

## VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING HELD BY THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING COUNCIL

May 24, 2012

Asunción, Paraguay

### NOTES OF THE MEETING

On May 24, 2012, the Coordinating Committee of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN) held a videoconference meeting, which was attended by the delegates to such Committee and their accompanying officials from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, and Uruguay. The objectives of the meeting were as follows: (i) inform the delegations of the presentation delivered by the Presidency Pro Tempore to the Working Group on Financial Integration, under the South American Council on Economy and Finance, regarding the Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022, the Work Plan 2012, and the Integration Priority Project Agenda (API); (ii) reach an agreement on changes in the meeting dates; (iii) further the dialogue on the construction of the COSIPLAN Internet website; and (iv) discuss other issues of interest to the delegations. The Meeting Agenda is attached as Annex 1.

After the meeting was opened by the Presidency Pro Tempore held by Paraguay, the participants proceeded to discuss the items on the agenda.

- **Working Group on Financing and Guarantee Mechanisms**

The Presidency Pro Tempore gave details of the presentation delivered at the meeting of the Working Group on Financial Integration, under the South American Council on Economy and Finance, held on May 11, 2012, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This presentation was made in response to the mandate received at the I Meeting of the Working Group on Financing and Guarantee Mechanisms, held on March 7, 2012, in Asunción, Paraguay.

The presentation addressed the Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022 as well as the Work Plan 2012, and provided a detailed look into the Integration Priority Project Agenda (API). Copies containing information on the API projects were distributed.

As a result, the Working Group on Financial Integration had requested that it be recorded in the minutes of its meeting that COSIPLAN reached the South American Council on Economy and Finance through said Working Group and that this was the starting point of a channel of interaction between both Councils intended to address financing issues, particularly those concerning projects with a social and/or strategic bearing on the countries. Moreover, consideration of these issues in the context of the consolidation of the Bank of the South, which is not fully operational yet, was suggested.

Furthermore, the delegations stressed the commitment made at the I Meeting of the Working Group on Financing and Guarantee Mechanisms, namely:

- Each country will carry out a preliminary assessment of the financing alternatives for its projects included in the Integration Priority Project Agenda (API).

**Deadline: August 15, 2012**

The importance of each country fulfilling this commitment lies in the fact that the resulting financing diagnosis will be the main input for the II Meeting of the Working Group on Financing and Guarantee Mechanisms, to be held on September 4, 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The delegations awarded the Presidency Pro Tempore a mandate to formally invite the Working Group on Financial Integration to participate at the II Meeting of the Working Group on Financing and Guarantee Mechanisms, which will be held on September 4, 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

- **Working Group on Telecommunications in South America**

With a view to furthering the progress of the Roadmap for South American Connectivity for Integration and creating synergies with the Seminar on Regional Infrastructure Networks in South America, the Presidency Pro Tempore proposed that the II Meeting of the Working Group on Telecommunications in South America should be held on **July 26, 2012**, in Asunción, Paraguay.

The proposed date was accepted by the delegations. The IIRSA-COSIPLAN Activity Timetable 2012 including the new dates agreed upon at this meeting is attached as Annex 2.

The delegations expressed the need to reschedule the time frames in the Roadmap for South American Connectivity for Integration, and the resulting new schedules agreed upon are as follows:

- a. Logistics Aspects: The time frames will expire on July 26, 2012.
- b. Infrastructure Aspects and subsequent aspects: These will begin on July 26, 2012.

The Roadmap for South American Connectivity for Integration including the new time frames as agreed upon at this meeting is attached as Annex 3.

To make progress with the different aspects of the Roadmap, the delegations agreed to request that a special videoconference meeting of the Working Group on Telecommunications be held in addition to the specific videoconference meetings with the countries responsible for each aspect included in the Roadmap.

The delegations were reminded of the responsible/coordinating countries concerned with each aspect in the Roadmap:

- a. Logistics Aspects (Paraguay)
- b.1 Infrastructure for the Ring (Brazil-Colombia-Venezuela-Chile)

- b.2 Submarine Cable Infrastructure to Connect the UNASUR Countries and Other Regions (Argentina-Colombia)
- c. Financial Aspects (Argentina-Venezuela)
- d. Operational Aspects (Brazil)
- e. Private Participation Aspects (Chile-Peru)
- f. Government and Social Content, Service and Application Creation Aspects (Venezuela)
- g. Interconnection Aspects (Chile-Peru-Ecuador-Colombia-Uruguay)

The list of focal points was requested from the Presidency Pro Tempore so that each coordinating country may organize its face-to-face and videoconference meetings. The list of Focal Points to the Working Group on Telecommunications received as of this date is attached as Annex 4.

- **Seminar on Regional Infrastructure Networks in South America**

With the purpose of achieving an improved organization and a greater participation of lecturers and attendees, the Presidency Pro Tempore proposed that the Seminar on Regional Infrastructure Networks in South America should be held on **July 27, 2012**, in Asunción, Paraguay.

The date proposed was accepted by the delegations. Furthermore, it was agreed that the invitations to such seminar and to the II Meeting of the Working Group on Telecommunications should be sent jointly 45 days in advance, accompanied by a preliminary agenda, and separately addressed to the National Coordinators and to the focal points.

- **GTE Meeting on GIS and Cartography**

The Presidency Pro Tempore recognized that this topic was not covered by the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee, but took the opportunity to spend a few minutes speaking about the progress made in this regard thanks to the support given by all the delegations.

**Glossary of Geographic Terms to be Used in the COSIPLAN GIS**

The draft glossary is being prepared by technical experts that form part of the Paraguayan delegation. This draft is soon to be sent to the Argentine delegation for comments and suggestions and, as established in the Notes of the GTE Meeting on GIS and Cartography, will be presented at the next GTE Meeting, to be held on June 29, 2012.

The delegations reminded that the deadline for submitting the COSIPAN GIS Survey distributed by the CCT Secretariat was June 10, 2012. In addition, the Argentine delegation undertook to consolidate all the documents; it was stressed, however, that each country would have the opportunity to present the layers available to it at the next GTE Meeting.

Regarding the technical datasheet for the analysis of the thematic layers, the Paraguayan delegation will send the technical datasheet prepared by its technical team to the other delegations for their countries to use

as input.

- **V Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee**

The Presidency Pro Tempore recognized the need to organize a meeting at mid-year on account of the several communications received from the delegations requesting that the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee should meet in the near future to coordinate the Work Plan and make headway with it.

After a lengthy debate, the delegations agreed to advance the date of the V Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee to **August 8, 2012**, and to hold it in Montevideo, Uruguay. This affected the dates previously set for the GTE Meeting on the API Continuous Monitoring System (CMS), which was accordingly moved to **August 9 and 10, 2012**, and will take place also in Montevideo, Uruguay, over a day and a half. The IIRSA-COSIPLAN Activity Timetable 2012 including the new dates agreed upon at this meeting is attached as Annex 2.

- **VI Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee**

The Presidency Pro Tempore proposed that the VI Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee be held on **November 27, 2012**, which was accepted by the delegations. The IIRSA-COSIPLAN Activity Timetable 2012 including the new dates agreed upon at this meeting is attached as Annex 2.

- **Questions Made to the Brazilian Delegation**

The Presidency Pro Tempore requested the Brazilian delegation to provide information on the organization of the II Meeting of the Working Group on Financing and Guarantee Mechanisms and of the III Meeting of Communications Ministers, agreed to be held on September 4 and 5, 2012, respectively.

The Brazilian delegation answered that the date of the II Meeting of the Working Group on Financing and Guarantee Mechanisms was confirmed, and that the meeting would take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

As for the III Meeting of Communications Ministers, the Brazilian delegation proposed to postpone it to October 9, 2012, to coincide with FUTURECOM 2012, the largest telecommunications event in Latin America. The delegations decided to consult with their respective Ministries of Communications about this proposal. In addition, they stressed that there should be clear information about the participation of the Ministers at this event, and that a venue as well as the time necessary to hold the meeting of the Ministers as previously agreed should be provided for. They also stressed the importance of giving greater impetus to the Roadmap for South American Connectivity for Integration in order to attain concrete results by the next Meeting of Communications Ministers.

The Presidency Pro Tempore undertook to follow up with the different delegations on this proposal to confirm the October 9, 2012 preliminary date for the III Meeting of Communications Ministers.

- **Work Plan 2012 Action 5.1: Construct a COSIPLAN Internet Website**

The Presidency Pro Tempore introduced the idea of moving forward with the construction of the COSIPLAN website on the Internet.

As regards financing, the UNASUR General Secretariat stated that right now the UNASUR member countries were engaged in identifying common projects in the Councils that could be financed with the funds available to it.

The delegations stressed that reaching a consensus on the website content was as important as its financing.

The delegations agreed that the Presidency Pro Tempore should distribute the Terms of Reference related to IIRSA website to serve as input in the development of the COSIPLAN website. The delegations undertook to study such document and to make headway with the development of a basic proposal for the website design.

- **Other Items of Interest**

COSIPLAN Meetings – Financing

The Presidency Pro Tempore raised this concern in the understanding that the financing of the meetings would be borne by the host countries, and brought this to the attention of those countries expected to hold COSIPLAN meetings.

The Brazilian delegation expressed that the funds for the II Meeting of the Working Group on Financing and Guarantee Mechanisms were already available, and the same holds for the III Meeting of Communications Ministers should it be held simultaneously with FUTURECOM 2012.

As for the I Meeting of the Working Group on South American Rail Integration, scheduled for July 12 and 13, 2012, in Santiago, Chile, the Chilean delegation will inform of this issue next week.

Similarly, the Uruguayan delegation said that it would communicate as soon as possible the source that to finance the V Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee, scheduled for August 8, 2012, in Montevideo, Uruguay.



## **List of Annexes**

- Annex 1: Meeting Agenda
- Annex 2: IIRSA-COSIPLAN Activity Timetable 2012
- Annex 3: Roadmap for South American Connectivity for Integration
- Annex 4: Focal Points to the Working Group on Telecommunications