
Montevideo, May 4, 2015.

General Secretariat of UNASUR

Mr. General Secretary

Dr. Ernesto Samper Pizano

Dear General Secretary,

I have the honor to communicate with you in fulfilling to what was resolved by the Coordinator Committee (CC) of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN) at its XI Meeting, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on April 17, 2015.

According to the agenda of the meeting, one of the subjects considered by the CC was the proposal you made with regard to some of the projects included in the Integration Priority Projects Agenda (API), contained in the document EE-96-UNASURSG-2015, dated February 18, 2015, and sent to this Presidency Pro Tempore of the COSIPLAN. As I told you, this document was circulated to the National Coordinators of all countries of the COSIPLAN for their knowledge and analysis, in advance of the meeting of the Coordinating Committee. Furthermore, during the CC meeting on behalf of the General Secretariat, Mr. Juan Salazar read your message to the COSIPLAN (Letter dated April 17, 2015). In this message, in addition to the seven projects that you have identified as a priority within the API, it is added as an eight one, the "Central Bi Oceanic Railway Corridor (Bolivian Link)" specially requested by Bolivia.

In this framework, all the delegations of the countries understood that the main objective of your proposal is to advance more quickly with these projects, focusing on raising technical and financial constraints that they could face, highlighted and valued very positively the willingness and proactive attitude of the General Secretary expressed in their proposals, whereas a recognition to the work done by the COSIPLAN and also the need to advance further.

As you know, the API is the result of a decision of the COSIPLAN that synthesized a series of technical works and convergence efforts, for over a decade in terms of cooperation, dialogue and agreements among South American countries to the territory

infrastructure planning with a shared regional vision. The API includes thirty one (31) structured projects and one hundred (100) individual projects of strategic nature and high impact to the physical integration and regional development, incorporating from its origins the concept of economic, environmental and social sustainability, in consistency with the aims of UNASUR.

With this in mind, the delegates of the countries reflected and debated on the matter, saying that the COSIPLAN is an organ of UNASUR whose function is to identify and plan for infrastructure projects, transport services and telecommunications, that will facilitate the integration of the territories, their accessibility and more mobility of goods and people. The implementation or execution of these projects is a responsibility of each country. Many times the execution or implementation of projects identified as a priority depends on not only the technical, management or financial capacity, but in a multiplicity of factors affecting it. Furthermore, the prioritization of structured projects that are included in the API, defined in 2011 along with the Strategic Action Plan (PAE) 2012-2022, are the results of the work of specialists and technicians of all countries. To do this, there was organized Working Groups on the nine hubs of integration and development (EID), considering the different variables and unique aspects of each project, its contribution to the objectives of integration and facilitation of transport, logistics and productive chains. Additionally, these projects have the necessary political validation by the competent authorities of each country.

In this context, considering the work done and the accumulated knowledge over more than one decade, the delegates understood that an effort on API projects review should be made through the Coordinating Committee of the COSIPLAN. This review must be focused on the identification of financial and technical needs, regulatory barriers or other constrains, which should be lifted to go further on the realization of the thirty-one (31) structured API projects. The COSIPLAN must raise their concerns to the authorities of the States and Governments, so it is considered highly positive taking advantage of the General Secretary's initiative, to assist in these efforts with the highest authorities of State and Government, and thus move forward with the API projects.

The Coordinating Committee highly appreciate the willingness of the General Secretary in order to work together with the COSIPLAN, on the infrastructure projects for integration, particularly in relation to his possibilities of interaction between this Council and the authorities of State and Government, for the purpose of facilitating and streamline processes to implement the API projects and in particular, to obtain resources and funding.

The above considerations based on the proposal of the General Secretary has generated the need of making an API projects review, to clearly establish its status and identify constraints or obstacles that could be blocking its implementation. So, the Coordinating Committee of the COSIPLAN resolved to make a diagnosis of each structured project of the API, including all its individual components, to identify constraints or obstacles (technical, financial, harmonization of regulatory instruments, agreements), which are recognized as causes of no progress on its implementation. Obtained this full diagnosis, it will be requested a meeting with the General Secretary in order to analyze the alternatives of his support and collaboration in removing obstacles to the implementation of the projects.

Truly yours,

Eng. Pablo Genta
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