

DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF COMMUNICATIONS OF THE UNASUR MEMBER STATES

We, the Ministers of Communications of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) Member States, assembled in Asunción, Republic of Paraguay, on March 9, 2012, within the framework of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN):

1. *Reaffirming* our willingness to continue moving forward in our area of competence with the assurance that the communications sector plays a key role in the South American physical integration process and in strengthening the sovereignty and identity of the countries of the region as well as their mutual relations,

2. *Recalling* the importance of making all necessary efforts in this regard to overcome the South American geographical and operational barriers by promoting inclusive projects that should serve as genuine instruments to effectively combat shared problems such as poverty and climate change,

3. *Being aware* that the lack of access to information technologies exacerbates social exclusion and further aggravates existing inequalities, thus agreeing to develop consistent policies to achieve universal access to such technologies and to stimulate development in the countries of the region,

4. *Reflecting* the results of the task carried out by the Working Group on Telecommunications in South America, established under COSIPLAN Agreement No. 4/2011 dated November 30, 2011, with the purpose of analyzing and proposing alternatives to promote the interconnection of the different fiber optic structures and networks in South America and creating the South American Integration Connectivity Network,

5. *Discussing* the Roadmap for South American Connectivity for Integration, prepared by the Working Group mentioned above with the objective of furthering the sovereignty, independence, and identity of our peoples as well as increasing the capacity of broadband connections, thereby reducing their cost,

Decide to:

6. Stress the importance of the interconnection aspects and their prioritization as incorporated into the Roadmap for South American Connectivity for Integration.

7. Commend Venezuela for its proposal for the implementation of the “Digital Content: Another Step towards Regional Integration” Initiative, intended to create, store and disseminate local and regional content with the purpose of enhancing the relative weight of intra-regional traffic, and commission the Working Group on

Telecommunications to analyze this proposal and draw up a specific action plan in its Roadmap.

8. Welcome the proposal presented by Paraguay regarding the “South American Strategy for the Interconnection of the UNASUR Member States’ Public Media,” and commission the Working Group on Telecommunications to analyze this proposal and draw up a specific action plan in its Roadmap.

9. Call on the coordinators of the activities included in the Roadmap—which involve logistics, infrastructure, interconnection, financial, operational, private participation, and government and social content, service, and application creation aspects—to submit concrete advances at the III Meeting of Communications Ministers.

10. Enthusiastically approve the Roadmap for South American Connectivity for Integration, and invite the Member States to work efficiently with a view to attaining the objectives set forth.

11. Approve the proposed time frames for each of the activities included in the Roadmap, and agree on the responsible parties or coordinators proposed for such activities.

12. Invite the countries to explore measures intended to improve the interconnection of the broadband networks and create traffic exchange points (IXPs).

13. Appreciate, on behalf of the Member States, the technical presentations delivered by the representatives of the IDB and ECLAC.

14. Agree on the dates for the next meetings: II Meeting on the Working Group on Telecommunications, to be held in Asunción, Paraguay, on June 8, 2012, and III Meeting of the Communications Ministers, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on September 5, 2012.

15. Attach to this Declaration as Annex 1 the Roadmap for South American Connectivity for Integration, as approved by all the Member States present.

[ORIGINAL SIGNED]

ARGENTINA

BOLIVIA

BRAZIL

CHILE

COLOMBIA

ECUADOR

GUYANA

PARAGUAY

PERU

SURINAME

URUGUAY

VENEZUELA

ANNEX 1

ROADMAP FOR SOUTH AMERICAN CONNECTIVITY FOR INTEGRATION

Activity	Responsible Party/Coordinator	Time Frame (months)
a. Logistics Aspects	Paraguay	
a.1 Identification of focal points by Hub by country		1
a.2 Identification of the public and private companies (the latter by the countries not having a public company) that will participate in the project		1
a.3 Definition of common computer tools, information confidentiality, and other issues		1
b. Infrastructure Aspects		
b.1 Infrastructure for the Ring	Brazil – Colombia – Venezuela – Chile	
b.1.1 Mapping of existing public (and private) trunk networks		3
b.1.2 Mapping of trunk network expansion projects underway		3
b.1.3 Estimation of (voice and data) traffic between the UNASUR countries		3
b.1.4 Identification of missing links and design of projects with the potential points for expanding/amending new fiber optic strands to complete the ring		3
b.1.5 Mapping of future trunk network expansion projects		3
b.1.6 Design and implementation of the Fiber Optic Ring first phase (identification of the interconnection points between the countries)		18

b.1.7 Design and implementation of the Fiber Optic Ring second phase (network redundancy, capillarity, etc.)		36
b.1.8. Interface to RedCLARA Network or research networks		18
b.2 Submarine cable infrastructure to connect the UNASUR countries and other regions	Argentina – Colombia	
b.2.1 Mapping of currently operational submarine cables and their useful life		3
b.2.2 Estimation of (voice and data) traffic between one country and other regions		3
b.2.3 Identification of hotspots and/or intercontinental exit points by each country for setting up the network traffic exchange point		3
b.2.4 Identification of the best locations for connecting the submarine cables		3
b.2.5 Implementation of the submarine cable infrastructure		24
c. Financial Aspects	Argentina – Venezuela	
c.1 Definition of the business model		3
c.2 Definition of costs		3
c.3 Definition of payments		3
c.4 Proposal for financing models		3
c.5 Regional strategic policies		3
c.6 Partnership models		3
d. Operational Aspects	Brazil	
d.1 Definition of the operational model		3
d.2 Drawing up of an agreed minute concerning logical interconnection among the companies		3
d.3 Definition of security models		3
d.4 Partnership models		3

e. Private Participation Aspects	Chile – Peru	
e.1 Study on model private participation agreements		3
f. Government and Social Content, Service and Application Creation Aspects	Venezuela	
f.1 Mapping of the state of the art		3
f.2 Content management models		3
f.3 Public content cooperation and exchange		3
g. Interconnection Aspects	Chile – Peru – Ecuador – Colombia – Uruguay	
g.1 Interconnection agreements and their regulatory aspects		3
g.2 Construction and implementation of national and regional traffic exchange points (IXPs)		6

Note: Time frames begin on March 9, 2012.