



I . I . R . S . A

INICIATIVA PARA LA INTEGRACION DE LA INFRAESTRUCTURA REGIONAL SURAMERICANA



XVII MEETING OF NATIONAL COORDINATORS REFLECTION WORKSHOP

December 2-3, 2010
Lima, Peru

The Seventeenth Meeting of National Coordinators (CN) of the IIRSA Initiative was held in the city of Lima (Peru), on December 2 and 3, 2010, for the purpose of analyzing the achievements and progress made during 2010 within the framework of the courses of strategic action 2006-2010, and the process launched with the creation of the South American Council of Infrastructure and Planning (COSIPLAN) and the designation of IIRSA as its Technical Forum.

Within this context, this meeting was organized under the modality of a Reflection Workshop, geared towards the development of actions designed to assess, clearly and progressively, the definition of a Strategic Action Plan for the coming years.

The list of participating Delegations as well as the Agenda for the meeting are attached as Annex 1 and Annex 2, respectively.

Opening

The meeting was opened by the Argentine National Coordinator Graciela Oporto, Under-Secretary of Public Investment Territorial Planning, under the purview of the Ministry of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services of Argentina, which served as President Pro Tempore of the Initiative during 2010. Ms. Oporto stressed her satisfaction with the achievements in the progress of both the Action Plan 2010 and, particularly, IIRSA's institutionalization process, as the aim of establishing IIRSA as the technical forum of COSIPLAN within the framework of UNASUR was attained.

In line with these ideas, the remaining delegations and members of the CCT expressed their recognition for the headway made, and reiterated their commitment to keep on working on the improvement of this new context.

Action Plan 2010

Activities Conducted

The National Coordination of Argentina reported on the outcome of the main activities carried out during 2010, on the basis of the Action Plan approved at the Eleventh Meeting of the Steering Committee held in December 2009.

The following actions were mentioned, among others:

- The review of the Project Database was carried out and all the meetings of the Development and Integration Hub were held as planned, all of which resulted in the update of the Project Portfolio as of 2010.
- The Strategic Environmental and Social Evaluation (EASE) Methodology was applied to Project Group 2 of the Southern Hub, which marked the first implementation by national teams, in this case, from Argentina and Chile, thus contributing additionally to the achievement of training related goals for this area;
- The application of the Production Integration and Logistics (IPrLg) Methodology to Project Group 5 of the Andean Hub was completed, and application to Group 4 of the MERCOSUR-Chile Hub was started.
- As for Sectoral Processes, headway was made in the execution of different projects within the framework of the Facilitation of Border Crossings and Border Integration.
- Workshops on Regional EASE, IPrLg, and Border Crossing and Border Integration issues to assess the outcomes of these applications and studies, with special focus on the lessons learned with a view to improving future work.

Annex 3 contains a full detail of the execution of the Action Plan 2010.

Presentation of the Project Portfolio 2010 Book

The book “Indicative Territorial Planning: IIRSA Project Portfolio 2010” was launched and distributed. This publication is based on the updates provided by member countries and the review of previous background information by the CCT, responsible for its edition and printing.

This book is intended to publicize IIRSA's main developments in indicative territorial planning and identification of relevant projects with a view to the physical integration of the region. In particular, it contains an overview of the Initiative, the results achieved in terms of territorial planning throughout its 10 years of work, and the IIRSA Project Portfolio as of 2010, which is the product of a remarkable effort of cooperation, dialogue and agreements based on consensus among all the South American countries with the purpose of achieving greater and more sustainable physical integration in the region.

Annex 4 contains the book entitled “Indicative Territorial Planning: IIRSA Project Portfolio 2010”.

Summary of IIRSA and Assessment Activities

“Implementation Agenda Based on Consensus 2005-2010. Assessment Report”

A report on the work performed was presented. This report analyzed and assessed the attainment of the goals laid down upon the creation of the Implementation Agenda Based on consensus (AIC) 2005-2010, and the use of a tool designed for monitoring and supporting the intensive management of strategic projects: the Strategic Management Information System (SIGE).

Such report is the outcome of having identified, compiled and analyzed IIRSA background information and work carried out in relation to AIC, the intensive project management and SIGE, and of a series of interviews made to National Coordinations. It concludes that five years after its creation, although the process was not identical across all countries and there are different viewpoints as to the strategic importance of the AIC, a fundamental characteristic of the AIC was its capacity to boost the positioning of strategic projects by giving them visibility and contributing to increased political support.

This is a very valuable accomplishment, not only because of the construction of the works proper and their potential impact, but also because of the integration process within and among (agreements, dialogue, consensus), in spite of the technical, economic, financial and political obstacles that may arise.

In this respect, the establishment of IIRSA as the technical infrastructure and planning forum of UNASUR is envisioned as an opportunity to boost strategic infrastructure projects in South America and find solutions that currently are beyond IIRSA's specific scope of action. Therefore, the countries' representatives believe that identifying a small group of strategic, emblematic and/or high-impact projects for regional integration is highly important as a necessary element to mobilize political authorities with a view to ensuring their actual completion.

Annex 5 contains the book entitled "Implementation Agenda Based on Consensus 2005-2010. Assessment Report":

"IIRSA Ten Years After: Its Achievements and Challenges"

As a result of the outreach activities conducted, two institutional videos were presented. One of them refers to the Paita-Tarapoto-Yurimaguas Road, in Peru, while the other one is about the Tenth Anniversary of IIRSA. Both videos are available for download from the Initiative's website.

As for the document "IIRSA Ten Years After: Its Achievements and Challenges", it was announced that the CCT was conducting the final review of the preliminary version of this material. This preliminary version will be sent to the member countries for comment during February 2011.

Implementation Agenda Based on Consensus 2

One of the issues discussed at the Reflection Workshop / Meeting of National Coordinators was the need for structuring a new Implementation Agenda Based on Consensus.

In this respect, the Technical Coordination Committee (CCT) submitted some preliminary ideas to be further developed along 2011. The guiding idea behind this proposal is to take into consideration linked rather than isolated projects, with a view to making the integration of South American countries more visible and purposeful. The basic concept of the new agenda would be to achieve territorial connection across countries and ensure its efficient operation. The challenge is to have, by the expiry date of the new agenda, the infrastructure built, the proper regulations in place and its operation, optimized.

During the debate, the countries recognized how challenging the proposal was, and requested the CCT to prepare a methodological guide for the task of identifying and defining the new Agenda of Structuring Projects.

IIRSA-COSIPLAN/UNASUR Strategic Action Plan

At the Sixteenth Meeting of National Coordinators, held on July 29-30, 2010, a process of reflection by the countries was agreed to be launched with the purpose of working towards a shared definition of the vision, objectives and instruments required for IIRSA to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the process of physical integration of the region, at this new stage as the Technical Forum of the South American Council of Infrastructure and Planning (COSIPLAN) of UNASUR.

Based on the commitments assumed, duly recorded in the Aide-Mémoire of the above-mentioned meeting, the Argentine National Coordination, acting as President Pro Tempore of the Initiative, requested a Technical Cooperation from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), given the well-recognized reputation of this organization among the countries in the region, in order to play the role of facilitator of this reflection process.

The tasks developed at the first ECLAC/IIRSA cooperation stage were designed having as time horizon the Seventeenth Meeting of National Coordinators, and focused on one main goal –to survey as fast as possible the countries' opinion about the continuity of IIRSA, identifying shared viewpoints that may help prepare the Action Plan 2011 and outline the Strategic Action Plan.

To that end, a Reference Guide was drafted to compile the expectations, inquiries, opinions, plans, proposals, etc, in each member country. The interviews were made to people who are currently involved or have been involved in IIRSA as National Coordinators, as members of National Delegations or members of the Technical Steering Committee (CCT).

The results –the relevant report is attached as Annexes 6 and 7 – have led to a preliminary consensus, as listed below, which will lay the groundwork for the future Strategic Action Plan.:

- In terms of the mission, goals, vision, principles and strategy of IIRSA, there is consensus over the need to revise, update and/or adjust them to the new institutional framework following the creation of UNASUR. The development of this issue should be included in the Action Plan 2011.
- The action of the CCT is greatly acknowledged and there is agreement as to the need to maintain the cooperation of the financial agencies, with their roles and functions tailored to suit the new context of IIRSA in UNASUR. In addition, a proposal was made to discuss the possibility of increasing the participating institutions, their functions and eligibility criteria.
- IIRSA might organize its responsibilities under two main concepts: planning and action, which will enable the physical integration of South America, by giving continuity to the planning activities and by developing new actions ensuring project execution and operation.
- Project Portfolio: this is an instrument as well as an asset of the Initiative over which consensus has been reached in terms of its continuity, although with the adaptations, updates and/or adjustments as may be deemed necessary. The Portfolio must be reviewed during the course of 2011.
- The distinctive feature of the new stage of the Initiative should be speeding up. To that end, in addition to improving the conditions for proper project execution, new tools should be devised and implemented. In this regard, the development of Project Agendas with specific goals is welcomed, even though it will be necessary to discuss their scope, as well as their construction and follow-up methodology.
- The features to be considered in defining the new tools include the following:
 - Enhance the concepts underpinning physical integration and the planning of regional infrastructure, with emphasis on inclusion and equity.
 - Gradually introduce the concept of infrastructure service networks.
 - Resume the generation of proposals in the areas of harmonization and/or standardization of regulatory and organizational aspects, which, under the new context, may be channeled by COSIPLAN to competent bodies of UNSAUR.
 - Further explore into the areas of production integration and logistics, river transportation transportation, and co-modality.
 - Improve IIRSA's presence and public awareness of its activities, and increase participation mechanisms.

General Coordination 2011

Based on the consensus reached at the Sixteenth Meeting of National Coordinators, held in Buenos Aires on July 29-30, 2010, the Action Plan of the Initiative, as well as the relationship

with the COSIPLAN Coordination Committee, will be commissioned to the National Coordination of the country serving as President Pro Tempore of COSIPLAN, under the title and in the role of General Coordination. At that same meeting it was decided that the outgoing country would act as Deputy Coordinator General.

In addition, it was agreed that Argentina will assume that role as from the date when the next President Pro Tempore of UNASUR takes office, as Argentina has been the last President Pro Tempore of IIRSA, in order to complete the transition period.

On the basis of these agreements, and since Guyana was appointed at the Fourth Summit of Heads of State of UNASUR as the President Pro Tempore of UNASUR and Brazil as the President Pro Tempore of COSIPLAN, it was decided that the Brazilian National Coordination assume as Coordinator General in 2011.

Action Plan 2011

Based on the agreements reached at the meeting, Brazil, in its capacity as IIRSA Coordinator General 2011, submitted Action Plan 2011, which is structured around three main courses of action:

- Activities regarding works commenced and to be continued in 2011.
- Activities regarding the design of a Strategic Action Plan (PAE 2012-2022).
- Activities regarding the creation of Project Agendas.

The delegations approved the activities laid down in the above-mentioned Action Plan and agreed to notify COSIPLAN thereof. Both the Action Plan 2011 and the preliminary activity schedule are attached hereto as Annex 8.

Closing

The national delegations expressed their gratitude and recognition to the Argentine Republic for having led the Initiative during the course of this year, and to the CCT for the work done in 2010.

Annex List

ANNEX 1: List of Participating Delegations

ANNEX 2: Meeting Agenda

ANNEX 3: Presentation about Achievements and Progress Made in 2010

ANNEX 4: "Indicative Territorial Planning: IIRSA Project Portfolio 2010" (link available soon)

ANEXO 5: "Implementation Agenda Based on Consensus 2005-2010. Assessment Report" (link available soon)

ANEXO 6: Presentation of the Results of the Survey and Preliminary Recommendations (link available soon)

ANEXO 7: Report on the Survey Results and Preliminary Recommendations

ANEXO 8: Action Plan 2011 and Preliminary Activity Schedule