



I . I . R . S . A

INITIATIVE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTH AMERICA



E X E C U T I V E S T E E R I N G C O M M I T T E E

TENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

December 4th and 5th, 2008
Cartagena de Indias, Republic of Colombia

ANNEX 2

Speech by Ms. Carolina Rentería General Director of the National Planning Department

Protocol greetings,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Good morning. On behalf of the Government of Colombia, through the National Planning Department, once again I want to welcome you to my country. We proud ourselves on your presence in Colombia and even more in our wonderful city of Cartagena.
- For Colombia, it was an honor to hold the presidency of the Executive Steering Committee of the IIRSA during the year 2008. The work carried out in relation to this initiative is valuable because it contributes to the socialization and effective work of the high-impact projects aimed at the integration of South America.
- I want to express my most sincere thanks to all of you, for all your support to Colombia during the Presidency in 2008. Thanks to your work and dedication, it was possible to fulfill the proposals presented a year ago in Montevideo.
- I also want to thank the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Andean Development Corporation (Corporación Andina de Fomento – CAF, in Spanish) and the Financial Fund for the Development of the Countries of the Plata Basin (Fondo Financiero para el Desarrollo de los Países de la Cuenca del Plata – FONPLATA, in Spanish), for the logistics and technical support provided to Colombia in relation to the development of these events.
- I want to thank the IIRSA and especially its Technical Secretariat, to Mr. Ricardo Carciofi and Alejandra Radl who have provided invaluable support and assistance to us and to all the countries. I believe that the Technical Secretariat of the IIRSA plays a vital role in the materialization of the proposals presented by the countries and was crucial to the success of the two proposals boosted by Colombia.
- When I took the Presidency, a year ago, I was convinced that this was a unique environment to make progress in the integration of the infrastructure of our countries, not only in relation to the execution of the projects but also in relation to the exchange of experiences, which may lead to better practices for the region. I was also convinced that, for that reason, it is necessary to achieve greater acknowledgment of the initiative in order to strengthen its advantages.

- According to the analysis presented on December 2nd by CG-LA for the IDB, a survey of more than 500 executives in Latin America shows that although around the 80% thinks that the integration of the infrastructure in South America is critical for the region to compete in the global economy, almost the 90% scarcely knows (or does not know) the Initiative. I think that in this respect, the IIRSA is facing an important challenge.
- The year 2008 was an interesting year for us since it was full of challenges, tasks and commitments, which were fulfilled with hard work, effort and dedication.
- During 2008, the activities of the Action Plan that you approved in Montevideo were performed; in this respect, 4 workshops on the application of the Methodology of Environmental and Social Assessment with Strategic Approach were carried. In these workshops, the authorities responsible for the assessment, execution and preparation of the projects in the countries were trained. We also progressed in the implementation of the project related to postal services for Pymes in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and Colombia. Four meetings of the Executive Technical Groups were also carried out, including the International Roaming one; we had 2 fruitful meetings of National Coordinators; 2 video-documentaries on integration projects; a Course on Development and Physical Integration and Assessment of projects in South America, organized with the support of the ECLAC (CEPAL, in Spanish), which was attended by many international experts; a Workshop on Successful Cases; the Forum on Leadership for the Integration of the Infrastructure and the X Meeting of the Executive Steering Committee of the IIRSA.
- The Workshop on Successful Cases was carried out on November 4th, in Bogota; Brazil, Chile, Peru and Colombia shared their successful experience in relation to infrastructure with more than 100 attendees.
- This workshop was a scenario for the exchange of experiences among the countries, for the inter-governmental cooperation aimed at the development of the infrastructure in the region, and for the generation of spaces devoted to technical support in relation to regional infrastructure.
- In the case of Colombia, the Compartel Program of Social Telecommunications, as well as the Integrated Massive Transportation Systems and the issue and placement of stocks that belong to ECOPETROL were presented.
- Brazil presented the program related to the concession of federal roads, as well as the National Logistics Plan, as a guiding instrument in the creation of public policies, and an information system for the planning and coordination of actions in the Amazon region. Said system is called: SIPAM.
- Chile shared its successful experience in relation to topics like the concession system, the results from the modernization of the port sector and the ITS and IT technologies used in the service of the Chilean foreign trade and the logistics chain in the port of Valparaiso.
- Peru shared the development of the Concession of the Peru-Brazil Interoceanic Road Corridor, where a model of future fiscal periods was used. Said model is similar to our own one. This country also presented the Territorial Zoning Plan that belongs to the Area of Influence of the Southern Interoceanic Road Corridor in Peru.
- We believe that this workshop was an opportunity for all the countries because it was a seed that will give rise to processes devoted to the exchange of experiences and the strengthening of the regional integration.
- Paraguay announced that it is interested in receiving technical cooperation from Colombia for the implementation of the Integrated Massive Transportation Systems, a process that is almost

starting. Colombia will study the possibility of adapting the Brazilian SIPAM project for the protection of the Amazon region.

- I would like to acknowledge the effort made by the Brazilian government in relation to the cooperation with the countries in order to implement the project: “Exports through Postal Services for Pymes – Exporta Fácil”. Thank you for the support to Colombia in the technical visits that, as you may have seen yesterday night, allowed to celebrate the agreement in record time. Now, we are working to make it real.
- This Brazilian project was the inspiration for the Workshop on Successful Cases and it was a way to repeat the experience in other countries.
- The Forum on Leadership, which was carried out this week, was successful. More than 200 people attended the forum. Among the attendees, there were important investors, multilateral and commercial banks, national and international engineering firms, builders, reinsurance firms and officials from the governments.
- Twenty-six projects, related to the regional integration of 7 countries in South America, were presented: Argentina (1), Brazil (3), Chile (6), Peru (4), Paraguay (2), Uruguay (4) and Colombia (6), with an estimated value of: 30 trillion dollars.
- The initiatives presented by Colombia were as follows:
 - Highway: Ruta del Sol
 - Central Railway System
 - Public Transport Strategic Systems (Sistemas Estratégicos de Transporte Público – SETP, in Spanish): Pasto and Santa Marta
 - Brisa Port
 - 12 Arterial Corridors Complementary to Competitiveness: Bogotá – Buenaventura, Honda – Nuquí, Tumaco – Pasto – Mocoa.
 - Concession of the Airport Packet: Cúcuta, Bucaramanga, Barrancabermeja, Santa Marta, Valledupar and Riohacha
- We learned about Puerto de Santos (Santos Port) in Brazil, the Paita Port Terminal in Peru, the extension of Puerto de Sauce (Sauce Port), the Dry Port and the Railway Hub of Rivera, the latter in Uruguay.
- Some strategic energy projects were presented, such as: the Hydroelectric Plant and the Transmission Project of Madeira river, in Brazil, the Installation of Machines in the Iguazu Reservoir, in Paraguay, the Hydroelectric Development in Peru and the NLG (GNL, in Spanish) Re-gasification Plant, in Uruguay.
- As regards roads, the Peripheral Ring of Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil, was presented as well as two big packets of road concessions in Chile, road concessions in Paraguay, and a project in the Peruvian Amazon region.
- Lastly, we learned about the Binational Tunnel of Agua Negra between Argentina and Chile, the Second Airport Concession Packet and the Zone for Logistics Activities of Callao, in Peru, the Logistics Unit: Oceanic Port and the Eastern Railway Branch, in Uruguay.
- Two discussion panels were presented. Said panels were about the financing of infrastructure projects and the strategies for the creation of competitive funds in infrastructure in Latin America. (Inverlink, Nexus Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Andean Development Corporation)

- Additionally, yesterday, investors and other people interested in the projects were able to discuss, in more than 100 private meetings, the specific aspects of each project. These meetings allow investors to multiply their business opportunities.
- This shows clearly what we can achieve together as a block. Many investors told me about their interest in the projects presented.
- Despite the economic crisis that the world is undergoing, our countries go on being attractive for investment and this is our challenge: to consolidate our image. This is why it is important to present and promote the projects we have to offer. In this way, we will be able to find allies for their development in the private sector.
- I invite you to continue performing this kind of Forums and proposing new scenarios for the integration and promotion of projects, so that they can be developed during the next years.
- In 2010, the IIRSA will reach its first life cycle, and in the meetings we will hold today, it will be possible to make an assessment and present an account of what we consider now, and will consider in the future, as a space for the dialogue among the countries. A vital topic in the meeting we will hold today is the articulation between the IIRSA and the Union of South American Nations (Unión de Naciones Suramericanas – UNASUR, in Spanish).
- We must jointly decide which will be the new horizon of the IIRSA, a strategic vision in line with the policies aimed at the integration of the Nations and clear objectives that help us to fulfill these objectives.
- For Colombia it is vital to go on progressing in this task and I am convinced that Argentina, as the new President of the CDE, will continue working for this purpose. So, from now on, I offer my support in order to achieve this goal.
- One of the main activities for next year will be the revision and construction of a new Implementation Agenda Based on Consensus. This was one of my main proposals and, although it was not possible to develop the agenda during the Presidency of Colombia, it will go on being a priority for me and for the government of my country. From now on, we should use spaces to recognize the progress we have lately had in relation to the execution of the projects and the changing reality in our countries.
- For example, at the moment, Colombia has 3 projects in the AIC, 1 of which shows acceptable progress; however, we have 8 projects that lately have shown much dynamism. But, according to the agenda today, it does not allow to show the important progress of Colombia regarding the execution of its integration projects.
- That is why my proposal will allow the investment contributed by Colombia in the Agenda to turn from 241 million dollars to 2,336 million dollars.
- Lastly, and once again, I want to thank all the people and institutions that have made it possible for all of us to be here today. I wish this meeting could allow us to gather knowledge and experience that can be translated into better practices and greater rigor in the development of the commitments posed for next year, which guide our governments regarding their political decisions.
- I confirm that the Government of Colombia, through the National Planning Department, is willing to go on performing the national coordination of the IIRSA. We wish to continue supporting regional and global integration and economic development processes focused on the increase of competitiveness.

Thank you very much.