

## **FINAL MINUTES**

### **IX MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

In the city of Iquitos, Peru, on November 25, 2005, the Chancellor of Peru and High Officials of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela, all Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) have met to hold the 9th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

The Delegations were headed by: H.E. Ambassador Jorge Asín Capriles, Deputy-Minister of Economic Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bolivia; H.E. Ambassador Samuel Pinheiro Guimarães, Deputy-Minister – Secretary-General of the MRE of the Federative Republic of Brazil; H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Borda Rojas, Deputy-Minister of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia; H.E. Ambassador Diego Ribadeneira, Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador; Mrs. Marilyn Cheryl Miles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to Brazil; H.E. Ambassador Oscar Maúrtua de Romaña, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru; Mr. Robby Dewnarain Ramlakhan, Plenipotentiary Minister of the Embassy of Suriname in Brazil; and Mrs. Maria Pilar Hernández Deputy-Minister to North America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Furthermore, the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization was represented by the Secretary-General, Dr. Rosalía Arteaga Serrano. The full list of participants is attached hereto as Appendix I.

#### **OPENING CEREMONY**

The Deputy-Minister Samuel Pinheiro Guimarães, as the representative of the host country to the 8th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs presented his compliments to the delegates, and welcomed the hospitality and kind attention of the Peruvian people and government.

Following that, he submitted the suggestion that H.E. Ambassador Oscar Maúrtua should preside the meeting and ACTO Secretary-General should act as general secretary to the meeting to the plenary body for consideration. Both proposals were unanimously accepted.

The Chairman of the Meeting, H.E. Ambassador Oscar Maúrtua de Romaña, Peruvian Chancellor, opened the meeting welcoming the delegations of ACTO member countries. In his words, he expressed his congratulations for the hard and harmonized work developed, whereby a set of important documents and resolutions had been approved that should guide the tasks to be performed by the governments of ACTO member countries throughout the coming year.

He expressed the opinion that ACTO country chancellors, by the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Treaty, should be more ambitious and try to consolidate integration mechanisms and contribute towards affirming the confluence and institutional articulation of the South American Community of Nations. He stressed the concept of “environmental citizenship” that tries to harmonize the Andean and Amazonian ecosystems and incorporate equity and social justice as guiding principles to development. Furthermore, he underlined the need for enhancing the efforts oriented towards increasing scientific and technological cooperation to protect and promote the sustainable use of Amazonian biological and genetic resources.

He outlined the role played by international cooperation in environmental research, biotechnology, wood products, among others and called attention to the worrying issue of deforestation and its incidence on water resources.

He made reference to the major commitments undertaken by the country members, based on the resolutions approved and the Declaration of Iquitos. He emphasized the starting of negotiations based on the Peruvian initiative of approving an Amazonian Charter as a guideline for the region.

The President of XIII Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council (ACC), Ambassador Javier González Lumps, briefly presented the results of the meeting, the contents of which are in the meeting Minutes which were approved by the delegations, and thanked the personnel of the Chancellery of Peru and ACTO Permanent Secretariat for their persistence and results achieved.

## **2. Reading and Approval of the Agenda for the IX the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization**

The draft agenda was read and submitted for the approval of the delegations. Upon the Chairman's request, the Secretary-General submitted the draft agenda, which was approved by the plenary session.

## **4. Activities Report of ACTO Secretary General, for the period between September 2004 and October 2005 (including administrative and financial aspects)**

The chairman then granted the floor to the ACTO Secretary General to present the Activities Report to the plenary body.

Dr. Rosalía Arteaga greeted the delegates and presented the Activities Report, commenting the challenges posed to the Organization and the prospects for the future. Furthermore, she thanked the Member States' confidence in assigning her the duty of heading the ACTO Permanent Secretariat.

In her intervention, the Secretary-General emphasized the commitment shared by the Governments towards protecting the Amazon region, and then informed about the most relevant achievements along the last year of work. Among such achievements, she stressed the political visibility reached at global level by a multilateral organization exclusively devoted to Amazonian regional themes.

She highlighted that this visibility has contributed to the process of enhancing the dialogue among the countries because the multi-theme structure of ACTO naturally leads the countries to get closer, debate and, sometimes, reach consensus and solutions for problems faced by all Amazon countries. In this regard, one could say that ACTO's value lies in its capacity for viewing the basin as a whole.

She added that the PS/ACTO has fulfilled its duty, by translating the public mandate into concrete actions for sustainable development and preservation of the Amazon region, which was achieved by the implementation of the Strategic Plan, thus concretizing the mandates received in September 2004.

The Secretary General called attention to the great debt there was to those fellow countrymen that live in the Amazon, to future generations and to humanity because it had not been possible to avoid the destruction of a considerable part of the Amazonian Natural heritage, of incalculable value to the future of life on the planet. In that sense she highlighted the natural relationship that exists between the Andean and Amazon regions and which is reflected in this year's surprising drought.

In her address she stressed that the ATCO is the best and most suitable space there is for integrating our countries and for the integration of South America.

She wound up by saying that to fulfill the ample mandate that it possesses, the ATCO needs to increase its technical capacity and to enjoy a political space in which it can act, strictly within the bounds of its mandate, but granting the means necessary to do so and avoiding bureaucratic impediments. For this reason she called for commitment to action in favor of the sustainable development of the Amazon.

The chairmen expressed his thanks for Dr. **Rosalía** Arteaga's presentation and submitted the Activities Report for the consideration of the plenary body which duly approved it in accordance with the recommendations of the XIII ACC

## **5. Interventions of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization**

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador highlighted the importance of integration and interconnection of air transport among the Amazon capitals. He also pointed out the importance his country attributes to water resources, stressing what an honor it was to be in the city of Iquitos and he wound up his intervention by emphasizing the importance of cooperation giving as an example the **Piura –Guayaquil** highway, fruit of a peace treaty between Peru and Ecuador.

The Brazilian delegate thanked Peru and Ambassador Torrões for conducting the XIII ACC so well and was emphatic in congratulating Dr. Arteaga on the Report she had presented and in declaring integral support not only for the report but also for the actions that had been carried out by the

Executive Secretary. He also thanked Ambassador Ribadeneira for offering to host the III Summit Meeting of Presidents of ATCO Member Countries.

In his intervention, the Brazilian delegate stressed that the Amazon is on the outskirts of the outskirts and for that reason each Government had to give redoubled attention to development of the region.

He mentioned the responsibility of the developed countries in regard to climatic changes for which the developing countries and especially the Amazon countries could not be expected to meet the costs, as deforestation could not be considered as the only factor in global warming. He further expressed his government's favorable opinion in regard to accrediting France as an ACTO observer.

The Bolivian delegate, in his remarks, informed the meeting that his country was going to take firm action in the field of education and in connection with that would be submitting a proposal. He also thanked the government of Peru for the organization and offered his congratulations on the Report presented by the Secretary General.

The Colombian delegate thanked Peru for the warm welcome and the organization of the event and congratulated the ATCO Secretary General on the enthusiasm with which had been acting and the efforts of the work team that accompanied her. In his remarks he highlighted the visionary nature of the treaty.

He further pointed out that the ACT continued to be a tool for the development of the region and for that reason should be fortified, adding that it was necessary to complement the efforts towards integration underway in South America but without setting up any new regional integration authorities.

He gave a special greeting to the French delegate and informed the meeting that the observations that had been made by his delegation during the ACC meeting, on the admission of observers to ACTO meetings, had referred to the urgent need for clear statutes establishing precise criteria for the admission of observers and especially to regulate their participation in the meetings.

In this sense he made a passionate appeal for advances in the writing of the statutes that would regulate the participation of observers based on the instructions to the ACC so that the task could be completed before the Meeting of ACTO Heads of State to be held in Quito in the coming year when it would be possible to welcome those states that had expressed interest in participating as observers.

The Guyana delegate apologized for the absence of Minister Samuel Rudolph Insanally and of the CARICOM Secretary General. She also expressed her gratitude for the courtesy of the Peruvian government and of the local authorities and expressed congratulations on the work of the Permanent Secretary. She added her words to those of the Colombian delegate welcoming the presence of France with whom her government maintained important links. The ATCO was in a new phase and Guyana supported this growth process. She expressed the importance of the Treaty as an instrument for promoting regional cooperation especially for her country, given its cultural bonds with the Caribbean. The fight against poverty and the improvement of the quality of life had to be the central point of the ACT taking into consideration the importance of the human being as an element of the environment.

She stressed the importance of, and the interest of her country in participating in the SIPAM-SIVAM system as an instrument for monitoring infrastructure development projects in remote areas of the country.

She closed by making an appeal for careful preparations for the Meeting of Presidents in Quito so that concrete results might be obtained.

The Surinam delegate also thanked the people and government of Peru and Iquitos for the warm welcome that had been given and apologized for the absence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He congratulated the Permanent Secretary on the important and enthusiastic work that had been done. He called attention to the fact that many of our activities in the ACTO also occur in other organizations like the IIRSA for which reason it was necessary to integrate efforts.

He highlighted the impact of illegal mining on water resources and requested support from the Permanent Secretary in regard to that aspect.

Finally, he declared himself in favor of the presence of France as an observer.

The French delegate took the floor to express gratitude for the friendly invitation that had been extended by the government of Peru and by the ATCO member countries, to take part in the meeting.

He reminded them that France's longest frontier is with Brazil and that it has kept up longstanding relations with the ATCO through high level Centers of Investigation such as IRD and CIRAD, among others. He highlighted the various programs that the latter had been developing with a regional orientation, on several themes of interest to the Amazon countries, such as water resources, food safety, health and biodiversity.

He informed the meeting of his government's initiative in the sense of establishing a remote sensing center in Cayenne with high-resolution images, and he offered this installed technical capacity to develop initiatives in cooperation with the Amazon countries.

Finally, he underscored the need to seek formulas to strengthen the cooperation between France and the ATCO countries.

#### **6. Revision of themes resulting from the VIII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO Member Countries (Manaus, Brazil, September 14 2004)**

The chairman of the meeting informed it that the themes had been dealt with in the ACC meeting and the corresponding resolutions adopted or the relevant recommendations formulated in the Declaration of Iquitos.

#### **7. Approval and Signing of the "Declaration of Iquitos" and its corresponding Resolutions**

He requested the plenary body to approve the Declaration of Iquitos and the corresponding set of resolutions highlighting the main commitments undertaken by our countries, given the arduous work for an agreement that had preceded the meeting of chancellors.

The delegates acceded to the request

#### **8. Signing of the Resolution modifying the Minutes of the VIII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization held in Manaus, Brazil on September 14 2004.**

The ACTO Permanent Secretary circulated the Addendum to the Minutes of the VIII Meeting of Chancellors, which was duly signed by the delegates.

#### **9. Proposals of dates, venue and themes for the III Summit of Presidents of Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to be held in the Republic of Ecuador in 2006.**

On this matter, the chairman expressed his pleasure in accepting the offer from the Republic of Ecuador to host the III Summit of Presidents of Member States of the ACTO to be held in the to be held sometime in the first six months of 2006.

#### **10. Proposal for the date and venue of the X Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization**

On this matter, the chairman expressed his pleasure in accepting the offer from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host the X Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Venezuela sometime in the second six months of 2006 and offered the floor to the Venezuelan delegate.

In addressing the plenary body the Venezuelan delegate expressed gratitude for the hospitality, brotherliness and affection of Peru whilst at the same time congratulating the Surinam delegation on the celebration of the National Day of its country.

She expressed her recognition of the team which had made it possible to achieve the agreements for the approval of the documents.

She further declared what an honor it was for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host the X Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ATCO member Countries, especially at that moment, so important politically for the planet because of the interests of a country whose president had a

clearly imperialist vocation and the pretension of establishing mechanisms of interference using multilateral bodies.

She stated that the ATCO team had an important role to play in raising a voice to declare that the Amazon had someone who could protect it. The region holds key energy and biodiversity resources for humanity but our territorial community is made up of free sovereign countries well aware of their responsibilities to future generations. She further declared the importance of reaffirming our duty to guarantee the harmonious development of the region by exercising the sovereignty of our peoples.

She pointed out the importance of thanking those men and women that had made possible the signing of a visionary agreement like the ACT. Finally she stated that the government and people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela would feel themselves honored to receive the X Meeting of Chancellors in the second half of 2006.

#### **11. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the IX Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization**

The Chairman of the meeting, Ambassador Oscar Maúrtua, the Peruvian Chancellor, after finishing the work foreseen on the agenda expressed his thanks for the willingness and contributions of the delegations present and passed to the reading of the present minutes. Finding themselves to be in agreement with the same, the Heads of Delegations have duly signed them in this city of Iquitos, Peru on the twenty-fifth day of November of the year two thousand and five.

#### **12. Closing Ceremony**

To finalize the chairman once more thanked all the delegations for their willingness and valuable contributions in achieving the agreements and declared closed the IX Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

On behalf of the Republic of Bolivia

On behalf of the Republic of Colombia

On behalf of the Cooperative Republic of  
Guyana

On behalf of the Republic of Suriname.

On behalf of the Federative Republic of Brazil

On behalf of the Republic of Ecuador

On behalf of the Republic of Peru

On behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of  
Venezuela

**IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED:**

**RES/IX MRE-OTCA/1**

**IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**EXPRESSES** its special recognition on celebrating the twenty-five years of the entering into force of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT);

**REITERATES** its commitment that the institutionalism achieved in the form of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) shall constitute the principal instrument for attaining sustainable development of the Amazon.

**RATIFIES** that this proposal represents one of the most important challenges to appear during the institutional life of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty presently reflected in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO); and with this in mind.

**RESOLVES:**

**TO EXPRESS** its special recognition and congratulations to each one of the Member State governments on the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-five years since the entering in force of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT);

**TO MANIFEST** its satisfaction with the level of agreement attained by the Amazon countries within the political configuration of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO); and

**TO RENEW** its decision to continue working towards a shared vision in the fields of integration and sustainable development of the Amazon region;

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

**RES/IX MRE-OTCA/2**

**IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**CONSIDERING** that the Strategic Plan of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization for the period 2004-2012 was approved during the "VIII Meeting of Chancellors of the ACTO Member States" as a contemporary instrument, with a long term vision, that orientates the actions of the Organization's Permanent Secretariat in formulating, executing and giving continuance to the feasible projects, programs and initiatives with a regional outreach, maintaining a practice of dialogue and consultation with the Member States to that end;

**SEEING** that the "XIII Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council" has revised the report presented by the ACTO Permanent Secretariat on advances in the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization for the period 2004-2012;

**RESOLVES:**

**TO APPROVE**, with the proposals presented by the delegations in the minutes of the XIII Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, the Activities Report September 2004 to October 2005 submitted by the ACTO Permanent Secretariat on advances in the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization for the period 2004-2012.

**TO FOMENT** cooperation among Member States in the process of implementing the Strategic Plan of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization for the period 2004-2012 with a view to: strengthening its performance in fields of common interest for the sustainable development of the Amazon; achieving the expected benefits and their equitable distribution. and improving the quality of life of the Amazon populations.

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

### **RES/IX MRE-OTCA/3**

#### **IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

CONSIDERING that the “VIII Meeting of Chancellors of the Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)” decided to promote the political dialogue of the member States on the themes of intellectual property, science and technology, foreign trade, integration, security, and integral defense of the Amazon region;

**EXPRESSES** its recognition and gratitude to the Governments of Brazil and Peru as well as the appropriate authorities of the Member States, for the agreements achieved in and for the holding of the “I Regional Meeting of Intellectual property Rights Authorities of the Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization” (Rio de Janeiro, June 30 to July 1 2005) and in “I Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology of the Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization” (Lima. August 26 2005);

#### **RESOLVES:**

**TO MANIFEST** its satisfaction with the intense political dialogue that the Member States have been maintaining on themes like intellectual property, science and technology and with Colombia’s offer to host the “I Meeting on Integral Security and Defense of the Amazon”, in February of 2006; and to **URGE** that dialogue be continued on themes like foreign trade and integration, environment and other themes of common interest;

**TO GIVE** the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization the task of implementing actions that permit the implementation of the conclusions agreed on during the “I Regional Meeting of Intellectual Property Rights Authorities of the Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization” and the “I Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology of the Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization” whose minutes are attached hereby as an integral part of the present resolution;

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

### **RES/IX MRE-OTCA/4**

#### **IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**RECOGNISES** the important work carried out by the Permanent National Committees of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization;

**REAFFIRMS** its wish to strengthen the national Committees so that they may correspond to an efficient space of national agreement and application of the provisions of the Treaty, the Meetings of Chancellors and other authorities of the same, as set forth in the norms of the document creating the treaty; and in this sense,

#### **RESOLVES:**

**TO APPLAUD** the holding of the “Second Meeting of the Permanent National Committees” in Brasília on May 10 to 12 and furthermore **TO PROPOSE** that such meetings be held at least once a year urging the Permanent Secretariat to facilitate the said meetings.

**TO DIRECT** the ACTO Permanent Secretariat in coordination with the Coordinating Committee of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCACC) to prepare a program for strengthening the Permanent National Committees of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty according to the requirements presented by each one of them; and furthermore, to request the Permanent Secretariat to identify the resources necessary for implementing the same;

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

**RES/IX MRE-OTCA/5**

**IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**CELEBRATES** the implementation achieved by the States in regard to the agreement adopted at the "VIII Meeting of Chancellors of Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization" to hold preparatory meetings that will permit the adopting of common negotiating positions in international forums;

**HIGHLIGHTS** the need to continue articulating joint positions on themes of common interest with the object of promoting greater political agreement in international forums in defense of the integral and sustainable development of the Amazon;

**HIGHLIGHTS** the performance of the Party States during the "V Period of Sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests" held last May at United Nations Headquarters and in this direction **RATIFIES** the importance of reproducing successful experiences achieved during the Preparatory Meeting for the "V Period of Sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests" in Quito, last April where the Amazon countries agreed on a common position which was welcomed by the international community

**RESOLVES:**

**TO CONTINUE** holding preparatory meetings seeking to achieve, whenever possible, agreed negotiating positions in international forums;

**TO URGE** the ACTO Permanent Secretariat to continue to play the role of facilitator for such meetings;

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

**RES/IX MRE-OTCA/6**

**IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**STRESSES** the particular interest of the member states in advancing towards the approval of General Regulations for Commercial Navigation on the Amazon Rivers in accordance with a decision reflected in the "Declaration of Manaus" which resulted from the "VIII Meeting of Chancellors of Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization";

**CONGRATULATES** the Member States on the substantial contributions in this theme forwarded to the Permanent Secretariat of the organization;

**HIGHLIGHTS** the offer of the Government of Peru to host the technical meeting that will allow for advances to be made in the drafting of a project of "General Regulations of Commercial Navigation in the Amazon Rivers", in accordance with a decision reflected in the "Declaration of Manaus";

**RESOLVES:**

**TO CALL** a technical meeting that will allow for advances to be made in the drafting of a project of "General Regulations of Commercial Navigation in the Amazon Rivers", in accordance with a decision reflected in the "Declaration of Manaus".

**TO AGREE** that the said meeting be held in the city of Lima in the first quarter of 2006.

**TO EXPRESS** its gratitude to the Government of Peru for hosting the said meeting.

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

**RES/IX MRE-OTCA/7**

## **IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**MAKES KNOWN** that in the regulations of the Meeting of Chancellors and of the Amazon Cooperation Council the possibility is foreseen of States, International Organizations and Governmental and Non-governmental bodies' being invited to participate as observers;

**STATES** that in the Declaration of Manaus of September 14 2004, the Coordinating Committee of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCACC) and the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO were given the task of elaborating proposals and criteria concerning the possible participation of Observers in future meetings of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization;

### **RESOLVES:**

**TO DECLARE** in relation to that set out in Article VI of the Regulations of Meetings of Chancellors of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty that they may invite any State, International Organization, Governmental or Non-governmental body to participate in the meetings as observers.

**RENEW** the mandate to the Coordinating Committee of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCACC) so that, in collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat, it may elaborate proposals and criteria for the possible participation of observers in future ACTO meetings.

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

### **RES/IX MRE-OTCA/8**

## **IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**CONSIDERING** that under the terms of Resolution RES/VII **MRE-TCA/8**, signed in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia on November 22 2002, the organization chart of the ATCO Permanent Secretariat is adopted;

**EMPHASIZES** the fact that the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat in Brasília has allowed for the gradual consolidation of the Organization guaranteeing its permanent and active participation in various key international situations for the sustainable development of the Amazon region as well as for the carrying out of projects and initiatives of interest to the member countries;

**AWARE** that the intense work carried out ever since it was established has made possible the consolidation of the PS/ACTO but has also shown the need for adopting adjustments to its structure to guarantee a better and more efficacious compliance with its mandates, respecting the interest and adequate representation of the Member Countries;

**AWARE** that each one of the components under the responsibility of the Coordinating bodies, created in support of RES/VII **MRE-TCA/8**, is of special importance in responding to the challenges of sustainable development of the Amazon and requires exclusive dedication;

### **RESOLVES:**

**TO SEPARATE** the components Health and Indigenous Affairs, creating two independent Coordinating bodies its being the duty of the Permanent Secretariat to define the budget allocations.

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

### **RES/IX MRE-OTCA/9**

## **IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

### **CONSIDERING:**

The Declaration of Caracas of April 6 2000 which highlights the importance of the Ecotourism potential of the Amazon region as a means of generating economic benefits and as an instrument for achieving sustainable development of the region;

The Declaration of Manaus of September 14 2004 which reiterates the need to develop alternative mechanisms to give incentive to regional and external investments in the fields of Tourism and Ecotourism and concomitantly to sponsor activities in other countries publicizing the potentialities of this activity in the Amazon region;

The Declaration of Manaus of September 14 2004 which reiterates the determination of the ACTO Member States to reaffirm the full exercise of their sovereignty over the resources of the Amazon with the intention of promoting the economic and social development of the region and the protection of its cultural and environmental heritage to the benefit of its respective populations;

The orientations set out in the Strategic plan of the PS/ACTO, approved by Resolution RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/02, that recognize and emphasize the importance of providing mechanisms that foment investment in Ecotourism and its development, as well as other forms of tourism that promote the principles of sustainable development, respect the natural and cultural values of the region and ensure the participation of local populations in the benefits produced;

**TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION** the knowledge held by the countries, the initiatives underway and avoiding the duplication of efforts,

**RESOLVES:**

**TO RECOMMEND** to the PS/ATCO that it take the necessary steps to structure a technical coordinating team to formulate and execute a regional Program to foment the development of Sustainable Tourism, Ecotourism and other segments of tourism as one of the mechanisms for regional consolidation and sustainability, for enhancing the value of the environmental and socio-cultural heritages of the Amazon and for generating employment and income;

**TO RECOMMEND** to the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ATCO), that it approach other countries, international bodies or NGOs, to identify new financial resources and appropriate technical resources available for developing the actions necessary to construct the Program and its projects, with the permanent participation of the Member Countries.

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

**RES/IX MRE-OTCA/10**

**IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**CONSIDERING:**

The official presentation of a proposal for a Project for "The Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Amazon Basin", made in November of 2002 during the XI Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council- ACC, and at the VII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACT, held in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia;

The Declaration of Santa Cruz signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazon countries that highlights "the importance of the management of water resources from the point of view of the conservation of the Amazon Basin and the need to integrate and harmonize the efforts of each country;

The elaboration of a preliminary document containing the conceptual bases of a Project for the Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Amazon Basin, in July of 2003 during the I Working Meeting of the Institutions responsible for the Management of Water Resources in the ACTO Member Countries, in Brasília, Brazil;

The approval by the countries of the Conceptual Document for the Sustainable Management of Trans-frontier Water Resources in the Amazon Basin submitted by the Secretariat of the GEF on November 11 2003;

The approval on June 25 2005 of a PDF part B of US\$700,000 by the GEF and the signing by the United Nations Program for the Environment – PNUMA and by the General Secretary General of the Organization of American States – SG/OEA of the document authorizing the execution of the Project for the Sustainable Management of Trans-frontier Water Resources in the Amazon Basin – Project GEF Amazonas **OTCA/PNUMA/OEA** - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, **Peru, Suriname**, Venezuela;

The official beginning of project activities by means of the I Meeting of the Directing Committee of the Project on October 21 2005 at ACTO headquarters in Brasília, Brazil, in accordance with the mandate of the ACTO Member Countries;

The performance of the institutions responsible for managing water resources in each country as National Executive Agencies for the project, as well as the monitoring and carrying out of technical activities of the Project in their respective jurisdictions in coordination with, and with the support of, the Permanent National Committees;

**RESOLVES:**

**TO REGISTER** with satisfaction the beginning of the GEF Amazonas OTCA/PNUMA/OEA Project;

**TO OFFER** support, both technical and political, to guarantee the satisfactory execution of the said project and to make advances in the sustainable management of water resources in the Amazon Basin which correspond to one of the strategic resources of the Amazon countries.

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

**RES/IX MRE-OTCA/11**

**IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**CONSIDERING:**

That one of the first actions taken by Amazon Cooperation Treaty, was to establish operational mechanisms, to encourage the formulation of UNAMAZ integrated by universities from the eight countries of the Amazon region.

That the signatory countries recognize in UNAMAZ a privileged space for the management of knowledge and the scientific and technological information, as well as training and specialization of human resources capable of creating, assimilate and disaggregate the knowledge of a tangible academic-scientific community of the continental Amazon region.

That the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) in the proposed Strategic Plan for the period 2004-2012, provides, within the four strategic axis, knowledge management and technological exchange and integration and regional competitiveness.

In this context, the role that the universities have is to act as ACTO scientific tool for the development and compliance with the Strategic Plan of ACTO.

That UNAMAZ and OTCA have signed an agreement of mutual cooperation within the framework of its purpose and objectives.

Counting on the terms and assumptions of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, there is a need to broaden and deepen the scope of the initiatives of the UANMAZ on all educational levels: primary, secondary, undergraduate and postgraduate, through formal and informal systems of education.

That, since the establishment of its Permanent Secretariat, ACTO has managed to position itself in the international arena in front of friendly countries and other organizations that wish to cooperate in projects for the sustainable development of the Amazon region.

**RESOLVES:**

CELEBRATE that both the ACTO as UNAMAZ have achieved to restructure the political - academic fabric as an instrument of cooperation between the countries that are signatories of the Treaty.

Recommend to their respective governments -from their Ministries of Education and Science and Technology- to promote and cooperate in the strengthening of UNAMAZ and the implementation of the projects to be carried out as a result of the ACTO-UANMAZ Agreement.

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

## **RES/IX MRE-OTCA/12**

### **IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**BEARING** in mind the responsibility of the State to accompany the advances of the Organization in the context of the provisions of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and of the Amendment Protocol:

**TAKING** into consideration that the Permanent Secretariat is the auxiliary body of the political authorities of the Treaty Organization and has been given the task of promoting and executing the objectives foreseen by the Treaty in accordance with the resolutions emanating from the meetings of Chancellors and of the Amazon Cooperation Council;

**CONSIDERING** that paragraph three of the Protocol of amendment to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty foresees the Secretary General's being competent to sign agreements in the name of the Organization when the contracting parties unanimously authorize the same;

#### **RESOLVES:**

To reaffirm the convenience of perfecting and strengthening institutionally, the cooperation process in the context of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization by revising the existing regulations of the bodies and authorities of the ACTO.

To that end a Work Group is hereby **CREATED** within the ambit of the Amazon Cooperation Council that will submit drafts of modifications to the regulations of the bodies and authorities of the Amazon Cooperation treaty Organization at the next meeting for the approval of the Chancellors.

Signed in the city of Iquitos, on this twenty-fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and five.

## ADDENDUM

That the VIII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of States Members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization was held in the city of Manaus, Brazil, on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004;

That at the of the referred ministerial meeting, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs signed the Minutes in Spanish, English and Portuguese;

That due to involuntary reasons, the Staff Committee that does the Minutes, did not include in the referred minutes the two paragraphs corresponding to the intervention of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana;

That the ACTO Permanent Secretariat had received from the governments a Diplomatic Note resting that the omitted paragraphs, were included to the VIII Meeting of ACTO Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and which referred document should be signed at the IX Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Iquitos, Peru, by which, sing, in this date the present Addendum to the Minutes of the VIII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACTO States Members, in which are included the following paragraphs corresponding to interventions of His Excellency Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador and the one of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, for which it is transcribed the mentioned interventions.

Intervention of His Excellency Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Ecuador, Ambassador Patricio Zuquilanda:

..... "The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Ambassador Patricio Zuquilanda, exposed on the effects for Amazon Basin that in an alarming way and for different factors, in the Andes Mountain range, where the rivers that form the Basin are born and nourish the basin. Therefore, he requested that in the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO work programme shall include the fulfillment of a study on this situation, determination of the problems and its effects in the basin, as well as formulation of alternative solution to the detected problems; fundamental to fulfill the main objective of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty: to guarantee the region sustainable development, with emphasis in the environmental protection."

Intervention of His Excellency Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Ambassador Samuel Rudolph Insanally:

..... "Guyana's Foreign Minister welcomes the appointment of the new Secretary General of ACTO and the establishment of the organization's permanent headquarters in Brasilia. With regard to the 2004-12 Work Programme, he signaled the importance of security, the management of water resource and the concerns of the small member states. Specifically, he sought the services of a Technical Adviser for his country's National Commission. He reiterated his proposal for a clear funding strategy and a Trust Found to support ACTO's activities. As a member of the member of the Global Environment Facility, Guyana would advocate such support. Finally, he urged that ACTO should expand its role as a catalyst for promoting regional integration and cooperation.."

By the Republic of Bolivia

By the Federative Republic of Brazil

By the Republic of Colombia

By the Republic of Ecuador

By the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

By the Republic of Peru

By the Republic of Suriname

By the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

## DECLARATION OF IQUITOS

The Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela, come together in this city of Iquitos on the 5th day of November 2005 to take part in the "IX Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)",

**1. EXPRESS** their satisfaction at the degree of concentration attained by the Amazon countries within the political scope of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) and, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the entering into force of the ACT, renew their decision to continue working together, convinced that the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), is a suitable forum for promoting integration, sustainable development and regional solidarity with the common proposal of strengthening democratic institutions and intensifying the fight against poverty.

**2. REITERATE** their political determination that ACTO shall contribute to intensifying and perfecting the process of regional integration within the South American Community of Nations.

**3.** In compliance with the mandates stemming from the presidential declarations of Cuzco (December, 2004), and Brasília (September, 2005) **INSTRUCT** the ACTO Permanent Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariats of the Andean Community, Southern Common Market (MERCOSUL), ALADI and CARICOM, and with the Technical Secretariat of the IIRSA, with the intention of cooperating in the consolidation of the South American Community of Nations.

**4.** In this sense, **REAFIRM** the fundamental importance that the Amazon region has for the Member States; the common proposal to join forces in order to achieve full incorporation of their Amazon territories into the respective national economies; their will and their responsibility to preserve the natural resources of the Amazon; and the sovereign right to use such resources in a sustainable manner.

**5. WELCOME**, with pleasure, the Amazon Charter initiative put forward by the Government of Peru and **DECIDE** to open a negotiating process in regard to the same within the ambit of the Amazon Cooperation Council that may make possible its being adopted on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty's coming into in force.

**6. STRESS** the importance of the dynamic inter-relations among the different ecosystems and geographical regions that make up the Amazon Basin; and **DECIDE** to continue working to promote productive spaces that are sustainable and complementary in social, economic, environmental, tourist and cultural terms, throughout the region of the basin.

**7. REAFIRM** the political will to develop efficacious cooperation mechanisms for conserving the Amazon Hydrographic Basin, one of the greatest reserves of fresh water on the planet; and in this direction, **HIGHLIGHT** the need to carry out actions within their territories indispensable to the preservation of the Amazon ecosystem including those actions that seek to neutralize the serious problem of the progressive melting of the Andean glaciers.

**8. CONGRATULATE** the ACTO for the advances made in executing the project for the Integrated and Sustainable Management of Trans-frontier Water Resources in the Amazon Basin which enjoys the financial support of the PNUMA/GEF and which will permit, among other proposals, the elaboration of studies and projects for institutional and normative harmonizing of the administration of such water resources.

**9.** In fulfillment of the mandate conferred by the Declaration of Manaus, **INSTRUCT** the ACTO Permanent Secretariat to intensify the efforts made towards elaborating studies and applying alternative transport technology that may make feasible the exchanging of goods and services in the backland regions of the Amazon.

**10. STRESS** the need for continued cooperation among the Amazon countries in the process of revising, perfecting and implementing the ACTO Strategic Plan for 2004-2012 for it to act in fields of common interest for the sustainable development of the Amazon, guaranteeing the conquest of benefits and their equitable distribution to improve the quality of life of the local populations, especially in the aspects of access to education, potable water supply, health, communications, electricity, transport, and in the fight against poverty in general.

**11. EXPRESS** their recognition and congratulate the Ministers and High Officials on the progress obtained in the meetings on Intellectual Property (Rio de Janeiro, June 2005) and Science and Technology (Lima, August 2005), as part of the actions to be carried out within the context of the

ACTO Work Programs and in this sense, **RENEW** the mandate of the Permanent Secretariat to promote ministerial meetings with the aim of advancing in the political intercourse on questions of interest to the Member States such as the Environment, Trade and Integration, Integral Defense and Security, and the Social Development of the Amazon region.

**12. HIGHLIGHT** the holding of the Second Meeting of the Permanent National Committees of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty which took place in Brasília from May 10 to 12 and reaffirm their will to cooperate and offer assistance for the strengthening of the committees so that they may become spaces of convergence favoring and facilitating the pursuance of ACT provisions.

**13. REAFIRM** the political will of the Foreign Affairs Ministries to continue taking an active part in coordinating the Permanent National Committees, and **INSTRUCT** the ACTO Permanent Secretariat to elaborate, together with the Permanent National Committees, through their respective Chancelleries, a coordination strategy for the effective execution of the strategic lines proposed in the Strategic Plan 2004-2012, to be followed by the Member Countries.

**14. EMPHASIZE** the importance of the Member States' continuing to articulate joint positions on themes concerning the environment and sustainable development in the various international forums as was the case at the V Period of Sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests, **DECIDE** to continue this process of consultation and coordination of positions and **INSTRUCT** the ACTO Permanent Secretariat to cooperate in this process. In the same way, **DECIDE** to coordinate common positions with the support of the ACTO Permanent Secretariat, especially for the VI Period of Sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests as well as the VI World Forum on Water.

**15. POINT OUT** the importance of adopting urgent measures at national, regional and international levels, to revert the problems stemming from climate changes and their effect on the question of melting ice formations. **DECIDE**, in the same way, to intensify coordination in the ambit of the Mark Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change with the object of adequately promoting the interests of the countries of the region.

**16. AGREE** on the importance, in matters related to the commitments made during the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, of coordinating strategies that contribute towards the objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and the identification of actions related to such matters, and of harmonizing, as much as possible, policies and strategies that collaborate with the articulation of National networks of cooperation.

**17.** In view of the upcoming meeting on the integral defense and security of the Amazon, **URGE** that on its agenda it should address the social economic and environmental implications for the Amazon of drugs on a global scale and reiterate the need for combating this problem in all its phases.

**18. REAFIRM** their commitment, within the context of the treaty, to concede special attention to the consideration of the initiatives presented by the less developed countries and **DECIDE** to join forces in common actions to attend to the special cooperation needs of Bolivia as a developing country with no coastline, as well as to those of Guyana and Surinam considering that they are small and vulnerable countries.

**19. RECOGNIZE** the need to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of environmental degradation in the Amazon region that depreciate the quality of life of the local populations; **DECIDE** to adopt measures that contribute towards controlling and mitigating illegal practices, as for example, deliberately set forest fires, illegal mining activities especially of gold, trafficking in Forest products, flora e fauna as well as the illicit appropriation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

**20. EXPRESS** their satisfaction with the project for the Validation of 15 Sustainability Indicators for the Amazon Forest, which will be continued with the implementation of activities and cooperation of the ACTO Member States in accordance with the schedule adopted by the meeting of August 2005.

**21. AWARE** of the Member States' need to propel scientific investigation, the generating of new knowledge, technological development and the qualifying of human resources directed towards the management of natural resources and the identification of actions that contribute to the solving of social, economic, environmental, technological, educational and cultural problems of the Amazon, **INSTRUCT** the ACTO Permanent Secretariat to coordinate, by means of the Permanent

National Committees and the Amazon Universities System (UNAMAZ), the elaboration of strategies and policies directed at materializing the suggested initiatives.

**22.** In this sense, **CONGRATULATE** Brazil on its initiative in extending to the ACTO countries the possibility of putting forward candidates for the Professor Samuel Benchimol Award, which seeks to give preeminence to initiatives that favor the sustainable development of the Amazon.

**23.** **AGREE** to intensify national and regional efforts for progress in the studies on navigation channels, waterways and other means of transport of the Amazon system that contribute to the advances being made in the context of the Initiative for the Integration of South American Regional Infrastructure–IIRSA, in the Amazon, as well as to promote their utilization in giving incentive to the complementariness of the economies and to optimizing the integral development of the region; furthermore, **INSTRUCT** the ACTO Permanent Secretariat to collaborate with the member States in elaborating such studies.

**24.** Further **AGREE** to stimulate the adoption of measures of incentive that may promote and facilitate the intensification of regional air transport connectivity as a key factor in the integration and development of the Amazon.

**25.** **DECIDE** to promote cooperation among the Member States with the object of elaborating national projects of geographical information and environmental surveillance systems for the Amazon that may help to improve knowledge on the Amazon of ACTO member countries and monitor the relevant activities being carried out in the region. Further **RECOMMEND** that the ACTO Permanent Secretariat, within the possibilities of its technical capacity, lend support to the formulation of projects that permit the materialization of the Brazilian Government's offer to extend, to all the Member Countries, the possibility of cooperating in the ambit of the SIVAM/SIPAM systems for the protection and surveillance of the Amazon, especially in fields like: scientific and technological development; monitoring and utilization of water, mineral and forest resources; monitoring Forest fires and combating illicit actions in the region.

**26.** **EXPRESS** their satisfaction with the participation of the special guests and observers in the Meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACTO.

**27.** **WELCOME** with satisfaction, the decision of the First Meeting of Heads of State of the South American Community of Nations to hold a meeting of South American countries, in the city of Quito, during the first half of 2006, in collaboration with UNAMZ and other academic institutions and regional and sub-regional governmental organizations with a view to analyzing questions of common interest concerning the environment, and **INSTRUCT** the ACTO Permanent Secretariat to lend strong support to this initiative.

**28.** **DECIDE** to charge the Permanent Secretariat with the task of promoting "Amazon Fairs", with the active participation of Amazon countries and that shall be of a commercial, cultural, tourist and academic nature with the aim of fomenting exchanges among the countries.

**29.** **RECOGNIZE** the importance of a citizenship-based participation of the countries of the Amazon region, including the indigenous peoples and local communities in ACTO projects, **APPLAUD** the National consultations made in Quito – Ecuador and in La Paz – Bolivia; and **INVITE** all Member Countries to such meetings as they may deem convenient.

**30.** **CONGRATULATE** the people and Government of Surinam on the occasion of their celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of their Independence, which is celebrated on this day.

**31.** **WELCOME** with satisfaction, the offer of the Government of the Republic of Ecuador to host the III Summit Meeting of Presidents of Member states of the ACTO to be held in the first half of 2006.

**32.** Also **WELCOME** with satisfaction the offer of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host the X Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the ACTO to be held in the second half of 2006.

**33.** **THANK** the Secretary General for the presentation of her Report on the period September 2004 to November 2005 and express their recognition and satisfaction in regard to the work carried out by the Permanent Secretariat over the last twelve months which has resulted in actions of development and protection of the Amazon and greater awareness of the region's problems and affairs.

**34. EXPRESS** to the people of Peru, in the person of H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Oscar Maúrtua da Romana, their gratitude for the hospitality shown and further offer congratulations on the excellent organization of the "IX Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization".

Iquitos, November 25 2005.

On Behalf of the Republic of Bolivia

On Behalf of the Republic of Colombia

On Behalf of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

On Behalf of the Republic of Surinam

On Behalf of the Federative Republic of Brazil

On Behalf of the Republic of Ecuador

On Behalf of the Republic of Peru

On Behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.