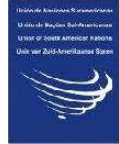


**Union of South American Nations – UNASUR
South American Council on Infrastructure and Planning –
COSIPLAN**



2011 Activity Report: Steering Committee

Brasília, 30 November 2011



2011 Activity Report of the COSIPLAN Steering Committee

In 2011, during the Brazilian *Pro Tempore* Presidency (PTP) of COSIPLAN, there were the first three meetings of its Steering Committee. The Committee was responsible for organising the tasks of COSIPLAN, as well as preparing the working documents of the Council.

First Meeting of the Steering Committee: Rio de Janeiro, 28 April 2011

In the First Meeting of the Steering Committee, on 28 April, there were delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela, besides the Secretary-General of UNASUR, and representatives of CAF, FONPLATA and the IADB. On that occasion, the Brazilian PTP presented a proposal of basic structure for the Strategic Action Plan (PAE), for the period 2012-2022, based on the foundations, principles and general and specific aims that guided the preparation of the UNASUR Constitutive Treaty and COSIPLAN Statute and Regulation. The delegations made comments and observations regarding the proposal.

Second Meeting of the Steering Committee: Rio de Janeiro, 31 August 2011

In the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee, on 31 August, there were delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela, besides representatives of the UNASUR Secretariat, and observers from CAF, the IADB, and the Consulate-General of Bolivia in Rio de Janeiro.

On that occasion, the Brazilian Ministry of Communications presented a proposal for the project of South American optical fibre network interconnection. The aim of the proposal is to increase the availability of broadband access to Internet in the region, considering its positive impact on economic growth and on the social advancement of communities. The project provides for the combination of the trunked networks of the countries into a large continental optical ring. There was also a subproposal related to the utilisation of road networks and transmission lines for the implementation of communication infrastructure. The delegations welcomed the initiative and expressed their interest in analysing the proposal. The representative of the UNASUR Secretariat reinforced the importance of discussing this kind of development in the context of COSIPLAN, and reiterated the support of that body to the efforts for promoting regional physical integration.

In this Second Meeting, participants analysed the preliminary version of the Portfolio of Priority Projects for Integration (PPI), which consists of 31 projects selected according to criteria agreed by the countries. Participants also discussed the proposal for incorporating into COSIPLAN the Working Group (WG) on the Argentina–Brazil–Chile–Paraguay Bioceanic Rail Integration. Such proposal aims to bring together, in the same body, the work fronts for infrastructure integration in South America. The delegations of Argentina, Chile and Paraguay expressed their opinion in

favour of the Brazilian proposal. The PTP committed itself to sending round a ‘non-paper’ about this issue, which it did in mid-September.

Third Meeting of the Steering Committee: Brasília, 29 November 2011

The Third Meeting of the Steering Committee took place on 29 November, in Brasília. This meeting approved the documents to be submitted to the Second Ministerial Meeting of COSIPLAN: 2011 Steering Committee and IIRSA Activity Reports; the Strategic Action Plan (PAE) 2012-2022; the Priority Integration Projects Agenda (API); the proposals for the creation of a WG on South American Rail Integration, and a WG on Financing Mechanisms and Guarantees.

In view of the proceedings of the Meeting of Communication Ministers of South America, which took place on 29 November, the following proposals were incorporated into the documents above: i) alteration of PAE 2012-2022, to include subaction ‘6.2.5 – Integration of South American telecommunication networks’ in action ‘6.2 – Develop sector processes’; ii) proposal of creation of the WG on Telecommunications in South America; iii) alteration of the 2012 Work Plan, to include the first activities of this WG.