



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

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

Ninth Meeting of the Executive Steering Committee

December 4th and 5th, 2007
Montevideo, Republic of Uruguay

ANNEX 3

Speech of Mrs. Dolores Zagaglia President of the Executive Board of FONPLATA

Ministers,
National Coordinators,
Members of the Technical Coordination Committee of the IIRSA,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address you as President of the Executive Board of FONPLATA, and I wish on behalf of our institution to thank the government of the Republic of Uruguay, the city of Montevideo and, in particular, the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works in its 100 years of management, for the offered reception and the attentions given.

It is especially gratifying to be able to share with you this South American Meeting in which we will deepen the knowledge of the activities carried out during the year 2007 within the framework of the IIRSA Initiative, and define the work plan for 2008.

In this framework, it is valid to emphasize the role of the IIRSA as a central instance of dialogue for the construction of a common agenda of actions and projects for the integration of our America.

FONPLATA is an active participant of this challenge, which the countries have faced from the beginning of the new century. With the experience gained in the past years, we can say that it has been a fruitful period where, in this year 2007, it has become possible to have a portfolio of 500 projects of mutual interest to our countries.

The novelty has been the mechanism applied, a process of indicative territorial planning that has allowed the South American continent to be structured as Integration and Development Hubs, a definition of groups of projects that meet differentiated strategic functions, on the basis of a common methodology based on consensus between the 12 countries, and identification of impacts expected from the implementation of such groups with regard to the sustainable development of the region.

It is essential, in addition, to incorporate new specific studies within the framework of the Second Stage of Planning of the Initiative; in fact, the developed methodologies related to Productive Integration, Logistics Chains and Strategic Environmental and Social Evaluation, will facilitate new variables in project evaluation, technically and effectively demonstrating benefits that in general were not considered.

This effort has obtained concrete achievements in the implementation of priority projects; in this regard, we will see during the day the listing of projects that, to date, are being executed, which represent 41.3% of the total the IIRSA project portfolio for the period 2003-2006 and which involve amounts of investment higher than 20 billion dollars.

FONPLATA has participated in the implementation of projects, financing operations pertaining to the IIRSA portfolio, which are at different stages of the project cycle of our Agency.

We must also highlight, the activities developed in the field of outreach and participation in the activities of the IIRSA with the goal of providing a broad and clear knowledge of the Initiative to everyone involved, investors, entrepreneurs, producers, consumers, and population in general, which will facilitate and give transparency to the achievement of goals.

FONPLATA understands that infrastructure is a key element in the integration process, since it generates momentum for overcoming geographic barriers, contributes to social inclusion, encourages environmental protection, forges a closer relationship between markets, and promotes new economic opportunities for the growth of our peoples.

We fully endorse the work done and the future of the Initiative, considering of vital importance that the National Coordinators of the IIRSA should also be Coordinators of the Infrastructure Commission of UNASUR, uniting the technical with the political, the only way to reach the consolidation of a true integration.

The actions proposed in the Work Plan 2008 represent a quality leap for the Initiative, since they demonstrate the willingness to continue the process and bring it to its successful completion.

FONPLATA is fully committed to this process and to the activities proposed within the framework of the Initiative, having developed concrete lines of action, in response to the requirements of the countries of the subregion that participate in the Initiative.

Thus, our aim is to move forward steadily, in the scheduling of operations for 2008, both in their structuring, as in the financing of projects and pre-investment studies prioritized by the IIRSA, so as to actively participate in the effective implementation of the projects that our countries consider to be of high-priority.

Thank you very much.