technological update
- Workplace and housing standards
- Streamlining of operational flows and of procedures
- Contingency plans

##### **Round Table 2: Planning Applied to Border Integration: Localities in the Immediate Area of the Border Crossing and their Condition**

- Conditions for the development of border population (health – education – culture)
- Habitat and the environment
- Basic utilities infrastructure (drinking water – energy – communications)

##### **Round Table 3: Elements for a Conceptual Framework Taking into Account:**

- Definitions concerning the dimensions of analysis of border integration
  - Expanse of the territories
  - Identification of the territorial areas
  - Criteria for identifying associated Portfolio projects

##### **Round Table 4: Elements for the Design of Border Integration Plans**

- Methodological criteria for the design of cross-border territorial integration plans
- Tools for the design of cross-border territorial integration plans
- Criteria for the design of specific plans in bilateral border regions

## 5. PARTICIPANTS

In addition to the National Coordinators, the GTE meeting calls for the participation of representatives from government agencies and entities concerned with the planning and implementation of procedures related to border crossings.

## 6. PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**9:00 - 9:10: Registration and Welcome Coffee**

**9:10 - 9:20: Opening Session by the Coordinators of the GTE —Chile and Argentina— and Presentation of the Proposal**

Atilio Alimena, National Director of International Territorial Integration Planning, Argentina, and Marcela Ruth Espinoza Nissim, Head of the Department of Legal Enforcement - National Directorate of Borders and Limits, Chile

**9:20 - 9:30: Organization of the Round Tables and Designation of the Coordinators**

Santiago Perciavalle, Coordinator of the National Directorate of International Territorial Integration Planning, Argentina

**Representatives from the following countries will participate in the coordination and moderation:**

- **Brazil:** A representative from Customs
- **Paraguay:** A representative from the National Migrations Directorate
- **Colombia:** A representative from the Planning Department
- **Chile:** Institution to be confirmed
- **Ecuador:** A representative from the Ministry of Transport and Public Works
- **Bolivia:** A representative from Customs or from the Ministry of Public Works, Utilities and Housing (to be confirmed)
- **Peru:** A representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or from the National Center for Strategic Planning (to be confirmed)
- **Venezuela:** Institution to be confirmed

**Round Table 1:** Border Crossings: Efficiency Standards for the Operation of Border Crossings

**Round Table 2:** Planning Applied to Border Integration: Localities in the Immediate Area of the Border Crossing and their Condition

**Round Table 3:** Elements for a Conceptual Framework

**Round Table 4:** Elements for the Design of Border Integration Plans

**9:30 - 11:00: Round Table Work**

**11:00 - 11:30: Coffee Break**

**11:30 - 13:15: Round Table Work**

**13:15 - 14:00: Lunch**

**14:00 - 16:30: Summary of the Results and Preparation of the Conclusions by Each Round Table**

**16:30 - 16:40: Coffee Break**

**16:40 - 18:30: Presentation and Analysis of the Conclusions of Each Round Table by the Respective Coordinators**

16:40 - 17:00 Round Table 1

17:00 - 17:20 Round Table 2

17:20 - 17:40 Round Table 3

17:40 - 18:00 Round Table 4

**18:00 - 18:15 Conclusions and Closing Session**

**Summary of the Conclusions of the Round Tables**

Roberto Riveros Keller, Deputy Director of Planning – Directorate of Planning, Ministry of Public Works, Chile

**Next steps, next meeting of the GTE, and inclusion in the agenda of the next Meeting of National Coordinators of proposals aimed at fulfilling objectives 3 and 4 of the Guidelines for the Design of a Work as approved in 2015: “Implement a border observatory within COSIPLAN and Propose cooperation and financing mechanisms”**

Atilio Alimena, National Director of International Territorial Integration Planning, Argentina, and Marcela Ruth Espinoza Nissim, Head of the Department of Legal Enforcement - National Directorate of Borders and Limits, Chile