

Minutes

I Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN) UNASUR

(Rio de Janeiro, April 28, 2011)

On April 28, 2011, the city of Rio de Janeiro hosted the I Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN) within the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). The meeting was attended by representatives of the governments of Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela, in addition to Brazil, holding in 2011 the COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT). Representatives of the UNASUR General Secretariat, the IDB, CAF, FONPLATA and ECLAC participated as well. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

The meeting was opened by Ambassador Antonio Simões, Undersecretary General for South America, Central America and the Caribbean of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations, who welcomed the delegations present. In his speech, he emphasized the priority given by Brazil to regional integration in its foreign policy. Mr. Simões stated that physical infrastructure integration issues should be particularly targeted to achieving the endogenous development of the region and creating the conditions necessary to guarantee the well-being of all the South American peoples. Furthermore, he stressed that it was important that progress in infrastructure should be made in an equitable manner in the entire South American continent.

In her intervention, the UNASUR Secretary General expressed her great pleasure in participating in the first meeting of a sectoral Council of the Union, after having been appointed to her position in March. She thanked the PPT held by Brazil for ensuring the continuity of the COSIPLAN work in 2011. Then, she suggested that the activities undertaken within the framework of the sectoral Councils should be in line with one another, so as to join efforts in reducing asymmetries and eradicating extreme poverty. She pointed out the need to accelerate the integration of border areas and engage the private sector in infrastructure investments through public-private partnerships. Before closing her speech, the Secretary General encouraged the delegations to continue giving their support to the COSIPLAN activities.

In the following speech, Minister Miriam Belchior emphasized the strengthening of the ties among the South American countries and the importance of political dialogue at the multilateral level for the integration of physical infrastructure in the region. She praised the progress made in the last ten years in the field, since the creation of the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA), and made reference to the efforts yet to be made in the new round of discussions on this topic. Ms. Belchior commended the support given by the development banks of the region throughout this process, underlining the importance of the continuity of the tasks

performed by the Technical Coordination Committee (CCT) within COSIPLAN. She finally referred to the study entitled "One Region, Two Speeds," conducted by the IDB and submitted at the last meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors held in Calgary in March. The document says that the South American region is better positioned in the new post-crisis world order.

Next, the PPT held by Brazil submitted a proposal for the Strategic Action Plan (PAE) 2012-2022 Basic Structure, attached as Annex II. The Brazilian delegation explained that the proposal was based on the foundations, principles, and general and specific objectives underlying the drafting of the UNASUR Constitutive Treaty and the COSIPLAN Statutes and Regulations.

Given the consensus reached at the meeting of IIRSA National Coordinators in Brasilia on April 14, 2011, the PPT held by Brazil asked ECLAC to clarify some financial aspects in the event that funds be requested to support the drafting of the PAE 2012-2022. Moreover, the PPT explained that there were budget constraints to the matching funds to be contributed by Brazil. The ECLAC representative stated that the Commission expected to extend its support beyond the drafting of the Action Plan in order to include its implementation as well. With regard to the financial issue, the ECLAC representative expressed her commitment to assess other matching options.

Following this, some delegations made some comments on the PAE. At the end of the discussion, the countries committed themselves to sending their proposals and comments by e-mail to the PPT held by Brazil not later than May 25, 2011. The consolidated version of the PAE including the observations made by all the countries will be distributed by the PPT at least one week before the meeting of the Executive Technical Groups (GTEs) to be held in Bogotá.

Then, the IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee (CCT) presented the creation and implementation of the Priority Project Agenda (APP), attached as Annex III. The CCT undertook to send the delegations the conceptual document to supplement its presentation. At the end of the discussion, the delegations agreed to send their comments by e-mail to the CCT not later than May 10, 2011. The deadline for the Surinamese delegation was moved to May 25, 2011, as requested.

The delegations agreed to hold the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee in the city of Rio de Janeiro on August 24 and 25, 2011, together with the meeting of IIRSA National Coordinators. The meeting of the COSIPLAN Ministers will take place in Brasilia on November 30, 2011.

The PPT held by Brazil requested the delegations present to send their proposals for the Annual Work Plan 2012 by July 30, 2011.

It was then agreed that the delegations will send their proposed agenda for the Meeting of the COSIPLAN Ministers by November 30, 2011.

The delegations agreed that the PPT held by Brazil should start working in the construction of the COSIPLAN website, to be submitted for the consideration of all the countries at a subsequent meeting of the Coordinating Committee.

The COSIPLAN PPT held by Brazil expressed its commitment to submit, in a 15-day period, a description of its annual allowance for technical and administrative support, together with a proposal for possible sources of financing, to the consideration of all the delegations. The proposal agreed by consensus within the framework of COSIPLAN will be submitted to the UNASUR Council of Delegates by July 31, 2011, in accordance with Resolution 01/2011 of the UNASUR Council of Delegates.

The minutes, with its respective annexes, will be sent by e-mail to the delegations by the PPT held by Brazil.