



IIRSA

INITIATIVE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTH AMERICA



EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

INITIATIVE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTH AMERICA (IIRSA)

Eighth Meeting of the Executive Steering Committee

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ANNEX 4

Proposal regarding an Understanding Framework between the IIRSA Initiative and the UPAEP within the context of the “Exports through Postal Services for SMEs” project

Considering that,

- The *IIRSA Initiative* has been constituted with the main purpose of promoting the development of the transportation, energy and communications infrastructure, under a regional vision, securing the physical integration of the twelve South American countries and the achievement of an equitable and sustainable territorial development pattern,
- The *postal sector* is an essential part of the South American communications infrastructure, placing postal operators of each one of the countries as the organizations with the greatest capacity, capillarity and logistic potentiality, which turns this sector into an important cohesion factor among the different actors involved in the development of the region as a whole at a social, cultural and economic level,
- *UPAEP, Unión Postal de las Américas, España y Portugal (Postal Association of America, Spain and Portugal)*, has as its main purpose the coordination of the regulation, orientation and improvement of the postal activity among its member countries and territories,
- The “*Exports through Postal Services for SMEs*” project is one of the 31 projects included in the *IIRSA Implementation Agenda Based Upon Consensus (AIC, in Spanish)*, and is also one of the two regional projects of said agenda that involves the 12 South American countries

Consequently,

It is established the importance of *setting a regional cooperation between the UPAEP and IIRSA* for the development of the works that are being carried out within the context of the records previously detailed, in such a way that supplementary actions and projects oriented towards facilitating the strengthening of the postal logistic infrastructure are carried out in a coordinated and joint manner, as a basis for the development of the project that will

hereinafter be called “*Improvement of foreign trade: Exports through Postal Services for Micro, Medium and Small Companies –SMEs, in English*”.

To such purpose,

- The UPAEP is invited to assume the regional coordination of the AIC project “*Improvement of foreign trade: Exports through Postal Services for Micro, Medium and Small Companies –SMEs, in English*”, thus, and according to the IIRSA national coordinations, being able to lead actions towards the design, financing and implementation of the project, as long as the Initiative maintains the communication channels that shall be specified afterwards.
- The implementation of the project shall be carried out with the advice of the Brazilian Communications Ministry, which shall coordinate the participation of the Brazilian government experts in order to provide technical support for the project implementation activities, in cooperation with the UPAEP.
- IIRSA and UPAEP shall supplementary perform studies, seminars and other works necessary to support the action of their member countries in the fields planned in this Understanding Framework.
- In order to carry out what has been previously established, the IIRSA and the UPAEP shall send each other invitations to participate in their corresponding technical and coordination meetings, according to the aims set within this Understanding Framework.
- Finally, it is worth indicating that the UPAEP and the IIRSA shall establish a system of permanent information exchange, through their corresponding national coordinations, that may allow them to develop a continuous follow-up of the evolution of the activities provided for in their respective Work Programs, as regards the project under the regional coordination of the UPAEP.

This cooperation shall have indefinite nature and could be terminated by both parties, or by one of them, prior written notice to the presidency of the IIRSA CDE or to the UPAEP general secretariat. In this case, both parties shall negotiate the transition time periods in order for other institution to assume the regional coordination of the project.