

EXECUTIVE TECHNICAL GROUP ON BORDER INTEGRATION AND FACILITATION

INTAL Meeting Room, Esmeralda 130, 11th floor, Buenos Aires

November 12, 2015

1- BACKGROUND

Some of the objectives of the COSIPLAN Strategic Action Plan (PAE) 2012-2022 are to promote the development of the region by identifying and executing infrastructure projects that should strengthen physical integration, following sustainable socioeconomic development criteria, and preserving the environment and the balance of ecosystems.

Taking such objectives into consideration, the application of an indicative territorial planning methodology led to the identification of some projects that are structuring in nature, which made it possible to set up an Integration Project Portfolio. Furthermore, by means of the implementation of methodologies as well as the development of sectoral processes and complementary actions, attempts have been made at facilitating the execution and operation of the undertakings and the attainment of the objectives pursued.

At the same time, the countries have been making great cooperation efforts in the territories of their common borders, acknowledging that cross-border integration is an effective tool to promote development, overcome structural asymmetries, and solve social cohesion problems.

In view of the importance of incorporating this instrument into the indicative territorial planning process within the COSIPLAN framework in order for this regional-scale planning process and the ongoing bilateral, subregional and local planning processes to converge, while combining them with the border crossing sectoral process, it was decided to move forward with this issue.

At the IV Ordinary Meeting of COSIPLAN Ministers (2013), Argentina and Chile were appointed as coordinators of the Executive Technical Group on Border Integration and Facilitation, which held its first meeting on October 16 and 17, 2014, in the city of Buenos Aires, during which the countries agreed to move forward in the development of this line of action and organize a new GTE meeting in 2015.

Later on, presentations on this topic were delivered at the XXVI and XXVII Meetings of National Coordinators, which helped outline the content of this Meeting of the Executive Technical Group on Border Integration and Facilitation.

2- OBJECTIVES

- ❑ Reach an agreement on the preliminary definitions of the Conceptual Framework to guide cross-border territorial planning within COSIPLAN concerned with the territorial dimensions and scales of the analysis and the consideration of the role played by border crossings and border facilitation in such context.
- ❑ Propose the necessary tools to be developed for the design of cross-border territorial integration plans and their implementation, as well as the tools needed for capacity building.
- ❑ Discuss the Proposed Guidelines for a Work Plan on Cross-Border Territorial Integration Planning within COSIPLAN, so as to prepare a document to be submitted to the COSIPLAN Ministers for consideration at their December 2015 meeting.

3- METHODOLOGY

In Block 1, presentations will be made to introduce the elements for the analysis of the basic definitions of a future Conceptual Framework on Cross-Border Territorial Integration Planning within COSIPLAN so as to attain the necessary consensus to move forward with the proposed line of action.

Block 2 will be devoted to the identification of the cooperation mechanisms and instruments deemed necessary to develop, or to adjust in the event that they already exist, with the aim of enhancing the work on cross-border territorial planning.

Block 3 will be concerned with the analysis of the proposed guidelines that, after the objectives, activities and products are agreed upon, will guide the design and implementation of a work plan for cross-border territorial integration planning within COSIPLAN.

Recognizing that the issues to be addressed form part of a dynamic process subject to permanent new challenges in a context of diversity, participants are expected and welcomed to enrich the meeting with their viewpoints by contributing their own experiences in such issues.

4- PARTICIPANTS

In addition to the National Coordinators, the GTE meeting calls for the participation of representatives from government agencies and entities concerned with the planning and implementation of investment programs for border integration as well as of those concerned with border controls with regard to physical implementation and to border facilitation and coordinated border management processes in order to contribute their countries' experiences and promote a dialogue aimed at attaining the meeting objectives.

In addition, the participation of the Technical Representatives of the Working Group on the Development of the Geographic Information System (COSIPLAN GIS) will be significant, as they will illustrate the possible applications of the tool developed for the activities of the future Work Plan for Cross-Border Territorial Integration Planning.

5- AGENDA

9.00–9.15 **Opening Session**
COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore – Uruguay
Argentina’s National Coordination and Chile’s National Coordination

9.15–9.30 **Meeting Objectives and Expected Results**
Argentina’s National Coordination and Chile’s National Coordination

BLOCK 1: CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIAL INTEGRATION WITHIN COSIPLAN

9.30–10.00 **Current Perspective of Cross-Border Integration in South America**
Lecturer: Hernando Arciniegas
Border Integration and Facilitation Expert – IIRSA CCT Consultant

10.00–10.20 **Reflections on Border Facilitation in the Region**
Lecturer: Marcela Espinoza Nissim
Head of the Department of Legislative Implementation – National Directorate of Border and Limits (DIFROL), Chile

10.20-10.40 **Borders and their Integrating Role**
Lecturer: Maria Liliana Dearmas Muñoz
International Affairs Advisor – National Directorate of Transportation – Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MTOPE), Uruguay

10.40-11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.00–11.20 **Proposed Initial Definitions for a Conceptual Framework**
Lecturer: Angela Guariglia
National Director of International Territorial Integration Planning – Territorial Planning Under-Secretariat – Ministry of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services (MINPLAN), Argentina

11.20-12.00 **Analysis of the “Lakes Region” Bilateral Border Area, between Argentina and Chile, using the COSIPLAN GIS**
Lecturer: Matías Parimbelli – Technical Team of the Working Group on the COSIPLAN

GIS and Website

12.00-13.00 **Guidelines for a Work Plan – Objectives 1 and 2**
Lecturers: Argentina’s National Coordination and Chile’s National Coordination
Comments by the participants

13.00–14.30 **Lunch**

BLOCK 2: INSTRUMENTS FOR CROSS-BORDER TERRITORIAL INTEGRATION PLANNING

14.30–14.50 **Information Systems – Towards a Border Observatory?**
Lecturer: Dimitri Zaninovich Victoria
Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy Director – National Planning Directorate (DNP),
Colombia

14.50–15.30 **Financial Assistance Mechanisms for Border Integration and Facilitation Projects**
Lecturers:
Patricio Mansilla, IDB
Sebastián Abbatemarco, CAF

15-30–16.00 **Guidelines for a Work Plan – Objectives 3 and 4**
Presentation: Argentina’s National Coordination and Chile’s National Coordination
Comments by the participants

16.00–16.20 **Coffee Break**

BLOCK 3: GUIDELINES FOR A WORK PLAN

16.20-17.20 **Proposed Guidelines for a Work Plan on Cross-Border Territorial Integration Planning within COSIPLAN**
Presentation: Argentina’s National Coordination and Chile’s National Coordination
Group reflection

17.20–17.50 **Presentation of the Group Reflections**

Moderators: Angela Guariglia, Roberto Riveros and Hernando Arciniegas

17.40–18.00

Review of Agreements – Next Steps

Closing Session

COSIPLAN PPT, Argentina’s National Coordination and Chile’s National Coordination