



**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE TECHNICAL GROUP ON
TRADE INTEGRATION THROUGH POSTAL SERVICES**

Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal

Montevideo • Uruguay

August 11 and 12, 2016

FINAL REPORT

On August 11 and 12, 2016, the city of Montevideo, Uruguay, hosted the Meeting of the Executive Technical Group on Trade Integration through Postal Services, which was attended by delegations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela, from the UNASUR General Secretariat, and from the COSIPLAN-IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee. The meeting was also attended by representatives of Mexico, Panama, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), and the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (UPAEP). The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

The objective of the meeting was that the different South American delegations share knowledge and experience concerning trade facilitation processes and work on the main progress made by the Trade Integration through Postal Services project in each country and at the regional level, capitalizing on the collective effort and planning the actions to be implemented in the short and medium terms.

To this end, the meeting was divided into two days.

On the first day, the opening session was in charge of Mr. Pablo Genta, National Director of Planning and Logistics under the Ministry of Transport and Public Works of Uruguay, and of Roberto Cavanna, Secretary-General of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (UPAEP). Next, the meeting objectives and expected results were presented (Annex 5).

Participants in Panel 1 included experts from UPU, the WCO, ALADI, and the IDB, who discussed global trends for the integration of MSMEs into international trade as well as trade facilitation through postal logistics using technological tools such as the IDB ConnectAmericas portal (Annexes 6, 7 and 8).

Panel 2 presented the progress made over the last year by Ecuador, Paraguay, and Chile in Exporta Fácil. Ecuador presented the results of the monitoring visit that took place in November 2015, with an emphasis on the advances, challenges and prospects for Exporta Fácil in the country (Annex 9).

Paraguay outlined the Exporta Fácil development process, which began in 2015 with the pre-diagnostic visit and document. This activity was supported by a team of officials from the countries that already have the service in place through an IDB Regional Technical Cooperation executed by INTAL. The implementation visit took place in June 2016 with the purpose of providing support to Paraguay in the design of the Work Plans for the implementation of Exporta Fácil. The different government agencies that make up the inter-institutional committee of the project have established November 2016 as the provisional date for the start of exports by MSMEs (Annex 10).

ProChile presented the developments made within the framework of the Pacific Alliance, with the purpose of assessing the integration and harmonization of the Exporta Fácil model between the countries of the Alliance to facilitate formalities and processes, reduce international shipping costs, and increase intra-Alliance trade (Annex 11).

During Panel 3, UPAEP presented a project to facilitate international trade for its member countries' MSMEs. Over its four-year life, the project will support the improvement of Exporta Fácil and Importa Fácil in the countries that already have the services in place and their implementation in those countries that wish to have them. To this end, training, promotion and dissemination tools will be used (Annex 12). Next, comments were made on UPU's technological tools to facilitate trade in the region (Annex 13).

In closing the first day, the countries analyzed the Work Plan 2016 through a practical exercise that helped identify the obstacles to the implementation of the activities planned.

On the second day, Ecuador's Ministry of Trade launched the new "Exporta País Program," aimed at providing individualized training and technical assistance to Ecuadorian companies, particularly MSMEs, as well as to the organizations of the "Popular and Solidarity Economy" (Annex 14). Subsequently, information on the UPAEP-UNASUR Cooperation Agreement was provided, and the September 15 deadline for submitting comments on the agreement was decided by consensus (Annex 15).

The day continued with Panel 4, which focused on the progress of the regional topics provided for in the Work Plan 2016: a) Brazil-Peru Exporta Fácil and Importa Fácil Connectivity Project (Annex 16); b) incorporation of Exporta Fácil into the IDB ConnectAmericas portal (Annex 17); c) correlations between the GTE actions and UPU and UPAEP projects and activities (Annex 18); d) priority treatment of Exporta Fácil items at destination (Annex 19); and e) Exporta Fácil indicators and collection and support mechanisms.

Panel 5 showed the structure and operation of the Permanent Postal Service-Customs Contact Committee from the perspective of the Brazilian experience (Annex 20), and then continued with the progress made in the formal establishment of the Postal Services-Customs Contact Committees and of the Inter-Institutional Working Committees of the project in each country having Exporta Fácil in place (Annex 21).

With the aim of strengthening their commitment to the actions included in the Work Plan 2017, the delegations decided to sign the “Montevideo Pact.” This agreement provides that the COSIPLAN National Coordinations and the high authorities of each institutions involved in the system are to be kept informed of the progress and needs of this GTE, as well as that the efforts necessary to implement the activities defined will be made (Annex 3).

Finally, the Work Plan 2017 was agreed upon, which includes actions focused on four main axes: Exporta-Importa Fácil, connectivity pilot project, dissemination, coordination with UPU-UPAEP, as well as actions to monitor the Work Plan. In order to carry out the activities, the countries responsible for developing a schedule and coordinating each action were identified. The deadline for submitting the work plans to the CCT Secretariat is September 30 (Annex 4).

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