
DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING COUNCIL

The Ministers of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN) of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), assembled in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, on December 7, 2017, at their VII Ordinary Meeting, have adopted the following declaration:

Convinced that, in order to attain the development of society as a whole with equity, higher levels of inclusion and the complete eradication of poverty, it is necessary to have more and better infrastructure for integration purposes to strengthen the competitiveness and complementarity of the region for a greater international integration;

Recognizing the need to maintain a high commitment to the implementation of integration projects, taking into account essential factors when planning them, such as the stability and continuity of state policies for the development of long-term programs, the complex international economic conditions and their uncertain outlook, and the consequences of climate change that alter the environment and bring about unforeseen emergency and reconstruction situations;

Understanding that the development of South America takes place in a context of peace, and renewing our commitment to economic, social and cultural integration in harmony with the environment;

THE COSIPLAN MINISTERS:

- 1. Approve the COSIPLAN Activity Report and the documents and outputs produced as a result of this year's work:** (i) Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022 adjusted as of 2017; (ii) COSIPLAN Project Portfolio Report 2017; (iii) Integration Priority Project Agenda (API) Progress Report 2017; (iv) Input for Drafting a Strategy to Facilitate South American Rail Integration; (v) Progress Report on the Agua Negra Binational Tunnel Integration Territorial Program (PTI) Implementation Plan; (vi) COSIPLAN GIS-SDI – Spatial Data Infrastructure; (vii) “South American Border Crossings” Digital Platform; (viii) Agua Negra Binational Tunnel PTI Management System; (ix) COSIPLAN Project Information System (SIP) Tutorial; (x) Video on the Integration and Development Hubs Website.

2. **Approve the adjustments made to the Strategic Action Plan (PAE)** as a result of the five-year review conducted with the participation of the TWELVE (12) Member States and coordinated by the Argentine Republic. This task responded to the mandate that the Council conferred to itself at the time the Plan was created.
3. **Approve the new arrangement of the Integration Priority Project Agenda (API)** resulting from the five-year review conducted with the participation of the TWELVE (12) Member States and coordinated by the Argentine Republic. This task responded to the mandate that the Council conferred to itself in the PAE 2012-2022. API is made up of TWO (2) sets of projects: (i) API 2022, which includes FOURTEEN (14) structured projects comprising FORTY-TWO (42) individual projects for an investment estimated at US\$11.087860702 billion to be completed by 2022; and (ii) API 2027, which includes TWELVE (12) structured projects comprising THIRTY-FIVE (35) individual projects for an investment estimated at US\$12.009179608 billion to be completed by 2027. The COSIPLAN Ministers urge that the mechanisms to monitor and disseminate the progress of the priority projects be implemented.
4. **Highlight the bringing of the COSIPLAN GIS-SDI Spatial Data Infrastructure online** under the coordination of the Argentine Republic, and define the management and dissemination of the SDI as a permanent activity of the Working Group on the Geographic Information System (GIS), including the update of data, the incorporation of new information layers in coordination with other UNASUR Councils and bodies, and the strengthening of the tool.
5. **Value the study “Input for Drafting a Strategy to Facilitate South American Rail Integration,”** coordinated by the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, with the participation of technical officials from all the countries of the region, and provide that it should be disseminated and its results analyzed within the framework of the Working Group in order to define the next steps in this regard.
6. **Underscore the bringing of the “South American Border Crossings” digital platform online** under the coordination of the Argentine Republic and of the Republic of Chile; determine that the information in the public module of the platform should be kept permanently up to date by each country’s relevant national and subnational officials; and decide that a module containing detailed information on the border territories be developed and implemented next year in order to improve the planning of investments in such territories.
7. **Highlight the implementation of the Freight Logistics Expert Network and the fourth edition of the course on Freight Transport and Logistics** under the coordination of the Republic of Peru with the support of the Technical Coordination Committee (made up of the IDB, CAF and FONPLATA); commission the Expert Network to define regional public policies that contribute to enhancing South American competitiveness through the reduction of logistics costs; provide that additional editions of the course be organized in 2018, promoting the participation of officials from government areas concerned with logistics, trade and production; and decide that the coordination of these activities be shared by the Republic of Colombia and the Republic of Peru.

8. **Underline the commitment to information transparency and society participation by communicating and disseminating the COSIPLAN work via its digital platforms;** and urge the national teams to use these technological tools to disseminate the actions and results of the regional integration process within each country.
9. **Stress the importance of broadening the perspective of the regional physical integration approach taking into account:** i) the positive impacts of the integration process on the local and regional economies, seeking to identify the links of the projects and potential value production chains; ii) the identification of the main regulatory obstacles as well as the evaluation of adopting specific institutional mechanisms for the financing of projects; and iii) the adoption of financing mechanisms that contribute to a greater participation of private capitals in the integration initiatives, sharing the risks and the operation of the projects.
10. **Renew the mandate for the Working Group on Telecommunications, coordinated by the Republic of Paraguay with the support of the UNASUR countries,** to continue making progress in the redefinition of the objectives of and terms of reference for a design study for the South American telecommunications connectivity network.
11. **Agree on the COSIPLAN Work Plan 2018** as an instrument to guide the activities that the Presidency Pro Tempore Argentina 2017-2018 and Bolivia 2018-2019 may promote.
12. **Acknowledge and congratulate the work of the Argentine Republic as the COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore** during the period between April 2017 and December 2017, to which they extend their gratitude in the person of the Minister of the Interior, Public Works and Housing, Mr. Rogelio Frigerio, and his team of collaborators.
13. **Underline the work done by the countries that coordinate the Working Groups and the Executive Technical Groups** to ensure the development of the activities scheduled for 2017 in compliance with the PAE objectives.

Signed in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, on December 7, 2017.

Argentine Republic

Plurinational State of Bolivia

Federal Republic of Brazil

Republic of Chile

Republic of Colombia

Republic of Ecuador

Cooperative Republic of Guyana

Republic of Paraguay

Republic of Peru

Republic of Suriname

Eastern Republic of Uruguay

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

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