

XXVII Meeting of COSIPLAN-IIRSA National Coordinators

August 19, 2015

Radisson Montevideo Victoria Plaza Hotel
Montevideo, Uruguay

REPORT ON THE MEETING

On August 19, 2015, the city of Montevideo, Uruguay, hosted the XXVII Meeting of COSIPLAN-IIRSA National Coordinators, which was attended by delegations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as by representatives of the UNASUR General Secretariat and IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

The meeting was opened by the COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT) held by Uruguay represented in the person of Mr. Pablo Genta, Director of National Planning and Logistics, under the Ministry of Transport and Public Works of Uruguay.

The items on the agenda were addressed as summarized below.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COSIPLAN-IIRSA WORK PLAN 2015

COSIPLAN Project Portfolio and Integration Priority Project Agenda (API)

The main results of the update process, undertaken through virtual meetings of the Executive Technical Groups on the Integration and Development Hubs held during May and June, were presented:

- Thirty-six projects were added to the Portfolio and 23 were removed from it. The projects at the profiling stage were brought down from 137 in 2014 to 114 in 2015, resulting in the following: i) COSIPLAN Portfolio: 593 Projects with an investment of US\$ 182,435.7 million; and ii) API: 31 Structured Projects made up of 103 Individual Projects with an investment of US\$ 21,657.1 million.
- As of August 18, the COSIPLAN Project Information System (PIS) included up-to-date information about 71.5% of the total projects (i.e. 424 out of 593 projects).
- The Southern Hub enlarged its area of influence by incorporating the Province of Chubut, in Argentina, and the Aysén Region up to the Province of Coihayque, in Chile. Twenty-one new projects were included: 8 in Group 1: “Concepción - Bahía Blanca - San Antonio Este Port”, and 13 in Group 2: “Binational Tourist Circuit - Lakes Area.”

Finally, the work underway as well as its estimated time frames, as scheduled in the Work Plan, was discussed: (i) COSIPLAN Project Portfolio Report 2015; (ii) API Progress Report 2015; (iii) Brochures on the

Portfolio and API; (iv) Socioeconomic and Environmental Characterization of the Southern, Guianese Shield, Central Interoceanic, and Peru-Brazil-Bolivia Hubs; and (iv) New section on the Integration and Development Hubs on the website (Annex 3).

Completed Projects

The countries recognized the importance of disseminating information on the projects already completed or at an advanced stage, within the framework of connectivity between two or more countries, as prioritized by COSIPLAN. For this reason, the countries agreed to shoot two documentary videos: an institutional video and another one concerning connectivity between Ecuador and Peru. On this border, important progress in road connection has been made thanks to fruitful agreements between the authorities of both countries considering the territorial planning developed in this Forum. The videos will rely on the active participation of the PPT held by Uruguay and of the National Coordinators of Ecuador and Peru, and will be shot with the support of the Technical Coordination Committee (CCT). They will be presented at the VI Meeting of COSIPLAN Ministers, scheduled to be held on December 3, 2015, in Montevideo (Annex 4).

Methodology for the Incorporation of Disaster Risk Management to Regional Integration Infrastructure Projects

Chile presented the progress made in the pilot application of this methodology to Group 5 of the Central Interoceanic Hub. It was decided to move the GTE meeting scheduled for September 30 in Lima to March 2016, on a date to be confirmed during the XII Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee. The next GTE meeting will include the presentation of the results of the pilot application as well as the experiences of Colombia, Peru and Guyana concerning the management of natural disasters (Annex 5).

Freight Transport and Logistics

Peru presented the advances on the guided virtual course entitled “Training Program in the Design and Management of Freight Transport and Logistics Policies,” which is taking place within schedule (Annex 6).

The activity schedule, the people responsible for each activity, and the time frames agreed by the countries are the following:

ACTIVITY	MONTH	DATES
Production of the material: theory and practice (activities)	July-August	July 3 to August 16
Revision and approval by the Director	August	17 to 30
Adaptation after validation by the Director	August-September	August 31 to September 6
IDB + COSIPLAN technical revision	September	7 to 20
Layout of documents and website upload	September-October	September 28 to October 11
Invitation and selection by COSIPLAN	September-October	September 1 to October 8
Opening of the course	October	12

Workshop on South American Integration through Ports and Waterways

Brazil presented the preliminary agenda of the Workshop to be held on October 14 and 15 in Brasilia, Brazil, and submitted for the consideration of the countries the possibility of inviting the Bank of China. The letters of invitation to the meeting will be distributed during the first week of September.

The sections proposed for the Workshop are the following: i) Ports as logistic platforms for Regional Integration; ii) Waterways as a logistic system for Regional Integration; and iii) Financing mechanisms for port and waterways projects (Annex 7).

Air Integration

The countries decided to reschedule for next year the GTE meeting on Air Integration originally programmed for September 10 in Georgetown, Guyana. Brazil proposed to hold a meeting via Webex on November 17, 2015, to present the results of the studies conducted by the IDB on this issue: "Case Studies on Air Cargo Terminals in the Airports of the UNASUR Member Countries" and "Study on Air Integration in the Guianese Shield Hub."

Trade Integration through Postal Services for MSMEs

Brazil presented the progress attained and the activities underway in relation to the work plan in this Sectoral Process with the support of a Technical Cooperation from the Inter-American Development Bank. The results of the pre-diagnostic visit to Paraguay were discussed and the exporting and importing activities underway were informed. Finally, the GTE meeting scheduled for September 28 and 29 in Lima, Peru, was confirmed (Annex 8).

Horizontal Cooperation among the COSIPLAN Countries

Chile made a proposal to promote horizontal cooperation among the countries as a mechanism to train specialists and share experiences. The country was inclined to welcome the participation of other countries' authorities in the construction of the works as well as to coordinate missions among the teams of experts. Two projects were proposed as examples with which these works could be commenced: the construction of a double suspension bridge in Chiloé and the basic rural road program (Annexes 9a and 9b).

TERRITORIAL INTEGRATION PROGRAM: AGUA NEGRA BINATIONAL TUNNEL

Argentina and Chile presented the progress made regarding the design of a PTI for the Agua Negra Binational Tunnel API Project. The PTI, together with its Implementation Plan, is in its final development stage, and both will be presented at the Binational Workshop to be held on October 1 and 2 in San Juan, Argentina.

The recent signing of the second protocol by both countries' parliaments was mentioned, as this enabled a joint tender to be issued for the construction to be carried out under EBITAN, the Binational Entity created for this purpose. The works are estimated to take about 8 years.

The countries attached great importance to keep focusing on the objectives pursued throughout the program design in order to identify any complementary action that should be closely related to the works. It was also stated that both countries' interaction in their joint undertakings as well as in their own land helped gain a deeper insight into the territory. (Annex 10).

BORDER INTEGRATION AND Y FACILITATION

Argentina presented a proposal on a work methodology taking into account the tools developed by COSIPLAN to identify the "bilateral border regions." The purposes are: i) standardize the regional, bilateral and border integration processes, reaching a convergence in the territories of common borders, in order to strengthen the integration process being encouraged by UNASUR; ii) create cross-border integration plans to have a reliable baseline, a proposal of actions, and mechanisms for their implementation and monitoring; iii) implement a Border Observatory within COSIPLAN or a system that may adopt different modalities and dimensions, depending on the objectives and needs identified and their sustainability over time; and iv) propose cooperation mechanisms to facilitate, in a first stage, the design of border integration plans, programs and projects and to contribute to their execution in the future.

Concerning the next steps, Argentina and Chile, with the support of the CCT, will draft a document describing the conceptual framework of the methodology and instruments enabling the implementation of border integration as a course of action in the COSIPLAN planning process. For testing purposes, the COSIPLAN Geographic Information System will be used.

Finally, a GTE meeting was proposed to be held on November 12 in Buenos Aires. Its purpose will be to consider the document and define the actions to be included in next year's COSIPLAN Work Plan (Annex 11).

INTEGRATION PRIORITY PROJECT AGENDA (API)

The PPT held by Uruguay presented a document consolidating the results of the analysis and diagnosis of the API Projects made by the countries, and valued the task of completing the information on each project. The countries agreed to revise the consolidated project files and send their comments to the COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore.

The National Coordinations of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, at the initiative of Ecuador, agreed to hold a virtual tripartite meeting with the coordination of the CCT Secretariat on September 4. The objective of the meeting is to host a dialogue on the current status of the projects that make up API project "Northeastern Access to the Amazon River" in order to undertake the necessary actions required to contribute to their progress.

ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY THE UNASUR GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The UNASUR General Secretariat informed that the South American Energy Forum will be held on September 11 and 12 at its headquarters. This meeting will be attended by the World Energy Council and the South American Energy Council. The General Secretariat transmitted their interest in the 56 projects of the energy sector that make up the COSIPLAN Project Portfolio, which are currently being analyzed. It was also informed that the UNASUR Energy Council will contact COSIPLAN to explore the possibility of establishing a more direct relationship concerning these projects and to identify those that might be encouraged by the countries' Energy Ministers.

Finally, it was reported that the UNASUR High-Level Working Group on Disaster Risk Management, currently presided over by Uruguay, is distributing a work plan proposal including 22 objectives and 22 courses of action. The plan includes sectoral programs by the UNASUR Health and Defense Councils. The COSIPLAN was invited to incorporate the results of its work in this subject and to highlight the importance of the Methodology for Risk and Disaster Prevention and Management to be incorporated into the regional integration infrastructure projects.

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[Annex 2: List of Participating Delegations at the XXVII Meeting of National Coordinators](#)

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