
XVI Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee

Report

December 6, 2017

San Martín Palace

Ceremonial Venue for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic

Arenales 761

Buenos Aires, Argentina

On December 6, 2017, the city of Buenos Aires hosted the XVI Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the South American Planning and Infrastructure Council (COSIPLAN) of the Union of South American Nations.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Fernando Álvarez de Celis, Under-Secretary of Territorial Planning of Public Investment, Argentina's Ministry of the Interior, Public Works and Housing, on behalf of the Presidency Pro Tempore, and was attended by delegations from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as by representatives of civil society organizations, the UNASUR General Secretariat, and COSIPLAN-IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached as **Annexes 1 and 2**, respectively.

COSIPLAN Activity Report 2017

The Argentine COSIPLAN National Coordinator welcomed the delegations and presented the COSIPLAN Activity Report 2017. Next, he opened the sessions of each Working Group.

Working Group on Rail Integration

The Uruguayan delegation presented the current status of and challenges to cargo rail transport and logistics in the South American Region, as well as the study "Input for Drafting a Strategy to Facilitate South American Rail Integration."

Emphasis was placed on the need to have uniform or at least compatible technical standards concerning rolling stock, loading gauges, couplings and brakes; define corridors to be implemented using complementation, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability criteria; assign investment priorities to the sections already in place or to be implemented in each country; solve the issue of having to transfer cargo due to different track gauges; and design and apply regulatory schemes that facilitate operations at the borders and transload terminals.

The presentation is attached as **Annex 3**.

Working Group on the Geographic Information System (GIS)

The Argentine National Coordination presented the progress made so far and the status of the GIS, which seeks to provide the COSIPLAN countries with a tool enabling the geospatial analysis for territorial planning and decision making purposes.

Next, it delivered a presentation based on the [COSIPLAN GIS Portal](#) to show the “Map Viewer” tool and the information layers entered in the system by each country. In addition, the delegation referred to the consolidation of the Geographic Information System into a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), which is an integrated information system for a set of resources (data, metadata, servers, programs) aimed at managing the geographic information (maps and images) collected through the Internet, thus achieving greater efficiency in the processing of the geographic information.

New layers are expected to be incorporated in 2018, including those concerning each Council of UNASUR. To this end, the need to instruct a representative of each Council to coordinate the procedures was considered.

The presentation is attached as **Annex 4**.

Working Group on Telecommunications

The Argentine delegation proposed that the study on regional optical connectivity, which is still pending, should focus on the feasibility that the countries of the region analyze in a joint manner an Augmentation of a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS Augmentation System), which will enable sub-metric accuracy of positioning that is compatible with the needs of a digital economy (intelligent mobility, census-taking, remote monitoring, intelligent cities and environmental management).

In this regard, the need to take advantage of these spatial platforms to integrate into its useful data elements related to hydrometeorological data census focused on the region was mentioned.

The Argentine delegation also stressed the need to gather together all the integration projects concerned with ICT issues that are being developed in the different regional forums (MERCOSUR, UNASUR, Andean Pact, bilateral and multilateral agreements) in order to combine efforts and make progress towards shared objectives.

In this regard, the Paraguayan delegation, which coordinates the WG on Telecommunications, accepted the proposal and raised the need to start the process of defining the Terms of Reference so as to be able to conduct the planned study with CAF financing.

The presentation is attached as **Annex 5**.

Working Group on Financing Mechanisms and Guarantees

The Brazilian delegation reiterated the proposal set forth at the XV Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee on April 20 in Buenos Aires, concerning the conditions

that the projects should fulfill to be submitted to multilateral lending institutions and private banks for their financing.

Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022

The Argentine delegation presented the Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022 adjusted as of 2017, which contains the common objectives and actions intended to improve the integration of the South American region (2017-2022), and is the result of the representations' joint work throughout 2017 with the assistance of the CCT Secretariat.

Work Plan 2018

Next, the Argentine and Bolivian delegations presented the proposed COSIPLAN Work Plan and Calendar of Activities 2018. After discussing the Work Plan and each of the activities, the delegations reached an agreement concerning both documents, which are attached **Annexes 6 and 7**.

List of Annexes

Annex 1: [Agenda of the XVI Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee](#)

Annex 2: [List of Participants in the XVI Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee](#)

Annex 3: [Working Group on Rail Integration – Uruguay's National Coordination](#)

Annex 4: [Working Group on the Geographic Information System \(GIS\) – Argentina's National Coordination](#)

Annex 5: [Working Group on Telecommunications – Paraguay's National Coordination](#)

Annex 6: [COSIPLAN Work Plan 2018](#)

Annex 7: [COSIPLAN Calendar of Activities 2018](#)