



COSIPLAN
Presidencia Pro Tempore
Perú 2012 - 2013

Meeting of the Executive Technical Group on Geographic Information System and Cartography

April 10, 2013

Buenos Aires, Argentina

NOTES OF THE MEETING

On April 10, 2013, the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, hosted a Meeting of the Executive Technical Group on Geographic Information System (GIS) and Cartography, which was attended by representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as by members of the Technical Coordination Committee (CCT). The meeting agenda and the list of participating delegations are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

The objectives of the GTE meeting were to assess the progress made to date in the implementation of a Geographic Information System for the COSIPLAN, and to define the next steps towards its development, taking into account that this requires coordinated, participative, and structured work from its members and a high degree of technical content in their analysis.

After the opening of the meeting by the Presidency Pro Tempore, held by Peru, the Argentine delegation delivered a presentation on the geographic information available for each layer agreed upon, on the basis of the data supplied by each country. The data survey sheet is attached as Annex 3.

The need to complete the survey for the countries that have not submitted it yet (Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela) as well as for the layers reported as still unavailable was underscored. A preliminary set of data for the basic thematic layers might be identified to start the tasks.

The delegation of Guyana explained that consulting services have been hired in order to gather all the geographic information of the country that is currently scattered among different government agencies in

order to integrate and centralize it, with a view to completing the survey. Furthermore, the Ecuadorian delegation committed itself to the completion of the survey, as the required information is already at hand. The delegation of Venezuela said that its geographic data is being updated, and will see to the completion of the survey.

The Argentine delegation will make a country-by-country analysis to learn about the situation regarding the availability of information and determine the next steps in the information gathering process.

Subsequently, the Argentine delegation delivered a presentation on geographic data standardization and interoperability. It was mentioned that three standards within ISO TC211 are useful to the GIS: ISO 19115 on metadata; ISO 19110 on the methodology for feature cataloguing, and ISO 19126 on feature concept dictionaries and registers. The presentation is attached as Annex 4.

With regard to metadata, the Latin American Profile, which is the one adopted for the COSIPLAN, is compliant with the standard. As for the standard mentioned in the second place, Argentina proposed developing a feature catalogue, for which purpose it expects to receive the countries' feedback and comments to the attached documents within a month (by May 10) in order to incorporate them in the draft version of the catalogue. The Argentine National Coordination will receive the comments and will update this preliminary version for the next meeting of National Coordinators in June. With reference to the third standard above mentioned, it was decided to leave it for a future time. The preliminary feature catalogue about which the National Coordinators are invited to comment is attached as Annex 5.

Next, the participants addressed the issue of the management of the Geographic Information System for COSIPLAN, including the ongoing operation and update of the GIS and the provision of the infrastructure required to set up and operate the system. In this regard, it was stated that, at this first stage, all the efforts to prepare the basic layer information and to adjust it for compliance with the standards should be made by each country. It was decided that a concrete proposal would be prepared simultaneously, including an estimated budget and an indication of the system storage capacity, in order to coordinate with the UNASUR General Secretariat the mechanisms for the GIS to be hosted and operated there, taking into account that this institution is soon to host the UNASUR Information and Communication Center.

The Peruvian delegation proposed a request for technical assistance to hire consulting services for finding the best technological solution to implement the COSIPLAN GIS once the data to be supplied by the countries is available. These consulting services would be supervised by a team to be designated by COSIPLAN. It was agreed that each country would analyze the proposed terms of reference, attached as Annex 6, and would discuss them at the next meeting of National Coordinators, to be held in June.

Finally, as the Presidency Pro Tempore is held for a 12-month period, and this topic will require close technical monitoring if the development and implementation of the COSIPLAN GIS is to succeed, it was agreed that the Argentine National Coordination will be in charge of all the aspects related to this GTE.

List of Annexes

- Annex 1: Meeting Agenda
- Annex 2: List of Participating Delegations
- Annex 3: Survey of Geographic Data by Country
- Annex 4: Presentation on Geographic Data Standardization and Interoperability
- Annex 5: Preliminary Feature Catalogue
- Annex 6: Terms of Reference for a Request for Technical Assistance