

## **EXECUTIVE TECHNICAL GROUP ON BORDER INTEGRATION AND FACILITATION**

November 12, 2015

Buenos Aires, Argentina

### **REPORT ON THE MEETING**

On November 12, 2015, the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, hosted the Meeting of the Executive Technical Group on Border Integration and Facilitation, which was attended by delegations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as from the UNASUR General Secretariat and IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

The objectives of the meeting were the following: i) Reach an agreement on the preliminary definitions of the Conceptual Framework to guide cross-border territorial planning within COSIPLAN concerned with the territorial scope and scales of the analysis and the consideration of the role played by border crossings and border facilitation in such context; ii) 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; and iii) 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.

The meeting was opened by Pablo Genta, Director of National Planning and Logistics under the Ministry of Transport and Public Works of Uruguay, on behalf of the COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT). Graciela Oporto, Under-Secretary of Public Investment Territorial Planning under the Ministry of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services of Argentina; and Roberto Riveros, Director of Planning under the Ministry of Public Works of Chile, also addressed the participants.

Next, the meeting began as scheduled in the agenda.

#### Cross-Border Territorial Integration within COSIPLAN

The general purpose of the line of action proposed is to “include cross-border integration in the COSIPLAN indicative territorial planning process, by identifying and promoting plans, programs and projects that contribute to the integration and sustainable development of common border territories and the facilitation of the flow of goods and people between the UNASUR countries.” Its specific objectives are: i) Standardize the regional, bilateral and border physical integration processes, reaching a convergence in the territories of common borders, in order to strengthen the integration process being encouraged by UNASUR; ii) Create

cross-border integration plans to have a reliable baseline, a proposal of actions, and mechanisms for their implementation and monitoring; iii) Implement a border observatory within COSIPLAN that may adopt different modalities and dimensions, depending on the needs identified and their sustainability over time; and iv) Propose cooperation and financing mechanisms to facilitate, in a first stage, the design of border integration plans, programs and projects as well as of instruments to make the subsequent implementation of these plans, programs and projects possible.

During the first block, five presentations were delivered, providing the participants with a comprehensive view of the topic that included several approaches to cross-border integration and some definitions of a conceptual framework. At the end of the block, an example of usage of the COSIPLAN Geographic Information System (GIS) —in the MERCOSUR-Chile Hub— was offered (Annexes 3 to 7), and the first part of the proposed “Guidelines for a Work Plan on Cross-Border Territorial Integration Planning within COSIPLAN,” prepared by Argentina and Chile with the support of the Technical Cooperation Committee (CCT), was presented.

In the second block, called Instruments for Cross-Border Territorial Integration Planning, presentations aimed at identifying cross-border territorial planning cooperation instruments and mechanisms were delivered, and the presentation of the Guidelines for a Work Plan was completed (Annexes 8 to 10).

#### Guidelines for a Work Plan

In the last block, a group reflection activity, including all the participants in the GTE meeting divided into four working groups, was carried out. Each group worked on the content and scope of one of the four specific objectives into which the Guidelines for a Work Plan are organized (Annex 11). This was a fruitful exercise, as every country presented its observations concerning the proposed Guidelines at the end.

Finally, the countries agreed to send the CCT Secretariat their specific suggestions on some aspects associated with the activities and outputs proposed in the Guidelines not later than **Monday, November 23**.

The observations made during the meeting as well as the comments to be received by the CCT Secretariat will be taken into account in preparing the “Guidelines for a Work Plan on Cross-Border Territorial Integration Planning within COSIPLAN” final document. This document will be submitted to the National Coordinators for consideration and, later, to the COSIPLAN Ministers for approval at their VI Ordinary Meeting, to be held in Montevideo on December 3, 2015.

## **List of Annexes**

[Annex 1: Agenda of the GTE Meeting on Border Integration and Facilitation](#)

[Annex 2: List of the Delegations Participating in the GTE Meeting on Border Integration and Facilitation](#)

[Annex 3: Current Perspective of Cross-Border Integration in South America - Hernando Arciniegas - IIRSA CCT Consultant](#)

[Annex 4: Reflections on Border Facilitation in the Region - Marcela Espinoza Nissim - Chile](#)

[Annex 5: Borders and their Integrating Role - Maria Liliana Dearmas Muñoz - Uruguay](#)

[Annex 6: Proposed Initial Definitions for a Conceptual Framework - Angela Guariglia - Argentina](#)

[Annex 7: Analysis of the "Lakes Region" Bilateral Border Area, between Argentina and Chile, using the COSIPLAN GIS - Matías Parimbelli – COSIPLAN Working Group on the COSIPLAN GIS and Website Technical Team](#)

[Annex 8: Colombia's National Logistics Observatory - Dimitri Zaninovich Victoria – Colombia](#)

[Annex 9: Financial Assistance Mechanisms for Border Integration and Facilitation Projects - Patricio Mansilla - IDB](#)

[Annex 10: Financial Assistance Mechanisms for Border Integration and Facilitation Projects - Sebastián Abbatemarco - CAF](#)

[Annex 11: Proposed Guidelines for a Work Plan on Cross-Border Territorial Integration Planning within COSIPLAN - Angela Guariglia - Argentina and Chile](#)