

Minutes

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

(Rio de Janeiro, August 31, 2011)

The Second Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the South American Council for Infrastructure and Planning (COSIPLAN) of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) was held on August 31, 2011, in the city of Rio de Janeiro. The meeting was coordinated by Brazil, which holds COSIPLAN's Presidency *Pro Tempore* (PPT) in 2011. It was attended by delegations from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay, and Venezuela, and by representatives of the General Secretariat of UNASUR. Representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Andean Development Corporation – Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), and the Bolivian Consulate General in Rio de Janeiro participated as observers. The list of participants is attached to these Minutes as Appendix I.

The Second Meeting was opened by Mr. Ernesto Carrara, Director of the Department of Economic and Special Issues of Brazil's Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management. In his speech, he highlighted the progress of the Council throughout 2011, which focused on the elaboration of the Integration Priority Projects Agenda (API) and the 2012-2022 Strategic Action Plan (PAE). He also drew attention to the relevance of infrastructure projects as inductors of economic and social development, what constitutes a new chapter of South American integration. At last, he emphasized the strengthening of multilateral political dialogue between member countries of the Council.

The work sessions began with a presentation of the Brazilian Ministry of Communications' draft project of interconnection of optical fiber networks in South America. The purpose is to expand broadband Internet access in the region, given its positive impact on economic growth and social development. The project provides the constitution of trunk networks in a large continental optical fiber ring. That Ministry's representative also presented a second proposition related to the use of road networks and transmission lines for the implementation of communication infrastructure. The delegations welcomed the initiative and expressed their support. The representative of the General Secretariat of UNASUR reiterated the importance of discussing this type of action under COSIPLAN and reassured their support to promote regional physical integration.

The Brazilian PPT then announced the proposal to hold a meeting of Ministers of Communications of South America, aiming at addressing this specific dimension of physical integration under COSIPLAN. Institutions such as ECLAC, IDB and CAF will be invited as well, so that all participants will be able to exploit synergies and exchange information on ongoing projects. The meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2011. Invitations will be sent in due course by the Brazilian Ministry of Communications, in coordination with the Brazilian PPT.

Subsequently, the delegations discussed the Integration Priority Projects Agenda, as of now constituted by 31 projects selected in accordance to criteria set by the countries. Information on outstanding issues should be sent to the Secretariat of the Technical Coordination Committee (CCT) by September 15. The final document will be presented to COSIPLAN's Ministers at the meeting to be held on November 30, 2011, in Brasilia.

The delegations then proceeded with the analysis of the latest version of the 2012-2022 Strategic Action Plan. After comments on its content, the delegates agreed that suggestions to the text may be sent to the Brazilian PPT until October 7, 2011, and later submitted to all countries. The final document will be presented to COSIPLAN's Ministers at the November meeting. The document is attached to these Minutes as Appendix II.

Finally, a proposal of the agenda for the Ministers Meeting of COSIPLAN was presented. The agenda should include, initially, the discussion and analysis of the activity reports of the Council bodies, as well as the revision and approval of the PAE, API and Work Plan for 2012. Additionally, the Brazilian PPT suggested a debate on the inclusion of the Workgroup on Railway Bioceanic Integration (Brazil-Paraguay-Argentina-Chile) in the scope of COSIPLAN, in order to gather different work fronts for infrastructure in South America in the same instance. The delegations of Argentina and Paraguay were in favor of the idea. The Brazilian PPT will soon circulate a "non-paper" on this issue. The proposed agenda for the Ministers Meeting of COSIPLAN is attached to these Minutes as Appendix III.

These Minutes and its Appendices will be circulated to all delegations by e-mail.