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INICIATIVA PARA LA INTEGRACION DE LA INFRAESTRUCTURA REGIONAL SURAMERICANA



EXECUTIVE TECHNICAL GROUPS (GTEs)

Project Portfolio Update and Preliminary Identification of Priority Projects

June 14 to 16, 2011

Bogotá, Colombia

The Meeting of the Executive Technical Groups on Project Portfolio Update and Preliminary Identification of Priority Projects were held on June 14 to 16, 2011, in the city of Bogotá, Colombia. The goals were to revise and update the Portfolio for the nine Hubs, to complete the definition of the features and selection criteria for the projects that will make up the Priority Project Agenda (APP), and to conduct a preliminary identification of such projects. Furthermore, National Coordinators discussed the Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022 (PAE, in Spanish).

Due to the cloud of ash from the Chilean Puyehue volcano during the week of the meeting, the delegations of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay were not able to board their planes, as scheduled, to participate in the meeting. The agenda was modified accordingly, and the Hubs revised were only those concerning the delegations present.

The agenda of the meeting and the list of participating delegates are attached herewith as Annex 1 and 2, respectively.

Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the National Coordinator of Colombia, who welcomed the participating delegates and opened the work sessions. Afterwards, the Brazilian Presidency Pro Tempore outlined the objectives and expected results of the meeting, and the Technical Coordination Committee (CCT) explained the work methodology and dynamics to be implemented in the sessions. This presentation is attached as Annex 3.

Speech by the UNASUR Secretary General and the DNP General Director

On Wednesday, June 15, Ambassador Ms. María Emma Mejía, UNASUR Secretary General, and Mr. Hernando José Gómez, Director of the Colombian National Planning Department (DNP), addressed the delegations. The Secretary General announced the opening of the Secretariat headquarters in Quito and expressed her support to all the bodies concerned with South American integration within the framework of UNASUR. She stressed the need to attain concrete results in each one of the predefined sectoral councils. In addition, she expressed her interest in the progress of the COSIPLAN/IIRSA activities, and called for efforts to be focused on defining a Priority Project Agenda for the physical integration of the region.

In line with this, the Director of the National Planning Department underscored the significance of the Initiative and the priority of taking actions aimed at the physical integration of the region. Furthermore, he stressed the need to achieve the harmonization of the regulatory frameworks for the purpose of enhancing infrastructure impacts, to integrate capital markets with a view to financing development, and to promote border strengthening by developing production issues and creating a social fabric on a bi-national basis. He encouraged the identification of prioritized and feasible projects that respond to immediate demands, involve private stakeholders, and produce concrete results in the medium term.

Breakout Sessions by Integration and Development Hub

Before starting the work sessions by Integration and Development Hub, the Brazilian delegation presented a proposal to enlarge the scope of the Peru-Brazil-Bolivia Hub. The name proposed is "Peru-Brazil-Bolivia Interoceanic Hub," which would integrate the area currently covered by the Peru-Brazil-Bolivia Hub with the central and northeastern regions of Brazil. This presentation is attached as Annex 4.

The Brazilian delegation asked the CCT to study the proposal within the framework of the IIRSA Indicative Planning Methodology. The CCT informed that, to that end, it would be necessary to broaden the business vision for the Hub and to hold a GTE meeting to explore the possible incorporation of new projects. In addition, the CCT proposed conducting a Strategic Environmental and Social Evaluation based on the EASE methodology developed by IIRSA, given the unique socio-environmental features of this new area of influence.

The Brazilian and Bolivian delegations seconded the proposal and stated that this process needed to be started as soon as possible. The two delegations assumed the commitment to communicate the proposal to Peru, since this country was not represented at the meeting.

Following this exchange, the work sessions involving the Peru-Brazil-Bolivia, Central Interoceanic, Amazon, Andean and Guianese Shield Hubs were opened. In each case, the CCT presented an overview of the current status of the Hub, the projects proposed to be added to and removed from each project group were considered, the priority projects identified by each country were presented, and a list was drafted to be submitted for consideration in the plenary session. The notes of these meetings were distributed for discussion among the countries and will be included as Annexes 5 to 9 once the final versions are ready.

Due to the reasons already explained, it was agreed that the meetings on the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway, Capricorn, MERCOSUR-Chile and Southern Hubs will be held via videoconferences, according to the following schedule:

- July 6, 2011: Paraguay-Paraná Waterway Hub (AR, BO, BR, PY and UR) GTE
- July 6, 2011: Capricorn Hub (AR, BO, BR, CH and PY) GTE
- July 7, 2011: MERCOSUR-Chile Hub (AR, BR, CH, PY and UR) GTE
- For the Southern Hub, Argentina and Chile agreed to work bilaterally and send their results to the CCT Secretariat by not later than July 13.

The notes of these meetings will be included as Annexes 10 to 13 once the final versions are drafted.

Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022 (PAE)

The document sent by the Brazilian National Coordination on the PAE was examined. It was agreed that at the next GTE meeting to be held in the city of Montevideo on July 19-21, 2011, its final version will be revised. The document including the items agreed upon in this meeting is enclosed as Annex 14.

Priority Project Agenda (APP)

The comments made by the countries on the APP features and the criteria for the selection of the priority projects were analyzed. The features and criteria agreed upon in this meeting were included in the presentation on the set up of the APP that was approved in the meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee, held on April 28 in Rio de Janeiro. This document is attached as Annex 15.

Next, the preliminary list of projects identified by the countries to be included in the APP was presented. It was agreed that the National Coordinations should confront the projects in the preliminary list against the aforementioned criteria. The revised list will be discussed at the next GTE meeting to be held in the city of Montevideo. The preliminary list of priority projects is attached herewith as Annex 16.

Finally, the Brazilian delegation informed about a project concerned with Trade Integration via Postal Services within the framework of IIRSA Sectoral Processes. The delegations present expressed their support to the project. The presentation on and the summary of this project are attached as Annexes 17 and 18.

Other Aspects Discussed during the Meeting

During the plenary session, the debate about the revision of the Project Portfolio for the Guianese Shield Hub regarding air transportation was resumed. The delegates underscored how significant this issue was and asked the CCT to propose a preliminary agenda to make headway in this field. The CCT assumed the commitment to revise this sectoral process.

The Brazilian delegation informed that in the next days it would send a COSIPLAN budget proposal for discussion among the countries.

With regard to the debate about the COSIPLAN website, held during the PAE revision, the CCT explained that in order to support its website development, COSIPLAN is required to define issues such as its logo, hosting, etc.

Concerning the Cartographic Agendas, the Brazilian delegation informed that it plans to organize an internal event, the results of which would be presented in the workshop scheduled for this year. Moreover, it was requested that a presentation on the GeoSur system be included in such workshop.

Calendar of Activities

Before the closing session, IIRSA's calendar of activities for the second half of the year was considered and modifications were introduced. The calendar is attached as Annex 19.

List of Annexes

ANNEX 1: Agenda of the Meeting

ANNEX 2: List of Participating Delegations

- ANNEX 3: Presentation on the methodology and dynamics of the meetings
- ANNEX 4: Proposal made by Brazil regarding the expansion of the Peru-Brazil-Bolivia Hub
- ANNEX 5: Notes of the GTE on the Peru-Brazil-Bolivia Hub
- ANNEX 6: Notes of the GTE on the Central Interoceanic Hub
- ANNEX 7: Notes of the GTE on the Amazon Hub
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- ANNEX 9: Notes of the GTE on the Guianese Shield Hub
- ANNEX 10: Notes of the GTE on the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway Hub
- ANNEX 11: Notes of the GTE on the Capricorn Hub
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- ANNEX 13: Notes of the GTE on the Southern Hub
- ANNEX 14: Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022 (PAE)
- ANNEX 15: Presentation on the APP Set Up
- ANNEX 16: Preliminary List of Priority Projects
- ANNEX 17: Presentation on the Trade Integration via Postal Services Project
- ANNEX 18: Summary of the Trade Integration via Postal Services Project
- ANNEX 19: Calendar of Activities Updated as of June 16, 2011