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## **SPECIAL 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 special declaration to stress the importance of the following initiatives that fall within the regional physical integration process.

1. **The Argentine Republic and the Plurinational State of Bolivia agree to design an Integration Territorial Program along their borders and border crossings in the provinces of Jujuy and Salta (Argentina) and the departments of Potosí and Tarija (Bolivia), with the purpose of improving the social and economic conditions of the population living in the area of influence of these borders by promoting their trade and integration in a sustainable manner.** To this end, within the framework of the COSIPLAN Technical Forum, the decision to conduct a strategic study for a development plan aimed at the integration of the border territories and infrastructure is made. For this, the support of the IDB has been requested to conduct a study considering La Quiaca-Villazón, Salvador Mazza-Yacuiba, and Aguas Blancas-Bermejo border crossings as pilot cases.
2. **The Argentine Republic and the Plurinational State of Bolivia agree to take actions to reestablish rail connection in the Salvador Mazza-Yacuiba border area for the movement of cargo.** This initiative relies on the investments in infrastructure, rolling stock and operating systems that both countries are making for their meter-gauge rail network.
3. **The Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile renew its commitment to optimizing operations at the Cristo Redentor System Border Crossing, the main connection of both countries and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, the Republic of Paraguay, and the Federal Republic of Brazil, the last three countries —together with the Argentine Republic— being members of MERCOSUR.** In this context, they agree to work jointly on the review of any recommendations that may arise from the binational studies financed with IDB non-reimbursable technical cooperation resources in connection with the realignment of the Cristo Redentor and Caracoles tunnels and the upgrade of the Binational Management Control System at the Cristo Redentor System Border Crossing.
4. **The Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile undertake to support the execution of the projects defined in the PTI Implementation Plan as being complementary to the Agua Negra Binational Tunnel.** These initiatives are recorded in the PTI Management System, which allows continuous information update and progress monitoring.

5. **The Argentine Republic undertakes to begin the studies needed to implement the new Border Center at Argentina-Chile Agua Negra border crossing in the course of next year.** This project is the result of the prioritization work of the Agua Negra Binational Tunnel complementary actions done within the framework of both countries' PTI.
6. **The Republic of Chile undertakes to start the "Construction of the road interconnection from Vicuña (Route 41-CH) to the coastal edge of the Elqui province" pre-feasibility study.** This project is the result of the prioritization work of the Agua Negra Binational Tunnel complementary actions done within the framework of both countries' PTI.
7. **The Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile decide to begin the design of an Integration Territorial Program for the area comprised by the Argentine provinces of Jujuy and Salta and Chile's Antofagasta Region.** The purpose is to enhance the understanding of the dynamics crossing this territory and of the potential for production integration, logistics services and trade with a view to improving the competitiveness of this area. This initiative recognizes both countries' achievements in the implementation of the actions defined in the Agua Negra Binational Tunnel PTI.
8. **The Argentine Republic and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay agree to conduct a strategic analysis of the economic, social and environmental situation of the Concordia-Salto border area.** This work will enable the prioritization of integration projects with a focus on production, tourism development and the facilitation of the movement of goods and people in order to improve the quality of life of those who inhabit the region. These projects include the rehabilitation of the Concordia airport for the movement of cargo and passengers, the optimization of the border crossing on the international bridge, the modernization of the Salto Grande Dam, and the rehabilitation of the Piedra Sola-Salto Grade railway section.
9. **The Federal Republic of Brazil and the Republic of Paraguay agree to move forward in the preparation and implementation of the bridge over the Paraguay river between Porto Murtinho and Capitán Carmelo Peralta,** and highlight this infrastructure as a key element to complete the connection envisaged by the integration road corridor between Porto Murtinho and Antofagasta. In this regard, both countries have engaged in the formalities involved in requesting the support of the IDB to finance the technical, economic, social and environmental feasibility studies for the Carmelo Peralta-Porto Murtinho Bridge, which are expected to be conducted during 2018.
10. **The Federal Republic of Brazil and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay agree to further the negotiations for the execution of the bridge over the Yaguarón river between Jaguarão and Río Branco.** To this end, both countries are working domestically and with the international agencies on the search of financing and technical support alternatives to implement the project.
11. **The Federal Republic of Brazil, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Paraguay and the Republic of Peru confirm their commitment to consolidating the Integration Bioceanic Rail Corridor in the COSIPLAN Integration Priority Project Agenda.** To this end, they ratify the support to the work being carried out by the Bioceanic Operational Group within its four Working Groups in

the areas of Regulatory Framework, Financial Framework, Technical Specifications and Strategy, which are analyzing the different variables and challenges to be faced in order to reaffirm this project as an important alternative for an integrating freight and passenger transport system in South America. To attain this objective, Bolivia has been engaged in the formalities required to conduct the necessary studies to complement the Eastern and Andean portions of its rail network. In this context, the Republic of Paraguay is carrying out an IDB-financed regional connectivity strategic study to assess the feasibility of the different logistics alternatives in its territory, including the possibility of becoming connected to the rail corridor through the Roboré-Carmelo Peralta branch line.

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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