

INITIATIVE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE
REGIONAL SOUTH AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE
IIRSA



Tenth Meeting of the Executive Steering Committee

Annex 9

Assessment of the Initiative National Coordinations Reflection

December 4-5, 2008. Cartagena de Indias, Republic of Colombia



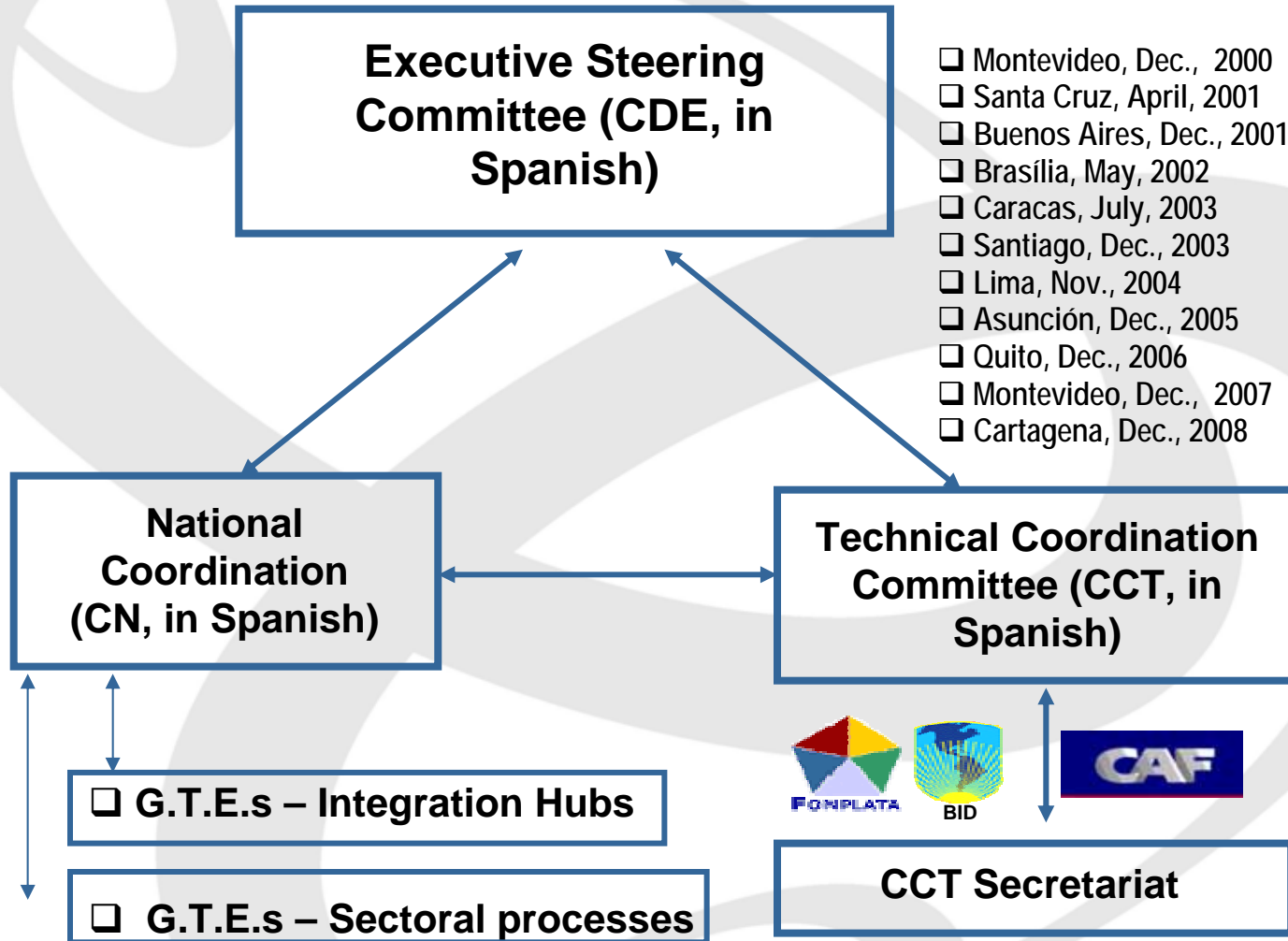
The IIRSA Initiative

- The **Initiative for the Integration of the Regional South American Infrastructure** involves the twelve countries in South America. Its objective is to plan and boost the physical integration in the following areas: transportation, communications and energy with the purpose of promoting sustainable integration and development in the region.
- It was created in the 1st Meeting of South American Presidents, which was carried out in Brasilia during the 2nd semester of 2000. Its Action Plan is extended up to the year 2010.

“...South American borders should no longer be an isolation and separation element but a link that joins assets and people circulation, thus becoming a privileged space for cooperation.”



Current Institutional Structure



What has been the role of the National Coordinations in the IIRSA?

In 2000, they did not exist in the Institutional Structure. But the need to have National Coordinations arises naturally as a mechanism that allows to coordinate and articulate, towards the interior of each country, the participation of the different areas involved in the Initiative.

According to what was established when they were created, each country has given itself a possible institutionality in the sphere of said National Coordinations. This does not necessarily mean that, within the governmental administrations, there is a specific area or office devoted exclusively to this topic, but in all the cases there exists the figure of the NATIONAL COORDINATOR.

The National Coordinations are the most important part in the operation of the IIRSA Initiative in each country.



What has been the role of the Banks in the IIRSA?

The IDB, CAF and FONPLATA, as part of the CCT, have offered:

technical support for, among others,

- The development of tools devoted to the indicative territorial zoning for the elaboration of the IIRSA Project Portfolio.
- The development of the methodologies devoted to the assessment of impacts and opportunities related to the productive, social and environmental field.
- The elaboration of studies and diagnosis related to the Integration Sectoral Processes.
- The development and maintenance of different information systems.

financial support for

- The assistance in the activities related to technical support.
- The creation of Funds (non-reimbursable ones) for the development of Pre-investment Studies by the countries.

As regards the activities related to the Initiative, the support from the financial institutions has been determinant; however, as regards the financing for the execution of the IIRSA Portfolio projects, the banks have played a role that does not exclude other financing sources.



**DURING THESE YEARS OF
WORK, THE INITIATIVE SHOWS**



AND POSES



ACHIEVEMENTS

IIRSA has become the Forum for the Planning of the territorial integration in the South American countries

which has allowed to make progress in relation to the knowledge of the needs and to the setting of the importance of the physical integration process with a regional vision

that has generated an interaction space for the agreed planning of medium and long-term integration infrastructures.



ACHIEVEMENTS

This has been achieved by means of:

- The elaboration and ordering of a Project Portfolio for the integration in South America.
- Integration Sectoral Processes that make the use of the infrastructure easier.
- The development of instruments for the deepening of the regional integration process.
- The development of mechanisms to share information and take profit from opportunities.
- The strengthening of a network of relations that make progress easier.



CHALLENGES

The IIRSA must adopt a STRATEGIC VISION for the future where, taking as a base the South American continent we wish, it will be possible to assess how the infrastructure that is currently being built can contribute to that wish.

Under this vision, it will be necessary to include the different South American interests, taking into consideration the integration of markets at an internal and external level (local, regional and global), as well as the social integration, with effective participation of the citizenship and within a sustainable development context.

The building of a STRATEGIC VISION, by the governments that participate in the IIRSA, is one of the main challenges of the Initiative.



CHALLENGES

The knowledge of the Initiative is not equal in the different countries. In some of them, it is not fully known, not only by the civil society and the private sector, but also by the governments. In other countries, the Initiative is recognized and has allowed to strengthen the regional integration and the intergovernmental cooperation, too.

This unequal knowledge produces:

- Confusion regarding the objectives of the Initiative.
- A wrong appreciation of its results.

The Initiative must deepen the efforts related to the outreach of its objectives and achievements as well as the efforts regarding participation and involvement by the governments and the citizenship.



Considering that the IIRSA ACTION PLAN extends to the year 2010

What would be the advantages of extending this term?

To benefit, permanently, from the space that has been created for the technical-political discussion and exchange, at different levels, and in this way to keep a forum that allows to improve the instruments developed as well as to have them updated and produce the changes that may arise from the regional reality.

Which must be the future of the IIRSA?

The Initiative should continue being a **permanent technical forum**; a highly-specialized forum for cooperation and consensus that deepens and improves the physical integration as well as the integration in the energy and communications areas in South America, adapting its actions to the regional context.



WHICH HAVE BEEN THE CHANGES IN THESE YEARS REGARDING THE INTEGRATION MECHANISMS IN SOUTH AMERICA?



THE MOST RELEVANT ONE HAS BEEN THE CREATION OF THE

UNASUR

(South American Union of Nations)



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IIRSA AND UNASUR

The UNASUR is a political instance with a much greater scope and long-term macro objectives in many areas, which is strongly focused on the social field as well as on the development of the towns in South America.

The IIRSA should be a forum that complements the UNASUR regarding the process devoted to the physical integration of infrastructures.

So, the relationship between the IIRSA and the UNASUR should be a collaborative one, where political trends and big strategic guidelines should come from the UNASUR.



PROPOSAL

Considering that the UNASUR Constitutive Treaty, held in Brasilia, on May 23rd, 2008, foresees the setting up of Councils of Sectoral Ministers, it would be possible to boost the creation of a **Council of Infrastructure/Planning Ministers within the scope of the UNASUR**, where the IIRSA could be a forum devoted to providing advise and technical support for the Infrastructure Work Group of the UNASUR.

Also, the Implementation Agenda Based on Consensus could be included in the projects boosted by the UNASUR.

