



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 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTH AMERICA (IIRSA)

Ninth Meeting of the Executive Steering Committee

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ANNEX 16

Understanding Agreement among the countries that make up the IIRSA Initiative and The Postal Union of The Americas, Portugal And Spain (UPAEP, In Spanish), within The context of the Project: "Exports Through Postal Services For Micro, Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises"

Taking into consideration that,

- The *IIRSA Initiative* has been built with the main purpose of promoting the development of the infrastructure in relation to transportation, energy and communications, under a regional vision, seeking the physical integration of the twelve South American countries and the achievement of an equitable and sustainable territorial development standard,
- The *postal sector* is a fundamental part of the communications and logistics infrastructure in South America, where the postal operators in each country act as the organizations that have the most capacity, capillarity and logistics potential, which turns this sector in an important cohesion factor among the different actors involved in the development of the region as a whole, socially, culturally and economically,
- The project "*Exports through Services for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises*" is one of the 31 priority projects in the *Implementation Agenda based on Consensus (AIC, in Spanish)* of the IIRSA and, at the same time, is one of the two regional projects of the mentioned agenda that involves the twelve South American countries.
- The mission of the *UPAEP*, Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (Unión Postal de las Américas, España y Portugal), is to integrate the common objectives of the member countries or territories regarding topics that promote the modernization of the basic postal services through the execution of individual and joint projects that guarantee the territorial integration, the constant improvement of quality and the development and modernization of administrative, operative and legal processes.

Consequently,

It is important to achieve *regional collaboration among the UPAEP and the member countries of the IIRSA* that require technical support for the development of the works that have been performed within the context of the previously mentioned topics, in order to carry out, coordinately and jointly, complementary actions and projects to facilitate the strengthening of the postal logistics infrastructure, as a base for the progress of the project, which will be called "Improvement of Foreign Trade: *Exports through Postal Services for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)*".

For such purpose,

- The UPAEP is invited to act like executor of the Technical Cooperation of the Inter-American Development Bank (BID, in Spanish), with resources of the Multilateral Investment Fund (FOMIN, in Spanish), destined to support the actions of designing, financing, implementing and following up the project of the AIC: "*Exports through Postal Services for Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprisers (MSMEs)*", in those countries members of IIRSA included in the Pilot Project of FOMIN that require this technical support.
- The actions of the Technical Cooperation will have to be developed according to the Guide of Implementation of the Project, defined in the frame of IIRSA, in agreement with the National Coordinations of the countries members of IIRSA as a joint mechanism of the national instances and observing the instructions of the Executive Steering Committee of IIRSA (CDE in Spanish) and the technical directions of the Technical Executive Group of IIRSA (GTE in Spanish) of the Project "*Exports through Postal Services for Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprisers (MSMEs)*".
- The UPAEP and the IIRSA member countries will set a system for the permanent exchange of information through the Executive Technical Groups (GTEs, in Spanish) of the Project in order to constantly follow-up the progress of the activities foreseen in their respective work programs included in the project.
- As a complement, the member countries, through the IIRSA and the UPAEP, will be able to carry out studies, workshops and other necessary works to support the action of the countries in the areas foreseen within the present understanding framework.
- In order to perform the above-mentioned actions, the IIRSA and the UPAEP will invite each other to participate in their respective technical and coordination meetings, in harmony with the purposes set in the present understanding framework.

Collaboration between the IIRSA and the UPAEP will have undefined nature and may be revoked, at any given moment, by the parties by means of a written notice sent in advance to the Presidency of the IIRSA Executive Steering Committee or to the General Secretariat of the UPAEP.