



IIRSA

INICIATIVA PARA LA INTEGRACION DE LA INFRAESTRUCTURA REGIONAL SURAMERICANA

C O M I T E D E C O O R D I N A C I O N T E C N I C A



Strategic Thinking Forum

May 21st, 2009
Buenos Aires, Argentina

BACKGROUND

Within the framework of IIRSA Action Plan for 2009, as defined in the X Meeting of IIRSA's Executive Steering Committee held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in December 2008, a STRATEGIC THINKING FORUM was planned for the participation of IIRSA's member countries, several experts and representatives of the civil society.

Throughout its existence, the Initiative has become a forum for planning by consensus integration infrastructure in South American countries. In this regard, IIRSA Initiative faces the challenge of combining regional and national territorial integration needs and integration at the global context. While the main protagonist in this process is infrastructure, it has to be in good terms with sustainable development and social inclusion.

Since its launching in 2000, IIRSA has achieved some interesting and visible outcomes. To mention just a few of them: *i)* a portfolio of 514 projects related to the physical interconnection of South America, of which 70% are at an advanced stage and 10% have been concluded; *ii)* concerning the selected agenda of 31 projects, 19 are being executed at a good pace and are scheduled for 2010, while 2 have been finished; *iii)* territorial planning methodologies for production, logistics and the environment have been developed and applied with a social dimension, currently available, in some countries of South America, *iv)* and progress has been made in the regulatory harmonization of the postal and telecommunications sectors.

On the basis of these attainments, it is necessary to identify steps and orientations for IIRSA agenda, considering those issues still pending as well as any innovative action intended to widen the Initiative scope. It is precisely the purpose of this Forum to provide inputs that should contribute, in this strategic reflection process, to the tasks related to the physical integration of South America to be undertaken in the short and long run.

This Forum is organized in two days. The first one will be devoted to examining South American integration from different angles, and comparing it with other experiences as well. This first day will encourage the participation of a large number of government officials and representatives of the academia and the civil society. The second day is reserved for the work of IIRSA National Coordinators. Their task will consist in reflecting on the issues dealt with on the previous day and identifying strategic

orientations. This will enable us to come up with ideas built upon consensus for the present and for the future, beyond the year 2010, of the physical integration of South America.

Agenda

Presentation of topics related to relevant issues for the physical integration of South America and their interrelationship with other integration dimensions.

Morning

9:15 - 9:30 **Opening, by the National Coordination of Argentina**
(Pro Tempore Presidency of IIRSA Executive Steering Committee)

Graciela Oporto, Under-Secretary of Public Investment Territorial Planning, Ministry of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services in Argentina

9:30 - 11:00 **Status of Regional Integration**

- Integration. Basic concepts. Different dimensions to integration: political, economic, social and physical. Which should be the priority for physical integration?
- Where is the region today as far as integration is concerned?
- South America as an integration bloc: viability of the process, given the current situation. How can South American integration come to terms with other integration initiatives?

Panelists: Roberto Bouzas (Universidad de San Andrés – FLACSO, Argentina) and Sandra Ríos (CINDES, Brazil)

Moderator: Representative of the National Coordination (to be designated)

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 - 12:30 **Regional Integration and Physical Integration: The European Union Experience**

- What role has physical integration played in the European integration process?
- What was the sequence: market liberalization versus transportation networks?
- When did the modern development of the European physical integration gain prominence?
- The role of infrastructure funding and of fiscal contributions to it. Funds for social cohesion.
- Asymmetries and regional gaps.
- Lessons from the European experience and their application to South America.

Lecturer: Margarita Ortega (Ministry of the Environment, Spain)

Moderator: Representative of the Technical Coordination Committee (to be designated)

Afternoon

14:30 - 16:00 Territorial Planning, Integration Hubs and Relevant Regulatory Frameworks

- What are the challenges for territorial planning?
- Territorial planning methodologies and tools: New challenges.
- The feasibility of territorial integration under current regulatory frameworks.

Panelists: Clélio Campolina Diniz (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil) and Juan Roccatagliata (Ministry of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services, Argentina)

Moderator: Representative of National Coordination (to be designated)

16:00 – 16:15 Break

16:15 - 17:30 Sustainable Development, Environment and Infrastructure

- What are the major challenges for South America in terms of sustainable development, environment and infrastructure?
- What social and environmental sustainability criteria should be incorporated in the integration infrastructure planning process?
- How can the sustainable infrastructure driving force be incorporated into the integration infrastructure planning process, when the infrastructure project was designed initially in association with complementary actions and programs intended to enlarge the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the territory?
- How can we increase the participation of civil society in evaluating integration projects? What mechanisms can be promoted for this purpose?

Panelists: Margarita Ortega (Ministry of the Environment, Spain), Ricardo Jordan (ECLAC, Chile) and Manuel Pulgar Vidal (Peruvian Society of Environmental Law, Peru)

Moderator: Representative of the Technical Coordination Committee (to be designated)