
XV Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee

Final Report

April 20, 2017

BID-INTAL Auditorium

Buenos Aires, Argentina

On April 20, 2017, the city of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, hosted the XV Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of COSIPLAN (South American Infrastructure and Planning Council), a Council of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), as provided for in the Calendar of Activities for 2017.

The meeting was presided over by the COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore held by Argentina, represented by the Minister of the Interior, Public Works and Housing, Mr. Rogelio Frigerio, accompanied by Mr. Fernando Álvarez de Celis, the Under Secretary of Territorial Planning of Public Investment, which reports to the Ministry of the Interior, Public Works and Housing. The meeting was attended by delegations from the Argentine Republic, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Federal Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Ecuador, and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, as well as by representatives of the UNASUR General Secretariat. The Republic of Paraguay, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay and the Republic of Peru participated through the Internet. The COSIPLAN-IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee (CCT) participated as an observer. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

Opening Session

The opening of the meeting was in charge of Argentina's Minister of the Interior, Public Works and Housing, Mr. Rogelio Frigerio, who thanked the delegates present for their participation.

Mr. Frigerio underscored the importance that the Argentine government attaches to public investment planning, as this is a necessary, though not sufficient, condition to promote development and strengthen the integration process. Furthermore, he described the complex situation that eleven Argentine provinces are undergoing as a consequence of severe floods. This reflects an increase in the number of natural disasters caused by climatic change, proving how important it is to plan infrastructure works that are resilient to the impacts of such events.

Mr. Frigerio emphasized Argentina’s strong commitment to giving priority to integration projects that truly contribute to connecting South America as well as the huge responsibility involved in disseminating the information on the works and rendering it transparent. He underlined the efforts made by multilateral agencies in supporting the COSIPLAN work and financing its projects, highlighting the need to attract the private sector by establishing clear rules of the game and transparent procedures to encourage its participation.

The delegations present congratulated Argentina for opening the year in its capacity as COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore, wished the Minister a successful tenure in office and ratified their commitment to the integration of South American infrastructure.

Report on the Working Groups’ Activities

I. WG on Rail Integration

The National Coordinator of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay emphasized the importance of railways and waterways in trade as these means of transportation are ideally suited to carry large volumes, more environmentally friendly and less costly.

Next, he presented the progress made in the consulting work on Rail Integration. The first stage was accomplished with the data contributed by the countries to complete a document on the most significant aspects, which led to the initial report approved in September 2016, thus giving way to the second stage of the process, which consists in making suggestions and completing the action plan.

The delegations agreed to move forward according to the following schedule:

Activity	Date
Delegates send comments on the report	May 19
The consultant inserts those comments into the report	May
Send the final report to the countries	June
Present the report at the WG meeting	July 13, Montevideo

II. WG on the Geographic Information System (GIS)

The Argentine National Coordination first presented an overview, and then the work carried out during 2016 as well as the activities scheduled for this year, emphasizing the improvement and update of existing information layers as well as the addition of new layers, and inviting the other UNASUR Councils to include theirs.

A proposal was made to consolidate the GIS in an SDI (Spatial Data Infrastructure), so that each member country becomes an SDI node and the central node consolidates at the General Secretariat. For this purpose, the countries were offered training and technical support.

Delegates agreed to add the link to each project file on the COSIPLAN website to the GIS viewer.

The UNASUR General Secretariat proposed to hold a GIS-specific meeting—in the form of a seminar or a workshop—, offering cooperation, support and coordination with the other councils, and that the GIS be presented at other councils’ meetings. The Brazilian delegation expressed its willingness to host the event in Brasilia.

Furthermore, mention was made of the fact that the Work Plan provides for a face-to-face GTE meeting on the GIS.

With the agreement of all the delegations present, it was decided to approve the presentation of the COSIPLAN GIS project 2 to formally submit it to the General Secretariat to proceed with the allocation of resources from the Common Initiatives Fund, CIF.

The delegations agreed to move forward according to the following schedule:

Activity	Date
Integrate GIS with the COSIPLAN SIP	May
Add new layers	August
Hold the GTE meeting	August 23, Buenos Aires
Consolidate the central node at the General Secretariat	September
Each country becomes an SDI node	November
Disseminate GIS activities on social networks	Ongoing
Organize workshops among countries to disseminate the GIS	Ongoing
Hold meetings with other Councils and add new layers	To be defined

III. WG on Telecommunications

The Paraguayan National Coordination, in charge of coordinating the WG on Telecommunications, reminded that the international tender put out for the design of a South American integration broadband network was declared void in 2016.

On November 22, 2016, the Coordination of the WG invited to a conference, in which the Argentine National Coordination presented a document to reflect on the reformulation of the Terms of Reference for the study based on the real needs in this field, and suggested conducting a study of the links and routes in the region as well as of the standardization of the currently

available data. This proposal was accepted by the countries, which now have to send their comments.

The Argentine National Coordination remarked that the countries have already been requested to send the information for such new proposal.

The UNASUR General Secretariat reported about the expiration of the CAF-UNASUR Non-Reimbursable Technical Cooperation Agreement on May 1, 2017. Once the new proposal is accepted by the countries, and after it is submitted to the COSIPLAN Ministries and the Council of Ministries of Foreign Affairs for its approval, a new request for technical cooperation will have to be submitted to CAF. To this end, the General Secretariat will support the Working Group with the draft regulatory documents that will be required.

The delegations agreed to move forward according to the following schedule:

Activity	Date
Deadline to receive the replies to the Argentine questionnaire	May 15
Deadline for Argentina to submit the proposed ToR	May 31
Period for the analysis of the proposed ToR and for countries to send comments and contributions	June 12
Sending back of the updated proposal by the Coordination of the WG on Telecommunications, including the consolidated contributions	June 23
Videoconference to approve the ToR and draft resolutions to submit to the COSIPLAN Ministers and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs through the COSIPLAN PPT	June 30

IV. WG on Financing Mechanisms and Guarantees

The Brazilian National Coordination proposed conditions to be complied with by the projects in order to be submitted to multilateral financial institutions and private banks to be financed.

- a) An updated technical feasibility study, a project implementation operational study, and a financial economic assessment.
- b) An environmental impact assessment and an environmental license.
- c) The type of financial structure.
- d) Project guarantees, including their quality.

e) Formal approval of the project, i.e. have the governmental authorities' support and comply with the conditions necessary to be presented to the Bank to raise its interest in financing it. The Bank will commit to the project if it is well-designed and developed, will examine its conditions and decide according to the country, market, economic context, etc.

All projects complying with these conditions can be considered within the Working Group with the purpose of promoting their financing.

The delegations agreed to move forward according to the following schedule:

Activity	Date
Comments on the criteria for defining the projects to be financed	May 19

Other Issues

The Brazilian National Coordination underlined the importance of production with social inclusion. The current trade preference scheme focusing on finished products along with the ongoing financial and logistics problems reflect the low level of intra-regional trade and, consequently, the absence of value chains. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the trade of supplies and intermediate goods taking into account production and delivery terms.

The UNASUR General Secretariat expressed that intra-regional trade in South America dropped from 18% to 16% and is mainly focused on manufactures, while regional trade is more accessible to SMEs.

Strategic Action Plan – PAE

The talks begun during the Special Meeting on PAE Review (April 19, Buenos Aires) were continued. The agreements reached are described in the report on such meeting.

COSIPLAN Calendar of Activities

The delegations shared the commitments assumed by each Working Group, listing the pending tasks and estimated terms to carry them out. The calendar of activities scheduled for this year was revised and updated according to the decisions made at the meeting.

The updated Calendar of Activities for 2017 is attached as Annex 3.

Closing Session

After having discussed all the items on the agenda, the PPT held by Argentina thanked the countries for their participation and commitment and highlighted the work ahead for 2017.

List of Annexes

Annex 1: [Agenda of the XV Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee](#)

Annex 2: [List of participating delegations at the XV Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee](#)

Annex 3: [Calendar of Activities for 2017](#)