
VIDEOCONFERENCE ON THE COSIPLAN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

(WG ON COSIPLAN GIS/WEBSITE)

May 22, 2017

REPORT

On May 22, 2017, a technical videoconference was held with the focal points of the countries that form part of the Working Group on the COSIPLAN Geographic Information System and Website. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

The objectives of the videoconference were the following:

- Present the current status of the entry of layers that were to be updated and of the new layers to be incorporated in the second stage of the project by the member countries of the Working Group on the COISPLAN GIS.
- Discuss the incorporation of new thematic layers and assess the possibility of introducing a new layer for Reduction of Disaster Risks and Emergency Management.
- Create agreements and define deadlines for the implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI).
- Carry out actions of coordination with UNASUR Councils regarding the information to be incorporated to the GIS- SDI.
- Make proposals of case studies to implement through effective Territorial Integration examples.

The countries that participated in the videoconference were Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and the UNASUR Secretary General took part as well.

The videoconference was opened with a report on the the update of existing layers and the addition of new layers by each country.

All the countries had updated their layers, except for Chile and Peru, the representatives of which committed to entering the missing information as soon as possible.

With regard to the addition of new layers, most countries stated their difficulties in obtaining information for the Optical Fiber layer, as it is considered a delicate matter in terms of security and because there many lines that belong to private companies.

Consequently, a reasonable time was established for the countries to obtain relevant information on this layer in order to subsequently decide either to adjust it or to eliminate it from the catalog.

On the other hand, this information was decided to be requested from the Working Group on COSIPLAN Telecommunications.

Difficulties were also reported in relation to the layer known as Free Trade Zones and Logistic Centers. In order to develop a course of action for this year, the incorporation of new layers were proposed. A suggestion was made to add a layer entitled Reduction of Disaster Risks and Emergency Management and to start looking for such information, as Risk Management is fundamental as a tool for risk prevention and planning. Peru suggests consulting the Atlas 2008 made by the Andean Community, in which these topics have been developed.

In turn, Chile proposed that each country should prepare a report explaining what information it possesses with the aim of making a diagnosis enabling the generation of new layers.

Ecuador observed that the UNASUR Council for South American Defense has such information in its Atlas of Natural Disaster Risks, so that the only action required would be to contact the Council members to ask them to make that information available.

As a result of some comments made by the countries, Ricardo Mansilla stated that conversations had been maintained with the PAIGH (Pan American Institute of Geography and History) in charge of the Integrated Map of South America (MIAS) project with the purpose of coordinating the initiative and avoid duplicating efforts. He also said that, in the next workshop on MIAS to be held in the city of Rio de Janeiro on the first week of July, the work made by the COSIPLAN GIS is planned to be presented and arrangements will be made so that the PIAGH should do the same with its project.

Once this stage was over, the UNASUR Secretary General took the floor to insist on the current financial, technological and labor situation in which we are immersed (material is attached as Annex 2).

Ambassador Luz Jara commented on the current situation of the UNASUR Common Initiatives Fund (CIF), as during the XV Meeting of the COSIPLAN Coordinating Committee the CIF project for the COSIPLAN GIS Phase II was presented and approved, but it still needed to be approved by the Ministers. As they are not bound to meet in the short run, a proposal was made for this approval to be achieved through a COSIPLAN Agreement, the

virtual approval of which by the Ministers could be coordinated by the Presidency Pro Tempore.

Next the UNASUR Head of Technology, Mr. Andrés Carrasco, took the floor to present a timeline with the most iconic COSIPLAN GIS events, open for additions and to be used in subsequent presentations by the member countries.

Furthermore, Mr. Carrasco underscored the functionalities of the current infrastructure that is available for the Secretariat to implement the COSIPLAN GIS and explained the adjustments to be made in order to create the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) at both the regional (secretariat) and local (countries) levels.

According to the diagram sent for the presentation, each country is required to prepare a report on the infrastructure available to each of them in terms of Hardware and Software (GIS Application Services). With this, the needs will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis and interconnection alternatives will be assessed for synchronization with the regional SDI.

Agreements and Next Activities

The coordination of the Working Group in charge of Argentina made a summary of the topics discussed and itemized the commitments assumed, namely:

- It is hereby decided that for June 23 all the countries will have to send information on the following topics:
 - o Reduction of Disaster Risks and Emergency Management
 - o Draft a report on the technological resources available in order to achieve synchronization with the regional SDI and define the protocol to be followed.
- Ecuador undertook to act as a liaison with the UNASUR Council for the South American Defense to obtain the information needed.
- The videoconference notes will be sent to all representatives together with the list of participants, for which purpose countries are requested to send the complete personal details, should any modification be introduced, of their respective delegates present on their behalf.

The videoconference was adjourned

ANNEXES

- ❑ Annex 1: [Agenda](#)
- ❑ Annex 2: [List of Participating Delegations](#)
- ❑ Annex 3: [Presentation of COSIPLAN - GIS 2017 - 2018](#)