

XXIII Meeting of COSIPLAN-IIRSA National Coordinators

November 27, 2013 Santiago de Chile

NOTES OF THE MEETING

On November 27, 2013, the city of Santiago de Chile hosted the XXIII Meeting of COSIPLAN-IIRSA National Coordinators. The Meeting was attended by delegates of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela as well as representatives of UNASUR General Secretariat and IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

Objectives of the Meeting:

- (i) present the Activity Report 2013 and assess the results attained, and
- (ii) present and analyze the Work Plan 2014.

The meeting was opened by the COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT) held by Chile represented in the person of Mr. Lucas Palacios, Undersecretary of Public Works, under the Ministry of Public Works, The Undersecretary stated that, although the purpose was to analyze and assess the activities of the year and agree on the Work Plan for 2014, it was to be borne in mind that the final objective of COSIPLAN was to encourage progress in the region and the well-being of all its inhabitants. In this regard, he pointed out that to attain this goal it is important to substantially increase investments in infrastructure and make headway in the logistic field in order to address the challenges posed by globalization, economic growth, integration, and social and environmental development.

Afterwards, the Activity Report 2013 was presented, attached hereto as Annex 3. Other documents and publications produced during this year are also attached, Annexes 4 to 8.

The delegations agreed on incorporating some suggestions to the Activity Report, which will be presented for its approval by the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee in the coming meeting scheduled for November 28.

The main issues discussed are listed below:

COSIPLAN Project Portfolio

With regard to the COSIPLAN Portfolio projects already completed, the countries agreed to continue considering them as part of the information related to the Portfolio, in order to record their progress in terms of physical integration.

It was agreed that, at the time of presenting the Portfolio Report, a distinction should be drawn between the completed projects and the ones at the profiling, pre-execution and execution stages. As for the structured projects, it was deemed particularly important to be able to distinguish the individual projects within them that have already been completed.

It was stated that importance should be attached to trade flows when analyzing infrastructure projects in order to enhance the territorial development perspective, without prejudice to the recognition of the intense and hard work of evaluation carried out by the countries in creating the Project Portfolio and defining the priority projects to set up the API Portfolio.

Integration Priority Project Agenda (API)

The Venezuelan delegation reiterated its request to exclude from API the individual project "Puerto Carreño Border Crossing" (AND19), which forms part of the structured project "Colombia-Venezuela Border Crossings Connectivity System". The Venezuelan delegation will present the PPT a communication informing about its wish to withdraw the project, in order that Colombia be notified and Venezuela's request be met.

Geographic Information System (GIS) and Cartography

The Argentine delegation informed that it will present a proposal to the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee to create a COSIPLAN Working Group to include the GIS and the development of the COSIPLAN website.

Methodology for the Strategic Environmental and Social (EASE)

The Venezuelan delegation proposed that, in order to standardize the language used within the scope of UNASUR, the term "civil society" should be replaced by "different social actors."

Risk and Disaster Prevention and Management in Infrastructure

The PPT mentioned that it will make headway with the coordination of this work with the UNASUR High-Level Working Group for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management. It also stressed the need to coordinate the participation of the countries' representatives in the different councils within this Group.

Facilitation and Modernization of Border Crossings

The delegations considered that the document on Performance Standards and Indicators for Border Crossings is a proposal to be further developed, as negotiations are being carried out in this field within the framework of the World Trade Organization.

The Republic of Argentina and Republic of Chile will coordinate this work.

Trade Integration through Postal Services

The Paraguayan delegation informed that actions are being taken to implement the project in the country in 2014.

Issues that Need to be Further Developed

Subsequently, the PPT presented the topics that need to be further developed in 2014.

With regard to freight transport and logistics, a proposal was made to organize a workshop with the purpose of advancing towards a systemic view of infrastructure, transport and logistics; identifying obstacles and opportunities; gathering good practices related to the process, and identifying actions at the regional level. Furthermore, it was agreed to move forward on a multiannual regional program to strengthen capacity building in freight transport and logistics policy making and management targeted for the national sectoral teams, as well as to explore alternatives to design a COSIPLAN methodology to measure the progress made in this field. The delegations present agreed that this work be coordinated by the Republic of Peru.

The second topic was ports. A workshop was proposed to share experiences and lessons learned, as identified by the countries, and to analyze the potential changes that may affect the port sector; analyze national policies on port development; identify financial alternatives for port modernization purposes, and harmonize the various South American regional positions in this field. The delegations present agreed that this work be coordinated by the Federal Republic of Brazil.

The following topic of discussion referred to the need of making headway with air integration. In this regard, it was agreed to organize a workshop in order to analyze the airport network system (for freight and passengers) and the new trends in operations with a view to its modernization as well as sources of financing; analyze common policies on airports at borders; gather good practices in passenger and freight transport, and evaluate the air connectivity of South America. The delegations agreed that this work be coordinated by the Federal Republic of Brazil. This workshop will be carried out at a date close to the workshop on ports to facilitate travel arrangements of National Coordinators and experts on each field.

Later on, the Presidency Pro Tempore presented the Work Plan 2014, attached hereto as Annex 10. The delegations agreed to the proposal of submitting the Work Plan for its approval by the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee at its next meeting scheduled for November 28.

List of Annexes

- Annex 1: Meeting Agenda
- Annex 2: List of Participating Delegations
- Annex 3: Activity Report 2013
- Annex 4: COSIPLAN Project Portfolio Report 2013
- Annex 5: API Progress Report 2013
- Annex 6: Strategic Vision of the Amazon Hub
- Annex 7: Integration Territorial Programs Conceptual Guidelines for their Design

- Annex 8: Methodology for Risk and Disaster Prevention and Management in Infrastructure
- Annex 9: Performance Standards and Indicators for Border Crossings
- Annex 10: Work Plan 2014