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## Special Meeting on API Review

### Final Report

*April 18-19, 2017*

*INTAL Auditorium*

*Esmeralda 130, Piso 11*

*Buenos Aires, Argentina*

On April 18 and 19, 2017, the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, hosted the Special Meeting on the Review of the Integration Priority Project Agenda (API), which was attended by delegations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, as well as by representatives of civil society organizations, the UNASUR General Secretariat, and COSIPLAN-IIRSA's Technical Coordination Committee. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

The opening session was in charge of Mr. Atilio Alimena, National Director of International Territorial Integration Planning under the Ministry of the Interior, Public Works and Housing of Argentina, holding the COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT), who welcomed all delegations and thanked the National Coordinations (CN) for their participation.

Mr. Alimena stated that the objective of API was to promote regional connectivity by building infrastructure networks for physical integration purposes, considering sustainable social and economic development criteria, and preserving the environment and the balance of ecosystems. At present, API includes 31 structured projects made up of 103 individual projects, amounting to an investment estimated at US\$20,149 million.

As provided for in the Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022, API should be reviewed every five years. It is basically necessary to analyze whether those projects not yet implemented after five years continue to have the same priority as when they were included, taking into account that the situation of the countries, the region and the world is different from that in 2011.

In Mr. Alimena's words, this exercise is highly relevant for the PPT held by Argentina as it involves planning and implementing South American priorities in terms of integration infrastructure with a look to the future. This exercise stands as a renewed commitment to a better connected and more competitive South America, with the firm objective of improving the social and economic development of our peoples.

Next, he mentioned the objectives of the meeting, namely: (i) present the API diagnosis and agree on the five-year review criteria; (ii) agree on the work methodology for the review; and (iii) present the current status and estimated completion term of the 31 structured projects.

### **API Diagnosis and Five-Year Review Criteria**

The diagnosis and criteria for the API review were proposed by the PPT held by Argentina with the support of the CCT Secretariat. During the meeting the proposal was validated by the delegations present.

The CCT Secretariat pointed out that in the last five years the region had undergone a great number of natural disasters, adverse global trade changes, and the restructuring of alliances with a view to strengthening the integration process, among other issues. All these factors had an impact on the regional governments' definition of their plans and priorities, one of such priorities being infrastructure investments —both national and those necessary to improve integration with their neighboring countries.

In this context, it was emphasized that it is absolutely necessary to validate, analyze and adjust these priorities to the current political and economic dynamics, with the purpose of planning and implementing the projects that are more efficient in the use of resources and bring the greatest benefits to the South American citizens.

Between January and April, the CCT Secretariat made a diagnosis as a first step in the review exercise, using various sources of information.<sup>1</sup> This information was first standardized and then introduced into a matrix to analyze the advance of the structured projects by taking into account the estimated completion terms of the individual projects included. After several communications exchanged with the National Coordinators to collect missing information or to validate some data, a complete and updated diagnosis of each API project was produced.

In aggregate terms, the diagnosis identified three groups of projects:

- First, a group made up of projects showing no difficulties, significant advances and scheduled to be completed before 2022.
- Second, a group including those projects that, though showing some degree of difficulty, are feasible and a priority, but may require that a longer term be established for their completion.
- Last, projects encountering many difficulties and no longer being a priority in the investment plans of the governments concerned, which are therefore very unlikely to be implemented, at least in the way they had been originally structured in API.

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<sup>1</sup> The Project Information System; API reports 2011 to 2016; communications with the National Coordinations; the API diagnosis made by the countries in 2015 on the difficulties for the implementation of each project; the final report by consultant Bernardo Figueiredo on API multinational projects; and information available on the Internet on the API projects with outdated information.

Based on this, the countries agreed to conduct the review proposed by the PPT held by Argentina, which consists in the following:

- Splitting up the API projects into two groups:
  - **API 2022:** projects to be decidedly completed by 2022.
  - **API 2027:** projects scheduled to be completed by 2027.
- Structured projects that cannot be grouped into either category will no longer be deemed a priority, but may be analyzed again in the next API review in 2022. The individual projects will remain included in the Portfolio unless the countries concerned decide otherwise. The API Report 2017 will describe the reasons why the implementation of these structured projects proves difficult.

The individual projects that are chosen to remain in the API 2022 or API 2027 group should comply with the following:

- They cannot be at the profiling stage.
- No project at the pre-execution stage will be allowed to remain at the same substage as the one at which it was at the time of its inclusion into API (2011).
- The studies for projects at the pre-execution stage cannot date back earlier than 2013.
- It is mandatory to complete the Continuous Monitoring System for every project.

Any new API project that the countries propose to add should comply with the four criteria defined by COSIPLAN during the creation of API in 2011:

- **CRITERION 1:** The projects should belong to the COSIPLAN Project Portfolio and be a priority in government action, and there should be a commitment to complete them.
- **CRITERION 2:** Feasibility studies should be available, or the country should have the funds allocated to start their execution.
- **CRITERION 3:** The projects should strengthen connectivity networks that are regional in scope, and involve cross-border synergies.
- **CRITERION 4:** There should exist an opportunity or a need for developing a program of complementary actions intended to promote efficient service provision and the sustainable development of the territory, according to the characteristics and modality of each specific project.

The presentation is attached as Annex 3.

## Presentation of the Final Report on API Multinational Projects

The consultant to the UNASUR General Secretariat, Mr. Bernardo Figueiredo, was in charge of presenting the Final Report on the consultancy “Support to the 8 API-COSIPLAN Multilateral Projects”, and he highlighted its main conclusions and recommendations drawn as a result of the work done. Such report was financially supported by CAF and was heartily welcomed by the delegates of the countries present at the meeting. Furthermore, the COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore held by Argentina, through the Argentine Under-Secretary of Public Investment Planning, Mr. Fernando Álvarez de Celis, expressed its recognition for the contribution of the recommendations contained in the Report, which will be useful for the API Review to be made in July 2017, in Montevideo.

The report and presentation are attached as Annexes 4 and 5 respectively.

## Current Status and Preliminary Classification of API Projects

### Amazon Hub

#### **API 1 - Paita - Tarapoto - Yurimaguas Road, Ports, Logistics Centers and Waterways**

Countries: Peru

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The Peruvian delegation informed that the road projects are making progress within schedule. The logistics centers, however, have not made any advances due to institutional issues. The Peruvian delegation proposed withdrawing the Iquitos, Paita and Yurimaguas logistics centers from the structured project, and adjusting its name accordingly.

#### **API 2 - Callao - La Oroya - Pucallpa Road, Ports, Logistics Centers and Waterways**

Countries: Peru

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The Peruvian delegation informed that the road projects are making progress within schedule. The logistics centers, however, have not made any advances due to institutional issues. The Peruvian delegation proposed withdrawing the Pucallpa logistics center from the structured project, and adjusting its name accordingly.

#### **API 3 - Northeastern Access to the Amazon River**

Countries: Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru

Preliminary Classification: **Not a priority**

The delegations concerned proposed maintaining the individual projects within the framework of the COSIPLAN Portfolio, as the structured project does not comply with the requirements to form part of API. The countries will define the Terms of Reference for the study to improve navigation conditions on the Putumayo river. A videoconference will be organized to discuss this topic.

## Andean Hub

### **API 4 - Caracas - Bogotá - Buenaventura / Quito Road Corridor**

Countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The Colombian delegation informed that these projects involve long roads that cut across geographically complex territories. Despite the difficulties, progress is being made according to schedule.

### **API 5 - Colombia - Ecuador Border Interconnection**

Countries: Colombia, Ecuador

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The Colombian delegation informed that the project is making headway without any difficulties. The countries are working on methodology and institutional coordination issues to enhance the existing infrastructure designed to control the movement of people.

### **API 6 - Colombia - Venezuela Border Crossings Connectivity System**

Countries: Colombia, Venezuela

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The Colombian delegation informed that these projects are located in a territory affected by diplomatic issues, the negotiations of which are being handled by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries. However, the Tienditas bridge is expected to be handed over soon. Colombia also confirmed its political interest in the project, although the resources for its execution are scarce.

Given the lack of information on the projects in which Venezuela is involved and the absence of its National Coordinator from the meeting, the UNASUR General Secretariat undertook to contact the Venezuelan coordinator to ask for the update.

### **API 7 - Desaguadero Binational Border Service Center (CEBAF)**

Countries: Bolivia, Peru

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The Peruvian and Bolivian delegations informed that the works will be completed in the course of this year.

### **API 8 - Autopista del Sol Expressway: Improvement and Rehabilitation of Sullana - Aguas Verdes Section (Including Tumbes Bypass)**

Countries: Peru

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The Peruvian delegation informed that the area has been seriously affected by natural disasters. The original schedules are being revised. However, the projects are deemed a priority by the Peruvian government now in office and are scheduled to be completed before 2022.

### Capricorn Hub

#### **API 9 - Construction of the Salvador Mazza - Yacuiba Binational Bridge and Border Center**

Countries: Argentina, Bolivia

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The delegations of Argentina and Bolivia committed themselves to collecting and sharing the information available on the work done as input for the talks to be held during the videoconference on the hub.

#### **API 10 - Argentina - Bolivia West Connection**

Countries: Argentina, Bolivia

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The delegations of Argentina and Bolivia committed themselves to collecting and sharing the information available on the work done as input for the talks to be held during the videoconference on the hub.

#### **API 11 - Paranaguá - Antofagasta Bioceanic Railway Corridor**

Countries: Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Paraguay

Preliminary Classification: **Not a priority**

The delegations of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay informed that the investments required to make headway with this project are no longer a priority in their respective governments' plans.

The countries expressed their interest in dealing with this bioceanic connection within the framework of the relevant Working Group with the objective of identifying the issues to be solved, analyzing the possibility of conducting studies and designing a long-term project plan.

#### **API 12 - Foz do Iguazu - Ciudad del Este - Asunción - Clorinda Road Connection**

Countries: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The delegations of Argentina and Paraguay stated that the project is a priority and that there are studies already available to start the works. The structured project will be further reviewed during the videoconference on the hub to evaluate its schedule and financial mechanisms.

#### **API 13 - Itaipu - Asunción - Yacyreta 500 kV Transmission Line**

Countries: Brazil, Paraguay

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The Paraguayan delegation informed that the works will be completed soon, though the formal completion date has not been confirmed yet by the Yacyretá entity.

### Guianese Shield Hub

#### **API 14 – Rehabilitation of the Caracas - Manaos Road**

Countries: Brazil, Venezuela

Preliminary Classification: **Not a priority**

The Brazilian delegation informed that the Brazilian road section is under repair and the project will not be completed in the short run. There is no information about the Venezuelan road section. Works are expected to continue within the framework of the COSIPLAN Portfolio.

Given the lack of information on the projects in which Venezuela is involved and the absence of its National Coordinator from the meeting, the UNASUR General Secretariat undertook to contact the Venezuelan coordinator to ask for the update.

#### **API 15 - Boa Vista - Bonfim - Lethem - Linden - Georgetown Road**

Countries: Brazil, Guyana

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The delegations of Brazil and Guyana informed that this is a priority project for both countries. In the case of Guyana, because it connects the northern and the southern areas of the country and, in the case of Brazil, because it is deemed strategic to connect with the Caribbean.

#### **API 16 - Routes Interconnecting Venezuela (Ciudad Guayana) - Guyana (Georgetown) - Suriname (South Drain - Apura - Zanderij - Moengo - Albina), Including the Construction of the Bridge over the Corentyne River**

Countries: Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The delegation of Guyana proposed continuing with the review of the structured project and its individual projects during the videoconference on the hub to assess project configuration.

Given the lack of information on the projects in which Venezuela is involved and the absence of its National Coordinator from the meeting, the UNASUR General Secretariat undertook to contact the Venezuelan coordinator to ask for the update.

### Paraguay-Paraná Waterway Hub

#### **API 17 - Improvement of Navigation Conditions on the Rivers of the Plata Basin**

Countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The delegations present agreed to continue reviewing the structured project during the videoconference on the hub to assess the reconfiguration of its individual projects, define its

investment and maintenance works and adjust its name.

**API 18 - Paraguay - Argentina - Uruguay Railway Interconnection**

Countries: Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

Preliminary Classification: **Not a priority**

The delegations of Argentina and Paraguay informed that at present the projects are not a priority or are not feasible.

**API 19 - Rehabilitation of the Chamberlain - Fray Bentos Railway Branch Line**

Countries: Uruguay

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The delegation of Uruguay informed that the project is expected to be completed before 2022.

**API 20 - Nueva Palmira Beltway and Port Access Roads Network**

Countries: Uruguay

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The delegation of Uruguay informed that the project is expected to be completed before 2022.

[Central Interoceanic Hub](#)

**API 21 - Passenger and Cargo Hub Airport for South America (Viru Viru, Santa Cruz, International Hub Airport)**

Countries: Bolivia

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The Bolivian delegation informed that the project is a priority to connect the country with the region and the world. At present, a new tender is being drafted. Starting from the contract signature, the works are estimated to last 60 months.

**API 22 - Improvement of Road Connectivity in the Central Interoceanic Hub**

Countries: Bolivia, Brazil

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The Bolivian delegation informed that the Toledo-Pisiga road was completed in 2016, and that the La Paz-Santa Cruz road has several sections, some of which have been completed while others are underway. The entire corridor is scheduled to be completed by 2025.

The delegations of Bolivia and Brazil informed that they will make the necessary consultations regarding the Puerto Suárez-Corumbá Integrated Control Area and will resume their conversations on this project during the relevant videoconference by hub.



### **API 23 - Infante Rivarola - Cañada Oruro Border Crossing**

Countries: Bolivia, Paraguay

Preliminary Classification: **Not a priority**

The delegations of Bolivia and Paraguay informed that the construction of the border center is not a priority. Paraguay stated that the first phase of the border crossing has been completed and is already operating.

### **API 24 - Central Bioceanic Railway Corridor (Bolivian Section)**

Countries: Bolivia

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The Bolivian delegation informed that the corridor will be 1,894 km long, its cost is estimated at US\$7 billion, and the works are expected to last five years. Furthermore, it was stated that the headway is being made with German and Swiss parties interested in financing the project as well as with representatives from Brazil, Peru, Paraguay and Uruguay interested in participating in this connectivity.

During the videoconference, the configuration of the project and its alignment will be reviewed on the basis of recent multilateral meetings and the financial mechanisms being discussed.

### [MERCOSUR-Chile Hub](#)

### **API 25 - Northeastern Argentina Gas Pipeline**

Countries: Argentina, Bolivia

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The delegation of Argentina informed that the project is being executed and will be completed in the course of this year, not only the trunk section but also some secondary sections as well, with the purpose of providing gas to several locations for household use. This is the most important natural gas project in Argentina.

### **API 26 - Construction of the Jaguarão - Río Branco International Bridge**

Countries: Brazil, Uruguay

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The delegations of Brazil and Uruguay informed that the project is behind schedule but continues to be a priority for both countries.

### **API 27 - Multimodal Transportation in the Laguna Merín and Lagoa dos Patos System**

Countries: Brazil, Uruguay

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The delegations of Brazil and Uruguay will continue reviewing the structured project during the

videoconference on the hub.

#### **API 28 - Montevideo - Cacequi Railway Corridor**

Countries: Brazil, Uruguay

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The Uruguayan delegation informed that the works are scheduled to be completed before 2022.

#### **API 29 - Optimization of the Cristo Redentor Border Crossing System**

Countries: Argentina, Chile

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The delegations of Argentina and Chile informed that this is a very complex project involving the conversion of a railway tunnel into a road tunnel as well as the rehabilitation of a parallel tunnel. Both countries confirmed their high political interest in the project. There is an IDB technical cooperation available to provide financial support.

#### **API 30 - Agua Negra Binational Tunnel**

Countries: Argentina, Chile

Preliminary Classification: **API 2027**

The delegations of Argentina and Chile informed that the project has a high political priority and the work within the Integration Territorial Program is steadily making headway.

#### **Peru-Brazil-Bolivia Hub**

#### **API 31 - Porto Velho - Peruvian Coast Connection**

Countries: Brazil, Peru

Preliminary Classification: **API 2022**

The Brazilian delegation informed that the project is being executed and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2018.

#### **Next Steps**

The steps required to move forward with the API review were then described.

Between May and June, videoconferences by hub will be organized to update the COSIPLAN Portfolio projects. This year, the exercise will focus mainly on giving continuity to the dialogue on the API projects, defining their classification and adding new projects, if appropriate. The technical staff involved in API projects will actively participate in these meetings.

The second step relates to the next API review meeting, which will take place on July 11 in Montevideo, where the outcomes of the whole review exercise will be formally presented. The adjusted version of the Integration Priority Project Agenda will be submitted to the COSIPLAN Ministers for their approval at the meeting to be held in December in the city of Buenos Aires.

JANUARY-MARCH	APRIL (FACE-TO-FACE ACTIVITY)	MAY-JUNE (VIDEOCONFERENCES BY HUB)	JULY (FACE-TO-FACE ACTIVITY)	DECEMBER (COSIPLAN MINISTERS)
✓ Analysis and diagnosis of the projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Presentation of the proposal for review</li> <li>✓ Review of the 31 projects with the countries</li> <li>✓ Proposal to add new API projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Review of the projects by Hub and configuration of API 2022 and API 2027</li> <li>✓ Configuration and technical rationale for the new API projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Presentation of API after the meetings by Hub</li> <li>✓ Agreement on the configuration of API 2022 and API 2027</li> <li>✓ Content of the Buenos Aires Declaration of the Ministers on API Review 2017</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Approval of API 2022 and API 2027</li> </ul>

The calendar of videoconferences is presented below:

Integration and Development Hub	Date
Central Interoceanic and Peru-Brazil-Bolivia	May 16
MERCOSUR-Chile	May 23
Paraguay-Paraná Waterway	May 30
Capricorn and Southern	June 5
Andean	June 13
Guianese Shield	June 15
Amazon	June 22

### List of Annexes

Annex 1: [Agenda of the Special Meeting on API Review](#)

Annex 2: [List of delegations participating in the Special Meeting on API Review](#)

Annex 3: [Proposal for the API review](#)

Annex 4: [Report “Eight API-COSIPLAN Multilateral Projects”](#)

Annex 5: [Presentation of “Eight API-COSIPLAN Multilateral Projects”](#)