Meeting of the Executive Technical Groups on the Integration and Development Hubs to Update the COSIPLAN Project Portfolio and the Integration Priority Project Agenda (API)

April 22-24, 2014
Embassy Suites Hotel
Bogotá, Colombia

REPORT OF THE PLENARY SESSION

On April 22, 23 and 24, 2014, the city of Bogotá, Colombia, hosted the Meeting of the Executive Technical Groups on the Integration and Development Hubs to Update the COSIPLAN Project Portfolio and the Integration Priority Project Agenda (API), which was attended by delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Uruguay as well as by members of the UNASUR General Secretariat and of IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

The opening of the meeting was in charge of the Undersecretary of Public Works of Chile, Mr. Sergio Galilea Ocón. The Undersecretary indicated the importance of this technical meeting intended to reinforce and update the Project Portfolio, which currently involves US$157.73 billion and 583 projects. Mr. Galilea transmitted the political will of Chilean President Ms. Michelle Bachelet, who has recently taken office, in contributing significantly to the regional integration agenda both with professional and technical resources and by resorting to mechanisms of public and private investment through public-private partnerships. Next, the Undersecretary mentioned that there were four key areas to consider when analyzing projects. Firstly, identifying the various progress stages in the project life cycle, such as profiling, engineering studies, environmental feasibility studies, and financial schemes of the projects underway. Secondly, strengthening coordination between the countries to agree on projects, procedures and regulations to turn borders into integration opportunities. Thirdly, exploring private financial mechanisms, in line with the Chilean intention to create a larger investment climate that should re-attach importance to the concession system. Lastly, including in the analysis any domestic action related to the secondary roads that articulate with the Integration and Development Hubs for proximity reasons, on account of their potential contribution to the comprehensive development of the territory.

Then, the Director for Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy of Colombia, Mr. Dimitri Zaninovich, welcomed the participants and informed that Colombia was determined to renew its active participation in the COSIPLAN process, with an emphasis on the agenda for peace as a vehicle to attain regional integration.

Afterwards, the representative of the UNASUR General Secretariat, Mr. Humberto Molina, made reference to the political context in which the meeting was being held and recognized the importance of infrastructure as a building block in the South American strategic vision as expressed by the presidents in the Declaration of Paramaribo (paragraph 24). He informed that the next Presidential Summit would be held in the city of Montevideo in August 2014, during which Uruguay would assume the UNASUR Presidency Pro Tempore. Mr. Molina underlined that such meeting would be an excellent opportunity to show the results attained within COSIPLAN.

The CCT presented the objectives and expected results of the meeting, organized in the following topics, which were dealt with throughout the meeting: a) Descriptors by Sector, Subsector and Type of Work; b) Results Indicators; c) API Progress Indicators; d) Project Information System (PIS); and e) Use of the CMS for the Project Portfolio. The related presentations are attached as Annexes 3 to 7.

The agreements reached in each field are listed below.

Descriptors by Sector, Subsector and Type of Work

The countries attached importance to the incorporation of specific descriptors with a view to improving project data quality and standardization. Through descriptors, it will be possible to report in an aggregate manner any relevant technical feature and produce project indicators by country, Project Group or Integration and Development Hub.

The delegates of the countries agreed to analyze the descriptors proposed by the CCT at the meeting, and to send their comments not later than May 15, with an explicit reference to whether descriptors are deemed "primary" or "secondary." Improving project descriptions will help identify more clearly the goals of each individual project as well as gather aggregate information about the results achieved by country and by sector, which will be presented in the API and COSIPLAN annual reports. The proposal on descriptors is attached as Annex 8.

The CCT Secretariat will make the necessary IT adjustments in the Project Information System by June 30, 2014, in order to facilitate revision by the countries.

The schedule agreed by the delegates of the countries to enter the information revised is the following:

- 2014: API and Anchor Projects at the Pre-execution and Execution Stages (August 18)
- 2015: COSIPLAN Portfolio Projects at the Execution Stage
- 2016: COSIPLAN Portfolio Projects at the Pre-execution Stage

Results Indicators

The countries' representatives welcomed and approved the proposal to incorporate specific fields for projects already completed. Such information fields will be grouped according to internationally accepted project management dimensions: scope, cost and financing, and time frame. With this information, it will be possible to measure the attainment of project objectives and to communicate the achievements made in their implementation as well as the advances in terms of the South American integration agenda.

The CCT Secretariat will be in charge of the IT implementation in the Project Information System by June 30, 2014. The schedule for countries to enter the information is the following:

- 2014: API and Anchor Projects (August 18)
- 2015: Rest of the Portfolio

API Progress Indicators

The delegates of the countries welcomed the presentation on the various executive reports on the progress in API project implementation that can be produced from the reports and indicators generated by the PIS and the CMS. The delegates proposed incorporating into the project files information about budget allocations, communicating the priority received by the project in the annual budget, with a view to measuring API progress.

Access to the information included in the CMS is limited, only available to National Coordinators and officials authorized by them. In this regard, the delegations were presented with the possibility of making the information public, by identifying the reports that may inform the general public about the API advances and results.

Project Information System (PIS)

The countries approved the introduction of functional improvements to the Project Information System as proposed by the CCT. The PIS is a key tool for COSIPLAN to support its mission of implementing the integration of the regional infrastructure of the UNASUR member countries. The CCT Secretariat is expected to implement these IT improvements by June 30, 2014.

Use of the CMS for the Project Portfolio

The countries approved the proposal to gradually apply the CMS to the Portfolio projects that do not form part of API. The CMS enables the recording of API project progress from a regional perspective and the generation of timely and reliable information for relevant government authorities to make decisions. The schedule for countries to enter the life cycle of the Portfolio projects is as follows:

- 2014: Anchor Projects (August 18)
- 2015: Projects at the Execution Stage
- 2016: Projects at the Pre-execution Stage

Consolidated Schedule for the Countries to Enter the Information in the PIS

	2014			2015			2016		
	Type of Project	Stage/s	Estimated Number	Type of Project	Stage/s	Estimated Number	Type of Project	Stage/s	Estimated Number
DESCRIPTORS BY SECTOR, SUBSECTOR AND TYPE OF WORKS	API and Anchor	Pre-execution/ Execution	**93**	Portfolio	Execution	**132**	Portfolio	Pre-execution	**101**
RESULTS INDICATORS	API and Anchor	Completed	**17**	Portfolio	Completed	**81**			
USE OF THE CMS FOR THE PROJECT PORTFOLIO	Anchor	All	**35**	Portfolio	Execution	**132**	Portfolio	Pre-execution	**103**

<u>Reports on the COSIPLAN and API Portfolio 2014</u>

The deadline to collect the information from PIS in order to draft the reports is August 18. Until then, the countries have committed themselves to updating the information in the project files concerned.

After the methodology of the sessions by Hub was explained, the delegates started working on each Hub simultaneously. The notes of each of these sessions were produced separately.

List of Annexes

Annex 1:   Meeting Agenda

Annex 2:   List of Participating Delegations

Annex 3:   Presentation on Descriptors by Sector, Subsector and Type of Work

Annex 4:   Presentation on Results Indicators of Completed Projects

Annex 5:   Presentation on API Progress Indicators

Annex 6:   Presentation on the Project Information System (PIS)

Annex 7:   Presentation on the Use of the CMS for the Project Portfolio

Annex 8:   Proposed Descriptors by Sector, Subsector and Type of Work