
**SOUTH AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
(COSIPLAN)
XI MEETING OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

On April 17, 2015, the city of Montevideo, Oriental Republic of Uruguay, hosted the XI Meeting of the Coordinating Committee (CC) of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN) within the Union of South American Nations, according to the Work Plan 2015.

It was attended by delegations of the twelve countries members of the UNASUR and by a representative of the General Secretary (GS) of UNASUR, as detailed in [Annex 1](#). In the meeting was approved the Agenda, which is included as [Annex 2](#).

1. OPPENING

The Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT) of Uruguay welcomed the attending delegations and anticipated a productive development of the meeting, expressing his wishes to continue the facilitation of the integration of the South American territory, in order to achieve the fully development of the inhabitants of our countries and the highest levels of life.

The delegation of Venezuela recalled that today (April 17), it was decided in the last presidential meeting held in December 2014, to be commemorate every year as the "Day of the South American Nations Union". On that date, it will start its management the incoming Presidency Pro Tempore, and so all delegations from the countries applauded in tribute of the day of UNASUR.

2. ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSSAL OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE UNASUR

The National Coordinator of Uruguay, in exercise of the Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT), carried out a synthesis of the process initiated in the framework of the COSIPLAN, based on the proposal of the General Secretary of the UNASUR, Dr. Samper, contained in the document "From Vision to Action".

He recalled that the proposal deserved the following consideration by the heads of State and Government of UNASUR (point 13 of the Declaration): *"Welcomes for the corresponding evaluations, the proposals submitted by the General Secretary in the document From Vision to Action, for the consideration by this Council, and instructs the Presidency Pro Tempore, with the support of the General Secretariat, to transmit them to the organs and competent bodies of UNASUR, for their analysis and eventual complementation."*

In accordance with that instruction and the adjustment of the general proposal to specific issues and aspects of the COSIPLAN, made and submitted by the General Secretary in last February (Annex 3), it was subject to consideration of the COSIPLAN CC. As main aspect, it was considered whether it is appropriate and convenient to choose a subset of projects to prioritize, over the projects already prioritized and included in the Integration Priority Projects Agenda (API), as well as defining new forms of management and/or monitoring them, focusing on accelerating its implementation or have a significant progress of it on the short term.

Mr. Juan Salazar, on behalf of the General Secretariat, read a letter from the GS Dr. Ernesto Samper, which is included as Annex 4. He recalled that the GS wants to support the COSIPLAN with the selection of seven (7) projects, by him identified as priorities within the API and adding the "Central Bi Oceanic Railway Corridor (Bolivia-Brasil-Peru)", as an eight project that was specially requested by Bolivia. The main objective of the proposal is to accelerate the process of implementation of these projects.

The delegates of the countries discussed the proposals, expressing that the COSIPLAN is the organism of the UNASUR whose function is to identify and plan the infrastructure projects and

transport services and telecommunications, that will facilitate the integration of the territories, their accessibility and the increased mobility of goods and people, but not to implement them since it is the responsibility of each country. Many times the execution or implementation of the projects identified as priority depends on not only the technical capacity and management or financial capacity, since there is a multiplicity of factors affecting it. The prioritization of structured projects of the API was defined in the year 2012 along with the Strategic Action Plan (PAE) 2012-2022, are the result of the work of specialists and technicians of all countries acting in Working Groups (WG) over the nine (9) Hubs (EID), taking into account the different variables and singular aspects of each project, its contribution to the objectives of integration and facilitation of transport, logistics and productive chains which, in addition, have the necessary political validation of the competent authorities of each country. It is considered that, based on the work done in the last five years and the accumulated knowledge, it must be the Coordinating Committee of the COSIPLAN, with the support of the specialists and technicians of the countries and the IIRSA forum, who have to continue identifying and carrying out the prioritization of the projects.

All the delegations of the countries highlighted the willingness and proactive attitude of General Secretary, which are reflected in his proposals, and they are sure there is a recognition to the work done by COSIPLAN and the need to go further. It means that the proposals are focused on the identification of needs or barriers that could be technical, regulatory or financial which should stand up for advancing on the implementation of the thirty-one (31) structured projects of the API. The COSIPLAN will put his concerns to the respective authorities of the States and Governments, so it is appropriate to take advantage of the initiative of the General Secretary, to help the COSIPLAN in this effort with the highest authorities of State and Government, and thus, move forward with the projects of the API. The proactive attitude and willingness of the General Secretary in relation to infrastructure projects for the integration, along with its possibilities of interaction between the COSIPLAN and the highest authorities of State and Government for the purpose of facilitating and/or streamline project processes, and in particular to obtain resources and funding for them, is highly appreciated.

Based on the considerations above, and that the proposal of the GS has awakened the need of making an API projects update to clearly establish its current status, and identify constraints or obstacles that difficult its implementation, the Coordinating Committee of the COSIPLAN resolved:

1. Carry out a diagnosis of each structured project, including all its individual components that are included on the API, in order to identify constraints or obstacles (financial, harmonization of regulatory instruments, application of agreements, etc.), identified as causes of not advancing on the implementation of the projects. The countries should submit this information in the month of June to the PPT, which will consolidate it in a report.
2. In order to unify the criteria of the analysis carried out by the countries previously referred, Brazil together with the PPT will produce a guide that will be send to the National Coordination on next May.
3. If necessary, the Coordinating Committee will identify Working Groups in order to generate mechanisms that facilitate the execution of the projects.
4. The projects under risk will be analyzed in detail, identifying their needs in order to remove or mitigate it and thus, help in its concretion.
5. Once this diagnosis is done, it will be requested a meeting with the General Secretary, in order to analyze the alternatives of his collaboration in overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the projects.
6. The PPT will prepare a formal answer to the GS, with the assessment done and definitions adopted by the COSIPLAN in relation to his proposal, which will be distributed to the National Coordination for their consideration, previously to send it to the GS.

3. REVIEW OF THE CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES APRIL 2015 - APRIL 2016

It was reviewed the calendar of activities approved in December 2014, to ratify or rectify the planned activities or the dates of them.

The General Secretary proposed to hold the meetings scheduled on August, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of UNASUR in Quito, Ecuador (XXVII Meeting of National Coordinators of IIRSA and XII Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the COSIPLAN). The Uruguay National Coordination of UNASUR of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRREE), reported on the directives of the President of the Republic, expressed by the Uruguay PPT, on which all Delegates and Council meetings, must be hold in Uruguay. The delegations of the countries understand and receipt this decision, so the COSIPLAN confirms that mentioned meetings will take place in Montevideo, Uruguay, as it was agreed.

Based on that decision, the General Secretariat representative Mr. Salazar consulted the countries about their interest on that the Seminar "Impact of the Infrastructure Projects on the Generation of Productive Value Chains in UNASUR", which is being organized by the General Secretariat and scheduled on August at its headquarters in Quito, would take place in Montevideo, before the meetings of National Coordinators. As well as the affirmative answer to the possibility on doing the Seminar in Montevideo, the countries expressed that it needs a more strong participation of the COSIPLAN, because that topic is a matter of the Council and not only of the multilateral agencies that make up the Technical Coordination Committee (CCT) of the IIRSA, and other regional organizations. In addition to the IDB, CAF, FONPLATA and CELAC, it should be invited other national development banks and agencies or regional institutions, to participate on the Seminar.

It was discussed the possibility of doing the II Planning Workshop in November, before the programmed meetings of Coordinators and Ministers. These meetings were originally scheduled for late November, so they are yield to the date of the UNASUR Presidents Meeting, also currently scheduled for November. For this reason in order to avoid overlap, it was decided to hold the Workshop and Meetings of Coordinators and Ministers on December 2015.

After evaluating these issues and the different circumstances of each country, the dates were adjusted in order to facilitate the participation of all the National Coordinators and the representatives of the General Secretariat.

The updated schedule is included [Annex 5](#).

4. REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF THE COSIPLAN ACTIVITIES

Respective Presidents or Coordinators of each Work Group presented the situation and advances corresponding to the following:

- WG about GIS and Web Site of the COSIPLAN

Argentina reported that the Ministers approved the guidelines to develop the web site of the COSIPLAN.

On the GIS the work is synthesized in: i) developing a geographical information system necessary for integration projects, ii) identified the first sixteen (16) layers to integrate and develop, iii) search parameters that allow to consolidate the various layers (individual layers in each country -with same parameters- and are harmonized in an only layer of COSIPAN-UNASUR).

The work has a term of eight (8) months (taking as a basis the Catalog of Objects and the Geographical Dictionary already agreed). The Communication and Information Center (CCI) of UNASUR is the place where all the data will be hosted. It remains to define mechanisms for update and access to that information.

It is expect to make available the system for November 2015. The WG will support Guyana and Suriname to complete the necessary data.

On 5 and 6 of May it will be hold a meeting of the WG in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

- WG on Telecommunications

Paraguay reported about the progress in the preparation of the bidding documents to make the call for the "Studies for the deployment of the South American Connectivity Network for

Integration", developed in opportunity to meet the GT on Telecommunications in the city of Montevideo.

Also presented the list of managers appointed by the countries (main and alternates), to form the Working Group for Implementation of the Agreement CAF-UNASUR and the proposed timetable: (i) April 22: translation into English of the bidding documents by the SG, giving one (1) week for evaluation by Guyana and Suriname, and thus close the bidding document; (ii) April 27, answer of all countries; (iii) beginning of the bidding process, setting July 9 as a deadline for the review of offers.

It was agreed that Paraguay would send the latest version of the bidding documents for consideration by countries as soon as possible, to have their approval and to send it to the SG for translation.

- WG on Railway Integration

Uruguay reported that following the approval of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for getting the information of railway networks and train transport services in the region, regulatory aspects and up to date situation of South American train services (December 2014), during a meeting held on February 10, 2015 with the GS, he was requested to funding this study through the Common Initiatives Fund (FIC). With the consent of the GS, referred through the National Coordination Uruguay of UNASUR, it was sent the project form, in order to formalizing the request for financing, on February 2015. The delegate of the SG presented the report prepared by the FIC team that evaluated the ToR and documents submitted, in which there are different considerations and proposals to improve the work requested

The Presidency of this WG will review and reformulate the ToR taking into account the above said, and will send it for the consideration and approval by countries, prior to reiterate the request for funding via the FIC.

5. PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE WORK PLAN 2015

- Social participation and Contribution of the Communities involved

The PPT Uruguay reported that they contacted some NGOs and civil associations defending the environment and workers involved with the development of infrastructures, for inviting them to participate in future meetings of the COSIPLAN. The delegations shall be informed about the progress in this topic.

- Legal convergence as regulation of development and operation of the regional infrastructure.

The PPT Uruguay bears his interest in identify regulatory and legal aspects that are obstacles for the progress of the projects. With the tasks for updating the portfolio of projects, it will arise the normative aspects that difficult reaching the objectives.

6. SUMMARY

- i. The PPT will prepare a draft response to the proposal submitted by the General Secretary. Previously to send it to the GS, it will be circulated to all the CN for comments and approval.
- ii. Start in June the review of the thirty one (31) projects of the API, to establish the status of every project and identify any restrictions or obstacles that affect its implementation.
- iii. Brazil will send to the PPT a draft guide and criteria to follow for the review of the API projects, in May. Once adjusted with the PPT, this guide will be circulated to the CN of the countries.
- iv. The PPT will circulate the updated calendar of the Work Plan 2015, as soon as possible.
- v. Paraguay will forward as soon as possible the latest version of the bidding documents for the call of the "Studies for the deployment of the South American Connectivity Network for Integration"

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- vi. The Presidency of the WG on Railway Integration will review and adjust the ToR for the study and diagnosis of the network and South American railway legislation, considering the suggestions of the technical evaluation team of the FIC. The new version of the ToR will be forwarded to the CN for its approval, before to forwarding it again to the FIC via the GS.
 - vii. The General Secretariat shall send for the consideration of the COSIPLAN the schedule and preliminary agenda of the workshop "Impact of infrastructure projects on the generation of productive value chains in UNASUR", which will be organized by the GS.
 - viii. Venezuela will propose as soon as possible the date for the II Planning Workshop, which should be hold in the second half of 2015.

7. CLOSING

All visiting countries delegations thanked the PPT of Uruguay, for the hospitality and excellent organization of the meeting.

The delegations welcomed the progress made at the meeting and the willingness and brotherhood showed in the treatment of the different topics of the agenda, which were the main factors to make decisions and achieve consensus.

Finally, the PPT thanked the delegations of the twelve member countries of UNASUR, highlighting their generous and proactive participation and collaboration in the analysis of the issues.

Montevideo, April 17, 2015.

Republic of Argentina

Plurinational State of Bolivia

Federal Republic of Brazil

Republic of Chile

Republic of Colombia

Republic of Ecuador

Cooperative Republic of Guyana

Republic of Paraguay

Republic of Peru

Republic of Suriname

Oriental Republic of Uruguay

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela