

LEGAL BASIS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

**UPDATED SUMMARY
2003 - 2012**

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PRESENTATION

In the context of the relaunch of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Permanent Secretariat is pleased to make available to the Member Countries the seventh edition (revised, updated and summarized) of the Legal Basis of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

This updated edition compiles key documents and regulations of the bodies of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, until the year 2012. It aims to be a tool for consultation and guidance to governments, public and private institutions, researchers and the general public committed to the sustainable development of the Amazon Region.

The seventh edition brings the text of the Treaty, the Protocol of Amendment, Headquarters Agreement, statements of Presidents meetings, as well, records, statements and resolutions of the eleven meetings of Foreign Ministers held until 2012. It also presents the proceedings and resolutions of meetings of the Amazon Cooperation Council, from its twelfth meeting. Finally, it also contains the regulations of the instances of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

It is important to point out that in 2013 will mark thirty-five years of the signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, being a milestone therefore it is considered very important to count with an update of its legal basis.

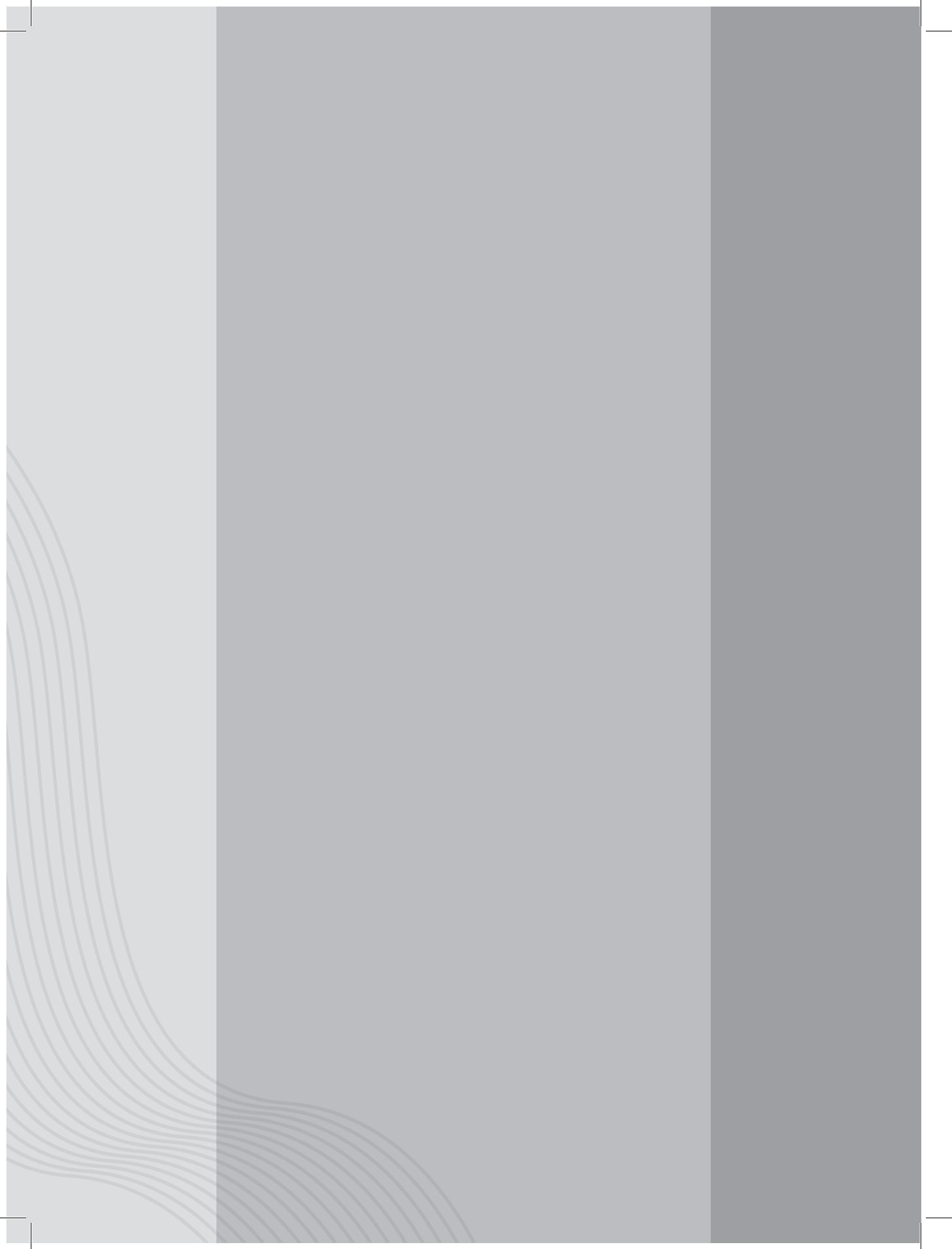
The effort that that has been done to strengthen regional cooperation shows the commitment and willingness of Member Countries to enhance ACTO with *“a new and modern role as a forum for cooperation, exchange knowledge and joint action to face the new and complex international challenges presented”*, thus fulfilling the mandate given in November 2009 by the Heads of State.

The documents contained in this publication have been included in its original version. This publication was produced with the support of the Amazon Regional Program.

Brasilia, February 2013



**AMAZON COOPERATION
TREATY**



TREATY FOR AMAZONIAN COOPERATION

The Republics of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela,

CONSCIOUS of the importance to each one of the Parties of their respective Amazonian regions as an integral part of their respective territories,

INSPIRED by common aim of pooling the efforts being made, both within their respective territories as well as among themselves, to promote the harmonious development of the Amazonian region, to among the Contracting Parties so as to raise the standard of living of their peoples and so as to achieve total incorporation of their Amazonian territories into their respective national economies,

CONSCIOUS of the usefulness of sharing national experiences in matters pertaining to the promotion of regional development,

CONSIDERING that, so as to achieve overall development of their respective Amazonian territories, it is necessary to maintain a balance between economic growth and conservation of the environment,

CONCIOUS that both socio-economic development as well as conservation of the environment are responsibilities inherent in the sovereignty of each State, and that cooperation among the Contracting Parties shall facilitate fulfillment of these responsibilities, by continuing and expanding the joint efforts being made for ecological conservation of the Amazon region,

CONFIDENT that cooperation among the Latin American nations on specific matters which they have in common shall contribute to progress on the road towards the integration and solidarity of all Latin America,

CONVICED that this Treaty represents the beginning of a process of cooperation which shall benefit their respective countries and the Amazon region as a whole,

RESOLVE to sign the following Treaty:

ARTICLE I. The Contracting Parties agree to undertake joint actions and efforts to promote the harmonious development of their respective Amazonian territories in such a way that these joint actions produce equitable and mutually beneficial results and achieve also so preservation of environment, and the conservation and rational utilization of the natural resources of those territories.

PARAGRAPH: to this end, they would exchange information and prepare operational agreement and understandings as well as the pertinent legal instruments which permit the aims of the present Treaty to be attained.

ARTICLE II. This Treaty shall be in force in the territories of the Contracting Parties in the Amazonian Basin as well as in any territory of a Contracting Party which, by virtue of its geographical, ecological or economic characteristics is considered closely connected with that Basin.

ARTICLE III. In accordance with and without prejudice to the rights granted by unilateral acts, to the provisions of bilateral treaties among the Parties and to the principles and rules of International Law, the Contracting Parties mutually

guarantee on a reciprocal basis that there shall be complete freedom of commercial navigation on the Amazon and other international Amazonian rivers, observing the fiscal and police regulations in force now or in the future within the territory of each. Such regulations should, insofar as possible, be uniform and favor said navigation and trade.

PARAGRAPH: This article shall not apply to cabotage.

ARTICLE IV. The Contracting Parties declare that the exclusive use and utilization of natural resources within their respective territories is a right inherent in the sovereignty of each state and that the exercise of this right shall not be subject to any restrictions other than those arising from International Law.

ARTICLE V. Taking account of the importance and multiplicity of the functions which the Amazonian rivers have in the process of economic and social development of the region, the Contracting Parties shall make efforts aimed at achieving rational utilization of the hydro resources.

ARTICLE VI. In order to enable the Amazonian rivers become an effective communication link among the Contracting Parties and with the Atlantic Ocean, the riparian states interested in any specific problem affecting free and unimpeded navigation shall, as circumstances may warrant, undertake national, bilateral or multilateral measures aimed at improving and making the said rivers navigable.

PARAGRAPH: For this purpose, they shall carry out studies into the means for eliminating physical obstacles to the said navigation as well as the economic and financial implications so as to put into effect the most appropriate operational measures.

ARTICLE VII. Taking into account the need for the exploitation of the flora and fauna of the Amazon region to be rationally planned so as to maintain the ecological balance within the region and preserve the species, the Contracting Parties decide to:

- a. Promote scientific research and exchange information and technical personnel among the competent agencies within the respective countries so as to increase their knowledge of the flora and fauna of their Amazon territories and prevent and control diseases in said territories.
- b. Establish a regular system for the proper exchange of information on the conservationist measures adopted or to be adopted by each State in its Amazonian territories; these shall be the subject of an annual report to be presented by each country.

ARTICLE VIII. The Contracting Parties decide to promote coordination of the present health services in their respective Amazonian territories and to take other appropriate measures to improve the sanitary conditions in the region and perfect methods for preventing and combating epidemics.

ARTICLE IX. The Contracting Parties agree to establish close cooperation in the fields of scientific and technological research, for the purpose of the creating more suitable conditions for the acceleration of the economic and social development of the region.

PARAGRAPH ONE: For purposes of this Treaty, the technical and scientific cooperation among the Contracting Parties may be as follows:

- a. Joint or coordinated implementation of research and development programmes;
- b. Creation and operation of research institutions or centers for improvement and experimental productions;
- c. Organization of seminars and conferences, exchange of information and documentation and organization of means for their dissemination.

PARAGRAPH TWO: The Contracting Parties may, whomsoever they deem it necessary and convenient, request the participation of international agencies in the execution of studies, programmers and projects resulting from the forms of technical and scientific cooperation defined in Paragraph One of this Article.

ARTICLE X. The Contracting Parties agree on the advisability of creating as suitable physical infrastructure among their respective countries, especially in relation to transportation and communications. They therefore undertake to study the most harmonious ways of establishing or improving road, river, air and telecommunication links bearing in mind the plans and programmers of each country aimed at attaining the priority goal of fully incorporating those respective Amazonian territories into their respective national economics.

ARTICLE XI. In order to increase the rational utilization of the human and natural resources of their respective Amazonian territories, the Contracting Parties agree to encourage joint studies and measures aimed at promoting the economic and social development of said territories and generating complementary methods for reinforcing the actions envisaged in the national plans of their respective territories.

ARTICLE XII. The Contracting Parties recognize the benefit to be derived by developing, under equitable and mutually beneficial conditions, retail trade of products for local consumption among the respective Amazonian border populations, by means of suitable bilateral or multilateral agreements.

ARTICLE XIV. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in ensuring that measures adopted for the conservation of ethnological, and archeological wealth of the Amazon region are effective.

ARTICLE XV. The Contracting Parties shall seek to maintain a permanent exchange of information and cooperation among themselves and with the agencies for Latin American cooperation in the areas pertaining to matters covered by this Treaty.

ARTICLE XVI. The decisions and commitments adopted by the Contracting Parties under this Treaty shall not be to the detriment of projects and undertakings executed within their respective territories, according to International Law fair practice between neighboring and friendly countries.

ARTICLE XVII. The Contracting Parties shall present initiatives for undertaking studies for elaboration of programmers of common interest for developing their Amazonian territories and general terms provide for the fulfillment of the actions contemplated in the present Treaty.

PARAGRAPH: The Contracting Parties agree to give special attention to the consideration of initiatives presented by the least developed countries which require joint action and efforts by the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE XVIII. Nothing contained in this Treaty shall in any way limit the rights of the Contracting Parties to conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements on specific or generic matters, provided that these are not contrary to the achievement of the common aims for cooperation in the Amazonian region stated in this instrument.

ARTICLE XIX. Neither the signing of this Treaty nor its execution shall have any effect on any other international treaties in force between the Parties nor on any differences with regard to limits or territorial rights which may exist between the Parties nor shall the signing or implementation of this Treaty be interpreted or invoked to imply acceptance or renunciation, affirmation or modification, direct or indirect, express or tacit, of the position or interpretation that each Contracting Party may hold on these matters.

ARTICLE XX. Notwithstanding the fact that more adequate frequency for meetings can be established at a later date, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Contracting Parties shall convene meetings when deemed opportune or advisable, in order to establish the basic guidelines for common policies, for assessing and evaluating the general development or the process of Amazonian cooperation and for taking decisions designed to carry out the aims set in this document.

PARAGRAPH ONE: Meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers shall be convened at the request of any of the Contracting Parties, provided that the request has the support of no fewer than four Members States.

PARAGRAPH TWO: The first meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers shall be held within a period of two years following the date of entry into force of this Treaty. The venue and date of the first meeting shall be established by agreement among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Contracting Parties.

PARAGRAPH THREE: Designation of the host country for the meetings shall be by rotation and in alphabetical order.

ARTICLE XXI. The Amazonian Cooperation Council comprising of top level diplomatic representatives shall meet once year. Its duties shall be as follows:

1. To ensure that the aims and objectives of the Treaty are complied with.
2. To be responsible for carrying out the decisions taken at meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers.
3. To recommend to the Parties the advisability and the appropriateness of convening meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers and of drawing-up the corresponding Agenda.
4. To take under consideration initiatives and plans present by the Parties as well as to adopt decisions for undertaking bilateral or multilateral studies and plans, the execution of which as the case may be, shall be the duty of the Permanent National Commissions.
5. To evaluate the implementation of plans of bilateral or multilateral interest.
6. To draw –up the Rules and Regulations for its proper functioning.

PARAGRAPH ONE: The council shall hold special meetings through the initiative of any of the Contracting Parties with the support of the majority of the rest.

PARAGRAPH TWO: The venue of regular meetings shall be rotated in alphabetical order among the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE XXII. The functions of the Secretariat shall be performed pro-tempore by the Contracting Party in whose territory the next regular meeting of the Amazonian Cooperation Council is scheduled to be held.

PARAGRAPH: The Pro-Tempore Secretariat shall send the pertinent documentation to the Parties.

ARTICLE XXIII. The Contracting Parties shall create Permanent National Commissions charged with enforcing in their respective territories the provisions set out in this Treaty, as well as carrying out the decisions taken at meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers and by the Amazonian Cooperation Council, without jeopardizing other tasks assigned them by the State.

ARTICLE XXIV. Whenever necessary, the Contracting Parties may set up special Commissions to study specific problems or matters related to the aims of this Treaty

ARTICLE XXV. Decisions at meetings held in accordance with Articles XX and XXI shall always require the unanimous vote of the Member Countries of this Treaty. Decisions made at meetings held in accordance with Article XXIV shall always require the unanimous vote of the participating countries.

ARTICLE XXVI. The Contracting Parties agree that the present Treaty shall not be susceptible to interpretative reservation or statements.

ARTICLE XXVII. This Treaty shall remain in force for an unlimited period of time, and shall not be open to adherence.

ARTICLE XXVIII. This Treaty shall be ratified by all the Contracting Parties and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

PARAGRAPH ONE: This Treaty shall become effective thirty days after the last instrument of ratification has been deposited by the Contracting Parties.

PARAGRAPH TWO: The intention to denounce this Treaty shall be communicated by a Contracting Party to the remaining Contracting Parties at least ninety days prior to formal delivery of the instrument of denunciation to the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil. This Treaty shall cease to have effect for the Contracting Party denouncing it one year after the denunciation has been formalized.

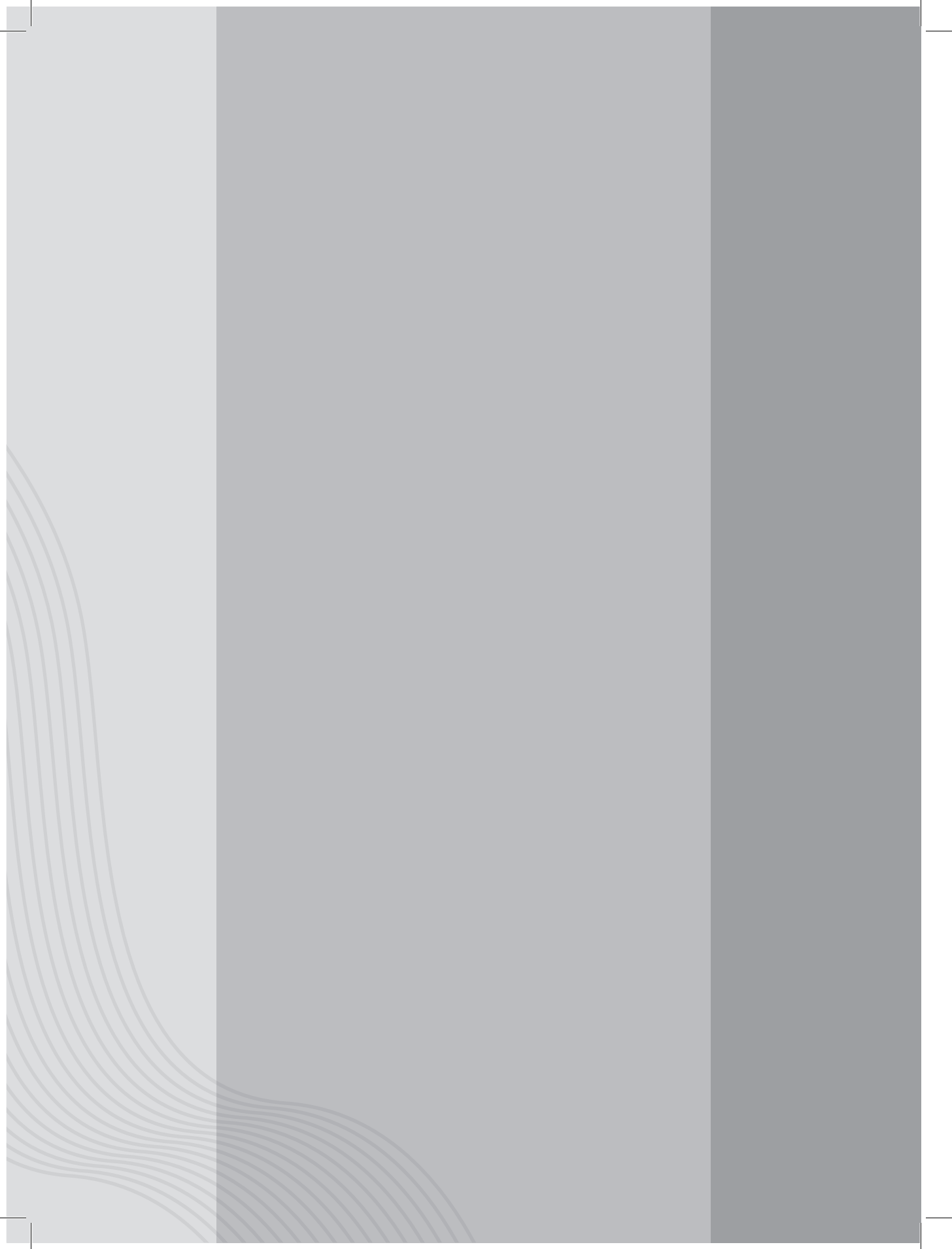
PARAGRAPH THREE: This Treaty shall be draw up in English, Dutch, Portuguese and Spanish, all having equal validity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Ministers of Foreign Affairs have signed the present Treaty.

EXECUTED in the city of Brasilia, on July 3, 1978, to be deposited in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil which shall provide the other signatory countries with true copies.



**PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT OF THE
AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY**



PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

The Republics of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela,

Reasserting the principles and objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty,

Taking into account the advisability of institutionally improving and strengthening the cooperation process developed under the auspices of the aforementioned instrument, do hereby agree to:

I) Create the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), with corporate body status, and empowered to enter into agreements with Contracting Parties, non-member States and other international organizations.

II) Modify Article XXII of the text of the Treaty as follows:

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization will have a Permanent Secretariat based in Brasilia, which will be responsible for implementing the objectives established in the Treaty in conformity with the decisions taken at the meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Amazon Cooperation Council.

Paragraph one: The powers and functions of the Permanent Secretariat and of its head will be established in the regulations, which will be approved by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Contracting Parties.

Paragraph two: The Permanent Secretariat will prepare—in coordination with the Contracting Parties—its work plans and program of activities, as well as its budget-program, which will need to be approved by the Amazon Cooperation Council.

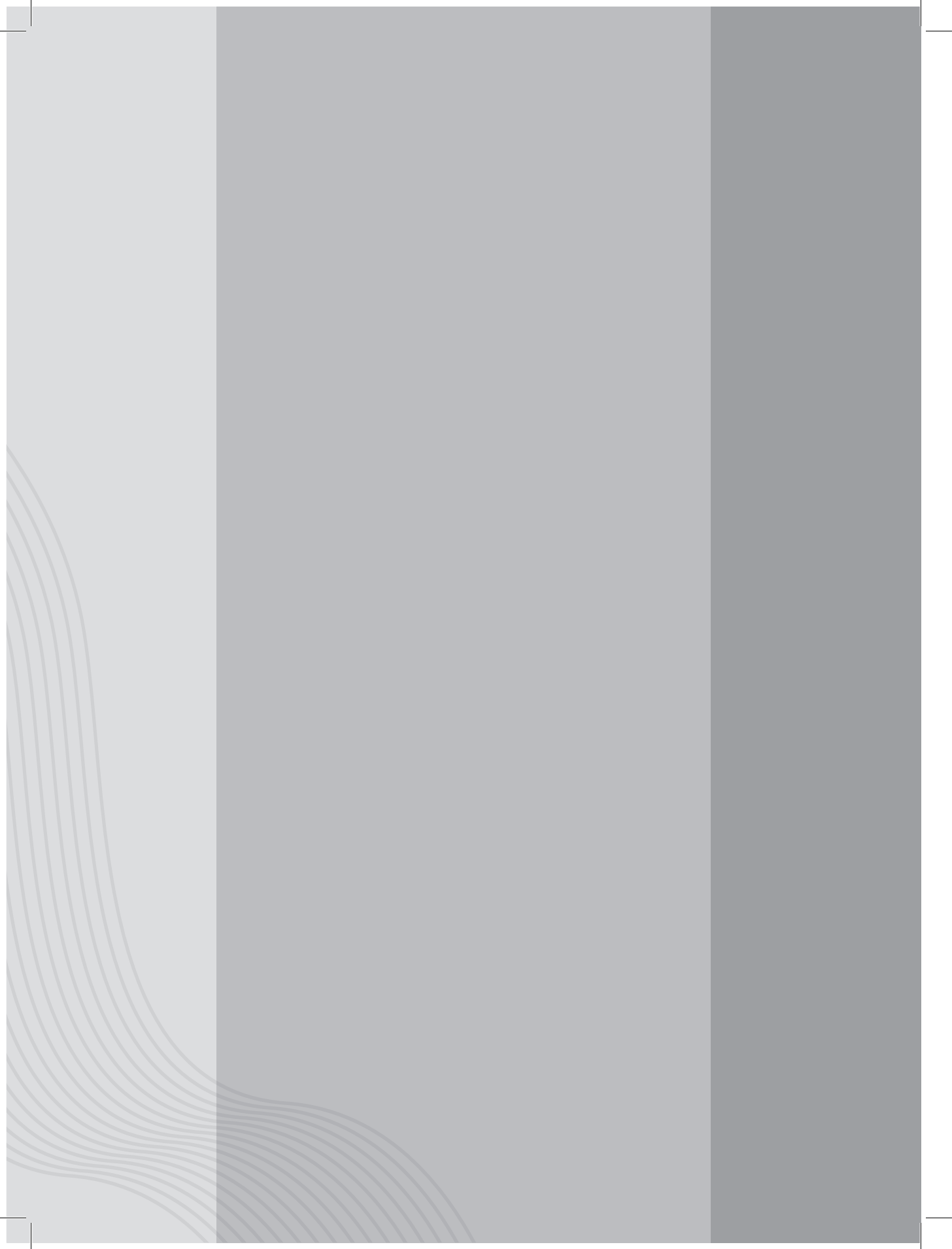
Paragraph three: The Permanent Secretariat will be headed by a Secretary General, who will be empowered to enter into agreements, on behalf of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, whenever the Contracting Parties unanimously authorize him/her to do so.

III) This amendment will be subject to compliance with the internal constitutional requirements of all Contracting Parties and will enter into force on the date of the receipt, by the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil, of the last note by means of which the compliance with such requirements is advised.

Undersigned in Caracas, this fourteenth day of the month of December of nineteen ninety-eight, in eight (8) original copies, in the languages of Spanish, English, Portuguese and Dutch, all equally authentic.



**HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL
AND THE AMAZON COOPERATION
TREATY ORGANIZATION**



HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL AND THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

HAVING REGARD TO Resolution V MRE-TCA/1, signed at the Fifth Treaty for Amazon Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Lima on December 4 and 5, 1995, which creates a Permanent Secretariat for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty provides that its headquarters shall be established in Brasilia;

HAVING REGARD TO the Protocol Amendment to Article 22 of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, drawn up in Caracas, on December 14, 1998, which creates Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO);

HAVING REGARD TO Resolution VI MRE-TCA/1, signed at the Sixth Treaty for Amazon Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Caracas on April 6, 2000, which approves the Regulations of the Permanent Secretariat for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE I. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement:

- a) "Government" means the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil;
- b) "Headquarters State" means the Federative Republic of Brazil;
- c) "Brazilian Authorities" means the appropriate government authorities of the Headquarters State;
- d) "Permanent Secretariat (PS)" means the basic administrative body for ACTO;
- e) "PS Regulations" means the Regulations approved at the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization Foreign Ministers¹ Meeting in Caracas, in April, 2000;
- f) "Secretary General" means the head and legal representative of the PS;
- g) "PS premises" means the temporary and permanent premises pursuant to Annex "A" of this Agreement, including land, buildings, parts of buildings, offices, and any premises occupied by the PS;
- h) "Headquarters" means PS premises in the Federative Republic of Brazil;
- i) "PS staff" members" means all persons employed by the PS.

ARTICLE II. LEGAL PERSONALITY

The Permanent Secretariat has the legal personality of ACTO. It is has the capacity to acquire right and take liabilities, including entering contracts and agreements with natural or legal, public or private, national or foreign persons; to acquire and dispose of movable and real property; and without prejudice to the terms of his Agreement, to institute and defend against legal actions.

ARTICLE III. PREMISES

The Headquarters State shall guarantee, in compliance with procedures and deadlines found in Brazilian Law, the means for providing ACTO, with premises, both for temporary occupation under Annex "A", Chapter I of Agreement, and permanent premises under Annex "A", Chapter II.

ARTICLE IV. COMMUNICATIONS

With regard to its official communications, the PS shall enjoy:

- a) Freedom of communication and advantages not less favorable than those generally accorded by the Government to any international organization in the matter of priorities, rates, additional taxes, and other taxes on communications; and
- b) The right to use code or cipher and to send and receive mail in sealed pouches, benefiting from the same prerogatives and immunities accorded to the diplomatic pouches of other international organizations.

ARTICLE V. AUTHORITY, LAWS AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ACTO PREMISES

1. Under provisions found in Annex "A", Chapter I, the PS shall administrative ACTO temporary premises, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Headquarters State, and their inviolability and immunity guaranteed by Article 6 of this Agreement, shall be respected.
2. Under provisions found in Annex "A", Chapter I, the PS shall administrative ACTO permanent premises, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Headquarters State, and their inviolability and immunity guaranteed by Article 6 of this Agreement, shall be respected.
3. The PS shall have the capacity to institute regulations applicable within ACTO premises, to ensure the full realization of its functions. The Headquarters States authorities shall be made aware of the said regulations upon their adoption.

ARTICLE VI. PREMISES, FUNDS AND OTHER ACTO PROPERTY

1. ACTO premises, archives, documents, and official mail shall enjoy inviolability and immunity from local legislation, except to the extent that ACTO expressly waives such immunity in a particular case.
2. ACTO shall be entitled to:
 - a) Headquarters State, possess and use funds, gold or any negotiable securities of any kind, and maintain and operate bank or other accounts in any currency and exchange its currency; and
 - b) Transfer funds, gold, or currency within the Headquarters State or to any other country, to any individual or institutional.
3. ACTO, its assets, income or other property shall be exempt from all direct taxes in the Headquarters State, and goods imported and exported for ACTO official activities shall be exempt from all customs and excise duties, and importation and exportation prohibitions and restrictions applicable to such goods. Goods acquired with these exemptions, however, shall not be given away or sold in the Headquarters State, except under regulations, procedures and deadlines.
4. Provisions found in Article 6(3) do not apply to tariffs or payments for public services rendered to ACTO.

ARTICLE VII. PROTECTION OF ACTO HEADQUARTERS

1. The Government shall guarantee ACTO's exclusive uses of its premises for the purposes stated in this agreement.
2. The Brazilian authorities shall take all the appropriate steps to protect ACTO Headquarters and to guarantee its security.

ARTICLE VIII. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

1. Unless they are Brazilian nationality or are permanent residents in the Headquarters State, the Secretary General, the Executive Director, the Administrative Director and the Legal Counsel, shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities, pursuant to International Law;

- a) Personal inviolability and immunities from jurisdiction in respect to any words written or spoken and all acts and things done by them in the exercise of their official functions. Immunity shall extend beyond the termination of their representational functions under Article 31 and Article 39(2) of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations;
- b) Diplomatic visa, during his/her mission, the executive officer, spouse and children underage. Children of age enrolled in higher studies, residing at the residence of the executive, and financially dependent on the executive officer, or who have mental and/or physical disabilities shall be granted courtesy visas;
- c) Official identity documents for the executive officer, spouse and children underage. Depended; children of age, or children of age who have mental and/or physical disabilities shall be granted identity document accorded to courtesy visas;
- d) Driver licenses for the executive officer and duly accredited dependents on productions of valid driver licenses in his/her country of origin and their translation;
- e) Import of furniture and personal effects already in their ownership or possession exempt from customs duties and other such charges, except payments for storage services and the like, within six months of their entry in the Headquarters States;
- f) Import furniture and personal effects, during the course of their mission, exempt from custom duties and others such charges under Headquarters State legislation;;
- g) Tax exemption from income received for their services to the PS;
- h) The same immunities and facilities as accorded to diplomatic envoys in respect to personal luggage;
- i) Import of a motor vehicle or purchase of a national motor vehicle intended for their personal use under the same exemptions as normally accorded to international organizations representatives in the Headquarters State;
- j) The same currency and exchange facilities as accorded to diplomatic corps accredited before the Government of the Headquarters State;
- k) Use of plates equivalent to those issued to the diplomatic corps under Headquarters State standing legislation.

2. Unless they are Brazilian nationals or are permanent residence in the Headquarters State, PS staff members shall enjoy:

- a) Immunities from local jurisdiction in respect to all acts and things done by in the exercises of their official functions;
- b) Official visa, during the course of the executive officers' mission, for the staff member, spouse and children underage. Children of age enrolled in higher studies, residing at the domicile of the executive, and financially dependent on the staff member, or who have mental and/or physical disabilities shall be granted courtesy visas;

- c) Official identity documents for the staff member, spouse and children underage; dependent children of age, or children of age have mental and/or physical disabilities shall be granted identity documents accorded to courtesy visa;
 - d) Driver license for the staff member and duly accredited dependents on productions of valid driver licenses in his/her country of origin and their translation;
 - e) The right to import furniture and personal effects exempt from customs duties and other such charges, except payments for storage services and the like, within six months of their entry in the Headquarters States;
 - f) Tax exemption from income received for their services rendered to ACTO;
 - g) The same facilities as accorded to staff members of comparable seniority in international organizations representations in the Headquarters State;
 - h) The right import a motor vehicle or purchase a national motor vehicle intended for their personal use under the same exemptions as normally accorded to staff members of international organizations representations in the Headquarters State, within six months of their entry in Headquarters State.
3. Goods that have been acquired or imported under exemptions from taxes and customs duties and such charges shall not be given away or sold in the Headquarters State, except under the regulations and deadlines of the legislation in force.
4. Unless they are Brazilian nationals or are permanent residence in the Headquarters State, the Secretary General and PS staff members shall be entitled to import and/or re-export furniture, personal effects, including motor vehicles exempt from customs duties and other such charges within three months after the termination of their functions in the Headquarters States.
5. The private residence of the Secretary General, the Executive Director, the Administrative Director and the Legal Counsel shall enjoy the same inviolability and protection as accorded to PS premises. The furniture, documents, and mail shall also enjoy such inviolability.
6. Privileges and immunities are accorded to the staff members not for the personal benefit of individuals themselves, but in order to safeguard the efficient exercise of their functions. ACTO may waive the immunity of any of its staff members in any case where the immunity would impede the course of justice and where it can be waived without prejudice to ACTO interests. The immunities of the Secretary General may be waived only by the collective deliberative bodies. In respect of the rest of the PS staff members, the Secretary General *ad referendum* of the Amazon Cooperation Council or, the Coordination Committee of the Amazon Cooperation Council, shall have the right to waive any immunity.

ARTICLE IX. REPRESENTATIVES OF ACTO CONTRACTING PARTIES

The representatives of ACTO Contracting Parties, accredited to attend meetings in the Headquarters State, shall enjoy, while exercising their functions and while traveling to and from the place of meeting, the following privileges and immunities:

- a) Personal inviolability and immunity jurisdiction in respect to any words written or spoken and all acts and things done by them in the exercise of their official functions. Immunity shall extend beyond the termination of their representation functions,
- b) Inviolability for all their official papers and documents;
- c) Immigration service facilities, diplomatic or official visa, when necessary, in accordance with the *status* of the representative of ACTO Contracting Party. To the extent that he/she holds a diplomatic or official passport, diplomatic or official visa shall also be issued to the spouse and dependent children understanding legislation in the Headquarters State;

- d) The same currency and exchange facilities as accorded to diplomatic envoys of comparable seniority in the exercise of their official temporary missions;
- e) The same immunities and facilities as accorded to diplomatic envoys with respect to personal luggage.

ARTICLE X. COOPERATION WITH BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES

1. The PS shall cooperate, permanently with the Brazilian authorities in order to facilitate the course of justice, ensure law enforcement, security rules and fire prevention, and avoid any abuse of the privileges, immunities, and facilities provides for in this Agreement.
2. In respect of its employees, nationals or permanent residents in the Headquarters State, the PS shall respect the social security and labor laws the Headquarter States enforces at the employer level. Employees who are not nations or permanent residents in the Headquarters States shall abide exclusively by PS personnel regulations.

ARTICLE XI. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ACTO shall, in agreement with the Headquarters State, establish the conditions under which international organizations experts may come to the PS to execute consulting mission for a determined period.

ARTICLE XII. NOTIFICATIONS

1. The Secretary General shall inform the Government all names and positions of PS staff members under this Agreement and of any modifications in their status.
2. The Secretary General shall be substituted in case of temporary or permanent leave by the Executive Director and the Government of the Headquarters State shall be notified. In exercising the functions of the Secretary General, the substitute shall enjoy the same rights and obligations.

ARTICLE XIII. ENTRY INTO, EXIT FROM AND TRAVEL WITHIN THE HEADQUARTERS STATE

Unless they are Brazilian nationals or are permanent residents in the Headquarters State, all PS staff members and their spouse and children underage shall be entitled to enter into and sojourn within the territory of the Headquarters State and to exit there from, during the course of their missions, with the appropriate visa, when needed, under relevant Brazilian laws. Visas shall be granted at no fee.

ARTICLE XIV. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute between the Government of the Headquarters State and ACTO concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled by direct negotiation between the Parties under International Law and under the standing constitutional legislation of the Headquarters State.

ARTICLE XV. ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement or any amendment hereto shall enter into force on the next day after the Brazilian Government send written notification to the PS of ACTO that all internal legal requirements for its entry into force have been fulfilled.

ARTICLE XVI. AMENDMENTS

This Agreement may be amended by agreement the Government and the PS. Eventual amendments shall enter into force in accordance with Article 15.

ARTICLE XVII. TERMINATION

This Agreement may be terminated by any of the Parties, at any moment, by written notification; termination that shall be effective six months after such notification has been received.

ARTICLE XVIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

This Agreement shall expire on the dissolution of the PS or the transfer of its Headquarters to the territory of a different State.

Signed in the city of Brasilia on this thirteen day of December 2002, in two originals copies in the languages of Portuguese, Spanish, English and Dutch.

For the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil

For the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

ANNEX “A”

HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL AND THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

CHAPTER I. TEMPORARY FACILITIES

1. The host country shall provide to ACTO temporary facilities for its PS, the use of 320 square meters of space as shown in Annex II of ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brasilia, as shown in the drawings, and the necessary furnishings for its functioning.
2. The space provided for the temporary facilities shall be delivered in proper conditions for use as regards the paint, floor, covering, air-conditioning, lighting and light control.
3. The host country shall provide to ACTO for the temporary facilities of its PS, the use of furniture and fixtures as detailed below.
 - a) 14 micro PCs;
 - b) Up to 14 printers. The definite number of units provided may vary in accordance with the possibilities, technical convenience and compatibility.
 - c) 1 photocopier;
 - d) 1 paper shredder;
 - e) 1 typewriter;
 - f) 1 fax machine;
 - g) Switch board, with 15 telephones and 5 lines, one of which has direct access.
4. The host Country guarantees the technical updating of the above mentioned equipment to a degree compatible with the institutional tasks of the PS.
5. The host Country guarantees the PS free and unlimited access to internet in its temporary facilities.
6. The host Country shall provide to ACTO for the temporary facilities of the PS, the use of permanent basic office supplies, to be detailed upon delivery.
7. The host Country guarantees the PS, in their temporary facilities, the availability of all the utilities and services necessary for its functioning such as water, electricity, cleaning, security and maintenance of equipment and furnishings.
8. The host Country guarantees to the PS, through official request, with reasonable notice, and observing the priorities of the building's main occupant, the use of the auditorium adjoining their office space.
9. The use of the space detailed above shall be provided according to applicable Brazilian law, including the administrative term of usage, for the temporary facilities of the PS, for whatever time is necessary until the permanent facilities are available.

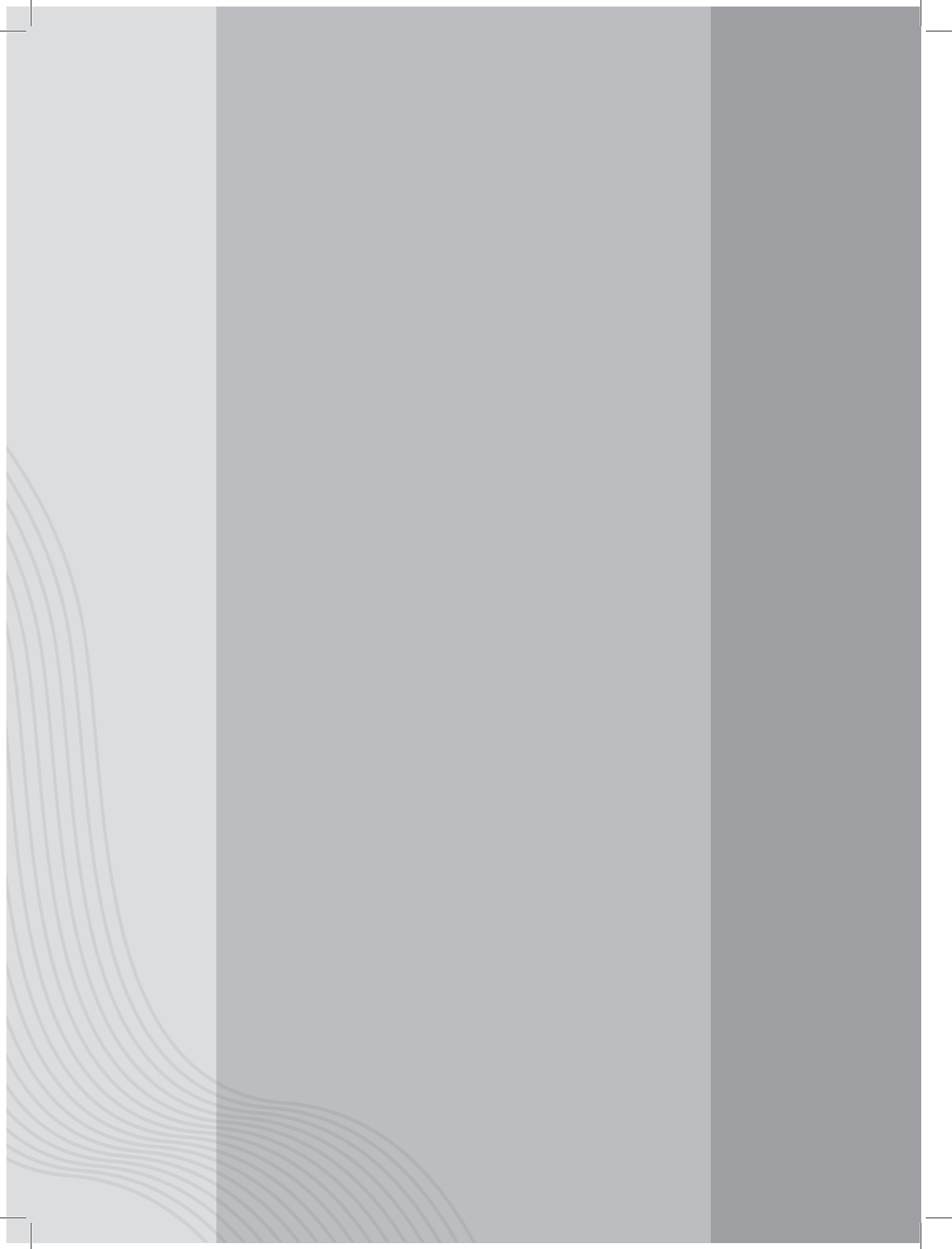
10. The use the above-describe equipment and fixtures shall be provided according to applicable Brazilian law, including the administrative term of usage, for the temporary facilities of the PS for purposes of the ACTO and this may be extended to the permanent facilities.

CHAPTER II. PERMANENT FACILITIES

1. The host Country shall make the necessary legal and administrative provisions for the transfer to the ACTO, free of cost permanent, and in the shortest possible time, the lot of land for the permanent facilities of the ACTO, once sufficient resources for construction are available.

2. The temporary cession of office equipment and furnishings to ACTO, in favor of temporary installations may be prorogued in benefit of the definitive Permanent Secretariat installations, if it should be necessary for its institutional goals and feasible for the Headquarters State.

**DECLARATIONS OF THE
MEETINGS OF PRESIDENTS
OF AMAZON COUNTRIES**



MANAUS DECLARATION OF THE 1ST MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF AMAZON COUNTRIES

The Heads of State of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, gathered in Manaus on May 6, 1989 with a view towards jointly rethinking their common interests in the Amazonian region and, particularly, on the future of the cooperation for the development and protection of the wealthy heritage in their corresponding Amazonian territories, adopt the following:

AMAZON DECLARATION

1. **IN THE SPIRIT** of friendship and understanding that drives our fraternal dialogue, we affirm the readiness to drive the political agreement effort started by our governments under the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, subscribed on July 3, 1978, and also within the framework of their bilateral relations, with a view towards promoting the cooperation among our countries in every area of common interest for the sustainable development of the Amazon region. To such ends, we undertake to foster compliance with all the decisions contained in the Declaration of San Francisco de Quito, adopted by our Ministers of Foreign Affairs on March 7, 1989.

2. **AWARE** of the significance of protecting the cultural, economic and ecological heritage of our Amazon regions, and of the need to drive such potential for the benefit of the economic and social development of our people, we insist that the Amazon heritage must be kept by the rational use of the resources in the region, so that present and future generations may benefit from this legacy of nature.

3. **WE EXPRESS** our support to the newly created Special Commissions on the Environment and on Indigenous Affairs, targeted at driving development, keeping natural resources, the environment, and the relevant Amazon populations, and we reaffirm full respect of the right of indigenous populations in Amazon territories to have all the measures taken, aimed at keeping and preserving the integrity of these human groups, their cultures, and their ecological “habitat”, exercising the right inherent in each State’s sovereignty.

WE REITERATE, likewise, our support to any actions purporting to strengthen the institutional structure of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, pursuant to the approach advocated by the Declaration of San Francisco de Quito.

4. **WE REAFFIRM** the sovereign right of each country to freely manage its natural resources, taking into account the need to promote the economic and social development of its people, and the appropriate conservation of the environment. In the exercise of the sovereign responsibility of defining the best ways of leveraging and preserving such riches complementing our national efforts and the cooperation among our countries, we affirm our readiness to welcome the cooperation from countries in other regions of the world, as well as of international organizations that may contribute to the implementation of any national and regional projects and programs we might freely decide to adopt, not subject to any external pressures, in accordance with our governments’ priorities.

5. **WE RECOGNIZE** that the defense of our environment requires examining bilateral and regional measures in order to prevent pollution accidents and to react to their consequences.

6. **WE HIGHLIGHT** the fact that the protection and conservation of the environment in the region – one of the key goals in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty to which each of our countries is firmly dedicated – cannot be realized if we do not improve the desperate social and economic conditions afflicting our people, which are aggravated by an increasingly untoward international situation.

7. **WE DENOUNCE** the severe characteristics of the sovereign debt and the service thereof, making us net exporters of capital towards creditor countries, at the expense of sacrifices that are unbearable for our people. We insist that the debt cannot be paid given current conditions and circumstances, and that its handling should be based on the principle of shared responsibility, in such terms as enabling the reactivation of the economic growth and development process within our countries, a prerequisite to the protection, conservation, leveraging, and rational use of our natural heritage.

8. **WE STRESS** the need for the concerns expressed by highly developed countries relating to the conservation of the Amazon environment translates into cooperation measures at the financial and technological levels. We advocate for establishing new resource flows, in additional and concessional terms, for projects aimed at protecting the environment in our countries, including pure and applied scientific research, and we challenge the attempts at imposing conditions on the allocation of international funds for development. We hope we will witness the creation of conditions enabling free access to scientific knowledge and non-polluting technologies or technologies aimed at preserving the environment, and we reject any attempts made at obtaining any business profits by claiming lawful environmental concerns. This approach is mostly based on the fact that the main reasons for environmental decay at the world level are industrialization and consumption models, as well as waste in developed countries.

9. **CONSCIENT** of the global risks that the existence of nuclear weapons and other massive destruction weapons entails for life and environmental quality, and intent on preserving our region free from these dangers, we restate the commitments of our countries with the use of nuclear power solely to peaceful ends, and we urge countries in possession of nuclear weapons to immediately stop experimenting with them and to promote the phasing out of their arsenals. Likewise, we condemn the deposit of radioactive waste and other toxic waste endangering the ecosystems in the Amazon region. We represent the need to adopt adequate measures aimed at reducing the hazard of environmental pollution in the peaceful use of nuclear power. Also, we state our support to the ends and purposes of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

10. **CONVINCED** about the need to strengthen the process of consultation and dialogue among our countries on every issue concerning the development of the region, even those provided for by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, and certain of the fact that our cooperation strengthens the integration and solidarity in Latin America, we state our decision of joining efforts in a sound and pioneer joint venture, purporting to ensure a peaceful future of cooperation and prosperity for the countries in the Amazon region. Therefore, we have decided to meet on an annual basis.

*On behalf of the Government of Brazil,
José Sarney*

*On behalf of the Government of Ecuador,
Rodrigo Borja*

*On behalf of the Government of Peru,
Alan García Pérez*

*On behalf of the Government of Venezuela,
Carlos Andrés Pérez*

*On behalf of the Government of Colombia,
Virgilio Barco*

*On behalf of the Government of Guyana,
Hugh Desmond Hoyte*

*On behalf of the Government of Suriname,
Ramsewak Shankar*

*On behalf of the Government of Bolivia,
Valentín Abecía Baldivieso*

DECLARATION OF THE 2ND MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF AMAZON COUNTRIES

The Presidents of Amazon Countries, gathered in Manaus on February 10 and 11, 1992, with a view to examining the issues in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, adopt the following:

MANAUS DECLARATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

1. We are convinced that an environmentally healthy planet must be in line with a socially and economically fair world. In order to achieve this goal, changing non sustainable behaviors, development models and consumption patterns is paramount.
2. Within our countries, the imperative of economic and social development must be matched with the conservation and protection of the environment, through the promotion of strategies for the sustainable use of natural resources, and the respect of the right of citizens to a better quality of living. Thus, we affirm the right of our countries to use their own natural resources to ensure their wellbeing and progress.
3. We reaffirm the significance of education and public awareness, wherefore we undertake to completely support any efforts geared at increasing knowledge and public adherence to suitable environmental procedures. Additionally, we agree to strengthen environmental education and to urge the international community to support this action.
4. We reaffirm our conviction that the patterns of international production, consumption and distribution are at the roots of environmental problems in developing countries, especially the impairment of ecosystems and poverty to which most human beings have been pushed.
5. The greater responsibility of developed countries is admitted in the increasing environmental decay, a strong enough reason whereby no environmental controls or conditions may be imposed on developing countries.
6. In turn, underdevelopment is the main cause and a severe consequence of the environmental decay. Consequently, the solution to environmental problems is closely linked to a new attitude vis-à-vis international cooperation, which translates into the expansion of financial resources, a greater access to technologies, the boosting of business flows, and into measures aimed at solving the sovereign debt problem.
7. Emergency domestic measures shall be insufficient to combat poverty, unless supported by international cooperation, based on new principles.
8. Overcoming current environmental problems calls for a conscious and determined effort by the States and individuals that shall transcend the simple logics of market forces.
9. From the signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, on July 3, 1978, our countries have undertaken a deep and wide commitment in terms of joining actions purporting to achieve the symmetric development of the region, the features of which are clearly conceived and defined in the Treaty. This unique engagement has allowed our countries to enjoy presently a wide range of policies and strategies through which it will possible to achieve sustainable development goals in the region.

10. We recognize the rights of indigenous populations and their contribution to the conservation of the environment. We think that a greater involvement on their part will be positive. In this sense, we are adopting meaningful measures, among which we should stress the efforts made to respect the rights of indigenous people on their lands, according to national laws. This is why consistent with the mandate arising from the I Meeting of the Ibero-American Summit held in Guadalajara, we have assessed the advances made, and we have reaffirmed our support to the creation of the Fund for the Development of Indigenous People of Latin America and the Caribbean.

11. We are determined to continue furthering all our efforts with a view towards the conservation of the largest native forest in the planet and its sustainable development, allocating to this task all resources available to us.

12. In this sense, we reaffirm the principles and purposes of the Manaus Declaration of May 6, 1989, wherein our countries established their common interests in the Amazon region, particularly on the future of the cooperation for the development and conservation of this heritage.

13. We also reaffirm that this effort will not suffice unless we can count on international cooperation to support the efforts made by our States in discharging their responsibilities and in the exercise of their sovereignty.

14. We stress again our readiness to strengthen bilateral and sub regional cooperation in order to prevent environmental damage and tending to their consequences.

15. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development shall be a historical landmark to start a new global relation that translates into financial and technological cooperation programs, which enable the strengthening by developing countries of their efforts at maintaining and fostering the sustainable development of their natural resources. Therefore, we commit our efforts to contributing to its success, together with all other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with which we adopted, in March, 1991, the Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development.

16. We agree upon a joint understanding on the main issues of the Conference. It is our belief that this agreement will meet the expectations of the international community. Such joint understanding is embodied in the following position paper which shall guide the delegations from our countries in the negotiations prior to the Conference.

JOINT POSITION DOCUMENT OF AMAZON COUNTRIES WITH A VIEW TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

I. CLIMATE CHANGES

1. Current trends in world climate change will result in deep implications for the environment and the development of our countries, even islands and low coastal areas. We urge developed countries – largely responsible for the cumulated concentration of greenhouse gases – to adopt specific measures in order to reverse said trends.

2. The negotiations of a framework convention on climate change are a unique opportunity for the international community to reach commitments aimed at reverting the trend towards the increase in greenhouse gases concentrations. Said commitments are necessarily distinct in developed countries and in developing countries, and should not affect economic and commercial interests of the latter. Developing countries can only be fully integrated into international efforts aimed at protecting the climate if the required financial and technological resources are guaranteed for the adoption of a new sustainable development model.

3. Each country should be able to reach the energy model that best fits its needs and global needs. Required adoptions result in the replacement of unsustainable lifestyles and consumption models regarding future generations.

II. BIODIVERSITY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

1. Biological resources are unquestionably natural resources of each country, which therefore exercise its sovereignty on them. Immediate action is required to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These activities must be so conducted by countries with the support of the international cooperation, based on intergovernmental agreements.
2. Acknowledging the rights of the countries where biodiversity originates is paramount, especially including genetic resources; to that end, appropriate systems of records, regulations and control must be adopted and observed.
3. Cooperation is required among developed countries and those countries rich in biological resources, especially in terms of strengthening local institutions qualified for conducting research. National research efforts, information gathering and monitoring must be supported by the international community.
4. The sustainable use and development of such resources should be even more stressed than their conservation, in order to maximize and communicate their benefits.
5. The conservation of biodiversity must be comprehensive, prioritizing protected areas and those areas establishing economic and environmental zoning. To such ends, regional cooperation is significant, and one major example is the environmental and economic zoning program conceived and developed within the scope of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.
6. Onsite and offsite research in source countries must be particularly supported and promoted. Also, international cooperation is required for the maintenance of gene banks.
7. Biodiversity and biotechnology are closely related, posing one of the clearest opportunities for sustainable development. Biotechnology highly depends on the conservation of genetic and biological resources, especially in developing countries, wealthy in biodiversity.
8. Traditional methods and knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities need to be valued and protected. Their share in economic and commercial benefits arising from the usage of biodiversity is required in order to ensure their economic and social development.
9. We have a clear interest in the success of negotiations towards a Convention on Biological Diversity; this should mirror the required relation between access to biodiversity resources and access, particularly to biotechnology resulting there from, as well as the technology required for its conservation.
10. Access to biodiversity resources must necessarily include those resulting from biotechnology, as well as wild and cultivated resources. International cooperation is required for the endogenous development of biotechnology research in the countries where biological resources originate.

III. FORESTS

1. International discussions on forests should take into account the fact that these ecosystems are part of territories under the jurisdiction of the States, wherein the latter fully exercise their sovereignty. The States are charged with the passing of legislation over such spaces and their usage, in the light of national priorities.
2. Any global consideration on forest resources must necessarily include, without any discrimination, all types of forests.
3. Besides the purely environmental aspects, the relevance of the forest as an economic, cultural and social space must absolutely be acknowledged. Interaction among these elements creates an integral whole that is complex and wide. Forest policies are a major part in development strategies in our countries.

4. The economic dimension of the forest comprises the natural forest heritage, including mineral reserves, energy sources, tourist potential and human occupation opportunities for production activities. Social and cultural dimension consists in its "habitat" status as human populations, whether native or not, that depend on the forest for their livelihoods and cultural development.
5. National efforts aimed at developing models for the sustainable use of forests must be completely supported by the international community.
6. The promotion of an economic use of the standing forest should be stressed, given its environmental, social, positive economic effects, but in order to do that it is absolutely necessary to have a timely and sufficient access to the market of the various forest products.
7. Forest management must match the imperative of its economic valuation for the benefit of national societies – in such a way as to ensure proper levels of social welfare for the communities directly dependent on them – with the right environmental protection. In this sense, developing countries evidence specific needs that must be taken into account for the decisions made by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.
8. Economic activities in forest areas can be interfaced with the conservation and protection of natural and environmental resources. To such ends, countries should develop sustainable forest use strategies, and have access to markets for their products, that enable a sustainable development.
9. These strategies should aim at matching short-term actions with a longer-term perspective, echoing future opportunities. The concept of balance of costs and benefits should be extended, in order to include social equity, a greater technological efficiency of production processes, the conservation of natural resources, the respect for cultural values of local populations, and their knowledge of forest traditional uses.

IV. SOIL DEGRADATION

1. The relevance of the reversion of the increasingly deeper process of soil degradation, erosion, and desertification is stressed, as well as its prevention. Non sustainable processes for rural development, the use of inadequate technologies, as well as uncontrolled processes of land occupation have been severely impacting the environment, damaging the agricultural production in a way that threatens food security in developing countries.
2. Combating droughts and keeping watersheds via a comprehensive usage of land and water resources is key, as well as maintaining the forest cover.
3. It is essential to further promote land occupation according to its environmental layout and its development potential, both dynamically conditioned by scientific and technical advances. The importance of preventive and corrective actions should be stressed in areas having conservation as a goal. Nevertheless, it is essential to equally implement such measures in areas having a productive profile.

V. WATER RESOURCES

1. Environmentally suitable management of water resources is a key element in the conservation of ecosystems, health protection, and the promotion of wellbeing.
2. The close connection between an integrated management of water resources and the protection of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity and a rational land use must be acknowledged. Thus, programs should be identified, for the sustainable development of water resources at the local, national, regional, and global levels, as well the means for implementing them.

3. In this sense, the measures taken at the national and regional levels specially stand out, aimed at managing, conserving, and providing a comprehensive management of watersheds. Such measures stand out as key for the right harnessing of water resources as a source of production activities such as irrigation, fishing, energy production and transportation; also for the control of polluting agents, the adoption of measures for the prevention and control of environmental hazards, and the protection of populations' health.

4. The populations' life quality is tightly linked to the supply of treated freshwater in such a quantity and quality that meets their needs. In connection with this, specific supply goals should be established for the next decade, within a set term framework.

5. Institutional capacity, society information and awareness, education and availability of financial resources are prerequisites for the comprehensive management of water resources. National efforts for the comprehensive management of watersheds should be acknowledged and supported by the cooperation of the international community.

VI. TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

1. Toxic waste should be disposed of or removed at the production site. Countries shall have the right technologies for managing them in an environmentally safe way.

2. In order to address the problem correctly, the negotiation of a protocol to the Basel Convention should be completed as soon as possible to establish the appropriate procedures in terms of accountability and compensation for the damages resulting from the transboundary movement and handling of hazardous waste.

3. An assessment is equally required, in the light of the Basel Convention, of the existing rules, provisions, and practices concerning the dumping at sea of hazardous waste in order to recommend any additional measures within the framework of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London, 29/12/72).

4. Additionally, implementing the mechanisms provided for by resolution 44/226 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, on illicit traffic of toxic products and wastes, is a must for the international community in order to monitor and report such traffic.

VII. STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONS

1. A precondition to fostering sustainable development, the strengthening of institutions should be geared towards increasingly combining economic decisions with environmental protection strategies. Both the States and the international organizations must overcome the institutional dichotomy between these aspects. This should be one of the key innovation elements in the handling of environmental and development issues.

2. We state that strengthening national institutions is a priority to promote sustainable development. We equally stress the relevance of strengthening regional institutions. Intranational cooperation is an unquestionable basis for the conservation and rational harnessing of the natural heritage.

3. Globally, we must develop creative solutions for the United Nations to have more efficient and stronger mechanisms available for implementing the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The planning and implementation of its actions must be conducted with full involvement of developing countries, so that they match their priorities. Accordingly, these institutions should be able to support, as per the specific needs of each country, the measures and programs implemented by the latter with a view to sustainable development.

VIII. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

1. Problems affecting urban life quality also have a global dimension to the extent that their consequences exceed national frontiers. During the last twenty years, industrialized countries have, in a broad sense, achieved an apparent improvement in the conditions of their cities, by means of sound resources and new technologies. On the contrary, in developing countries, the issue is reaching critical levels that entail severe and unpredictable consequences. The United Nations Convention on Environment and Development should adopt a program of specific actions, within the scope of Agenda 21, in order to change the program in developing countries.
2. Agenda 21 programs relating to human settlements should include access to basic services such as health, household, drinking water, citizen safety, energy supply, transportation. In this context, both the urban periphery and rural settlements should equally be the target focus, as well as the supply of households for populations lacking revenue and the extremely poor ones.
3. Means should be developed that enable education, information and awareness of the society, as well as the professional training geared towards the adequate management of issues such as disadvantaged children, the disposal and handling of household and industrial waste, unemployment, violence, uncontrolled land occupation, and lack of basic health.
4. Implementing the required initiatives in developing countries calls for the contribution of additional resources sourced in international cooperation.

IX. INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

1. Within the context of life quality improvement of indigenous and local populations and communities, the value of traditional knowledge and its practices must be acknowledged for promoting sustainable development. To such intents, mechanisms should be developed for the protection of traditional knowledge and for compensating the appropriation and commercial use of this knowledge. Therefore, it is a must to ensure the conditions for self-development, support the development of own and sustainable means of alternative production, strengthen national institutional mechanisms aimed at fostering its development, and to protect and guarantee the “habitat” of such communities.
2. Likewise, ensuring the respect of indigenous populations and local communities’ rights is crucial for the preservation of their cultural identity. National efforts are essential for the promotion of sustainable development of those communities, supported by the mobilization of the international technical and financial cooperation, particularly within the context of the International Year of Indigenous People, which shall be celebrated in 1993.

X. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

1. Reaching the goal of integrating the environment with development requires a new attitude towards international cooperation. This new attitude is rooted on the understanding that developed and developing countries are co-partners in the same cause and that economic and environmental benefits resulting from this cooperation will be common.
2. Nevertheless, for the completion of this common goal, countries enjoy terribly unequal capacities and financial means. Consequently, developing countries have major limitations to engage in global efforts.
3. Industrialized countries come to play a historic responsibility in terms of the degradation of the environment at the global level, which is currently not sustainable. As a result of this and of the economic and financial capacity, they shall assume a proportionately larger responsibility in the sustainable development process.

4. Accordingly, new and additional flows of financial resources are required, that are supplied subject to the right conditions for developing countries, in order for the latter to comply with the duty to protect the environment and to promote development.
5. A solution should be found for the severe situation posed by the sovereign debt of developing countries, as it compromises their capacity to adopt the essential policies and measures required for implementing sustainable development strategies.
6. Likewise, protectionist barriers to international trade should be removed, whether they be the traditional barriers or environmentally sourced non-tariff barriers. On the other hand, natural resources and their products should have to be assessed and the relevant price be allocated pursuant to their value.
7. New financial resources should be channeled by means of the right institutional mechanisms that adequately provide for means of concessional disbursement, not subject to any conditions, that operate in accordance with the priorities from the beneficiary and a smooth handling of environmental and development issues. Besides, said resources must take into account the environmentally sound socio-economic development needs of developing countries populations.
8. Representation in these mechanisms and management thereof should follow the equity principle among developed and developing countries. For the above reasons, it should be understood that the financial mechanism called "Global Environmental Facility" is a clearly limited and insufficient instrument. The development of a mechanism is essential, that enables countries to implement the guidelines and action plans in Agenda 21, thus promoting sustainable development. Likewise, multilateral legal instruments under negotiation shall include their own financial mechanisms containing the features stated before.

XI. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

1. An efficient strengthening of new transfer mechanisms is required, that ensure environmentally adequate technologies for developing countries. Given financial and institutional constraints of developing countries, access to said technologies shall be conducted on preferential terms rather than on solely business terms, considering the responsibility of developed countries in environmental degradation and the common interest that drives the international community towards the protection of the environment; the transfer of new environmentally adequate technologies to developing countries is a prerequisite for honoring commitments on the environment and development that will be undertaken within the context of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well of the Convention being negotiated on the Protection of Biological Diversity and Climate Change.
2. Increasing national and regional capacities is important not only in order to absorb environmentally suitable technologies, but also for scientific research and for the development of own technologies. Developed countries must absolutely support such efforts bilaterally and multilaterally.

Manaus, February 10, 1992.

Republic of Bolivia
Federative Republic of Brazil
Republic of Colombia
Republic of Ecuador

Cooperative Republic of Guyana
Republic of Peru
Republic of Suriname
Republic of Venezuela

DECLARATION OF HEADS OF STATE ON THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

The Heads of State of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, on occasion of the preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on Climate Change held in Manaus, Amazonas, on 26 November 2009:

Affirming their determination to drive and consolidate cooperation between the Member States of ACTO in areas of common interest, thus contributing to strengthen South American unity while ensuring full respect to national sovereignty;

Recognizing the priority need to foster the Amazon's sustainable development through integral, participatory, shared and equitable management as an autonomous and sovereign response to current environmental challenges, taking into account the effects of the international financial crisis;

DECIDE TO:

1. Endow ACTO with a new and modern role as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge and joint visibility forum to face the new and complex international challenges that lie ahead.

2. Commission the Chancelleries to prepare a new short, middle and long term Strategic Agenda for ACTO that includes regional actions to support the national initiatives with a view to strengthening the cooperation process. This Agenda will be examined and approved in the Tenth Meeting of Ministers of External Relations of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty to be held in the second quarter of 2010 in Peru.

3. Guided by the principles of reducing regional asymmetries, adopting complementary and solidary economic alternatives for the sustainable and rational use of Amazonian biodiversity and other resources, and improving the quality of life of the local populations, instruct the inclusion in the new Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda of provisions *inter alia* to:

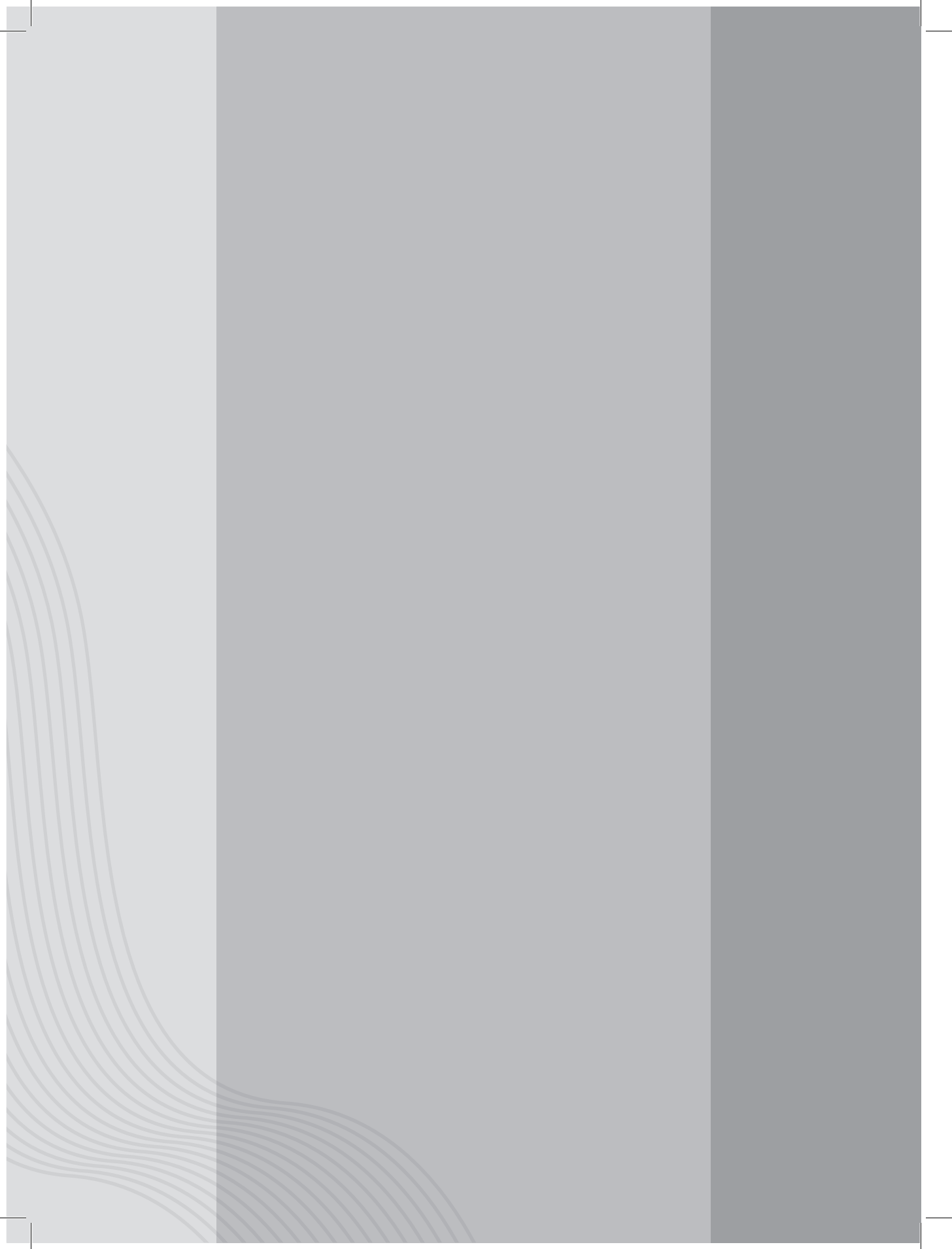
- Build an integral regional Amazonian cooperation vision that incorporates economics, environment, health, indigenous and tribal peoples, education, science and technology, water resources, infrastructure, commercial navigation and facilitation thereof, tourism and communications, with a view to promoting the harmonious and sustainable development of their respective Amazonian spaces.
- Identify actions to reduce and monitor deforestation, favor sustainable forest resources management and implement urgent measures to ensure biodiversity conservation and preservation, focusing on economic, rational and sustainable use, and including the search for mechanisms that support and create funding strategies to conserve and protect the forests.
- Strengthen the institutional and political mechanisms of the indigenous and tribal peoples of ACTO to further a diagnosis of their situation by designing indicators, or others, with a view to identifying joint actions that enable them to develop in harmony with nature, while protecting and conserving their traditional extractive products.
- Protect, manage and preserve the region's water resources to ensure the health of the fluvial ecosystem.
- Develop actions to promote food security and the eradication of hunger in the shortest delay possible.
- Coordinate environmental health surveillance, execute coordinated actions in frontier areas, and adopt coordinated prevention mechanisms.

- Foster ecotourism.
 - Decisively drive a regional science and technology agenda for the Amazon that includes traditional knowledge.
 - Instruct the ACTO Permanent Secretariat to accompany international negotiations on central issues for Amazonian cooperation such as climate change, biological diversity and forests. Any actions taken as a result thereof shall be previously approved by the member countries.
 - Incorporate sectoral ministerial meetings as part of the process of implementing the Strategic Agenda.
4. Reaffirm the urgency and importance of the Organization's ongoing relaunching process by strengthening the Permanent Secretariat, and instruct their Ministers of External Relations to adopt measures that lead to concrete actions to ensure its institutional strengthening so as to enable compliance with the mandates conferred to it by its member countries, including a definitive solution for its permanent headquarters.
 5. Instruct the Permanent Secretariat to conduct a study in coordination with the member countries to assess possible sources of funding from the countries themselves in order to overcome ACTO's dependence on foreign financing to develop its strategic projects.
 6. Reaffirm the importance of establishing or reactivating the Permanent National Commissions as the spheres in charge of executing the decisions made during the Meetings of Ministers of External Relations, pursuant to Article 23 of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.
 7. Express their firm support to the new administration of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization Permanent Secretariat.

Manaus, 26 November 2009.



**MINUTES, DECLARATIONS AND
RESOLUTIONS OF THE MEETINGS
OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE PS/ACTO
MEMBER COUNTRIES**



FINAL MINUTES

I MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SIGNATORIES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Pursuant to the provisions in article XX, second paragraph, of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, Mr. Javier Cerruto Calderón, of Brazil, Mr. Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro; of Colombia, Mr. Diego Uribe Vargas; of Ecuador, Mr. Alfonso Barrera Valverde; of Guyana, Mr. Rashleigh Esmond Jackson; of Peru, Mr. Javier Arias Stella; of Suriname, Mr. André Richard Haakmat; and the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, Mr. Justo Oswaldo Páez-Pumar, as chairs of the Delegations of their respective countries, proceeded to celebrate the I Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Signatories to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty in the city of Belém, Brazil, on October twenty third and twenty-fourth of the year nineteen-eighty.

The complete report of the participating Delegations in the Meeting appears on Annex 1.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Prior to the First Plenary Session, a preparatory meeting of the General Committee was held at nine a.m. of October twenty-third, nineteen-eighty, at the Superintendence of Development of Amazonia (SUDAM) headquarters. At ten a.m. at the hall of SUDAM, the Opening Session to the I Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty started, having as a pro tempore chair Ambassador Mr. Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, host country to the Meeting.

Immediately thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Ambassador Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, was elected Chair of the I Meeting by acclamation. Also appointed by acclamation was the Secretary General and Rapporteur of the Meeting, Ambassador João Hermes Pereira de Araújo, Head of the Department of the Americas, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Mr. Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, went on to take the floor, formally starting the session's work, and then the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname participated in the discussions, pursuant to the above stated order.

The Agenda of the Meeting was adopted, enclosed as Annex II.

SETTING UP AND OPERATION OF THE COMMISSIONS

Commissions were agreed to be created, charged with the specific subjects below: Draft Regulations on the Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Commission A), and Draft Joint Declaration (Commission B). Apart from these, the Ministers decided to create a Drafting Commission and a General Commission made up of Foreign Affairs Ministers.

After completing the work of the Commissions, the Regulations were adopted the text of which appears as Annex III, and the "Declaration of Belém".

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

In the Second Plenary Session, which started to work at three-thirty p.m. on the same day, the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia took the floor.

AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Mr. Javier Arias Stella, invited the Amazon Cooperation Council, created pursuant to article XXI in the Treaty, to hold its first meeting in Peru, in July, 1981, in order to discuss cooperation projects among Amazon countries.

The invitation made by Peru was accepted by acclamation.

SPECIAL COMMISSIONS

The Ministers have agreed to carry out sector meetings at the place and time mutually consented by the Parties, before the Amazon Cooperation Council meeting to be held in Peru. These technical meetings, which shall submit their reports to the Amazon Cooperation Council, shall be entitled to create special commissions such as those provided for by article XXIV in the Treaty, referred to such projects as aimed at the creation of a technical cooperation program on regional development, a cooperation program on science and technology, the planning of transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, and to examine the creation of a preinvestment fund.

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

With the attendance of the President of Brazil, João Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo, the solemn Closing Session started at Teatro de la Paz, of the I Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Signatories to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, at three-thirty p.m., on October twenty-four.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs proceeded to sign the "Declaration of Belem" and this Final Minutes.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mr. Diego Uribe Vargas, went on to give a speech and offered his country as the venue for the II Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

This proposal, submitted to the Plenary for consideration by the Chair of the Meeting, was carried by acclamation.

At the initiative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia, Mr. Javier Cerruto Calderón, the I Meeting carried by acclamation a vote of commendation to its Chair, Ambassador Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil and to the Secretary General and Rapporteur of the Meeting, Ambassador João Hermes Pereira de Araújo.

After having expressed his satisfaction with the work accomplished and welcomed the success obtained, the Chair of the meeting asked the President João Baptista Figueiredo to pronounce a speech declaring the work of the meeting completed. The Brazilian Head of State stressed the relevance of the meeting that had just been held at Belem, and the significance of the cooperation process starting among the countries in the region.

In witness whereof, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Amazon countries signed these final minutes, in a single copy and in four languages: Spanish, Dutch, English, and Portuguese. Being the four texts equally true and original, they shall be deposited with the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, charged with providing all other signatories with certified true copies.

Signed in Belem, on October twenty-four of the year nineteen-eighty.

DECLARATION OF BELEM

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela,

GATHERED in Belem, on October 23 and 24, 1980, in order to celebrate the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Signatories to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, according to their article XX, second paragraph;

EAGER to witness the speedy implementation of the Amazon cooperation mechanism provided for by the Treaty,

INTENT on promoting and facilitating at the domestic level and through Amazon cooperation the economic and social development of their national Amazonian territories, in order to ensure its effective integration into their corresponding economies,

PERSUADED that, vis-à-vis the specific goals in the geographic area of application, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty contributes a new dimension to the Latin American cooperation process and reaffirms the irreplaceable cooperation need among developing countries,

CONSCIOUS that the development of Amazonia and the preservation of its environment are inseparably entwined and the exclusive responsibility of Amazon countries, with no further limitations than those set forth in article IV of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, with which all other forms of international cooperation must be harmonized,

DECLARE:

I. The goal of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty is the creation, by way of the joint efforts of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, and through the standing clearinghouse provided for by the Treaty, methods of cooperation and information sharing, with a view to celebrating the socio-economic development of the corresponding Amazon territories, preserving their natural resources and strengthening the actions provided for in the relevant national plans.

II. Cooperation shall focus on increasing the standard of living of the signatories to the Treaty and shall make the interests and needs of their Amazon populations a priority, with the goal of achieving their full integration into national development processes, attending to the preservation of their cultural and social values.

III. Indigenous people are the part and parcel in Amazonia, and the source of knowledge and habits on which the local culture and economy are based; thus, they deserve a special attention in current and future planning of the Amazon region in each country.

IV. The use and harnessing of natural resources in each national Amazon territory are a sovereign and exclusive right of each signatory to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, subject to no further limitations than those provided for in its article IV. The Amazon cooperation process aims at repeating the full use of those rights, heritage and guarantee of development of the Amazon countries' territories.

V. The development of the economic potential of Amazon territories of each country and the preservation of their environment are the comprehensive goals promoted and strengthened in an indivisible manner. Each country shall consolidate these goals by means of a plan driven by the characteristics of such territories, with a selection criterion of favorable areas for economic utilization, as has been the case through positive experiences in various areas in the region.

VI. To this end, Amazon countries driven by their direct and legitimate interest in efficiently protecting the extraordinary wealth and the variety of flora and fauna in the region will attempt at promoting – as they have been doing – the creation of national parks and other conservation units, in accordance with scientific studies on integral ecosystems. Accordingly, once completed an appropriate term for the assessment and consideration, Guyana and Suriname are expected to evaluate their potential accession to the Technical Intergovernmental Committee on the Protection and Defense of Amazon Flora and Fauna, created in 1975, made up so far by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

VII. The efforts made by each signatory country shall be strongly supported with a view towards eliminating illegal traffic of live specimens and wild animals furs, the species of which are endangered, and towards making industrialized countries where the major consumer markets of said animals and furs are concentrated effectively engage in these efforts.

VIII. Simultaneously with the flora and fauna conservation, promoting the rational use of tropical forests is advisable, as a key driver in regional dynamics. To this end, cooperation by Amazon countries will be fostered in order to carry out joint research activities, information sharing, training of technicians, etc. The use and harnessing of all natural resources in Amazonia is the sovereign and exclusive right of each State therein; thus, any initiative purporting to raise concerns on the sovereignty of the States located in tropical areas is unacceptable, in terms of the use and preservation of their forest resources.

IX. One of the broadest priorities in the Treaty shall be allocated to the cooperation in the field of research, especially to the development of science and technology appropriate for tropical conditions. Information sharing will be particularly promoted with equivalent areas in Africa and Asia. The fact that this area appears to be ideal for developing nations to test their capacity to put an end to their cultural and technological dependence in terms of industrialized centers will be highlighted, establishing the criteria and standards to be followed in the course of research activities, according to their own values and needs. Scientific research will supply a safe criterion to gear policies for economic and social development and for the preservation of the environment, at the same time submitting these activities to an ongoing assessment targeted at the review and refinement of methods and techniques. To such ends and purposes, member-States will charge the Amazon Cooperation Council with the drafting and coordination of a broad joint research program on science and technology, to be distributed among the leading scientific research institutes in Amazon countries, according to the sectors defined by the Special Commissions created by this meeting.

X. The Amazon Cooperation Council will be charged with the preparation of a cooperation program on the development of national Amazon territories and with enabling the communication among Signatories of the experiences and national methods in the areas of project planning, financing and execution. The Amazon Cooperation Council is equally charged with examining the creation of a Preinvestment Fund aimed at financing the preparation of common interest projects. The Council will also be charged with examining the suggestions that, on this issue, are submitted by the governments. To that end, the cooperation of international agencies such as the IDB, the World Bank, UNDP and the SELA, among others, will be searched for.

XI. In the future just like in the past, the Amazon River system may play, in a more effective manner, a role similar to that of rivers and channels networks in other continents, as the linking factor among Amazon countries. For that, the Amazon Cooperation Council shall undertake a systematic and comprehensive study of the potential of those rivers, of their intrinsic interaction with other components in the Amazon geographic complex, of the need to have port facilities, of the demarcation and correction of river courses. That study will take into account not only physical conditions of seaworthiness, but also the aspects of economic feasibility, such as current and future traffic needs, projections on the generation of bulk loads compatible with the peculiarities of river transportation, and the possibility of harnessing the river in any other way. This study shall specially focus on the development of the existing means and the solution of problems and hindrances to river connections in certain areas with the Atlantic.

XII. The Amazon Region owns enough natural resources, both renewable and non renewable, that can be used for its harmonious development. Its various rivers, besides providing natural transportation means, communication and contact among countries in the region, are also a source of energy. To this effect and in accordance with article V in the Treaty, Signatories recommend the Amazon Cooperation Treaty undertaking studies relating to water resources in the Amazon Region.

XIII. The Amazon Cooperation Council shall promote the coordination of national plans for implementing an appropriate physical structure of transportation and telecommunications enabling the interconnection of Amazon countries and their capitals, in terms of article X in the Treaty. This planning, to be conducted in a consultative manner by the governmental technical sectors from the parties, shall take into account the huge Amazon distances, the possibility of having new technologies in the field of river, land and air transportation, as well as the experiences of some countries in providing the area with an efficient network of transport and telecommunications.

XIV. In order to promote a better knowledge and raising awareness on the need for cooperation among Amazon countries' populations, the Amazon Cooperation Council will prepare proposals aimed at stimulating the exchange in the area of tourism, among them according to article XIII.

XV. A clear understanding of the reality of each Amazon territory and of their differences and characteristics in terms of the rational use of their natural resources for agricultural, industrial, livestock and hydro electrical applications will be facilitated to the extent that Amazon countries reach scientific and technological levels that reinforce their solvency and autonomy. With this goal, and in order to better perceive the Amazon reality, universities in member-states will be encouraged to establish centers or subjects on Amazon studies, as is already the case in some of them, and to promote the strengthening of contacts among said study centers, teachers, researchers, artists, exchange of interns and spreading of publications on Amazon issues.

XVI. Given the size of the Amazon challenge and of the means available for the countries in the region, it is understood that the programs to be outlined insert themselves into a vast horizon, in a true agenda for the present and the future, starting from proposals that will be positive as long as they are realistic and enforceable.

XVII. Persuaded that the ideas and principles collected in this Declaration may be a source of inspiration and guidance for the Amazon cooperation process that is coordinately starting, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs gathered in Belem reaffirm their faith and trust in the fate of Amazonia as basis for the construction of wealthy and developed societies and as rapprochement factor, not only between the countries in the area but also at the service of the unit and the integration of Latin America.

Made in the city of Belem, on October twenty four of the year nineteen-eighty, in Spanish, Dutch, English and Portuguese.

FINAL MINUTES

II MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

In the city of Santiago de Cali, on December 7 and 8, 1983, pursuant to the invitation made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia on occasion of the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, repeated in the First Council Meeting and under the scope of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, currently under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, the II Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty was conducted. It was attended by delegations from all signatory countries, the whole list of which appears in Annex 1.

I. PREPARATORY SESSION

At 08:30 a. m. of December 7 there was a preparatory session in accordance with the provisions in article XXIV of the Rules for the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, chaired by Mr. Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, which considered the agenda below:

1. Appointment of the Chair.
2. Appointment of the Secretary General.
3. Receipt of the reports from the Chair of the Permanent National Commissions.
4. Agenda of the II Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
5. Setting up of commissions.
6. Submitted proposals on the issues of the Agenda to the II Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers.
7. Approximate duration of the session's term.
8. Miscellaneous.

II. OPENING CEREMONY

At 09:10 a.m. the opening ceremony of the II Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty was conducted, by the President of the Republic of Colombia, Mr. Belisario Betancur Cuartas, who made an eloquent welcome speech for the delegations, highlighting the responsibility with which the Signatory states are charged, of starting specific actions as "a reality and a challenge that will compromise the imagination, political capacity, generosity and understanding; and will demand the effort of our arms, our technology, our capacity to coexist with nature and history".

III. FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Pursuant to article VII in the Rules, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mr. Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, was elected Chair of the II Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, by acclamation. Also elected by acclamation Secretary General and Rapporteur was Ambassador Alberto Martínez Barbosa, a member of the delegation of Colombia. Next, in accordance with the agenda examined by the General Committee in the Preparatory Session, the Chair made a brief explanation on each item. Following the agenda, he put the agenda of the II Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consideration, which was

adopted with no objections. As regards the item on the creation of commissions, he requested that the delegations submit the list of the relative representatives to the Pro Tempore Secretariat once the plenary session is over.

The Chairman went on to request the delegations having specific proposals submit them to the Pro Tempore Secretariat before 12:30 a.m.

In connection to the approximate duration of the session's term, the Chairman referred to the General Program of activities, in order to adjust the meeting tasks.

He then gave the floor to the delegation heads in the order of precedence provided for by article V in the Rules. The Heads of the delegations of Guyana, Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia and Brazil participated in such order. The heads of the delegations of Ecuador and Suriname requested the floor during the course of the plenary session that will take place on the 8.

Following, within "Miscellaneous", the chair submitted the assessment of the general progress made, highlighting the fact that, absent the reports from the Standing National Commissions, its completion was not possible.

Then, the Chairman put to the consideration of the delegations a proposal on the involvement of the Representative of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), an organization involved in the Meeting as observer, which was adopted. Consequently, the representative explained the goals of IICA and the cooperation it could offer within the framework of Amazon cooperation.

Once the items on the Agenda were dealt with, the Chairman gave the floor to the delegations, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Mr. Luis Valencia Rodríguez, taking it, who put to consideration of the delegations the proposal below:

"Early morning, we have been very pleased to receive the news of the release of Mr. Jaime Betancur Cuartas, brother of the President of the sister Republic of Colombia, Mr. Belisario Betancur, who was held captive for several days. These news are the reason for our rejoice, as such an event strengthens our trust in the validity and strength of democratic institutions in our countries and contributes to the peace process of the fine people of Colombia. I ask that this plenary session express its satisfaction, as sanity and good sense have prevailed. I would like our praise to impact across the Continent and put this suggestion forward to this plenary".

The proposal made was carried by acclamation.

Mr. José Ortiz Mercado, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia, repeated the offer made by his government in terms of the venue for the II Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council. In turn, Mr. Luis Valencia Rodríguez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador offered the city of Quito as the venue for the III Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

At the end of the session, two minutes of silence were held in solidarity with the Colombian people, during their National Day for Peace.

IV. SECOND PLENARY SESSION

At 11:40 a.m. of December 8, the Chairman opened the Second Plenary Session and, in view of the requests made during the first session, he first gave the floor to Mr. Luis Valencia Rodríguez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, and secondly to Mr. Liakat Ali Errol Alibux, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Suriname.

Subsequently, the Chairs of the Commissions on Institutional and Financial Affairs, on Regional Development and Scientific and Technical Cooperation, submitted their reports, which were adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. These reports are made a part of Annex II.

After that, the Chairman of the meeting referred succinctly to the work conducted by the commissions, highlighting the need to coordinate the various recommendations, particularly in terms of setting dates for sector encounters and seminars proposed. He underlined the relevance of information sharing and of health-related issues. The Chairman pointed out how convenient it is to take specific steps towards the application of principles and decisions agreed upon within the Treaty framework. The major role of the Pro Tempore Secretariat towards this goal was stressed.

Upon the closing of the II Plenary Session, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil suggested a vow of congratulation on and gratitude to the Chairman of the meeting and of the efficient cooperation provided by the Secretariat, which was carried by acclamation.

V. CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

Chaired by Mr. Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, the solemn closing session of the II Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the Signatories to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, started at three p.m. on December 8, 1983.

The Minister of the Navy of Peru made the statement transcribed below:

“On behalf of the delegation of Peru I would like to express their gratitude to our sister Republic of Colombia and to the beautiful Santiago de Cali for the noble hospitality with which we have been honored, a gratitude that we extend to their government and their honest people.

Mr. President, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Heads of Delegations, and each delegation member for the extraordinary efforts made, and for their readiness to enter agreements, an apparent proof of the willingness of our governments to achieve Amazon cooperation.

Worthy of special gratitude is the decision to include in the Final Declaration the reference to the efforts made by the President of my country, Fernando Belaunde Terry, to bring this masterly project for the interface of the Orinoco, Amazonas and Plata Basins into fruition, which will allow for the American integration into the heart of the continent itself”.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs proceeded to the signature of the Declaration of “SANTIAGO DE CALI” and of these Final Minutes.

Next, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Luis Valencia Rodríguez, gave the closing speech.

After having expressed his satisfaction for the work done and welcomed the success obtained by the Chairman, he declared completed the work undertaken by the meeting.

In witness whereof, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Amazon countries signed these final minutes, in a single copy and in four languages: Spanish, Dutch, English, and Portuguese. The four texts equally true and original, they shall be deposited with the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia, charged with providing all other signatories with certified true copies thereof.

Signed in Cali, on December eight of the year nineteen-eighty three.

COMMISSIONS REPORT

REPORT BY THE FIRST COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

On December 7 and 8 the First Commission on Institutional and Financial Affairs gathered at Cali.

Ambassador Rubens Ricupero, Head of the Department of the Americas from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil was elected Chair of the Group, and Ambassador José Carlos Mariátegui A., Undersecretary of Economic Affairs and Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru was elected Rapporteur.

The delegations submitted their points of view in connection with the issues within their scope, and they convened in stating their unwavering determination of strengthening the work provided for by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, as well as their common interest in completing specific projects. Consensus was obtained regarding how convenient it would be to refine the mechanisms in the Treaty, with a view to being more efficient in the implementation of joint actions. As a result of the discussions, the conclusions below were reached by consensus:

AT THE INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

To build upon the assessment by the relevant Ministries of Foreign Affairs and competent national organizations of the most suitable institutional mechanisms; to such intents and purposes, they recommend examining the proposals submitted by Colombia, Suriname, Bolivia and Peru, which are annexed to this report. These mechanisms should be flexible, pragmatic and should have no bureaucratic implications.

In line with the suggestion submitted by the Delegation of Colombia, it was deemed convenient to strengthen the Pro Tempore Secretariat by means of an Ad Hoc operational mechanism, made up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to which said Secretariat reports, and the diplomatic representation accredited in that country or the representatives appointed by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, via joint and frequent meetings, convened sufficiently in advance;

Issuing directions to the Pro Tempore Secretariat regarding the carrying out of certain tasks and, particularly, regarding the promotion of a wide range of information sharing. Requesting that the Pro Tempore Secretariat, the headquarters of which shall be with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, collects from member countries information on bilateral and multilateral cooperation plans and programs existing and projected with a view towards the preparation of a single document for distribution and analysis. The Pro Tempore Secretariat shall equally obtain the reports on the preinvestment mechanisms and national resources available on the part of the countries, in order to contribute to the funding of the projects prefeasibility studies;

Highlight how convenient it is for the country hosting the Pro Tempore Secretariat to appoint an officer charged with the coordination of its activities;

That sector meetings and seminars take place, to the extent possible, before the next Amazon Cooperation Council meeting in Bolivia and that, immediately after those meetings, the reports arising from them be submitted to the Pro Tempore Secretariat and, from that way up to member countries, for their submission at the following Council meeting. After identifying specific projects at Sector Meetings, the creation of the relevant Special Commissions could be examined.

AT THE FINANCIAL LEVEL

Even though the current cycle was not considered to be the most suitable, all delegations convened that it is convenient to further the consideration of establishing a Preinvestment Fund.

It was agreed to draw up the recommendations below:

- That the countries submit to the Pro Tempore Secretariat their reports on the preinvestment mechanisms and financial resources they have available, so that the Secretariat collects them in a single document and spreads it to member countries as soon as applicable;
- That coordination policies of existing preinvestment mechanisms be adopted, with a view to using them to contribute to the funding of specific projects and the use both of own resources and resources from international financial agencies.
- The delegations agreed that the financial aspects in Amazon cooperation should be considered within the context of the economic crisis currently affecting the countries in the region. In this sense, they expressed their unwavering support to the organization, as per the invitation made by the President of Ecuador, Mr. Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea, of the Latin American Economic Conference that will take place in Quito, next January, in order to coordinate the grounds for a common response to the severe economic problems afflicting the region.
- Imposed of the initiatives by the countries for realizing even further the basic goals in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, and specially of the institutional and operational proposals contained in the opening remarks made by the President of the Republic of Colombia, Mr. Belisario Betancur, the First Commission unanimously recommends the creation of a Special Ad Hoc Commission to study the same and to propose to the next Amazon Cooperation Council meeting, to be held in Bolivia, the adoption of the relevant decisions on the far-reaching and urgent issues raised.

This Commission shall convene on the date and place decided by the Pro Tempore Secretariat, at the earliest convenience of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the signatories to the Treaty.

REPORT BY THE SECOND COMMISSION ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. The Regional Development Commission met on December 7 and 8, 1983, pursuant to the Agenda adopted at the First Plenary Session.
2. Captain E.M. Raúl Crosby De La Torre, delegate from Ecuador, was appointed Chairman of the Commission and Mr. Raúl Chávez Murga, from the delegation of Peru, was appointed Rapporteur.
3. Participating delegates from each country made exhaustive presentations on the various topics of interest and submitted proposals for specific projects in areas of possible cooperation, the same as are detailed in documents annexed to these presents.
4. During the Commission's work sessions, the following offerings were concluded in connection with meetings aimed at dealing with specific issues such as seminars and other common interest subjects:
 - a. The delegation from Brazil offered to conduct a seminar on land transportation that will include information on construction, maintenance and operation processes for roads suited to the Amazon region, with presentations on planning experiences and methodologies. The venue would be the city of Porto Velho or Manaus and it would take place during the second half of 1984.
 - b. This country also offered to put up a seminar on water transport relating to any port infrastructure, shipbuilding and related topics.
 - c. This delegation also offered to conduct seminars on regional development policy, agriculture, meteorology, climatology and hydrology, on a date that will be agreed upon in due time.
 - d. Additionally, Brazil offered to conduct courses relating to bank systems and tax incentives policies.
 - e. The delegation of Colombia offered to conduct a scientific expedition as part of a multilateral research program, proposing the methodological model applied in the Second Botanical Expedition of the Government of Colombia.

- f. The Ecuadorian delegation confirmed the offer it had made at the Lima meeting to conduct a seminar on transport and communications, during the first half of 1985.
5. As regards the proposals that were the subject of presentations, there was consensus in how they were conceived at large, and interest was shown in terms of its analysis and assessment, in order to project its possible execution, once interests and priorities from the various countries are harmonized, both individually and as a whole. To such ends, the documents embodying the projects submitted by each delegation are made a part of this report as annexes, with the recommendation by this Commission that the governments of the countries parties to the Treaty examine and determine their feasibility and convenience.
6. The Commission carried unanimously the initiatives for the organization of seminars, meetings, expeditions and other additional events contributing to realize cooperation actions, the execution of which shall be subject to future coordination by the Pro Tempore Secretariat, via the Embassies and National Commissions.
7. The delegations from Member States unanimously stated that it is necessary to streamline all actions purporting to make the Amazon Cooperation feasible.
8. On behalf of the visiting delegations, the Chairman of the Commission thanked the Pro Tempore Secretariat for all facilities granted for the organization of this event in general and for the Commission's work in particular, highlighting the uncountable examples of traditional Colombian hospitality extended to each and every participating delegate.

REPORT BY THE THIRD COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Commission on Science and Technology gathered on December 7 and 8, 1983; the Board comprised as Chairman Mr. Luiz Braconnot from the Brazilian delegation and Ms. Antonieta Divo De Morales, from the Venezuelan delegation, as Rapporteur.

Firstly, all delegations prepared a draft of the national projects and proposals of their relevant countries. Later, it was decided that specific projects deserved a thorough examination within the mechanisms set up by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, as the Technical Sector Meetings, where it would be attempted at identifying the areas of common interest in order to prepare the specific programs and their implementation. These Technical Sector Meetings could be tracked via seminars and symposium on the various subjects.

In this sense, the delegation from Brazil offered to conduct a Technical Sector Meeting for Science and Technology, to be put up at Manaus, at a date to be decided after consultation with member states in coordination with the Pro Tempore Secretariat. Likewise, it expressed its interest in organizing a Seminar on Hydrology and Climatology in Amazonia, to tentatively take place in June in the city of Belém do Pará. It also offered to conduct seminars on health and farming on a date to be later set.

The delegations expressed their interest in information sharing in the areas of science and technology, pointing out the convenience of preparing a list of national organizations and institutions working in the field of science and technology, of the projects being carried out now and in the future, and of existing documents, in order to avoid duplicate efforts and a better understanding of the work done in each country. The need of methodology sharing was also stressed in the development of research projects, and health was singled out as a specific common interest area and the need of controlling communicable diseases, like yellow fever, malaria, dengue and onchocerciasis.

The delegation of Colombia submitted a proposal for the creation of a Documents and Information Technology Center for the Amazon Region. It also submitted projects for conducting an Amazon scientific expedition and an Atlas of Amazonia.

The first expedition shall be prepared in Colombia.

The delegations convened that actions are required that enable information sharing in the field of science and technology, reason for which they requested the Colombian delegation to submit proposals on occasion of the Technical Sector Meeting and of the Ad Hoc Special Commission for study, in order to put them to consideration of the following Amazon Cooperation Council meeting.

On the course of the meeting, the delegations stressed the need to use the existing research National Centers and the convenience of having an effective coordination in order to further the Amazon science and technology programming identified as an interesting subject for member states. In its capacity as the next Pro Tempore Secretariat, the delegation of Bolivia requested that all other delegations deliver on time all the required documents to better fulfill its mission.

SECRETARIAT RECORD

The undersigned Secretary General of the II Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty makes it known that the reports gathered by the Chairmen of the Commissions appearing in this annex were carried unanimously at the Second Plenary Session of December eight, nineteen eighty-three.

Ambassador Alberto Martínez Barbosa

Secretary General

DECLARATION OF SANTIAGO DE CALI

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers and Representatives from Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela, Bolivia and Brazil gathered in Santiago de Cali, Colombia, on December 7 and 8, 1983, on occasion of the II Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, convened in accordance with article XX of said international document and article III in its rules,

INSPIRED by the lofty ideals of unity and fraternity for Latin American peoples, the perennial expression of which are the political ideas of the Great Liberator Simón Bolívar, in the year in which we rend homage to the bicentennial of his birth;

DRIVEN by the willingness to achieve an understanding and friendly cooperation by the people in our region, basis on which the future of the continent shall be built;

PERSUADED that the need for cooperation and development of Amazon populations is a significant goal in national policies of their countries within the regional framework;

AWARE of the fact that Amazonia represents one of the areas where the interests from its countries converge and that the Amazonian challenge is a key driver to bringing them closer;

EAGER to further the task of meeting the challenge posed by understanding the Amazon area, as the first goal to undertake harmonious development and regional cooperation actions, and eager to improve the ongoing cooperation process inspired and guided by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty; and

DETERMINED to identify and determine joint actions that may contribute to drive – based on realistic and specific grounds – the development and welfare of the Amazon region, by boosting scientific and technological research, and the development of harmonious programs in the area of health, transportation and communications, agriculture and livestock, meteorology and the training of human resources expert in Amazon affairs, among other areas of common interest;

DECLARE:

1. That national activities, plans and projects undertaken by member countries, as well as the wide array of initiatives already observed in the field of bilateral cooperation among Amazon countries, are facts that show mobilization capacity in terms of common problems in the Amazon area, and provide a sound basis for furthering and strengthening regional cooperation;
2. That just as the first Amazon Cooperation Council Meeting, from July, 1983, the Technical Sector Meeting, of September, 1981, held in Lima, Peru, were landmarks in the process aimed at identifying areas of common interest, prioritization and development of action lines, initiatives and specific projects relating to regional cooperation;
3. That such contributions enable new steps towards joint actions that incorporate into the Amazon reality the purposes of the Treaty, and reinforce the flexibility and practical dimension in its mechanisms;
4. That, given the goal above, the highest priorities are building upon the contact established among national competent organizations and regional development agencies of research, from the point of view of information and

experience sharing, promoting the utilization – at the regional level – of those experiences and national programs, stimulating and offering the adequate conditions for the emergence of joint and complementary efforts in the area of scientific and technical research;

DECIDE TO:

RATIFY their decision to foster the tasks agreed upon in documents signed within the Treaty Framework, such as the Declaration of Belem, containing the main guidelines for making them feasible.

DETERMINE that contact is eased between institutions and national bodies dealing with issues of Amazon interest, to promote seminars for information and experience sharing and to benefit from the opportunities arising in member states for encouraging professional and technical training courses in Amazon affairs and the offers to provide technical advice and cooperation individually made by countries.

WELCOME the suggestion that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs charged with the Pro Tempore Secretariat maintain close links with the accredited missions of all other countries together with their government, to the extent that such links are possible and take place in capitals where all member states have diplomatic authorities.

Previously convened, these contacts should promote information sharing and coordination required to increase the determinations made by meetings of ministers and the relevant action plans conceived in Amazon Cooperation Council Meetings.

DETERMINE that, prior to the next Amazon Cooperation Council Meeting and via close contacts with the Pro Tempore Secretariat, currently under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, the technical meetings take place, associated to each priority area in the Treaty.

RECOMMEND that, at the technical level, the possibility is assessed to identify – with the right coordination between the parties – national or international sources of financing and to study how funding operations can be brokered for regionally beneficial bilateral or multilateral projects.

DETERMINE that, in the year 1984, a Meeting of Amazon Regional Development Bodies be organized, in order to share information and knowledge, establish contacts at the institutional and personal levels among bodies, and plan future actions either jointly or complementarily.

WELCOME the offers made to put up a seminar on transportation and communications in the year 1984, a seminar in the area of roads projects, building and maintenance in Amazonia, and a seminar on shipbuilding applied to water transportation, with the purpose of both sharing information and experiences in those areas of utmost relevance for the development of a transportation and communications system compatible with the needs prevalent in the Amazon region.

THANK international organizations that have offered their support and the governments that have already undertaken planning efforts for the project of joining the basins of the rivers Orinoco, Amazonas and La Plata, referring in particular to the President of the Republic of Peru, Fernando Belaunde Terry, the main engine behind this remarkable continental integration project.

DETERMINE that actions be coordinated and the possibility be assessed to having financial, technical and labor support from international organizations and institutions, in order to further plan the project for joining the South American basins, at the pace enabled by the development needs of their peoples and available resources.

SUGGEST that the enforcement of bilateral agreements on the control of animal diseases, valid among some Amazon countries, be extended to other countries, with a view towards taking the fight against such diseases to the regional level.

DETERMINE the execution of studies and information sharing on communicable diseases, especially on yellow fever and dengue in the Amazon region, particularly in connection with the threat posed by the spreading of those diseases into urban areas, in order to establish specific joint action plans and to promote the financial, technical and staff support of the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization.

DETERMINE the study, in a technical seminar to be held during the first half of 1984, of the creation of a collection and communication network for hydro meteorological data to benefit from structures and experiences already existing or under development in member states.

CONSIDER the adoption of an action plan in the area of science and technology applied to the humid Tropics, enabling the flexible enough execution of specific, joint or supplementary actions to speed up the awareness in the region and to find the right solutions to Amazonian problems.

GREET with satisfaction the repetition made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, to have his country host the II Amazon Cooperation Council Meeting.

WELCOME the offer made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, to organize the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty in the city of Quito, an initiative that was adopted unanimously.

THEY FINALLY AGREED that the financial aspects in Amazon cooperation should be considered within the context of the economic crisis currently affecting the countries in the region. In this sense, they expressed their unwavering support to the organization, as per the invitation made by the President of Ecuador, Mr. Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea, of the Latin American Economic Conference that will take place in Quito, next January, in order to coordinate the grounds for a common response to the severe economic problems afflicting the region.

Made in the city of Santiago de Cali, on December eight, 1983, in a single copy and four languages: Spanish, Dutch, English, and Portuguese.

FINAL MINUTES

III MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Pursuant to article XX in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and in accordance with the invitation made by the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, in the city of Quito, on March six and seven of the year nineteen eighty-nine, took place the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

The delegations from all signatories participated in this meeting, as well as the representative-observers from international organizations the list of which appears in Annex No.1.

PRIOR TECHNICAL MEETING

The Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs was preceded by the Prior Technical Meeting, held on March 3 and 4 (The report of this meeting is included as annex No. 2).

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Pursuant to the agenda established, on March 6, 1989, at 09:30 a.m., Mr. Rashleigh Esmond Jackson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, opened the Plenary Meeting to the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the ACT.

Mr. Rashleigh Esmond Jackson highlighted the need to maintain the cooperation among Amazon countries and to drive enough the coordination aimed at finding sources of funding for the execution of projects identified.

Minister Jackson went then on to give the floor to Ambassador Paulina García Donoso, Under Secretary of Multilateral Affairs of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, who submitted the report on the activities carried out by the Technical Meeting. He pointed out that the work of the Commissions addressed such issues as Environmental Policy, Aboriginal Ethnic Groups, Health, Science and Technology, Tourism, Commerce, and Trade.

He also informed that, as a conclusion to the work of the Environment Commission, the creation of two Commissions was decided: Environment and Indigenous Affairs.

Next, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana nominated Mr. Diego Cordovez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Chairman of the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the ACT, which was carried unanimously.

After the latter thanked the honor granted to him, in accordance to the proposal put forward by Venezuela, Ambassador Alfredo Luna Tobar was unanimously appointed Secretary General of the Meeting.

At the request of the Chairman, the meeting's agenda was adopted. The Chairman suggested that outstanding issues be made known at the core of the General Commission, which was carried.

The Chairman reported that a communication has been received whereby the Andean Parliament conveys the Meeting its decision to create an Amazon Parliament. At the suggestion made by the Delegation of Peru, it was decided to answer taking note of such information.

Ambassador Paulina García Donoso was unanimously charged with the Chair of the General Commission.

OPENING CEREMONY

At 11:00 a.m. on March 6, the President of the Republic of Ecuador, Mr. Rodrigo Borja Cevallos, opened the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, giving a meaningful welcome speech for the delegations, highlighting the responsibility of Amazon countries, without foreign interferences, in the advocacy of ecosystems in Amazonia. "The Amazon Cooperation Treaty has as goals the advocacy of ecology, the preservation of the environment, the respect for preexisting ethnic groups, that is the reason why I consider this international legal document a new dimension in the integration of our nations," he concluded.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Following the opening session, the Plenary was reinstated. The Session started with the address made by the Chairman of the III Meeting, who communicated the readiness of its country to provide support to the extent useful in the overcoming of obstacles, and on easing and making more efficient the implementation of decisions adopted subject to the Treaty, so that the political will to drive it translates in tangible results. The heads of the delegations of Guyana and Peru then took the floor.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

As scheduled, at 15:30 p.m. of March 6, the Third Plenary Session started, at which the heads of the delegations of Bolivia, Brazil, Suriname and Colombia took the floor.

Next, the Chairman of the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty gave the floor to Mr. Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, UNDP Representative-Observer, who offered the financial support from his organization to environmental and priority development projects in Amazonia.

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

On March seven, at 06:30 p.m., and chaired by Mr. Diego Cordovez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, began the solemn closing session of the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

Mr. Carlos González Weisse, Undersecretary of Integration, Latin American and Caribbean Affairs from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia, gave the closing speech, highlighting the consensus obtained in the formulation of the new policies that will render the Treaty effective. He also pointed out his satisfaction with the work done and welcomed the success obtained. Mr. González Weisse thanked the attending Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the delegations for the extraordinary efforts deployed and the immense cooperation spirit that enabled the realization of achievements made. Additionally, he acknowledged the efficient work of the Secretariat and, on behalf of foreign delegations, he specially expressed his recognition for Ecuadorian hospitality and the courtesy extended.

Finally, the offer made by the Government of Bolivia was welcomed with pleasure, to be the venue for the next Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. After having expressed his satisfaction for the work done and welcomed the success obtained, the Chairman declared completed the work undertaken by the meeting.

In witness whereof, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the heads of delegation of member states signed these Final Minutes, in a single copy and in three languages: Spanish, Portuguese, English, all three equally true and original. The Minutes will be deposited with the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador, which shall supply all other signatory governments with certified copies.

Signed in Quito, on March seven of the year nineteen-eighty nine.

DECLARATION OF SAN FRANCISCO DE QUITO

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, and Colombia,

GATHERED in Quito between March 6 and 8, 1989, to hold the Third Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of signatories to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

EAGER to further the joint actions aimed at building on, strengthening, and enlarging Amazon cooperation, and aware of the fact that in order to comply with the Treaty's goals the Contracting Parties must show an unwavering political will, as well as international cooperation;

AWARE of the unique importance of Amazon ecosystems from the biodiversity standpoint, its endemism and fragility owing to the fact that it is one of the most important natural heritages of our countries; persuaded of the need to keep and develop the maintenance of ecosystems and their ecological processes;

PERSUADED that, in order to succeed at developing Amazon territories in a comprehensive manner and to ensure the wellbeing of its populations, member-states should keep the balance between economic growth and conservation of the environment, both of which are a responsibility inherent in the sovereignty of Member-States to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

CONVINCED that cooperation with a view towards the harmonious development of Amazonia will help solve the deeply-rooted crisis member-states are undergoing;

AWARE of the fact that member-states must establish joint policies to preserve the environment, entailing the rational use of resources and preventing pollution, as well as other environmental damages, in order to preserve the soil, the flora and fauna, water resources, weather conditions and, in general, all natural resources;

PERSUADED of the need to keep a close cooperation in scientific and technological research, in order to create the right conditions for conservation and sustainable development in Amazonia;

BASED on the principles, goals, and provisions in the Treaty, and on the spirit enshrined in the Declarations of Belém and Santiago de Cali, and acknowledging the substantive contribution by the relevant Seminars, Technical Meetings and Special Commissions. They agree on the following

DECLARATION

I. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE AMAZON COOPERATION PROCESS

REASSERT the political will of their corresponding governments to give a renewed and effective impetus to the Amazon Cooperation process;

DECIDE to start actions purporting to strengthen the Treaty's institutional structure, instructing the Pro Tempore Secretariat to convene and Ad Hoc work group to such intents and purposes, made up of Treaty members, which together with the Secretariat takes upon it to prepare and submit to the next Amazon Cooperation Council Meeting the items below:

1. Draft Regulation of the powers of the Secretariat body, including, but not limited to, project management and promotion;
2. Measures aimed at the institutional strengthening of the instrument of the Secretariat;
3. Identification of mechanisms to attract external resources from international cooperation bodies;
4. The preparation of a study on the advisability of creating a Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;
5. The study on the advisability of establishing an Amazonian financial fund, or an equivalent body;

CONGRATULATE the Pro Tempore Secretariat, currently under the Republic of Colombia, and welcome the efficient work done so far;

REQUEST the Government of Ecuador that the Project Assessment Seminar, scheduled for mid 1989, pursuant to Decision 12 of the Third Amazon Cooperation Council Meeting, includes in its work the definition of priorities and the identification of sources of funding for multilateral projects within the scope of the Treaty, in order to comply with Decision 11 in said meeting, with the duty to submit a specific proposal to the Amazon Cooperation Council as a result thereof;

GREET with satisfaction the PNUD provision, expressed by its Director for Latin America, to support through technical cooperation priority Amazon programs and projects, and they urge the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to strengthen the actions it has been taking, geared towards the provision of technical and financial support for Amazon cooperation projects implemented within the Treaty framework;

EXPRESS their satisfaction with the offer made by the Inter-American Development Bank, to provide technical and financial cooperation for implementing the projects arising from the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, and they urge other international bodies to commit their support to the same ends and purposes;

UNDERLINE the momentous importance of Amazon agreements and bilateral cooperation mechanisms existing among member-states, which show the governments' political will to dynamically and effectively promote Amazon development. In that sense, they acknowledge the groundbreaking advances made by these processes, strengthening the enforcement of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and express the advisability of encouraging and promoting the reinforcement of these mechanisms, via the support of and solidarity with the proceedings aimed at obtaining financial resources and technical assistance for executing programs and projects approved within the framework of the above stated bilateral schemes;

AGREE on the Amazon Cooperation Council starting an analysis geared towards suggesting guidelines on an investments preferential treatment which, duly considering existing Treaties, national priorities and criteria on environmental conservation and the protection of native populations, may create a stable and promotional framework to channel investment flows towards projects located in the Amazon Region.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

ACKNOWLEDGE the increasing concern by member-states on the conservation of the environment in Amazonia, aware of the fact that development in the region should be sustained in such a way that the environment in general and natural resources in particular are rationally and sustainable used, so that they can contribute to raise the life standard of current populations, respecting the right of future generations to enjoy such goods;

REAFFIRM their responsibility and ongoing political willingness to drive the right use and protection of the natural and cultural heritage of each country's Amazon territory, respecting the rights of the populations that inhabit them;

REPEAT the provisions in article IV of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and, thus, they reject any outside influence on policies and actions taken in Amazonia by member-states to the Treaty;

CONFIRM the significance of genetic and biological conservation, of maintenance of ecosystems and their biodiversity, the rational and sustainable use of natural resources, as well as the promotion and development of the socio-economic organization of Amazon populations, respecting their cultural identities, all in accordance with the policies set up by each Amazon country;

POINT OUT the need to enlarge and promote cooperation to coordinate the implementation of environmental policies for the benefit of present and future generations;

UNDERLINE the importance of conducting joint actions in order to obtain equitable and mutually beneficial results within the framework of environmental preservation, conservation, and rational use of Amazonian resources;

POINT OUT that drugs and psychotropic cultivation, processing and traffic hinder the socio-economic development of Amazon countries and is detrimental to the environment and the ecologic balance, and they resolve to strengthen joint actions for impact assessment, ecologic control measures and environmental contingency plans, to cooperate in the solution of problems resulting from this scourge;

DECIDE to create the Special Commission on the Amazon Environment so that in exercising the right inherent in each State's sovereignty over their Amazon areas, inter alia, environmental research is driven to know current and potential natural hazards in the region; the decay of Amazon natural resources is prevented, particularly deforestation and soil degradation; common environmental impact assessment methodologies are studied; programs and projects are prepared, cooperation proposals are examined in connection with the environment, and the possible harmonization is examined of environmental legislation;

AGREE on enhancing the need to drive, via the Environment Commission, the inventory of natural resources and the analysis of the structure, function and dynamics of ecosystems, in order to contribute to ensuring the sustainable development of the Amazon Basin, in accordance with the recommendations by the technical meetings conducted within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

III. COOPERATION ON INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS IN AMAZONIA

ADOPT the conclusions and recommendations of the First Seminar on Indigenous Affairs of Amazonia, organized on October 25-28, 1988 in the city of Bogota;

CREATE the Special Commission on Indigenous Affairs of Amazonia, aimed at promoting the general cooperation on indigenous affairs among Amazon countries; driving the reinforcement of ethnic identity and the conservation of the cultural historic heritage; fostering information sharing in order to achieve the highest mutual knowledge over and among indigenous population in the region; succeeding at effectively involving indigenous populations of Amazonia from each country through all stages in the outlining of indigenous affairs and in any type of project affecting or including them; promoting development programs that embody the true aspirations and needs of indigenous populations of Amazonia; jointly developing research programs in areas connected to Amazon indigenous populations; coordinating with all other Special Commissions to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty the handling of aspects linked to indigenous populations; promoting the inclusion of indigenous populations' knowledge in regional development programs. The work with which the Commission is charged will be done strictly respecting the sovereign rights and interests of each State.

IV. HEALTH

GREET with satisfaction the creation of the Special Health Commission of Amazonia (CESAM), as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the First Meeting held in Bogota, on November 8-10, 1988;

AGREE on promoting binational programs, with international cooperation, in the priority areas agreed upon in the First Meeting of the Special Health Commission of Amazonia (CESAM);

AGREE as priority areas the ones below:

Mother and Child Care, Environmental Health, Endemic Diseases, Basic Medications, Critical Supplies and Traditional Medicine, Health Services Development and Organization, and Natural Disasters, stressing Floods and manmade Environmental Disasters;

TAKE NOTE with satisfaction of the agreement made to conduct, in July, 1989, a seminar in the city of Manaus on:

1. Experiences gained through the Brazil-Colombia binational agreement aimed at benefiting all other countries in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and are also useful for the development of final projects;
2. Diagnosis from the Health sector of each member of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, in order to comply with the Work Plan and Schedule of Meetings of the Special Health Commission of Amazonia (CESAM) adopted in Bogota;
3. Mechanisms for sharing epistemological data and information sharing modes in the field of health, highlighting priority areas;
4. Operational feasibility of local health systems (SILOS) in the borders.

INSTRUCT the Pro Tempore Secretariat so that, in association with the CESAM Executive Secretariat, make every effort to conduct said Seminar.

V. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GREET with satisfaction the creation of and the actions developed by the Special Commission on Science and Technology (CECTA);

AGREE on supporting the resolutions adopted by the First Meeting of the Special Commission on Science and Technology of Amazonia, gathered in Bogota from February 20 to 23, 1989;

REPEAT their support to the Amazon botanical project, in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the III Amazon Cooperation Council Meeting, and they urge the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to confer to the project the priority and financial resources required for the total execution of its activities, and to contribute to mobilize additional resources;

AGREE on instructing the Special Commission on Science and Technology (CECTA) to drive the projects of the Basic Geographical Charter and Domestication of Promissory Crops of Amazonia, in accordance with the production systems in that region;

AGREE on promoting the creation or strengthening of Amazon research bodies in Member-States, and help with their interrelation;

AGREE to charge the Special Commission on Science and Technology (CECTA) with the establishment of operational mechanisms of a Scientific and Technological Information Sharing System for the Amazon region, and they exhort member-states to report, via the CECTA Executive Secretariat, their scientific and technological development programs for Amazonia;

SUPPORT the conclusions and recommendations made by the First Meeting on Water Balance of the Amazon Region held in Manaus, in August, 1988;

AGREE on instructing the Special Commission on Science and Technology (CECTA) and the Special Health Commission of Amazonia (CESAM) – given the economic and public health relevance – to study and determine the feasibility of establishing an Amazon research and technological development program on oil palm and related diseases, especially on the Spearrot syndrome.

VI. DEVELOPMENT BODIES OF THE AMAZON REGION

STRESS the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the First International Meeting of Development Bodies of the Amazon Region, held in Trinidad, Bolivia, from February 19 to 21, 1986;

ACKNOWLEDGE the ample cooperation possibilities to strengthen the operation of national bodies for Amazon development, especially for information sharing and a better use of qualified human and technical resources, and they instruct the Amazon Cooperation Council to promote, through the Pro Tempore Secretariat, the engagement of the bodies stated and prepare a second meeting.

VII. COMMERCE AND TRANSPORTATION

AGREE on coordinating the activities of competent bodies in member-states, in order to promote the development of trade across Amazonia, to point out the technical and legal requirements to make the exchange of goods and services easier, and to foster the development of the transport infrastructure in the region, by using multimodal systems;

DECIDE to request the cooperation of international organizations, in particular that of Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), in order to conduct the required studies and to charge the Pro Tempore Secretariat with the responsibility of leading the procedures and relevant formalities;

HIGHLIGHT the immense importance of inland navigation as a regional integration and development factor, taking into account the vast Amazon distances. Also, they stress the need to make a joint effort for developing other forms of transportation, in order to ease the integration of Amazon regions into their national economies and the integration among member-states;

EMPHASIZE the importance of the Technical Meeting to take place next May in Bogotá, in order to examine the Draft Multilateral Regulation on Free Commercial Navigation in international Amazon Rivers, considering article III in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and the possibilities for multilateral cooperation in road and multimode transportation across Amazon territories.

In this sense, they thank the offer of venue made by the Brazilian delegation to hold a meeting of Ministers charged with this area;

REPEATE the support expressed by the Second Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty to the Project to join the basins of the rivers Orinoco, Amazonas and La Plata, and they strongly recommend the furthering of the studies, including those of environmental feasibility, and the consultations among governments, aimed at carrying out this significant Continental Integration Project.

VIII. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RESTATE the need to strengthen the multilateral technical cooperation purporting to homogenize and refine telecommunication systems among Amazon countries.

WELCOME the recommendations made by the Seminar on Technological Choices for Telecommunications in the Amazon Region, held in Brasília, Sao Paulo, and R o de Janeiro, from September 28 to October 2, 1987.

IX. TOURISM

AGREE on establishing, with the consent by competent national bodies from member-states, appropriate cooperation methods in connection with the planning and development of the required infrastructure for the promotion of tourism in the region, taking into account the wide potential offered by Amazonia for this activity, given its immense natural wealth, the utilization of which requires a special handling;

RECOMMEND that the interests of local populations, the value of the traditional communities' cultural heritage and that of the environment be respected in tourism plans and projects, by encouraging selective tourism in the areas of greater ecosystem fragility.

X. PLURINATIONAL AMAZON COOPERATION PROJECT AND INVENTORY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CELEBRATE the tangible efforts made by the Organization of American States that, by way of its Regional Development Department, and within the framework of the Plurinational Amazon Cooperation Project supports, since 1984, with an efficient technical and financial assistance, various activities resulting from the goals and objectives of the Treaty;

RECOMMEND member-states to instruct their delegations before the Organization of American States to support the activities underway by the Plurinational Amazon Cooperation Project and to back up the actions that will be taken by the Amazon Cooperation Council and the Pro Tempore Secretariat, aimed at helping the organization funnel the required resources to participate in the efforts made by member-states to conduct the inventory and the harmonization of the research methodology, as well as the sharing and communication of results on natural resources and socio—economic aspects, the establishment and coordination of a system for monitoring the land occupation and use process; handling of natural forests; furthering of the surface water balance of Amazonia, in successive stages taking into account the information available and the operational capacity of responsible national institutions, purporting to reach an accuracy level and degree that enables accounting for decisions for the sustainable development of the region, the adoption of criteria and policies for the environmental management of the Amazon region, and the coordination of and support to a horizontal cooperation mechanism;

DECIDE to request organizations in the United Nations System, specially the UNDP and UNEP, and other regional and sub regional organizations, the creation of plurinational Amazon Cooperation projects, similar to those by the Organization of American States, in order to support the action defined by Amazon Cooperation Treaty member-states as interesting to the objectives of the Treaty.

XI. COOPERATION AMONG UNIVERSITIES IN AMAZON COUNTRIES

ACKNOWLEDGE the relevance of the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ) that has enabled the reinforcing of contacts among centers of higher education in the region, purporting to encourage scientific research, technological development and the training of human resources geared towards finding the solution to economic, social, environmental, educational and cultural problems in Amazonia;

ASSERT the need to promote a greater integration of the programs and activities of the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ) in the context of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, in accordance with their purposes and principles;

AGREE on encouraging – within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty – the execution of the Inter-University Amazon Cooperation Program (PROGRAMAZ) and managing, through the Pro Tempore Secretariat, the mobilization of both national and international financial resources;

SUGGEST that in Amazon Cooperation Treaty programs the advisability be examined of incorporating the technical advice and eventual execution of projects by the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ);

URGE the members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty to be actively engaged in the seminars scheduled by the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ);

GREET with satisfaction the offer made by the Government of Bolivia, to hold the IV Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, an initiative which was carried unanimously.

Made in the city of Quito, on March seven (7) of the year nineteen eighty-nine (1989), in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

FINAL MINUTES

IV MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

At the closing of the meeting held in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra on November seven and eight of the year nineteen ninety-one, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty decided to sign the documents below:

- Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra
- Resolution enlarging the scope of the Special Commission on Transport of Amazonia to Communication and Infrastructure.
- Resolution on the coordination of activities between the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, the Special Commissions and the Association of Amazonian Universities.
- Resolution extending the term of office of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat and entrusting the preparation of a proposal for the Treaty's institutional strengthening.
- Resolution adopting the Regulations governing the role of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat.

The Chairman of the Preparatory Technical Meeting submitted the relevant report on the work done during November 4, 5, and 6, 1991, stressing that the various items on the agenda were addressed via three work groups.

Regarding the report by the Work Group No. 1, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs undertook to make the following amendment of the verbatim "e" in item 3 in the report mentioned.

"Recommending the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to sponsor – in addition to all other tasks with which it is charged – joint meetings among the Coordinators of the Special Commissions and of the bilateral agreements, purporting to obtain a mutual knowledge of the relevant activities, experiences sharing, as well as the creation of shared cooperation mechanisms, in the relevant cases".

As regards Work Group No. 2, the amendments suggested by the Delegation of Brazil were adopted, regarding the document title, as well as the second paragraph in item 2 on Biodiversity.

Additionally, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs agreed that the work document submitted by the Preparatory Technical Meeting be incorporated as Annex I to the report submitted by that commission.

Minutes signed in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra on November eight, nineteen ninety-one.

*On behalf of the Government of Bolivia,
Carlos Iturralde*

*On behalf of the Government of Brazil,
Marcos Castrioto de Azambuja*

*On behalf of the Government of Colombia,
Rodrigo Pardo*

*On behalf of the Government of Ecuador,
Diego Cordovez*

*On behalf of the Government of Guyana,
Rashleigh Jackson*

*On behalf of the Government of Peru,
Alejandro Gordillo*

*On behalf of the Government of Suriname,
Henri A. M. Guda*

*On behalf of the Government of Venezuela,
Armando Durán*

DECLARATION OF SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela held, in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on November seven and eight of the year nineteen ninety-one, the IV Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

THEY STRESSED with special satisfaction the kind invitation made by President Collor de Mello to the presidents of Amazon countries to meet, in Manaus, on February 3 and 4, 1992.

On assessing the progress made by the process, **THEY ASCERTAINED** that it is in a stage of undeniable advance, demanding a renewed political momentum, geared towards effectively consolidating the reasons that resulted in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and that are fully valid these days.

In this context, the active leadership of the process at the highest political level is a true and unmistakable warranty for the achievement of the goals established. To such intents, the adoption of specific measures is required, supported by a joint and agreed upon action that ensures the development of the region for the direct benefit of our people.

THEY CONCUR in expressing their support to the execution of activities undertaken within the framework of the Special Commissions on the Environment, Indigenous Affairs, Science and Technology, Transportation, Tourism and Health, that have enabled the preparation of several projects and 48 programs of special relevance for the region. In this sense, the work done by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat is worth mentioning, which appears in the Work Report submitted on this occasion.

In order to establish an adequate and operational framework, and to ensure the continuity of the activities scheduled, **THEY DECIDE** to create a work group made up of high level government representatives, that shall prepare a proposal for strengthening the institutional structure in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, to be introduced in the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Treaty, which shall be held under the II Meeting of Presidents of Amazon countries.

Also, **THEY PROVIDE** that, in the shortest delay possible, a work group meets with the representatives from the economic and financial sectors from member-states, to examine a design proposal of a financial body in Amazonia, which shall be submitted to the V Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

According to articles I and III in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, seven countries gave their consent for the adoption of the General Rules on Commercial Navigation in International Amazon Rivers, agreed upon in Quito during the first meeting of the Special Commission on Transportation. The signing of this instrument would take place during the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which will be held in Manaus, in February, 1992, after all countries have accepted said Rules.

THEY AGREE to convene a Preparatory Meeting in Brasilia in January, 1992, charged with the preparation of a common position on the environment and development of member-states to the Treaty, to be considered by the Presidents of Amazon countries in the meeting that will take place in February of that year.

The guidelines defined by the Heads of State on this major issue for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development shall guide the coordinated involvement of our countries in the meetings of the Negotiating Commissions of

the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity, as well as in the IV Meeting of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

BACKGROUND

Signed in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on November eight, nineteen ninety-one, in Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

On behalf of the Government of Bolivia

On behalf of the Government of Guyana

On behalf of the Government of Brazil

On behalf of the Government of Peru

On behalf of the Government of Colombia

On behalf of the Government of Suriname

On behalf of the Government of Ecuador

On behalf of the Government of Venezuela

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

IV MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

RES/IV MRE-TCA/1

IV MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

On occasion of their III Meeting, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs decided to start actions purporting to strengthen the Treaty's institutional structure;

The annual term established for the mandate of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat is insufficient for the efficient discharge of its functions;

Amazon countries give a special relevance to the issues that will be examined in the World Conference on Environment and Development that will take place in June, 1992, in Brazil.

RULING:

To extend, by way of exception, the exercise of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat headquartered in the Republic of Ecuador and to create a work group, made up of high level government representatives, to prepare a proposal to reinforce the Amazon Cooperation Treaty institutional structure. This proposal shall be submitted to an Extraordinary Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, to take place under the II Meeting of Presidents of Amazonian countries, which will be held on February 3 and 4, 1992, in Manaus.

Entered into in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on November eight, nineteen ninety-one, in Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

RES/IV MRE-TCA/2

IV MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

The political will of their corresponding governments to give a renewed and effective impetus to the Amazon cooperation process;

During the III Meeting of Ministers to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty the decision was made to start actions purporting to strengthen the institutional structure of the Treaty;

The IV Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council held in Bogota in May, 1990, adopted *Ad Referendum* the Regulation of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat's functions.

The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty should be provided with a wide framework of powers in order to guarantee the compliance with the tasks with which it is entrusted, as well as the coordination and follow-up task required for the furthering and coherence of the Amazon cooperation process.

RULING:

To adopt the rules governing the functions of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

RES/IV MRE-TCA/3

IV MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

One of the highest priorities considered within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty is the development of science and technology suitable for Amazon realities;

Scientific development will not be possible unless accompanied by a strong activity in the field of training, research, and measures allowing for the balance of human resources within the Amazon region;

In compliance with the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the IV Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, considerable activities have been done to coordinate the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat and the Association of Amazonian Universities, particularly in terms of implementing the Amazon Information System and several joint projects are being promoted with outside cooperation.

RULING:

FIRST. – To adopt policies to make effective the strengthening of institutions charged with the research and training of human resources in the Amazon Region.

SECOND. – To acknowledge the importance of the activities conducted jointly by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and the Association of Amazonian Universities and to recommend the continuation and extension of the same.

THIRD. – To entrust the ACT *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, together with the Special Commissions and in coordination with the Association of Amazonian Universities, with the carrying out of actions purporting to achieve technological transfers, scientific cooperation and information sharing among members.

Entered into in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on November eight, nineteen ninety-one, in Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

IV MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

The IV Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council established the Special Commission on Transport of Amazonia (CETRAM); the priority significance of the development of communications and infrastructure was highlighted for meeting the objectives in the Treaty;

The Meeting of Central Planning Bodies and Amazon Development, held in Quito in April, 1991, a recommendation was made to extend the scope of the CETRAM to cover communications and infrastructure;

The I Meeting of the Special Commission on Transport, held in Quito later the same month, ratified this recommendation.

RULING:

FIRST. – To enlarge the scope of the Special Commission on Transport of Amazonia to Communications and infrastructure.

SECOND. – To change the name of this Commission to Special Commission on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure of Amazonia (CETICAM).

Entered into in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on November eight, nineteen ninety-one, in Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

FINAL MINUTES

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

At the invitation addressed by the Government of Peru, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty held their V Meeting in the city of Lima, on December four and five of the year nineteen ninety-five.

The delegations from all member-states to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty participated in this meeting, as well as the representatives from international organizations, as observers. The whole list of participants is included as Annex I.

The President of the Republic of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, opened this session.

The Initial Plenary Session was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia, in his capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the country that hosted the previous meeting, proceeding to elect the Board, which was made up as follows: as Chairman, Mr. Francisco Tudela, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru; as Vice chairman, Mr. Rodrigo Pardo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia; and, as Secretary General-Rapporteur, Ambassador Jorge Voto-Bernales, Pro Tempore Secretary to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Bolivia, Suriname, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and the Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil went on to take the floor, who highlighted the importance of the joint work underway within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, agreeing upon the need and timing to drive and strengthen this international instrument.

In his capacity as Head of the Delegation from the host country to the VI and VII General Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, held in Lima on October 10 and 11, 1994, and from November 30 to December 2, 1995, respectively, Ambassador Harry Belevan reported the results from both events.

Subsequently, Ambassador Jorge Voto-Bernales, Pro Tempore Secretary to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, introduced the Work Plan and reported on the activities carried out by the Secretariat under the Peruvian chair.

After stating their recognition of the efficient work by Peru in exercising the Pro Tempore Secretariat, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs decided to carry the Work Plan and the Activity Report.

Later, a Commission made up of Representatives of the Parties, gathered to examine the documents below, which were then adopted by the Plenary Session:

Declaration of Lima;

Final Minutes of the V Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty; and,

The Resolutions below:

RES/V MRE-TCA/1, creating a Permanent Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which shall be headquartered in the city of Brasilia;

RES/V MRE-TCA/2, establishing a financial mechanism to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

RES/V MRE-TCA/3, adopting changes and amendments to the Rules of the Pro Tempore Secretariat;

RES/V MRE-TCA/4, creating the Special Commission on Education of Amazonia (CEEDA);

RES/V MRE-TCA/5, stating its recognition to the work done by the Pro Tempore Secretariat and adopting the management report and the work plan;

RES/V MRE-TCA/6, fostering the adoption of a regional document on sustainability criteria and indicators for the Amazonian forest;

RES/V MRE-TCA/7, providing for the negotiation of a new convention on measures aimed at preventing and controlling the pollution of Amazon water resources;

RES/V MRE-TCA/8, establishing an institute for research and protection of genetic resources;

RES/V MRE-TCA/9, providing for the preparation of a common program to promote the environmental education and awareness at the school level;

RES/V MRE-TCA/10, entrusting the Special Commission on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure of Amazonia (CETICAM) with the undertaking of a study on the navigability of Amazon rivers within the framework of the “Transportation Network for the Amazon Region” project;

RES/V MRE-TCA/11, welcoming the Ad Hoc Work Group created by RES/VI CCA/2 and recognizes the work made by the Pro Tempore Secretariat with the Final Report on the study of implications entailed by the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia repeated the offer made on occasion of the III and IV Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, to have the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra host the financial mechanism of the Treaty.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia offered the city of Leticia and the already existing Institute for Amazon Research SINCHI, as the venue for the institute for research and protection of genetic resources to be created.

Referring to the technical and scientific capability of his country Centre for the Integrated Surveying of Natural Resources by means of Remote Sensing (CLIRSEN), the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador offered to contribute geographical and natural resources information on Amazonia via remote sensors.

Likewise, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana invited the Countries Parties to engage in the Iwokrama project on the rainforest underway in his country, the goals of sustainability of which match those in the Treaty.

On behalf of the Parties, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela thanked the Government of Peru for how they were treated and commended the Pro Tempore Secretariat on the efficient work done, that has enabled the institutional strengthening of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

Lastly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Mr. Francisco Tudela, welcomed with satisfaction the significant results obtained and brought this V Meeting to a close.

In witness whereof, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs proceeded to sign these Final Minutes in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

*On behalf of the Government of Bolivia,
Antonio Aranibar Quiroga*

*On behalf of the Government of Colombia,
Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Peña*

*On behalf of the Government of Ecuador,
Amb. Galo Leoro Franco*

*On behalf of the Government of Guyana,
Clement Rohee*

*On behalf of the Government of Peru,
Francisco Tudela*

*On behalf of the Government of Suriname,
Subhas Ch. Mungra*

*On behalf of the Government of Venezuela,
Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas*

*On behalf of the Government of Brazil,
Amb. Ivan Cannabrava*

DECLARATION OF LIMA

PREAMBLE

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, gathered in the city of Lima on occasion of the V Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Signatories to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty:

PERSUADED that on signing the Amazon Cooperation Treaty on July 3, 1978, the Countries Parties started a major and unprecedented consultation and cooperation process helping the sustainable development of their respective Amazonian territories and the improvement of the standard of living of their populations;

AWARE of the importance of the natural Amazonian forest immensity in the maintenance of global environmental processes, of water resources and of the mega biodiversity contained in the region; of the heritage of mineral reserves, energy sources, and of the potential of Amazonia in various areas, that are an invaluable source both for local populations and for the economic and social development of the countries sharing them in a sovereign manner;

CONSISTENT with the significant achievements made by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in the city of Río de Janeiro in June, 1992, and with the meaningful advance made at the institutional and legislative levels of the environmental aspects in Countries Parties to the Treaty;

PERSUADED that progress recently made, based on common interests established in the Treaty, needs to be firmly advocated for, to build upon and advance the regional cooperation process;

AGREE ON the following DECLARATION:

ON THE AMAZONIAN FOREST

HIGHLIGHT the progress made within the framework of the Treaty through the development of the Proposal for Sustainability Criteria and Indicators for the Amazonian Forest, prepared in the Regional Workshop organized by the Pro Tempore Secretariat in February, 1995 in the Peruvian city of Tarapoto, which is a valuable contribution to the agreed upon design of regional strategies.

ENCOURAGE the adoption of a regional document on Sustainability Criteria and Indicators of the Amazonian Forest, through technical meetings providing the process started at Tarapoto with continuity, once completed the discussions at the national level.

ACKNOWLEDGE the valuable source contained in Amazonian tropical forests for the food, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, as well as the urgent need to develop sustainable production systems, both from wood and non-wood resources.

DESIGN plans and strategies for the conservation and improvement of soils in the region, in terms of use and right handling by production agents.

ON WATER RESOURCES

PROMOTE the use of water resources for environmentally appropriate purposes and in line with criteria relating to conservation, use, and rational management thereof.

UNDERTAKE the negotiation of a Convention for the adoption of measures purporting to prevent and control pollution of Amazon water resources and their harmful effects on human health, natural habitat and biodiversity as a whole and, having that goal, they entrust the Pro Tempore Secretariat with consultations with the Parties in order to draft a framework cooperation convention, which shall be examined in a regional meeting in 1996, and put to the consideration of the relevant instances in the Treaty.

ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

CONDUCT a study on the navigability of Amazonian rivers, through the Special Committee on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure of Amazonia (CETICAM), within the framework of the “Transportation Network for the Amazon Region” project, currently under execution.

ON BIODIVERSITY

RATIFY the principles in the Convention on Biological Diversity, based on the sovereignty exercised by the States on their biological resources and the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits resulting there from, and promote a joint discussion within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

STRESS the fact that biodiversity resources are a potential for the development of new production activities for the sustainable use of forests and water, particularly in connection with genetic resources; plants with nutritional and medicinal properties, dyes, pesticides, fibers and other uses that are relevant to the Treaty Countries.

AGREE on the need to adopt registration systems for Amazonian genetic resources; promotion of new production activities based on the species of flora, fauna and microorganisms; establish rules for the protection of intellectual property and the like of traditional knowledge and maximize the economic and social benefits for those communities.

ESTABLISH an institute for the research and protection of Amazonian genetic resources, for which the Pro Tempore Secretariat, in coordination with the Parties, shall convene a Regional Workshop for the preparation of a project to be submitted to the VIII General Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, which shall decide the venue and start date for its operations.

URGE to the international multilateral and bilateral cooperation to continue supporting the activities and projects underway for the sustainable use of biodiversity, and to reinforce the technical and financial support for the inventory, the conservation, monitoring and the development of new productive activities based on the same, especially in connection with Amazonian genetic resources, aquaculture of native species, wildlife breeding, the research and inventory of food and medicinal plants, the preparation of production projects based on biodiversity and biotechnology.

ON HYDROBIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

STRESS that Amazonian hydro biological resources possess a major importance from the economic and social standpoint for feeding urban and rural populations in the region, and that they can result in the creation of new economic activities, at the local, national, and regional levels.

POINT OUT the need to develop sustainable production activities based on Amazonian hydro biological resources, geared towards the supply of human populations and to increasing the economic production in the region.

REQUEST the unwavering support of organizations for the international technical and financial cooperation and of the private sector for the development of aquaculture projects, fisheries management, caiman and turtle's husbandry and other aquatic and semi aquatic fauna in the region.

ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

RATIFY the importance allocated by their governments to the respect of indigenous populations and local communities' rights, and to the preservation of their cultural identity.

RECOGNIZE the value of traditional knowledge and its incidence in the promotion of understanding and sustainable development in the region.

STRENGTHEN national institutional mechanisms for the promotion of populations and indigenous communities' development, protect and ensure the habitat of said communities, and improve their standard of living and life conditions.

ON CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND TOURISTIC AFFAIRS

RESCUE the great and enriching cultural heritage of Amazonian men, who have forged a harmonious and balanced interrelation over the centuries with the surrounding environment.

CREATE the Special Commission on Education of Amazonia (CEEDA), as the key mechanism for assessing experiences and coordinating the design of educational plans fit for Amazonian reality, to foster the education and training of human resources in the Amazon region, as well as the respect to the cultural identity of its populations.

PREPARE a common program to promote the environmental education and awareness to a school level and, to such intents and purposes, entrust CEEDA with the organization on calling to a regional seminar suggesting guidelines, content and scope of manuals with that goal.

ENTRUST the Pro Tempore Secretariat, in consultation with the Parties, with the preparation of the master plan for the Development of the Sustainable Tourism and Ecotourism in the Amazon region as an instrument for the promotion of the regional development and investment in tourism in Amazonia, with the support and active involvement of the governmental and private sectors engaged in tourism, environment, and indigenous affairs of the Countries Parties. The Plan will be prepared based on the proposal submitted by the Regional Workshop held in the city of Lima, in June, 1995.

ACKNOWLEDGE the work done by the Association of Amazonian Universities to promote the cooperation between higher education centers and research institutes in the region, for the benefit of training and scientific and technical development in Amazonia, and to encourage a closer cooperation with the ACT in activities aimed at the common interest.

URGE international cooperation and private sector to allocate resources to the development of activities in the areas of socio-culture, education, increase of air traffic and tourism infrastructure in the region.

ON THE INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

RESTATE the determination to achieve a joint work by Countries Parties by way of the mechanisms established in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

POINT OUT that the increasing dynamics of the Amazon cooperation process and its subsequent greater outreach to the international scene require strengthening the institutional aspect of the Treaty and refining its mechanisms.

DECIDE the creation of a permanent secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which shall be headquartered in the city of Brasilia.

ESTABLISH an Ad Hoc work group, made up of representatives from all the Parties, to prepare and put to the consideration of the Foreign Affairs Ministers, prior to June 30, 1996, a proposal defining the structure, objectives and timing of the creation of the permanent secretariat to the Treaty, bearing in mind the administrative, technical, legal and financial aspects involved. Entrust the VIII General Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council to consider the rotation of the Pro Tempore Secretariat when assessing this process.

WELCOME with satisfaction the role played by the Pro Tempore Secretariat, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru in the strengthening of the cooperation process, through a renewed impetus given to dialogue and regional coordination, in accordance with the goals and objectives in the Treaty.

ESTABLISH a financial mechanism aimed at reinforcing the Treaty's effectiveness for carrying out projects in the region and as counterparty to international cooperation in the execution of plurinational programs and projects contributing to the sustainable use of Amazonia.

PROVIDE that a technical meeting of the Parties prepare a project, before June 30, 1996, embodying the operational components and modalities of this financial mechanism, to put it to the consideration of Foreign Affairs Ministers, who shall set the venue and the date of coming into force of such mechanism.

ON DRUG TRAFFICKING

EXPRESS their concern about the Amazon environmental degradation and the socio-economic decay caused by drug trafficking to the countries in the region and the international community, especially via the processing and marketing of harmful substances. Consequently, they decide to redouble the fight against this scourge of mankind.

COOPERATION BETWEEN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

CALL on developed countries to comply with the commitments arising from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 1992, to strongly support, with substantive financial resources and suitable technologies, the implementation of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation projects in Amazon countries and, through the Treaty, regional programs and projects.

VERIFY the active role and involvement of private enterprises and outstanding regional non-governmental organizations in the sustainable development process.

FINANCIAL COOPERATION BY INTERNATIONAL BODIES

EMPHASIZE the importance, at the national and regional levels, of the technical and non-refundable financial cooperation provided by various befriended countries and international bodies, and urgently call on to its considerable expansion in

support of the efforts made by the Parties to the benefit of the sustainable development of their corresponding Amazonian territories.

EXPRESS their recognition to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to the United Nations Development Programme (PNUD), to the European Union (EU), to the World Bank (WB), to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for their support in identifying and implementing activities and projects of regional interest.

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

WELCOME the decision to organize the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development in the Republic of Bolivia, in December, 1996, the key issue of which matches the goals and objectives of the joint work done by the Countries Parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty; thus, we have decided to hold a previous meeting to agree on positions.

VI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS

WELCOME unanimously the gentle invitation made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela to hold the VI Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty in the city of Caracas, over 1997.

Made in the city of Lima, on December five of the year nineteen ninety-five, in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

*On behalf of the Government of Bolivia,
Antonio Aranibar Quiroga*

*On behalf of the Government of Peru,
Francisco Tudela*

*On behalf of the Government of Colombia,
Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Peña*

*On behalf of the Government of Suriname,
Subhas Ch. Mungra*

*On behalf of the Government of Ecuador,
Amb. Galo Leoro Franco*

*On behalf of the Government of Venezuela,
Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas*

*On behalf of the Government of Guyana,
Clement Rohee*

*On behalf of the Government of Brazil,
Amb. Ivan Cannabrava*

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

RES/M MRE-TCA/1

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas the increasing dynamics of the Amazon cooperation process and its subsequent greater outreach to the international scene call for strengthening the institutional aspect of the Treaty and the refinement of its mechanisms;

RULING:

To create a permanent secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which shall be headquartered in the city of Brasilia.

To establish an Ad Hoc Work Group, made up of representatives from all the Parties, to prepare and put to the consideration of the Foreign Affairs Ministers, prior to June 30, 1996, a proposal defining the structure, objectives and timing of the creation of the Permanent Secretariat to the Treaty, bearing in mind the administrative, technical, legal and financial aspects involved.

To entrust the VIII General Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council to consider the rotation of the Pro Tempore Secretariat when assessing this process.

Signed in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

RES/M MRE-TCA /2

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas the institutional strengthening of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and the refinement of its mechanisms need to be supplemented by a financial instrument capable of flexibly and efficiently meeting the increasing cooperation needs of the Countries Parties;

RULING:

To establish a financial mechanism to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. This mechanism shall focus on reinforcing the Treaty's effectiveness for carrying out projects in the region and as counterparty to international cooperation in the execution of plurinational programs and projects contributing to the sustainable use of Amazonia.

To provide that a technical meeting of the Parties prepare a Project, prior to June 30, 1996, embodying the operational components and modalities of this financial mechanism, to put it to the consideration of Foreign Affairs Ministers, who shall set the venue and the date of its coming into force.

Signed in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

RES/V MRE-TCA/3

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas RES/VI CCA/1 of the VI Amazon Cooperation Council approved the changes carried to the Rules in force of the Pro Tempore Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which were the target of certain amendments during the VII General Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council.

Likewise, the Parties decided to put these amendments to the approval of the V Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty,

RULING:

The adoption of changes and amendments to the Rules of the Pro Tempore Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, respectively adopted during the VI and VII General Meetings of the Amazon Cooperation Council.

Signed in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

RES/V MRE-TCA/4

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas the Amazon Cooperation Treaty provides, in its article XXIV, the possibility of creating Special Commissions to study specific issues of interest to Amazonian countries;

In accordance with the recommendation to create the Special Commission of Education of Amazonia made by six Ministers of Education of the Countries Parties, gathered in Santafé de Bogotá from November 3 to 6, 1992;

Considering that the VI Amazon Cooperation Council, held on October 10 and 11, 1994 and the VII Amazon Cooperation Council, gathered in Lima on November 30 and December 1st, 1995, included as an item in the temporary agenda of the V Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs the creation of a Special Commission on Education of Amazonia;

Given that the Countries Parties to the Treaty acknowledge the need to support indigenous populations in their path to development, respecting their own cultural identity;

Acknowledging the significance of education as the main instrument for socio-economic development and the improvement of the standard of living of Amazon populations;

RULING:

The creation of the Special Commission on Education of Amazonia (CEEDA), as the technical coordination body of the Amazon Cooperation Council, with the powers below:

- a. To promote the training and capacity-building of human resources in the Amazon region of the Countries Parties, in accordance with the challenge posed by the promotion of sustainable development;
- b. To identify, study and suggest issues of common interest to foster cooperation methods among Amazon countries in an educational manner;
- c. To encourage, coordinate and supervise the implementation of regional studies, programs, and projects, and other activities undertaken by the countries to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which contribute to the development of Amazon population's education;
- d. To promote information sharing of educational policies of each Country Party, with a view to developing a greater mutual understanding;
- e. To foster and support bilingual education programs taking into account the value of indigenous traditional knowledge and encouraging the rescue of the cultural identity of Amazonian populations; and,
- f. To favor the creation of curricula, promotional mechanisms, scholarships and other support modes, encouraging the training and direct or indirect capacity building of teachers for the benefit of the Amazonian inhabitant, based on achievements and experiences acquired by multilateral and national agencies, as well as the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ).

In order to attain the objectives set forth in this Resolution, Governments of Countries Parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty shall encourage the participation in the committee of national institutions involved in the development of education programs of their relevant Amazon territories.

Signed in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

RES/ MRE-TCA/5

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas the momentum attained by the regional cooperation process under the Peruvian Chair of the Pro Tempore Secretariat; and

Considering the consensus of the Parties Delegates to give their express consent to such work, as well as the Report and Work Plan prepared by the Pro Tempore Secretariat;

RULING:

To welcome the active and efficient work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, in its capacity as Pro Tempore Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, and of Ambassador Jorge Voto-Bernales, Pro Tempore Secretary.

To carry unanimously the Management Report and the Work Plan of the Pro Tempore Secretariat.

Signed in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas the advance made within the framework of the Treaty through the development of the Proposal for Sustainability Criteria and Indicators for the Amazonian Forest, arising from the Regional Workshop held in the city of Tarapoto in February, 1995;

RULING:

To encourage the adoption of a regional document on Sustainability Criteria and Indicators of the Amazonian Forest, through technical meetings providing the process started at Tarapoto with continuity, once completed the discussions at the national level.

Signed in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas the multiplicity of roles played by Amazonian rivers in the economic and social process in the region, and the importance of water resources on human health, natural habitat and biodiversity as a whole;

Whereas water resources should be used for environmentally appropriate purposes and in line with criteria relating to conservation, use, and rational management thereof;

RULING:

To start negotiating a Convention for the adoption of measures purporting to prevent and control the pollution of Amazonian water resources and their harmful effects.

To entrust the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat with consultations with the Parties to draft a framework convention of cooperation, to be examined at a regional meeting in 1996 and put to consideration of the relevant instances of the Treaty.

Signed in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas the relevance of the mega biodiversity contained in Amazonia; and aware of the need to start research and protection efforts thereof;

RULING:

To establish an Amazonian institute for research and protection of genetic resources. To entrust the Pro Tempore Secretariat, in coordination with the Parties, with the organization of and calling to a Regional Workshop, in order to prepare a project that will be submitted to consideration of the III General Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, which shall establish the headquarters and the starting date of its work.

Signed in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas the Special Commission on Education of Amazonia is a key mechanism in the assessment of experiences and coordination of the development of educational plans that are suitable to the Amazonian reality;

Taking into account the advisability of fostering education and raising environmental awareness at the school level;

RULING:

To prepare a common program to promote education and to raise environmental awareness at the school level.

To entrust the Special Commission on Education of Amazonia (CEEDA) with the organization of and calling to a Regional Seminar suggesting orientations, contents and scope of manuals to this end.

Signed in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

The relevance of the hydrographic system of the Amazonian region as communication paths encouraging transportation, trade, tourism, and integration among Parties; The existence of various data and studies on the navigability capabilities of the various rivers making up the hydrographic system of Amazonia; The advisability of having a relating comprehensive study;

RULING:

To entrust the Special Commission on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure of Amazonia (CETICAM) with the undertaking of a study on the navigability of Amazon rivers – including capability – within the framework of the currently underway “Transportation Network for the Amazon Region” project;

Signed in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

V MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas the Final Report submitted by the Ad Hoc Work Group created pursuant to RES/VI CCA/2, for the study of administrative, legal, technical and financial implications that would result from the creation of a Permanent Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

Taking into account the consensus of the Parties’ Delegates to express the explicit recognition of the work done by said Work Group;

RULING:

To take due note of the Final Report prepared by the Ad Hoc Work Group for the study of administrative, legal, technical and financial implications that would result from the creation of a Permanent Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

To congratulate the Work Group and the Pro Tempore Secretariat on the document prepared, which, together with the contributions made in the VI General Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, as background to the Ad Hoc Work Group established in the Declaration of Lima to define, prior to June 30, 1996, a proposal of structure, objectives and timing for the creation of the Permanent Secretariat to the Treaty.

Signed in the city of Lima, on December five, nineteen ninety-five.

FINAL MINUTES

VI MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SIGNATORIES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Pursuant to the provisions in article XX, second paragraph, of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, and in line with the invitation made by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, Mr. Javier Murillo de la Rocha; of Brazil, Mr. Luiz Felipe Lampreia; of Colombia, Mrs. Vice minister Clemencia Forero Ucros; of Ecuador, Mr. Heinz Moeller; of Guyana, Mr. Clement Rohee; of Peru, Mr. Fernando de Trazegnies Granda; of Suriname, Special Envoy Mr. Fred Reid; and of Venezuela, Mr. José Vicente Rangel, chairing the delegations of their respective countries, proceeded to hold the VI Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Signatories to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, in the city of Caracas, Venezuela, on April six of the year two thousand.

Delegations from all Countries Parties of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty participated in the VI Meeting. The whole list of participants is included as Annex I.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Meeting of Ministers was preceded by the opening ceremony, where, in the established order, Ambassador Víctor R. Carazo, Pro Tempore Secretary to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, his Excellency Fernando de Trazegnies Granda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru, country host to the V Meeting of Ministers, and his Excellency Mr. José Vicente Rangel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela.

PLENARY SESSION

The First Plenary Session was chaired by his Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, in his capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the country host to the previous meeting, proceeding to elect the Board, which was made up as follows: Mr. José Vicente Rangel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, as Chairman; Mr. Javier Murillo de la Rocha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, as Vice chairman; Mrs. Clemencia Forero Ucros, Vice minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, as Secretary General; and Ambassador Víctor R. Carazo, Pro Tempore Secretary to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, as Rapporteur.

Next, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela took the floor, formally starting work.

Firstly, he invited the Chairperson of the X General Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, held in Caracas on April 4 and 5, 2000, Ms. Milagros Betancourt Catalá, Director of Multilateral Affairs of Venezuela, to tally the results of the Meeting, which was preparatory to the VI Meeting of Ministers.

Next, the Chairman suggested that the Ministers exchange their points of view, with an open agenda, but having as guide the Agenda proposed by the Pro Tempore Secretariat, which appears as Annex II. Minister Rangel went briefly through the issues considered to be of interest, stressing the importance of noting them in the Declaration of Caracas, as a way to channel the immediate works of the Treaty.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Bolivia, Suriname, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and the Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil went on to take the floor, who highlighted the importance of the joint

work underway within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, agreeing upon the need and timing to drive and strengthen this international instrument.

After stating their recognition of the efficient work by Venezuela in exercising the Pro Tempore Secretariat, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs decided to carry the Activity Report and the Work Plan of the Secretariat, previously adopted by the Amazon Cooperation Council.

They next moved to adopt the documents below, considered to be a part and parcel of these Minutes:

1. The Declaration of Caracas.
2. The Resolutions, the complete text of which is included as Annex III:

N° RES/VI MRE-TCA/1 – Adopts the Rules of the Permanent Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

N° RES/VI MRE-TCA/2 – Creates the Coordination Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council and it adopts the corresponding Rules.

N° RES/VI MRE-TCA/3 – Instructs the Pro Tempore Secretariat to convene a technical meeting, during the second half of the year 2000 in order to establish the operation modes of a financial mechanism, which shall later be put to the consideration of the Parties.

N° RES/VI MRE-TCA/4 – Decides the transfer of the Pro Tempore Secretariat from Venezuela to Bolivia.

N° RES/VI MRE-TCA/5 – Follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (CNUMAD).

N° RES/VI MRE-TCA/6 – Budget and Quota Scale of ACTO.

N° RES/VI MRE-TCA/7 – Recognition to the Government of Venezuela for leading the PTS.

On behalf of the Parties, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia thanked the Government of Venezuela for how they were treated and commended the Pro Tempore Secretariat on the efficient work done, that has enabled the institutional strengthening of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

Finally, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, Mr. José Vicente Rangel, expressed his satisfaction with the significant results attained in this VI Meeting.

The Closing Session was held as per the invitation made by his Excellency Mr. Hugo Chávez Frías, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in the Hall of Mirrors of the Palacio de Miraflores, with the attendance of his Excellency Mr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, in Venezuela on an official visit. Both Heads of State took the floor in the Act and encouraged the authorities of the Contracting Parties of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty to reinforce their efforts to foster the achievement of the goals set in the Treaty.

In witness whereof, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs proceeded to sign these Final Minutes in the city of Caracas, on April six of the year two thousand.

DECLARATION OF CARACAS

The VI Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT), held in the city of Caracas on April 6, 2000:

STRESSING the fact that the Amazon Cooperation Treaty is an unprecedented initiative for regional consultation and cooperation, that has contributed and will contribute to the regional development of Amazonian territories and to the improvement of the standard of living of the populations in the region;

ACKNOWLEDGING that in the course of the twenty-one years of existence of the Treaty, we have witnessed its increasing importance as an instrument for the sustainable development available for Amazonian populations;

AWARE of the responsibility with which their governments are charged on the future of the Amazonian region, an irreplaceable heritage of the eight Countries;

REASSERTING that the Amazon Cooperation Treaty provides the required framework for implementing the plans of the Contracting Parties, in terms of the sustainable development in the region, keeping the environment and rationally using its natural resources;

CONSIDERING that Amazonian countries are to play a major role in the integration process in the region and its link to the international economy;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that purposes and objectives in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty are in line with the principles and postulates of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) – Río de Janeiro, 1992, and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Persuaded that greater cooperation efforts are required to attain the sustainable development goals in several parts of the world;

REASSERTING the postulates established in the Declaration of Lima on indigenous populations;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the cooperation process must be geared towards the attainment of equity, decent living conditions, better health levels and social welfare, as a fundamental right of our populations;

CONSIDERING that the Governments of Countries Parties have decided to establish the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, to strengthen coordination and joint action at the institutional level on issues relating to the Amazon region, and to reinforce international cooperation on these aspects;

HIGHLIGHTING that the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization is an unmistakable sign of the priority granted in a sovereign manner by our countries to the institutional strengthening of this regional cooperation mechanism; and

AWARE of the need to shape a common vision for the development model for the region;

ENTER INTO THE DECLARATION BELOW

ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL ACTIONS, CONVENIENT IN THE AMAZONIAN AREA

The Countries Parties to the ACT reinforce their commitment to make additional efforts to render Amazonian regional cooperation more efficient and capable of attaining better practical and more outreaching results.

To such ends, the Countries undertake to speed up the establishment of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, with its Permanent Secretariat, which shall ease the ACT's internal and external coordination activities.

INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE ACT

The future of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and the right management of the region depend on the determined political will and the unreserved support of the Contracting Parties in the strengthening of the Treaty and the instances provided for in its framework. The need to promote horizontal cooperation among countries stands out in this complex process, in order to favor institutional exchanges, as well as a greater interaction of the Treaty with other regional and international organizations.

The creation of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, endowed with a Permanent Secretariat – pursuant to the decision of the corresponding Governments – will positively impact the aspiration to ease the proceedings within the framework of the Treaty and to improve implementation of decisions.

STRATEGIC ROLE OF ACT

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty is a determinant both as a strategic instrument at the service of their countries, and as a platform for the defense of common interests. This resource should be used rationally and more frequently as a forum for consultation and consensual articulation of regional positions.

ENVIRONMENT

Countries Parties reassert the postulates in the Declaration of the II Meeting of Presidents to the ACT, Manaus, February, 1992, in terms of combining the imperatives of economic and social development with the conservation and protection of the environment, targeted at the eradication of poverty from an innovated international cooperation standpoint and in line with recent developments in the world scene.

A true sustainable development should be promoted in Amazonia, based on the right use of biodiversity, enabling, in turn, the conservation thereof. Given that biodiversity and biotechnology offer wide opportunities for sustainable development, Amazon countries must coordinate positions in specialized fora to ensure intellectual property and the protection of traditional knowledge on biogenetic resources.

Within this context, the Countries Parties of the Treaty consider it timely to promote the signature and ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, on occasion of the V Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which shall be held in Nairobi, from May 15 to 26, 2000, with a view to control the transboundary movements of living modified organisms that impair human safety and that of the environment.

Foreign Affairs Ministers have taken note, with interest, of the efforts made so far by the environmental authorities from countries parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, through various dialogue processes, in their meetings in La Guaira,

Cochabamba, and Quito, targeted at finding joint positions on environmental issues on the international agenda, such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) provided for in the Kyoto Protocol of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and at working in a comprehensive manner to establish synergies between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Climate Change and other international conventions on the environment and renewable natural resources.

FORESTS

Countries Parties are truly aware of the fact that forests entail a value beyond the strictly commercial and they reassert their relevance as a key element to attain sustainable development. Also, they consider that the environmental, social and cultural services they provide should be taken into account when devising policies and programs that promote the sustainable management of forests.

They restate that forest policies are a relevant dimension in the development strategies of each country, and that they should focus on harmonizing the various roles played by forests and, within it, highlight the role played by indigenous communities of Amazonia via the conservation of their natural environment: Amazonian forests.

Countries Parties state their aspirations to see the Tarapoto Process completed, which was started in 1995, for the adoption of sustainability criteria and indicators of Amazonian forest, by means of the completion of all national consultations and the organization of the II Regional Meeting, for the adoption of such criteria and indicators.

Countries Parties are satisfied with the results of the negotiations held during the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests attained last February and they reaffirm the importance they attribute to the right composition of the United Nations Forum on Forests, as well as to the full implementation of the recommendations and proposals for action agreed upon, especially the establishment of mechanisms for the provision of funding and technology that promote the sustainable management of forests.

Regional Fight against Illegal Activities in Amazonia

Countries Parties insist on their concern about the illegal activities conducted in the Amazon region, affecting the security and development of the States in the Region. Therefore, they express their support of currently implemented actions purporting to combat these illegal activities and they make their decision clear to foster, within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, the initiatives aimed at solving the problems of, without limiting to, illegal crops, drug trafficking, indiscriminate logging, biopiracy and illegal mining.

TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Countries Parties accept that building on actions is urgent to bring to fruition one of the major aspirations in the Treaty – one that remains to be achieved – as the establishment of an intermodal transport structure across Amazonia. The objective of developing a physical, energy, and communications infrastructure is still a core challenge throughout Amazonia, as well as in the wider context of South America. In this sense, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs are satisfied with the inclusion of this issue in the call made by the Government of Brazil for the I Meeting of Presidents of South America, for the second half of 2000.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Countries Parties should allocate, in their national plans, a leading role to the development of science and technology, in order to establish scientific and technological basis tending to the needs of Amazonia, prioritizing scientific research

and access to leading technologies. Scientific and technological research organizations, universities, and other higher education institutions are called to undertake a relevant role in all areas of scientific, technological, and humanistic knowledge that is relevant for Amazonia.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Countries Parties are satisfied with the commencement of the Works of the Special Commission on Education of Amazonia (CEEDA) held in Quito, in October, 1997, with which the inclusion of the environmental dimension will be fostered into the educational programs, particularly in primary education. This initiative enlarges the possibilities of supplying the citizens of our countries – for life and from childhood – of a mindset and an attitude of defense and protection of their natural environment.

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

They ratify the importance granted to the preservation of cultural identity of indigenous and local communities within the framework of their respective national legislations. In that sense, the Governments undertake to strengthen national institutional mechanisms for the promotion of populations and indigenous communities' development, in order to protect and ensure the habitat of said communities, and to improve their standard of living and life conditions.

HEALTH

They agree to support and strengthen the integration and cooperation mechanisms in the area of health that must be geared towards the attainment of equity, decent life conditions and better levels of the social welfare of our populations.

ECOTURISM

Countries Parties highlight the importance of the potential in ecotourism in the Amazon region, as a means to promote its economic benefit and as an instrument to reach the sustainable development of the region. In this sense, the Works of the Commission on Tourism of Amazonia (CETURA) must be encouraged, allocating resources to implement their regional development projections on the basis of ecotourism in the Amazon Region. To such intents and purposes, Governments undertake to give a new momentum to the study on the potential of ecotourism in the Amazonian Region, which shall be considered by CETURA in its next General Meeting, to be held in Peru.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs undertake to keep giving their political support to the efforts by the Pro Tempore Secretariat that enable the continued mobilization of international resources towards the Treaty for funding the joint sustainable development actions decided by Countries Parties.

In this context, the Parties are very recognizant for the financial and technical support made available by such governments as the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Finland, and the Federal Republic of Germany, and by such international organizations as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the European Union (EU), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Development Programme (PNUD), the World Bank (WB), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Andean Development Corporation (ADC) and others.

In this new era starting with the creation of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and its Permanent Secretariat, the Ministers call on the international community to keep supporting, from a technical and financial point of view, the Special Commissions already established within the framework of this major initiative for consensus building and regional cooperation for Amazonia.

In Caracas, on this six of April of the year 2000.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

VI MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

RES/VI MRE-TCA/1

VI MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas the creation of a permanent body as secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization requires rules to govern its operation.

Whereas: the IV Meeting of the Ad Hoc Work Group on the creation of the Permanent Secretariat, held in Brasilia, on January 21 to 23, 1998, decided to put to the consideration of the VI Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty the adoption of the Rules of the Permanent Secretariat;

RULING:

To adopt the Rules of the Permanent Secretariat to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

Entered into the city of Caracas, on April six of the year two thousand.

RES/VI MRE-TCA/2

VI MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas: the IV Meeting of the Ad Hoc Work Group on the creation of the Permanent Secretariat, held in Brasilia, on January 21 to 23, 1998, decided to put to the consideration of the VI Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty the creation of the Coordination Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council and the adoption of its Rules, adopted by the delegations that attended the IV Meeting of the Work Group;

RULING:

To create the Coordination Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council and to adopt its Rules.

Entered into the city of Caracas, on April six of the year two thousand.

VI MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas: RES/V MFA-ACT/2 decided to establish a financial mechanism to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, aimed at reinforcing the Treaty's effectiveness in supporting the implementation of projects in the region and as a counterparty to international cooperation in the execution of plurinational programs and projects contributing to the sustainable use of Amazonia;

Whereas it was also decided to hold a technical meeting of the Parties to prepare a Project setting the operational modes of such financial mechanism;

Whereas the Bolivian Delegation before the V Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty suggested the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra to host the above stated technical meeting;

RULING:

To instruct the Pro Tempore Secretariat to convene a technical meeting, during the second half of the year 2000, in order to establish the operation modes of this financial mechanism, that will be later put to the consideration of the Parties.

To entrust the Pro Tempore Secretariat with the taking of the required steps towards obtaining technical cooperation in support of the preparatory works of the same.

To take into consideration the proposal made by the Republic of Bolivia to make Santa Cruz de la Sierra the permanent headquarters of the Financial Mechanism, a proposal that will be examined upon completion of the technical works.

Entered into the city of Caracas, on April six of the year two thousand.

VI MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Whereas: Resolution RES/V MRE – TCA/1, of the V Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, held in Lima, in December, 1995, whereby a Permanent Secretariat is created to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

Whereas: the Protocol of Amendment to the Treaty, an instrument whereby the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization is created, with legal status, is going through the Parliamentary adoption procedure;

Aware of the fact that this process, as well as the preparations for the implementation of the Permanent Secretariat, will take an indefinite time.

Having regard to article XXII in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

RULING:

To instruct the transfer of the Secretariat, in its Pro Tempore capacity by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Government of the Republic of Bolivia;

To determine that the Pro Tempore Secretariat shall be under Bolivia until the Permanent Secretariat be operational.

To request the Pro Tempore Secretariat to take all steps for easing the process of creation of the Permanent Secretariat to the ACTO.

Entered into the city of Caracas, on April five of the year two thousand.

RES/MI MRE-TCA/5

VI MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY**WHEREAS:**

Amazon countries envision the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and its future Organization as a forum, having – among other purposes – the discussion and political coordination on international environmental affairs and, in this sense, they attach a special importance to the issues examined at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Brazil in June, 1992;

The efforts made in the interest of development and arising from the Conference mentioned, contribute to the continued spirit of understanding and transparency promoted by such forum.

The supplementary nature of the various international bodies having among their purposes the study of issues relating to the environment and development.

RULING:

To emphasize the importance of jointly making an appropriate preparation of the tenth anniversary review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), that will occur in 2002, to allow for the ascertainment of advances and challenges, in order to fully achieve the objectives established in the documents approved in the Rio Conference.

Entered into the city of Caracas, on April six of the year two thousand.

VI MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

Resolution RES/V MRE-TCA/1, of the V Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, held in Lima, in December, 1995;

Recognizing the work done by the Ad Hoc Work Group, to define the structure, the objectives and the technical, administrative, legal, and financial aspects required for the creation of the Permanent Secretariat to the Treaty;

Stressing the consensus obtained in terms of the budget allocated to the operation of ACTO, amounting to US\$ 1,139,600, as well as the scale of participation quotas of each country;

The Amazon Cooperation Council, in its X General Meeting, recommended the adoption of the budget and the quota scale for the operation of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO);

RULING:

To adopt the budget and the participation quota scale agreed upon by the Parties for the operation of ACTO, according to the percentages below: Bolivia, 6.5%; Brazil, 35%; Colombia, 16%; Ecuador, 6.5%; Guyana, 2%; Peru, 16%; Suriname, 2%, and Venezuela, 16%;

Entered into the city of Caracas, on April six of the year two thousand.

VI MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Recalling the political will expressed by the Governments of the Parties, to drive the Amazon Cooperation process via the institutional strengthening of the Treaty;

Taking into account the assignment the countries agreed to charge the Pro Tempore Secretariat with, of ensuring compliance with the objectives and aims of the Treaty, as well as the implementation of the activities therein provided;

RULING:

To express their recognition to the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for undertaking the Pro Tempore Secretariat, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during which the remarkable efforts made in the discharge of its institutional activities and in the compliance with its functions stand out;

To thank Ambassador Víctor R. Carazo, Pro Tempore Secretary, and the team of officers from the Secretariat, for the dedication and efficiency shown in the execution of the tasks with which they were entrusted.

Entered into the city of Caracas, on April six of the year two thousand.

FINAL MINUTES

VII MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE SIGNATORY STATES OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION TREATY

By reason of the invitation proffered by the Government of the Republic of Bolivia, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty celebrated their VII Meeting, in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on November twenty-second, year two thousand and two.

In this meeting, the participants were the Foreign Ministers of: Bolivia, Carlos Saavedra Bruno; Brazil, Celso Lafer; Guiana, Samuel Rudolph Insanally; Peru, Allan Wagner Tizon; Suriname, Ms. Marie Levens; Venezuela, Roy Chaderton Matos. For Colombia the Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jaime Giron Duarte, Vice-minister for Multilateral Affairs, and for Ecuador, Luis Narváez Rivadeneira, General Director for Border Development from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The complete roll of the delegations appears as Annex I.

INAUGURAL EVENT

In the Inaugural Event of the VII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty, the speakers were, in the designated order, the *Pro Tempore* ACT Secretary, Sergio Sánchez Ballivián, and the Ministers of Foreign of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Roy Chaderton Matos, as Headquarters State for the previous meeting of Ministers and of the Republic, of Bolivia, Carlos Saavedra Bruno, as host of the VII Meeting, who opened this meeting. The complete texts of these interventions appear as Annex II.

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

The First Plenary Session was presided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as Headquarters State for the previous meeting of Ministers, and immediately the Board was elected, which was formed as follows: as President, Carlos Saavedra Bruno, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia; as Vice President, Celso Lafer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil and as General Secretary-Rapporteur, Roy Chaderton Matos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia formally inaugurated the work sessions, and submitted to the consideration of the Party Nations, the Agenda for the VII proposed by the Amazonian Cooperation Council, which was approved and appears as Annex III.

Immediately following this, the President of the XI Ordinary Meeting of the Amazonian Cooperation Council, Alfredo Seoane Flores, Vice-Minister for Economic International Relations and Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, to present a report on the results achieved by the above-mentioned meeting.

Following this, the second point on the Agenda was treated, referring to the Headquarters Agreement between the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). This Headquarters Agreement was approved through Resolution RES/ VII MRE – TCA/4 (Annex IV).

With the relation to the third point on the Personnel Regulations for the Permanent ACTO Secretariat whose definitive text was approved by consensus during the VIII Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Work Group on the Permanent Secretariat (July 2002)

and by the XI Ordinary Meeting of Amazonian Cooperation Council, the VII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty, decided to adopt said regulations through Resolution RES/VII MRE-TCA/5, which was appears as Annex V.

On the fourth point, referred to the structure of the Organization and its Permanent Secretariat, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs approved it through Resolution RES/VII MRE – TCA/8.

With respect to the ACTO participation quotas, the Foreign Ministers informed on this matter, and committed themselves to making their respective contributions, as soon as the mechanisms which permit the definitive functioning of the ACTO are perfected.

The Foreign Minister of Guyana pointed out the necessity of creating a Fiduciary Fund for promoting regional development projects, a proposal which was received with interest by the delegations.

With relation to the installation of the Permanent Secretariat in Brasilia, the sixth point in the Agenda, the Foreign Ministers and their Special Delegates, expressed their pleasure at the kind offer of the Brazilian Government of supporting the Secretary General during the installation stage of Permanent Secretariat. On this subject, the Ministers approved Resolution RES / VII MRE – TCA/1.

As for the election of the ACTO Secretary General, point seven of the Agenda, the Foreign Ministers considered opportune to defer this decision for December 6, 2002, occasion for the Meeting of Heads of State of the Adecan Community and MERCOSUR. For this extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty, a special invitation was extended to the Foreign Ministers of Guyana and Suriname.

When considering the Project of the Declaration of Santa Cruz, point eight in the Agenda, the Foreign Minister of Peru presented a draft proposal relative to the Initiative Integration of the Regional South American Infrastructure (IIRSA).

Likewise, he highlighted subjects such as the Declaration of the Amazonian Nations adopted in Bali; the meeting in Cuzco on the Megadiverse Nations with Affinity (November 29, 2002); the protection to traditional knowledge, as well as the sustainable promotion of the commerce and consumption of indigenous products. The importance of the Huaraz Declaration and the mountainous ecosystem, the problem of the ice-melts, and the ratification of the Kyoto protocol, as well as support for the Tarapoto Process on Amazonian forest sustainability criteria and indicators. All these points were awarded paragraphs which were inserted in the Declaration.

In this First Plenary Session, the Vice-President of the Republic of Bolivia, Carlos Mesa Gisbert, in representation of H.E. the President of Bolivia, Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, spoke to point out the importance of the VII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty which defines a watershed in the 24 years of existence of the Treaty. In his intervention, the Vice-President also referred to the new Treaty Organization as the main instrument of cooperation for carrying out agreed-upon policies with the goal of reaching sustainable development in the Amazonian territories of the ACT Party Nations.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

While opening this Second Session, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Special Delegates agreed on the definitive text of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and proceeded to sign it.

Finally, the VII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty considered the Resolutions Projects proposed by the XI Ordinary Meeting of the Amazonian Cooperation council.

The following Resolutions were adopted by the VII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty. The complete texts of the same, which form an integral part of the present Minutes, are included as Annex VI.

RES/VII MRE-TCA/1 – Request to the Government of Brazil for support of a temporary nature for the Secretary General of the ACTO, in those measures which will facilitate the installation of the PS in Brasilia.

RES/VII MRE-TCA/2 – Recognition for the Government of Bolivia and the Pro Tempore Secretary for its performance during the Secretariat's term.

RES/VII MRE-TCA/3 – Reaffirmation of the relevance of the ACT as a coordination and agreement of positions among Amazonian nations in regional and multilateral forums.

RES/VII MRE-TCA/4 – Adoption of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Brazil and the ACTO;

RES/VII MRE-TCA/5 – Adoption of the Personnel Regulations for the Permanent ACTO Secretariat.

RES/VII MRE-TCA/6 – Recognition of the Bolivian proposal for the Hemispheric Meeting on Sustainable Development in the year 2005;

RES/VII MRE-TCA/7 – Formal initiation of the Tarapoto Process and approval of the Regional project “Validation of 15 Prioritized Amazonian Forest Sustainable Indicators”, and

RES/VII MRE-TCA/8 – Adoption of the ACTO Organization Chart.

At the end of this Ministerial Encounter, the Foreign Minister of the Federative Republic of Brazil, in name of the Member States of the Treaty, thanked the Government of Bolivia for the attention given to this, and congratulated the Pro Tempore Secretariat for the efficient work performed, which has permitted the institutional strengthening of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty. The Plenary of the VII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazonian Cooperation concurred in these congratulations with applause.

Finally the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia expressed his pleasure at the important results reached by this VII Meeting.

Signed in the city Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on the twenty-second day of the month of November, year thousand and two, in the Spanish, Dutch, English and Portuguese Languages.

For the Government of Bolivia
For the Government of Colombia
For the Government of Guyana
For the Government of Suriname

For the Government of Brazil
For the Government of Ecuador
For the Government of Peru
For the Government of Venezuela

DECLARATION OF SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela,

GATHERED in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra on November 22nd, 2002, with a view to celebrate the Seventh Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries signatory to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty:

REAFFIRM the relevance of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty as a main instrument to implement to put into effect concerted policies for the sustainable development of the Amazonian territories of the ACT Member Nations.

APPLAUD the conclusion of the ratification process of the amendment to Article XXII of the Treaty, creating the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) on August 2, 2002, as a result of the determination of the Member States to strengthen and perfect the ACT, thereby renewing the primary commitment of improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of the region, in harmony with the protection of the environment.

RATIFY the commitment of the Member Nations to create the conditions for the proper functioning of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization by providing adequate financial resources and priority treatment, within the context of national administrations, to activities related to the programs and projects agreed upon by the Parties.

HIGHLIGHT the International Seminar of the Future of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization held in Manaus between August 13 and 15, 2002, and recommend that the issues dealt with during that event be taken into account, insofar as they are applicable, in preparing the proposed Work Plan of the ACTO Permanent Secretariat.

UNDERSCORE the relevance of border cooperation, in all areas related to the Treaty, and commit themselves to deepen this form of cooperation in the programmes and projects developed by the ACTO, in conjunction with other multilateral initiatives which are linked to said matters and which encourage of administrative units and communities directly concerned.

EMPHASIZE the progress made with regards to the coordination of positions among Amazonian nations, as reflected in the Declaration of Amazon Nations adopted in Bali, in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and recognize the usefulness of intensifying and broadening regional dialogue and coordination in multilateral environmental forums, by means of the consultations sustained by the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO.

REITERATE the terms of the 1989 and 1992 Presidential Declarations of Manaus and the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, insofar as each nation's responsibility of sovereign administration of its natural resources, including the use and sustainability of their biological diversity, as well as the fair equitable distribution of benefits of the use of genetic resources.

ENCOURAGE the progress achieved in the field of the "Initiative for the Integration of the Regional Infrastructure of South America" (IIRSA) in keeping with Article X of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization, and reaffirm the commitment of the Member Nations to sustainable development upon implementing this Initiative. In this regard, they instruct the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization that, in coordination with Executive Committee of IIRSA, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Andean Development Corporation, a work plan oriented towards the establishment of the Transportation Network in the Region, placing special emphasis on multimodal systems and facilitating in the Amazon Basin.

RECALL with special satisfaction, the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in September 2002, including the need to external financing for initiatives contained in the action plan which contribute to the promotion of sustainable development in developing nations.

ACKNOWLEDGE the importance of the Meeting of the Ministers from Like-minded Megadiverse Nations to be held in Cuzco on November 29, 2002, during which the protection of Genetic Resources, traditional knowledge, and Intellectual Property Rights for these countries will be considered as well as the issues linked to the international regime regulating access to genetic material.

STRESS the central role played by indigenous peoples in the sustainable development of the Amazon Basin. In this regard, they point out the importance of the Work Plan of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to consider measures for the protection of traditional knowledge of the genetic resources of the peoples as well the promotion of the sustainable use and marketing of native products.

WELCOME the proposal to convene a Hemispheric Meeting on Sustainable Development in Bolivia in the year 2005, in order to deepen and advance the process of the implementation of the national strategies on sustainable development and to put into practice the Plan for Implementing Agenda 21 adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

RATIFY the commitment of the Member Nations of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty to adopt appropriate measures intended to fulfill the objectives of the UN Millennium Declaration on Development Goals on Environmental Sustainability.

ACKNOWLEDGE the importance of the Huaraz Declaration on Sustainable Development of mountain ecosystems, and highlight the strategic value of said ecosystems for the sustainability of the Amazon Basin.

EXPRESS their concern over the progressive thawing that been recorded in glaciers of the Andes Mountains as a result of climate change, something that can serious consequences in the ecosystem, the standard of living, waters, supplies, the generation of energy and the sustainably of the Amazon rain forest, and call on the international community to adopt urgent measures to revert this phenomenon, including the prompt ratification and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

ENCOURAGE the active coordination of positions of member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty at the World Water Forum on Water to be held in Kyoto-Japan in 2003, and instruct the Permanent Secretariat to include this issue in work programme.

UNDERLINE the importance of the management and conservation of the water resources of the Amazon Basin as a factor for economic and social development and improvement of quality-of-life, as the initiatives that are being adopted by the ACTO nations and the need for integration and harmonization of these efforts.

EXPRESS their support for the Tarapoto Process as a useful technical tool and instrument which will permit the sustainable use of the Amazonian forests, generating a mechanism for assessment and consultation among the Party Nations on the applicability of criteria and indicators, that take account the peculiarities of each nation in the region, in an effort to harmonize environmental and forestry policies and promote sustainable forestry management.

SUPPORT the new drive on the Special Commission on Health for the Amazon Region (CESAM) to carry forward regional project of vital importance, such as the roll back malaria and the epidemiological surveillance network, in order to prevent roll back endemic illnesses, with the aim of improving the quality of life of the inhabitants.

ACKNOWLEDGE and congratulate the work of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat headed by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia for the achievements reached regarding the full institutionalization of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

Finally, they **RECOGNIZED** the governments and international organizations that provided technical assistance to the ACT, and express their willingness to continue receiving extra-regional and multilateral cooperation in implementing the programs and projects the will address the priorities of the Treaty and of the Members Nations.

Signed in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra on this twenty-second day of November, 2002 in two (2) original copies in the languages of Spanish, English, Portuguese and Dutch.

For the Government of Bolivia
For the Government of Colombia
For the Government of Guyana
For the Government of Suriname

For the Government of Brazil
For the Government of Ecuador
For the Government of Peru
For the Government of Venezuela

ANNEX II – SPEECHES

SPEECH OF CHANCELLOR CHADERTON MATOS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Santa Cruz de la Sierra – Bolivia, November 22nd, 2002

Mr. President

Mr. Chancellor of Bolivia

Mr. Chancellors

Mr. Pro Tempore Secretary

Mr. Chief of the Department of Santa Cruz de la Sierra,

Mr. Major of Santa Cruz

Dear delegates

I am honored to have the opportunity to lead such an important meeting in the pleasant city of Santa Cruz in which we will hold a fruitful exchange of ideas regarding the present and future of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), under special circumstances which give rise to a new historic stage of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. I express my hope that the creation of the Permanent Secretariat and the establishment of this new organization will ensure the protection and sustainable development of this vast reservoir of resources, in particular the most valuable of all: the human person.

Twenty-four years ago the republics of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela agreed to promote the harmonious development of the Amazon Region. The eight countries party were aware of the importance of raising the standard of living of their people, achieving the full incorporation of their Amazonian territories to the national economy and protecting the fragility and vulnerability of this ecosystem. That is the moment when the Amazon Cooperation Treaty emerged as an ideal instrument for the multilateral international cooperation in the effort to preserve and develop – in a sustainable way – the Amazon Basin. This is a region that comprehends an intricate exuberance, the biggest lung of the humanity, and home of a large number of indigenous cultures of native America that nowadays survive from the assaults committed by our ancestors.

I congratulate you on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Government of Bolivia and to the Pro Tempore Secretariat for the commendable work carried out in this two years of intensive management, which has contributed significantly to consolidate an important process for cooperation in the various areas covered by the Treaty. The results of this management show the liability assumed in such a delicate task, giving continuity to the excellence demonstrated by other Governments that preceded it in the exercise of the Secretariat.

My delegation welcomes the report submitted by the Secretariat Pro Tempore for the period 2000-2002, whose content highlights the process of institutionalization of the new organization, the intense work carried out in the Special Commissions and give us a glimpse of the commitments and challenges that must assume the new organization in the immediate future.

We recognize the dedication and the decisive impetus given to the Protocol of Amendment to the Treaty, which entered into force a few months ago, and gave rise to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) as a result of the strong political will of States Parties.

This meeting is useful to reevaluate the role to be played from now on by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization as a strategic tool in the service of the Countries Party. Hereafter the urgent need to increase its influence as a regional body in the articulation of the positions and in the design of joint actions at the regional and international levels, primarily in the areas of biodiversity, climate change, combat desertification and development of indigenous communities.

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, with legal personality, requires a renewed commitment of its members to meet the challenges of the complex reality of the Amazon Region. This will increase levels of interaction of the Treaty with other regional and international organizations and will offer the possibility of obtaining new opportunities in the field of cooperation and technology transfer, creating the most appropriate conditions to accelerate the environmental, economic and social development of the region. Through the new Permanent Secretariat the intergovernmental coordination within the framework of the Treaty may be reinforced and its presence enabled within the regional sustainable development.

In the field of health it should be enhanced the initiative of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of Bolivia having reactivated the Special Committee of the Amazon Region on Health (CESAM), and convened the 5th Ordinary Meeting held in the city of La Paz, Bolivia, in 2001. This meeting had as result several regional actions to combat malaria in a geographic area, particularly vulnerable, by the continued presence of outbreaks, and the project of network for the epidemiological surveillance in the Amazon region.

In this regard, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela when referring to their constitutional text to social rights, expressed the following:

“Article 83: Health is a fundamental social right and the responsibility of the State, which shall guarantee it as part of the right to life. The State shall promote and develop policies oriented toward improving the quality of life, common welfare and access to services. All persons have the right to protection of health, as well as the duty to participate actively in the furtherance and protection of the same, and to comply with such health and hygiene measures as may be established by law, and in accordance with international conventions and treaties signed and ratified by the Republic. At the same time, Venezuela attached to its conservationist tradition, supports the Tarapoto Process as an instrument that will be the scope of our Organization in the many and varied activities linked to the sustainable forest development. This process will contribute to characterize the dimensions environmental, economic, social and cultural of sustainable forest management and will allow you to evaluate the situation and trends in quantitative and qualitative attributes of the Amazon forests and their management”.

Venezuela believes that validation of the Criteria and Indicators of the Amazonian Forest will help to improve the systems of forest management and assessment and will facilitate the control of the sustainable management of forests in order to preserve biodiversity in terms of health, vitality and productivity. It will also strength environmental statistics within the context of the international commitments made by the Countries Party.

Is necessary the outreach and promotion – among the Countries Party to the Treaty – of the results of the process of validation of the criteria and indicators, in order to contribute to the design and implementation of national forest policies, promoting the sustainability of the Amazon rainforest. Considering the increasing deforestation and degradation of our forests, a concern shared by the Member States, the application of criteria and indicators as a tool to achieve this aim, will help to adjust and improve forest management practices and promote the development of a forest heritage healthier and more productive to meet economic, environmental, social and cultural needs, in accordance with national policies, institutional frameworks and the financial possibilities.

With the creation of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the establishment of its Permanent Secretariat strengthens the process under the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, and ensures the stability and efficiency in the development of technical cooperation activities of the Amazon Region, in the making of one of the greatest aspirations of the Treaty, which is the establishment of a multimodal transport infrastructure, through the Amazon, which include the

opening of aerial networks to communicate efficiently the region. This also requires a search for international financing, coordination with other treaties, forums or integration initiatives, that contemplate the issue of infrastructure, transport and communications.

In the growing process of economic globalization and the international trend toward the maximization of the cultural and political interactions between societies highly influenced by the scientific and technological development, the Member Countries to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty have in their policies on science and technology an effective instrument to achieve the insertion in successful processes in terms of their own development and the welfare of their peoples. In this sense, we must make efforts for the purposes of fostering innovation and massification of knowledge with the aim of contributing to the economic growth and achieving higher levels of life quality for our countries.

In this context, human capital preparation is vital and crucial. It is also important the stimulus to economic growth and sustainable and equitable development, which is why we must encourage and strengthen the commitment to broaden and deepen the spaces of cooperation in science and technology among our countries, both in the public sector, as in the private sector, within the frame of the political, social and economic challenges that implies.

It is necessary to implement short-term recommendations emanating from this meeting, in order to crystallize policies, strategies and projects aimed at creating a multiplier effect in the socio-economic development and create new sources of employment that have as aim to increase the competitiveness in our countries through the sustainable use of biological diversity and the development of the economy based on information and communications technologies.

Finally it is important to emphasize that the Government of President Hugo Chavez Frias has reiterated its highest interest in the Amazon face, and hopes to continue pushing decisive and enthusiastically the activities, projects and programs that ensure the right of individual and collective human beings to enjoy a safe environment, healthy and ecologically balanced, as it is set in our Constitution: "Article 127: It is the right and duty of each generation to protect and maintain the environment for its own benefit and that of the world of the future. Everyone has the right, individually and collectively, to enjoy a safe, healthful and ecologically balanced life and environment. The State shall protect the environment, biological and genetic diversity, ecological processes, national parks and natural monuments, and other areas of particular ecological importance. The genome of a living being shall not be patentable, and the field shall be regulated by the law relating to the principles of bioethics. It is a fundamental duty of the State, with the active participation of society, to ensure that the populace develops in a pollution-free environment in which air, water, soil, coasts, climate, the ozone layer and living species receive special protection, in accordance with law.

Thank you very much.

SPEECH OF THE PRO TEMPORE SECRETARY OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY, MR. SERGIO SANCHEZ BALLIVIÁN, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ACTO

Santa Cruz – Bolivia, 22nd, November 2002

The ministerial meeting that brings us here today, has a particularly symbolism because it closes a long phase of exercise of the Pro Tempore Secretariat and establishes, in the Brazilian capital, the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

This institutional change, made after almost a quarter of a century of cogency of the Treaty, is a fact of special relevance and a significant incentive to the strengthening of this instrument of articulation and consultation of the Amazonian countries to effect consensual policies for the sustainable development of the Amazon territories and joint action in multilateral environmental forums in important matters such as those relating to biodiversity and biotechnology, climate change, forests, water resources, desertification, toxic wastes, indigenous communities, financial resources, technology transfer, to mention a few.

The challenges we must face in this new stage, makes us participate in the common effort to carry out the commitment to deepen regional cooperation.

The effective transformation of the Treaty into an international organization with legal personality, gives the necessary vitality and the strength to work as a catalyst body for the initiatives of its member states, in order to move forward in the treatment and search for solutions to common problems in the Amazon Region, and from a broader perspective, in the south American integration process.

The effective installation of the Permanent Secretariat is an historic step that inspires in us a legitimate pride because the strengthening of the Treaty reaffirms our international presence and projects a renewed foreign policy of our countries.

Finally, I hope the successful outcome of this important meeting, where the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and his special representatives, shall establish guidelines for the management of our new organization.

SPEECH OF MR. CHANCELLOR OF THE REPUBLIC, LIC. CARLOS SAAVEDRA BRUNO, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, November 22nd, 2002

Many times, especially outside of our borders, Bolivia is identified as an Andean country.

The Andean roots are the heritage of all Bolivians. A heritage of which we are proud and that we respect and admire.

However, the reality is that Bolivia is a mainly Amazon country.

Of the more than one million one hundred thousand square kilometers of its territory, 724,000 belong to the Amazon area, which covers almost 70% of our national area. We are one of the eight nations that make up this basin, the third country with the largest presence in the Amazon region, surpassed only by Brazil and Peru.

This deep Amazon characteristic that our country has, allows us to understand the pride and the responsibility that this means.

Pride, because nature has given us an extraordinary gift. I could not, not in a thousand speeches, have sufficient eloquence to explain in words the beauty and majesty that the living forests, jungles, rivers, meanders and mangroves of the Amazon region.

I know that we do not need to do so, because we are in the Department of Santa Cruz which is, by nature and by vocation, deeply Amazon, and whose capital city, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, has in its landscape and its people, much of this beauty and spirit, at the same time bucolic and booming.

However, being part of the Amazon region involves, in addition, a great responsibility, because, the Amazon is – above all – an economic, environmental and cultural reserve of incalculable richness. This is a reserve from which we, the countries of the region, are responsible to the eyes of our peoples and also to the rest of the world.

I can't fail to mention that it is the largest river basin of the world and that saves 20% of the world's freshwater resources, as well as more than half of the biological diversity of the planet. Not in vain it is one of the last natural lungs of humanity.

In the lower part of the Amazon region inhabit 22 million people, of whom 1 million are culturally native, heirs of valuable knowledge and deep-rooted on its region, and deserves our respect and the most resolute attention from all of us.

Therefore, we sincerely believe that the Amazon Cooperation Council is a valuable tool to achieve a proper management of this region.

Management that involves a sustainable use of its wealth that allows us, within the frame of preservation and respect for the environment, make progress in improving the standard of living of the men and women of the entire region.

Hence, it is for us a huge satisfaction to celebrate in Bolivia the VII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. This is a meeting that puts an end to a complex but fruitful and successful chairmanship of the Bolivian Secretariat Pro Tempore.

Now, that the Amazon Cooperation Treaty begins to write a new and crucial stage with its Permanent Secretariat, we are proud that our country has been able to be scenario of the beginning of this new history of greater institutionalization and greater progress in our sub-regional integration.

All this would not have been possible without the work, without the will and without the effort of all of you. Thanks to all of you for being here and feel very welcome to Bolivia and welcome to Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Welcome to this country and this Amazon city.

I declare opened the VII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

Thank you very much.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

VII MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE SIGNATORY STATES OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION TREATY

RES/VII MRE-TCA/1

VII MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE SIGNATORY STATES OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

The physical installation of the Permanent Secretariat for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization in Brasilia requires the prior compliance of the legal and administrative formalities before the Brazilian Government following the signing of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

To request the Government of Brazil to temporarily support the General Secretary of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization in the measures that would facilitate the installations of the Permanent Secretariat in Brasilia.

Undersigned in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on this twenty-second day of November of 2002.

RES/VII MRE-TCA/2

VII MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE SIGNATORY STATES OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

The Resolution RES/VI MRE-TCA/5 from the VI Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty held in Caracas in April 2000, by means of the instructions thereof the Pro Tempore Secretariat was transferred from the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Government of Bolivia, until such times as the Permanent Secretariat commences its operations.

The charge assigned by the Member Nations to the Pro Tempore Secretariat was to continue the progress with the measures tending towards the streamlining of the process of establishment the Permanent Secretariat for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

With the deposit of the last Instrument of Ratification for the Protocol of Amendment to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, this past August 2, 2002, all the Countries Party thereto have complied with the internal constitutional requisites for establishment the Permanent Secretariat for the ACTO.

The performance of the Pro Tempore Secretariat based in the city of La Paz, Bolivia from August 2000 to November 2002;
The presentation of Final Report 2000-2002 by the Pro Tempore Secretariat:

DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

To manifest its deepest appreciation to the Government of Bolivia in the exercise as the Pro Tempore Secretariat, under the charge of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, during whose term can be highlighted the excellent work undertaken for the definitive establishment of the Permanent Secretariat for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

To congratulate and thank the Minister Sergio Sánchez Ballivián, the Pro Tempore Secretariat, and the team of officers of the Secretariat, for the active, dedicated, and efficient service demonstrated in the execution of the institutional activities as Secretariat, and, especially, for the satisfactory task of the institutional strengthening of the Treaty.

To unanimously approve the Final Report by the Pro Tempore Secretariat.

Undersigned in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on this twenty-second day of November of 2002.

RES/VII MRE-TCA/3

VII MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE SIGNATORY STATES OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

The Resolution from the VI Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (RES/VI MRE-TCA/5) held in Caracas in April 2000, which highlights the importance of carrying out the ten-year review for the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED), with the aim of identifying the progress and challenges in order to achieve full attainment of the objectives established in the documents approved at the Rio 92 Conference.

The articulation and coordination that the Amazon Nations have been undertaking at the forums for Ministers of the Environment prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Rio + 10, in September 2002.

The signing of the Declarations of the Amazon Nations at the time of the Preparatory Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, on June 5, 2002, prior to World Summit in Johannesburg.

DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

To reaffirm the relevance of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty as an instrument of cooperation and coordination of the position amongst the Amazon nations in regional and multilateral forums.

To recall the international consensus that is reflected in the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, with regards to the need of assuring foreign financial assistance towards the initiatives that facilitate sustainable development in the countries.

Undersigned in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on this twenty-second day of November of 2002.

VII MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE SIGNATORY STATES OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

The resolution RES/V MRE-TCA/1 adopted on occasion of the V Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (Lima, December 4-5, 1995), create the Permanent Secretariat for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization with headquartered in Brasilia.

The VIII Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Permanent Secretariat held in Brasilia on July 17-18, 2002 approved the text of the Headquarters Agreement between the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

It is necessary to have an instrument guarantees the necessary conditions for the full performance of the duties of the Permanent Secretariat and the establishes the relationship between the ACTO and the headquarter country;

DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

To adopt the Headquarters Agreement between the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

Undersigned in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on this twenty-second day of November of 2002.

VII MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE SIGNATORY STATES OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

The resolution RES/V MRE-TCA/1 adopted on occasion of the V Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (Lima, December 4-5, 1995), create the Permanent Secretariat for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization with headquartered in Brasilia.

The VIII Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Permanent Secretariat held in Brasilia on July 17-18, 2002 approved the text of the Personnel Regulations for the Permanent Secretariat.

DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

To Adopt the Personnel Regulations for the Permanent Secretariat.

Undersigned in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on this twenty-second day of November of 2002.

VII MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE SIGNATORY STATES OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

The Commitments adopted in the Declaration of the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia on December 7, 1996, to the effect of adopting policies and strategies that encourage changes in the patterns of production and consumption so as to achieve sustainable development and a better standard of living, as well as preserving the environment and contributing towards overcoming poverty.

The putting into practice of the Plan for Implementing Agenda 21 Adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

To welcome the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Bolivia to hold a Western Hemisphere Meeting on Sustainable Development, in Bolivia, in 2005, in order to deepen and undertake national strategies with regards to sustainable development and put into practice the Plan for Implementing Agenda 21, adopted at the Rio de Janeiro World Summit on Sustainable Development 1992.

Undersigned in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on this twenty-second day of November of 2002.

VII MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE SIGNATORY STATES OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

The Lima Declaration, dated December 5, 1995, wherein it is decided to move towards the adoption of a document with a regional character regarding the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable in the Amazon Forest, and the fulfillment given thereto following a broadly participative process.

The Caracas Declaration, date April 6, 2000, wherein the Countries Party thereto express their satisfaction at having culminated the Process of National Consultations for the adoption of the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability and at having held the II Regional Meeting on the matter.

The Governments of the Countries Party to the ACT, at the II Regional Meeting on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of the Amazon Forest (Tarapoto II), agreed to start the "Tarapoto Process" and, in that context, they suggested that the Pro Tempore Secretariat proceeded with the identification of mechanisms and procedures that would permit the prioritized validation of the selected indicators.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat had submitted for consideration by the Countries Party to the TCA, a proposal for a Regional Project, "Validation of 15 Prioritized Indicators for Sustainability of the Amazon Forest".

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNESCO) had entrusted the United Nations Forestry Forum (UNFF) with the monitoring and assessment of the progress of the forest at the national, regional, and worldwide levels.

DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

To formally start the Tarapoto Process.

To approve the Regional Project, "Validation of 15 Prioritized Indicators for Sustainability of the Amazon Forest" prepared by the Pro Tempore Secretariat for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

To recommend that the Permanent Secretariat for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO), undertake measures before third party nations, international organizations or NGO'S tending to identify financial and technical resources for the undertaking of the aforementioned Project.

To formally communicate in the Forum of the United Nations the commencement of the Tarapoto Process and entrust the PS/ACTO with the periodic information to said Forum regarding the evolution of said process.

Undersigned in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on this twenty-second day of November of 2002.

RES/MII MRE-TCA/8

VII MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE SIGNATORY STATES OF THE AMAZONIAN COOPERATION TREATY

WHEREAS:

Point II in the Protocol for Amendment of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, signed in Caracas, Venezuela on December 14, 1998, which modifies Article XXII of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, creates the Permanent Secretariat for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

The Final Report of the VIII Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Permanent Secretariat for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, held in Brasilia, Brazil, on July 17-18, 2002 in whose Point 3 "Approval of the Draft Agenda", and sub-point 4.6 "Structure of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and its Permanent Secretariat", where the delegates analyzed the Organization Chart of the new ACTO institutional structure.

DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

Adopted the project of the Organization chart of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

Undersigned in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on this twenty-second day of November of 2002.

FINAL MINUTES

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

In the City of Manaus, Brazil, on the 14th of September of 2004, the VIII Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Country Members of the Amazon Treaty Cooperation Organization took place.

The Delegations were comprised by: Gustavo Pedraza, Minister of Sustainable Development of Bolivia; Ambassador Celso Amorim, Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil; Ambassador Jaime Girón Duarte, Vice Minister for Political Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia; Ambassador Patricio Zuquilanda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador; Ambassador, Samuel Rudolph Insannally, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Ambassador Manuel Rodríguez Cuadros, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru; Ambassador Maria Elizabeth Levens, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname; Ambassador Jesús Arnaldo Pérez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela; as well as the General Secretary Rosalía Arteaga, Executive Director Francisco Ruiz, Administrative Director, Marco Afonso Pontes de Souza, and Enrique Elias Coordinator on Environmental Affairs of the ACTO. The list of participants is included as Annex I.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

His Excellency Ambassador Celso Amorim, Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil as Delegate of the host country, opened the floor and welcomed the Chancellors and Representatives of the States Members to the ACTO, complimenting the work made by the General Secretary within the lapse of four months, stressing her achievements. The approved Agenda for the meeting is included in Annex II.

Next, Ambassador Amorim granted the floor to the General Secretary to the ACTO, who greeted and welcomed the honorable Ministers and Delegations of the Country Members and made reference to the tasks undertaken within her tenure of the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO from May to September 2004.

Both speeches of the Ambassador Celso Amorim as well as of Rosalía Arteaga's one, can be found in Annex III.

As stipulated in the legal framework, the Delegate of Brazil, Ambassador Macedo Soares, who acted as President of the XII Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, proceeded to present the Report and Minute of the referred Meeting. Both documents are enclosed in Annex IV.

The Chairperson granted the word to the General Secretary of the ACTO, who set forth for consideration before the Distinguished Delegations, the Management Report of the PS/ACTO during its four months of management which was approved. The referred document is presented as Annex V in the present Minute.

DIALOGUE AMONG THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS TO THE ACTO

At this point of the Agenda Chancellor Celso Amorim, stated the next themes:

- The Possibility to invite Observers to the meetings of the ACTO Chancellors; and
- To execute Sectorial Meetings, specifically in areas such as Science and Technology, Environment, Security and Trade affairs.

The Head of the Peruvian Delegation, agreed on the aforementioned points established by the Chancellor of Brazil, since they are in accordance to the points set forth in the Strategic Plan of the Organization.

Advancing in the theme of inviting possible observers to the meetings of the ACTO instances, the government of France was proposed as a possible observer as well as other governments which will enable the decision making processes, correlate to the global agenda on sustainable development. Furthermore, it was proposed that the Chancellors reunite on an annual basis meeting, which would improve the process of decision making and dialogue in the discussion of the main areas of the Strategic Plan, in which it should be elevated for approval by the Chancellors and must benefit local Amazon populations.

The Delegations approved to undertake five Ministerial Meetings and a technical one, which could be undertaken with the Ministers in Charge of the issues of commerce, social development, science and technology, and the national ministers for Security and Defense issues. The technical meeting will be on intellectual property, whose framework must correspond to the Strategic Plan.

In this context the Chancellor of Peru established that the meetings for Chancellors should be carried out annually and, in this sense, extended an invitation of his Government for carrying out the next meeting Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the ACTO, in the City of Iquitos, Peru, during the month of September 2005. The delegations agreed to this invitation. The exact date for the event will be coordinated by the PS/ACTO and the other Country Members opportunely, using diplomatic channels.

The Chancellor Celso Amorim, retook the floor and contributed to the theme of the participation of countries and other organizations as observers to ACTO meetings. In these sense, the delegate of Colombia took the floor, and after expressing his gratitude to the government of Brazil for the warm welcome in the City of Manaus, and presented the greeting of the Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs, extended his congratulations to the General Secretary and the ACTO staff that supports her, in her important and efficient task. With regards to the theme of the observers, he established that this would support the Organization in following two aspects:

- International Recognition of the Amazon Region and its potentialities;
- Configuration of the Organization as a valid regional interlocutor before the international community, especially among organizations and cooperative resources that will facilitate the execution of projects that strengthen the Organization.

The Chancellor of Suriname expressed his gratitude to the government of Brazil for the warm welcome in the City of Manaus, and to also congratulated the PS/ACTO. Before that, the Chancellor of Suriname stressed that her Government considers the SIVAN/SIPAM initiative as an important tool to protect the Amazon region as a whole. She valorized the willingness of Brazil in sharing information with the other Country Members with the use of the aforementioned tool, yet proposed to discuss the SIPAM mechanism within the framework of a broader perspective as a sub regional initiative.

In relation to the contribution of the government of Suriname to the budget of ACTO, she informed that it would be paid in a month or before.

The delegate of Bolivia agreed with the proposals made by Brazil and Peru to invite as observers of the mechanisms of the Treaty, but that those invitations must consider some parameters, since these are to be incorporated to the technical meetings. He highlighted the importance of including local governments as active parts in the regional development process within the activities of the Treaty.

The Chancellor Zuquilanda, in his turn, highlighted that his country's government made the best selection when presenting Dr. Rosalía Arteaga, as their candidate for General Secretary to the ACTO, and congratulated the other governments for their selection.

The Chancellor of Ecuador also stressed that the answer to the initiative to invite observers to the meetings of the Treaty, should be aimed to exercise sovereign activities in the Amazon region, and in such a way, support the incorporation of observers, but emphasized that it is important to avoid bureaucracy and that the observers must be selected respecting a series of criteria, as for example, direct involvement to satisfy the interests of the Organization, which will enable an efficient implementation of rational use of natural resources of the Amazon region.

The Chancellor of Venezuela greeted the government of Brazil, and congratulated the work of the PS/ACTO, and expressed that he agrees with the initiative of the observers with reference to the sectorial meetings and established that it is important to incorporate the themes of Environment and Education which are directed affiliated to the themes of study.

The Ministers in that sense, agreed on the sectorial meetings are carried out every two months and that each country, if needed, proposes a headquarters to carry them out.

The Chancellors have also suggested holding a Summit Meeting of the Presidents of the Amazon Countries.

Chancellor Amorim suggested that the Organization should establish an Ad Hco Working Group on the study of responsible and sustainable use of the resource "water".

The General Secretariat emphasized the relevant work performed by the Organization, through the prompt implementation of GEF project "Integrated and Sustainable Management of Water Resources of the Amazon Basin", and that coincidentally, informed about an invitation of the Brazilian Regulatory Agency on Waters (ANA), to visit the place where the Rio Negro and Rio Solimões meet.

Following the agenda, the delegations agreed on approving the Resolution whereby the Strategic Plan of the Organization is approved.

The Chancellor of Venezuela requested to record in the Minute:

"Due to constitutional provisions concerning the participation of Indigenous peoples in the decisions involving their vital environment, Venezuela signs the Strategic Plan WITH RESTRICTION" (this paragraph is recorded as a footnote to item 6 of the Declaration of Manaus and the Resolution whereby the Strategic Plan is approved).

That resolution is compliant to its constitution that demands a broader mechanism of consultation previously to the approval.

Thus, the paragraph of the Resolution whereby it is established the provision that the Strategic Plan is an open document that allows official modifications and contributions and, in the specific case of Venezuela, it will be recorded that the document is signed with restriction of its Government, strictly due to constitutional requirements of the country.

Following, the delegations read and approved the draft Declaration of Manaus and its corresponding Resolutions, attached hereto as Annex VI.

DATE AND SITE OF THE IX MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Government of Peru offered the city of Iquitos to host the next Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the State Members of ACTO, in September 2005, and the date will be dully informed through the pertinent channels.

SIGNING OF THE MINUTE OF THE VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ITS CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The Chairperson to the Meeting preceded the final reading of the Minute and the corresponding Resolutions to be signed by the Chancellors.

CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE MEETING

The Speech of Closing was made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru, Ambassador Manuel Rodriguez Cuadros, as the Head of Delegation of the next host country of IX Meeting Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the State Members to the Amazon Treaty Cooperation Organization.

CONSIDERATION, APPROVAL AND SUBSCRIPTION OF THE MINUTE VIII MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE COUNTRY MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

The Delegates revised the Draft Minute and decided to subscribe it.

ENDING OF THE MEETING

Before closing the meeting, Chancellor Celson Amorim, granted the Government of Amazonas and the SUFRAMA for their important contributions and support that allowed achieved the results of this meeting. He also congratulated the efficient work carried out by the PS/ACTO.

On Behalf of the Republic of Bolivia

On Behalf of the Republic of Colombia

On Behalf of Cooperative Republic of Guyana

On Behalf of 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 Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

DECLARATION OF MANAUS

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, gathered in the city of Manaus, on 14 September 2004, during the 8th Meeting of Chancellors of the States Members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

1. **REAFFIRM** the crucial relevance of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) as the major tool for carrying out harmonious policies of Sustainable and Integral Development in the Amazon Region, to the benefit of their respective populations;
2. **REAFFIRM** the sovereign responsibility of the States Members of the ACTO in relation to the sustainable development of the Amazonian region;
3. **REITERATE** the determination of the States Members of the OTCA to reaffirm the total exercise of its sovereignty on the Amazon resources in order to promote the economic and social development of the region and the protection of its cultural and environmental patrimony, to the benefit of its respective populations;
4. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the fact that the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), established to ensure the required institutional support to the cooperation activities among the States Members, has reached an effective operational level, capable of energizing the activities related to the different fields of work of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;
5. **EMPHASIZE** that this meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO States Members is the first ministerial meeting of their Governments after the establishment of the Organization and the installation of its Secretariat in Brasilia, which institutionalized the Treaty as a mechanism fully capable of promoting effective cooperation among the States Members;
6. **RECOGNIZE** the approval, in this 8th Meeting of Chancellors of ACTO States Members, of the Strategic Plan for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, which defines the Strategic Axes of Action, the Programmatic Areas, and Operational Tools for guiding the activities of the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO from 2004 throughout 2012¹;
7. **REAFFIRM** their willingness to coordinate joint positions on issues of common interest in the several fields comprised by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, aiming to promote greater political agreement in international forums, promoting the Sustainable and Integral Development of the Amazon region;
8. **DECIDE**, furthermore, to intensify the political dialogue on issues of shared interest to the States Members, including the pursuit of mechanisms to guarantee the security and integral defense of the Amazon region.
9. **EMPHASIZE**, within that framework, the potential of cooperation among the States Members, based on remote data sensing systems such as the *Sistema de Vigilância da Amazônia (SIVAM)* and the *Sistema de Proteção da Amazônia (SIPAM)*; and, have the pleasure of welcoming the bilateral actions underway between Brazil and the other States Members aimed at establishing the adequate conditions of access to the information provided by those systems;

¹ Refer to the Minute of the VIII Chancellor Meeting, entered a reservation by the Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela because of constitutional reasons.

10. **DECIDE** to promote thematic ministerial meetings in order to advance in the political interlocution on specific topics of interest to the States Members of ACTO. In this sense, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs signaled that areas of common interest lied in themes such as Defense and Internal Security of the Amazon, Social Development, Physical Integration and Infrastructure, Trade and Commercial Integration, Science and Technology, Biodiversity and Intellectual Property.
11. **EMPHASIZE** their conviction that cooperation and integration among the Amazon countries will positively contribute to the gradual establishment of a South American Community of Nations;
12. **STRESS** that the formation of a space of political and economic integration in South America, must be built on the bases of the existing mechanisms of cooperation, and in that sense **EMPHASIZE** the importance of strengthening contact channels with ACTO, MERCOSUR, Andean Community, CARICOM, ALADI, the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee to the countries of La Plata River Basin, among others;
13. **STRESS** the importance of the free trade agreements concluded in the region, and **MANIFEST** their expectation of achieving results in the short term through the generation of additional trade flows among the countries of the region, including Amazonian products;
14. **AFFIRM** their determination to promote actions oriented to obtain fair conditions of access to the markets of other countries, for products of export interest to the Amazonian region;
15. **DECIDE** to promote mechanisms to promote a greater flow of investments, goods and services among the countries of the region, especially concerning financing for structural works required to build the physical interconnection; and **STRESS** the relevant role played by institutions such as the Andean Development Corporation – CAF, and the Brazilian Bank of Economic and Social Development – BNDES;
16. **AGREE** on the need for promoting scientific research, knowledge generation, technological development and capacity-building in the field of human resources, aimed at finding solutions to the economic, social, ecological, technological, educational and cultural issues of the Amazon;
17. **DECIDE** to start coordination activities aimed at convening next year a Scientific Congress of the Amazon;
18. **RATIFY** their commitment towards harmonizing policies to guarantee the protection of the biodiversity of the Amazon region; **RESTATE**, likewise, the need for implementing the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity concerning protection of the genetic heritage of Amazonian species and sharing of the benefits arising from its utilization;
19. **DECIDE** to promote the effective coordination of the competent national entities for fighting biopiracy and to guarantee the full exercise of the sovereign rights of the Amazon countries over the resources of their biodiversity;
20. **REAFFIRM** the relevance of the traditional knowledge of the Amazon populations on biodiversity resources, and the need to promote mechanisms that guarantee, in both domestic and international areas, the fair and balanced participation in the economic benefits arising from the sustainable commercial use of that knowledge and from natural resources, among others;
21. **EXPRESS** their willingness to execute adequate policies on protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous communities, the ethnic, social and cultural values of which represent a crucial component of the national identity of the Amazon countries;
22. **REITERATE** the firm purpose of mitigating the illegal harvesting and trade of timber, and of promoting, through active cooperation, the valuation and sustainable use of the Amazon natural resources;

23. **AGREE** on the benefits of promoting channels of communication and dialogue at the United Nations Forum on Forests, aimed at the effective participation of the Amazon countries;
24. **COMMEND**, in that context, the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization – ACTO to promote dialogue and harmonization among the State Members in their participation in the United Nations Forum on Forests, additionally to expand the space for working on forestry issues with the Andean Community of Nations;
25. **DECIDE** to expand regional cooperation and exchange of experiences concerning the management of protected areas and environmental conservation in the Amazon region;
26. **EXPRESS** the decision to strengthen cooperation in relation to the due management of water resources in the Amazon region; and **DECIDE** for this objective to create a special work group that examines the different aspects of rational use and sovereign use of these hydro resources in the Amazon, considering the non renewable and economic essence of the resource;
27. **STRESS** the relevance of Boundary Cooperation, in all thematic fields comprised by the Treaty, and undertake to strengthen this modality of cooperation in the programs and projects developed by ACTO; and note, within that context, their shared interest in intensifying cooperation in the fields of Social Infrastructure, Education and Health, Infrastructure of Transportation, Fluvial Navigation, Power and Communications, Water, Forests, Soils and Protected Natural Areas, Biological Diversity, Biotechnology and Biotrade, Territorial Organization, Human Settlements and Indigenous Affairs, Trade Facilitation, Sustainable and Integral Use of the Amazon Ecosystems; and, Recovery of Degraded Areas and Implementation of Social Programs;
28. **RECOGNIZE** the relevance of the Initiative on the South American Regional Infrastructure Integration (IIRSA), in promoting the Physical Integration of the Continent, in the fields of Transportation, Power and Telecommunication, and stress the urgent need of advancing the prompt implementation of priority projects, based on the Integration Axes and the existing portfolio of projects;
29. **DECIDE** to reinstate actions towards the formulation of Amazon legislation on fluvial navigation, as a crucial factor for achieving the objectives of IIRSA initiative.
30. **DECIDE** to commend to the Permanent Secretariat the survey and application of alternative technologies of transportation, which allow the exchange of goods and services between the inland regions of the Amazon and among them, in terms of transportation security, environmental preservation and resources savings;
31. **REAFFIRM** ACTO commitment towards supporting the establishment of an Amazonian Program on Biotrade.
32. **REITERATE** the need for building up mechanisms of incentives for regional and external investment in the fields of Tourism and Eco-tourism and, simultaneously, for sponsoring activities to disseminate, among other countries, the potential of these activities in the Amazon Region;
33. **DECIDE** to analyze the potential establishment of an institutional tool for raising funds for the sustainable and integral development of the Amazon region, including a survey on mechanisms that allow for the due remuneration for the environmental services generated in the Amazon region;
34. **DECIDE** to analyze the possibility of creating an “ACTO Award”, aimed to promote projects and initiatives for the development and better understanding of the value and potential of the Amazon, and of organizing an “Amazon youth expedition”;
35. **GREET** the accomplishment in Manaus, from September 15 to 18 of this year, of the II International Amazon Fair – FIAM – and the participation of the States Members; it is an event of commercial, cultural and academic promotion,

which should encourage exchange among the States Members, and disseminate the work of the organization towards the integration and development of these countries, and RECOGNIZE the relevance of executing the Seminar on “Regional Cooperation and Economic Integration in the Amazon” to be held within the scope of the II FIAM.

36. DECIDE to consider mechanisms to effectively incorporate the civil society of the Amazon countries into the process of generating policies and implementing the plans and programs set forth in the Strategic Plan of the Organization; where such participation is considered crucial to the successful work of ACTO, to the authentic benefit of the Amazon populations.

37. WELCOME the Secretary-General of ACTO, Dr. Rosalía Arteaga and express their recognition for her excellent work as head of the Organization, as evidenced by the exhaustive Management Report submitted to this 8th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO States Members;

38. EXPRESS deepest sympathy to those suffering the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Ivan in its passage through the Caribbean Sea, and to the families of the victims of that natural disaster. They also express their solidarity with the reconstruction efforts of the affected countries;

39. DECIDE to guide the Coordination Council Commission of Amazon Cooperation – CCOOR – in order for the CCOOR and the Permanent Secretariat cooperate jointly to create proposals on criteria for potential participation of Observers in future ACTO meetings.

40. EMBRACE with satisfaction the offer of the Republic of Peru to host the IX Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Country Members of the ACTO, to be realized in the city of Iquitos, Peru, in September of 2005.

41. DECIDE to elevate, under the consideration on behalf of the Presidents of the Country Members of the ACTO, the suggestion that a ACTO Presidential Summit take place in the early months of the year 2006, and take note on the offer on behalf of republic of Ecuador to host this meeting;

42. CONVEY to the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil the gratitude for the hospitality of the city of Manaus, as well as their sincere appreciation for the outstanding organization of the 8th Meeting of the Amazon Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

In witness whereof, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization gathered in the City of Manaus, on the fourteenth day of the month of September of the year two thousand and four, decide to sign this Declaration of Manaus.

On behalf of the Republic of Bolivia, Ministry of Sustainable Development

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

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/1

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

AWARE that the creation of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the establishment of its Permanent Secretariat in Brasilia signify an historic juncture and represent one of the most important turning point in the institutional life of the Treaty, as an instrument of regional cooperation and integration of the Amazon countries, in compliance with the mandates of the Governments of the Member Countries to ACTO;

HIGHLIGHTS the fact that this VIII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries to ACTO is the first Ministerial meeting of their Governments, after the creation of the Organization and of the effective installation of the Permanent Secretariat, as a fully trained mechanism to promote operative cooperation between the Member Countries, including the acquisition of external resources of technical and financial nature;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that ACTO was created for the purpose of ensuring the financial and institutional support which is necessary to carry out the activities of cooperation among its Member Countries;

RESOLVES:

TO REAFFIRM the commitment and political support from the Governments to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, recognizing its undeniable and vitally important, as an instrument of concertation and implementation of sustainable and integral development policies for the Amazon, a region that hosts the greatest biodiversity of the planet;

TO URGE the timely payment of contributions from their governments for the budget of the Organization, which will contribute to the proper functioning of the ACTO's Permanent Secretariat o and the fulfillment of the mandates of the instances of the Treaty, as well as of actions relating to the implementation of the programs and projects agreed between the Parties;

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, on this fourteenth day of the month of September, two thousand and four.

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING the initiative of the Permanent Secretariat to provide to the OTCA of a Strategic Plan, conceived as a consensus document of the national policies of the Member Countries for achieving the sustainable and integral development of the Amazon region and a navigation chart for the next few years, so as to ensure its political, technical and financial feasibility;

RECOGNIZING the Strategic Plan of the Organization as an instrument with a long-term vision that will guide the actions of its Permanent Secretariat in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of projects, programs and initiatives which must be viable within a regional in scope, by maintaining the practice of dialog and consultation among the Member Countries, as the main way towards the purposes of the Organization; civil society and researchers, discussed and enriched with their contributions the provisional text of the Strategic Plan of the OTCA;

ACKNOWLEDGING with satisfaction the successful outcome of the First International Meeting of the Permanent National Commissions of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, held in Brasilia on 1 and 2 July 2004, framework within which the representatives of the Member Countries and the most important actors involved in the problematic of the Amazon international agencies, civil society, researchers discussed and enriched by their contributions the provisional text of the Strategic Plan of the OTCA;

Having reviewed the Twelfth Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council the consensus version of the Organization's Strategic Plan (2004-2012), prepared and presented by the Permanent Secretariat of the OTCA, that collects those contributions;

RESOLVES:

To approve the Strategic Plan of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization for the period 2004-2012, as a document open to continually update and inputs by the Member States.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

Recognizing the unanimous decision of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, to appoint Dr. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, from Ecuador, as Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, who assumed the functions of its mandate on 5 May 2004 and will exercise that function according to the relevant regulations;

RECOGNIZING the performance of the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO during the management of Dr. Arteaga, which highlights, among other achievements, the completion of the consultation process of the text of the Strategic Plan, which was approved by Member Countries;

Having reviewed the Management Report of the Permanent Secretariat, adopted by the Twelfth Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council and presented to the consideration of this VIII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries to ACTO;

RESOLVES:

To welcome the appointment of the Secretary-General of the OTCA, and to congratulate and acknowledge the excellence of the work carried out by Dr. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano as Secretary General, and to the staff of the Permanent Secretariat, under its commendable leadership;

To approve the Management Report of the Permanent Secretariat.

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

Resolution RES/VII MRE-TCA/07, which resolved to start the Process of Tarapoto, and approves the formulation of the Regional Project "Validation of 15 Priority Indicators for Amazon Forest Sustainability ", prepared by the Secretariat Pro Tempore of the TCA;

The recommendation made by of the VII Meeting of Ministers to the Permanent Secretariat of the OTCA, to perform representations among financial sources in order to achieve technical and financial resources for the execution of the referred project;

That to fulfill this mandate, the Permanent Secretariat has signed in Brasilia, on May 25th 2004, with the United Nation Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) the Technical Cooperation Project TCP/RLA/3007 "Validation of 15 Priority Indicators for Amazon Forest Sustainability ", with a contribution of 380,000 US dollars;

The importance of the technical and financial cooperation provided by FAO to the Treaty since 1990, which contributed to the strengthening of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, through the implementation of programs and projects and numerous support activities. This contribution still continues, and makes FAO one of its most important ally;

That in order to start the process of Tarapoto and comply with the schedule for the implementation of this regional project, the Permanent Secretariat conducted in Lima, Peru, on July 26th and 27th. 2004, the “First Workshop of Coordination and Programming”, with the participation of the National Coordinators of the Member Countries to ACTO, responsible for the forestry policies in their respective countries, as well as the representatives of FAO, from their headquarters in Rome and Santiago de Chile, and the Coordinator of the Special Commission on the Environment of the Permanent Secretariat;

The report prepared by the Permanent Secretariat on the Regional Workshop, which consists in the Management Report of the Permanent Secretariat;

RESOLVES:

Express gratitude and appreciation to the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) for the technical and financial resources given to ACTO, and that currently supports the kickoff of the Tarapoto Proposal and the full implementation of the aforementioned regional Project, as well as its support for any action aimed at strengthening ties between the two organizations, aiming at the benefit of the peoples in the Amazon, the improvement in their standard of living and the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Approve the report and provide the necessary support, both technical and political, to meet the objectives of the Regional Project;

SEND through diplomatic channels to the United Nations Forum on Forests, the above-mentioned report, and continue to report to the Forum on the evolution of the Tarapoto Process, as well as with the other processes that exist on the subject, like the Helsinki, Montreal and the ITTO Processes, among others;

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/5

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

That the current dynamics of the Global Agenda on Sustainable Development and globalization have initiated a natural convergence of proposals between the objectives of cooperation and integration of the Member Countries, leading to the gradual formation of a South American Community of Nations, as well as the establishment of alliances with international specialized agencies;

That the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and more recently, with the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), will help to strengthen the objectives postulated for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and the fulfillment of the mandates of their instances of consultation and coordination, as well as for greater uptake of extra-regional cooperation, both technical and financial;

That, the new political scenario of the Organization and its undeniable role as a forum of regional harmonization of regional policies requires a greater presence in all international environments that develop on matters of sustainable development;

RESOLVES:

TO INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat to initiate the appropriate processes to accredit the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, as an observer, before the international, regional and sub-regional organizations, like the Organization of American States (OAS) and other specialized agencies of the United Nations system;

TO INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat to continue exploring other possibilities for strategic alliances with other organizations for cooperation and integration.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/6

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

That the technical and financial cooperation given by the international agencies, governments and other cooperating entities, allows Member Countries to ACTO the OTCA, in general, and to the Permanent Secretariat, in particular, comply with the mandates of this regional mechanism for consultation and cooperation, as well as other instances who conform the structure of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, like the implementation of projects and relevant activities and vital need, within the framework of its objectives and for the benefit of all Member Countries;

That the Member Countries, during their meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Amazon Cooperation Council have repeatedly emphasized the importance of gathering these resources and have recognized the support provided by these sources of cooperation;

RESOLVES:

To express thankfulness to the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), to the German Cooperation Agency (GTZ), the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); and the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development of the French Government (CIRAD);

TO INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat continue exploring other possibilities for technical and financial cooperation.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRIES PARTY OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

The Management Report presented by the Permanent Secretariat to the Coordination Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCOOR), on the activities carried out in the period from December 2002, the date of its definitive establishment in Brasilia, and April 2004;

That during the above mentioned period began the process of construction of operational tools for the Organization. These tools must be compatible with the responsibilities arising from the mandates of the Treaty instances to the Secretariat showing a real symbiosis between the regulatory framework of the ACTO and the technological platform that is being implemented;

That this instrument and project management system will encourage all our current and potential cooperating in deepen the formulation of joint programs and projects for the Amazon, including real-time (on-line) to provide greater transparency on the management of the financial funds for such activities;

That these operational instruments cover the fields of development and deployment of the Operations Programming and Biannual Plans of Action; Geo-reference Information Systems Use (GIS) – Changes Analysis (Monitoring, Validation, and Reports); Information, documentation and development of the Organization Web page; Administrative and Financial Management System and Quality Management; Financial Resources and Institutional Sustainability; Institutional Networks; International Cooperation; Strengthening of the Permanent National Commissions and of the Special Commissions of the Amazon Region;

For the implementation of the administrative and financial management system was made an administrative procedure and the supplementary instrument of administrative and financial operation, and for its elaboration the recommendations made by the CCOOR were taken into consideration.

In order to achieve this objective, the Secretariat was supported with the technical and financial assistance, of the National Water Agency of Brazil (ANA), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, without causing expenses in the budget of the PS.

RESOLVES:

To approve the Instrument of Administrative and Financial Management of the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO.

TO RECOGNIZE and express gratitude to the National Water Agency of Brazil (ANA), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil for the support given to the Permanent Secretariat to implement this important mechanism.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September Two Thousand and four.

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

That the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) aims to promote jointly the Sustainable Development of the Amazonian territories of its member countries, so that these actions will produce equitable results and mutually beneficial, taking into account the preservation of the environment the rational use of natural resources of the Amazon, the improvement in the quality of life of their peoples in the Amazon;

That the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) is a specialized agency of the Organization of the United Nations (UN) with extensive experience and competence in the field of Health, whose mission is to lead strategic efforts of cooperation among its Member States and other partners to promote equity in health, combat disease and improve the quality of life and life expectancy for the peoples of the Americas;

That the implementation of the project “ Joint Actions of Cooperation between the Amazon Countries to Combat Malaria” and the development the “Epidemiological Surveillance Network”, which count with the technical support from PAHO/WHO, and were reformulated and submitted to the Member Countries, will be important tools for the achievement of the objectives of the ACTO;

The Permanent Secretariat continues exploring opportunities for joint collaboration, both technical and financial, with other international organizations, countries or relevant entities, in order to fulfill their mandates, implementing the Resolutions of the different instances of the Treaty, mainly from the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Treaty, the Amazon Cooperation Council, the Special Commissions of the Amazon and the Permanent National Commissions of the Amazon Region;

That an alliance with the PAHO/WHO will make possible the fulfillment of such mandates, specifically in the area of the Special Commission of the Amazon Region on Health (CESAM);

RESOLVES:

CELEBRATE and fully support the subscription, in the shortest term, the Framework Agreement between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), which is properly articulated and agreed upon between both entities and that includes the following modalities of joint cooperation:

- a) Development of the institutional capacities of the ACTO and strengthening of the Commissions related to health and environment;
- b) Environmental Health, including water resources management in the trans-boundary basin of the Amazon river;
- c) Communicable Diseases, with emphasis on the epidemiological surveillance network;
- d) Sustainable development of the territories of the Amazon Region.
- e) Improving the quality of life and access to health services for the peoples in the Amazon.

And, in this regard to urge the Governments to comply with the necessary formalities still pending so that the subscription of the Framework Agreement could be carried out as soon as possible.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/9

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

The importance that the Amazon rivers have in the process of economic and social development in the region, according to the provisions of article III, V and VI of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty; and the need to deepen regional physical integration between the Member Countries of the Amazon through river navigation as an essential complement to the achievement of the purposes of IIRSA;

That the Lima Declaration signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Countries Members of the ACT on 5 December 1995 established to elaborate a study on the navigability of rivers of the Amazon, through the Special Commission of the Special Commission on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure (CETICAM);

That Resolution RES/V MRE-TCA/10 resolved to instruct the CETICAM the realization of a study on the navigability of the Amazon Rivers, within the framework of the project Transportation Network for the Amazon Region;

That in the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, signed on November 22nd, 2002, instructed the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO, in coordination with the IIRSA Executive Committee, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Andean Development Corporation, to foster a work program toward the establishment of a of transportation network in the region, with special emphasis on the modal systems and facilitation of navigation in the Amazon Basin.

RESOLVES:

To instruct the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO to continue developing the work program with the essential purpose of proposing to the Ninth Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries to ACTO, a draft document with Rules (Regulations) aimed at regulating and facilitating the commercial navigation through the river system of the Amazon River Basin.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/10

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

The Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, signed on November 22nd, 2002, that ratifies the commitment to create conditions for the proper functioning of the Organization, through the provision of financial resources and the priority treatment, in the field of national administrations, the actions related to the programs and projects agreed between the Member States;

The commitment of the Permanent Secretariat to continue exploring possible sources of potential extra-regional cooperation, to ensure the compliance with the activities generated by the mandates of the meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Amazon Cooperation Council and the Coordination Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council;

RESOLVES:

To start a study to examine the technical, political and financial implications of the establishment of a fund raising institutional instrument to finance sustainable and integral development in the Amazon region, that includes the study of mechanisms that allow adequate remuneration of services which are generated in the region.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/11

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

The urgent need show the global community the new image of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, as a sub-regional integration mechanism for the fulfillment of its aims, like the revaluation of the traditional knowledge of the native peoples inhabiting the area and the potential that they represent for its development, in terms of the improvement in their standard of living and the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits of the rational use of natural resources contained in the region;

RESOLVES:

To instruct the Permanent Secretariat, with the support of CCOOR, to study and present a proposal on the institutionalization of ACTO Prize, for the recognition and encouragement of women, indigenous people and young entrepreneurs, whose actions deserve to be highlighted since these actions were directed toward the improvement of the standard of living of their people;

To instruct the Permanent Secretariat – with the support of the private sector – to start a program within the strategy of Tourism and Ecotourism, designed to organize expeditions for young people to the Amazon region, to bring the man into the environment, and to facilitate even more awareness about the impacts that may occur in this interaction.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

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

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 14th 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 Republic of Colombia

By the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

By the Republic of Suriname

By the Federative Republic of Brazil

By the Republic of Ecuador

By the Republic of Peru

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 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 Brasilia 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 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

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Brasilia 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.

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/ACTO 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.

FINAL MINUTES

10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

Accepting the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Peru, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) celebrated their 10th meeting in the city of Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2010.

The Delegations were led by: Ambassador Pablo Guzmán Laugier, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Ambassador Antonio Patriota, Vice-Minister – Secretary General of the MFA of the Federative Republic of Brazil; Ambassador María Ángela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia; Ambassador José María Borja, Under-Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Republic of Ecuador; Ambassador Harry Narine Nawbatt of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Brazil; Ambassador José Antonio García Belaúnde, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru; Ambassador Winston Lackin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname; and Ambassador Nicolás Maduro, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization was represented by the Secretary General, Ambassador Manuel Picasso.

The complete list of delegations is attached to these minutes as Annex 1.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Ambassador José Antonio García Belaúnde, offered a warm welcome to the delegations participating in this 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and highlighted that the meeting was being held at a particularly significant moment for the Member Countries of ACTO that were celebrating the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, one year after having adopted the Declaration of Heads of State on ACTO in Manaus.

In this context, he expressed Peru's firm commitment to this unprecedented regional cooperation process whose highest body was being convened five years after the last meeting, held in Iquitos.

In addition, he noted that upon celebrating this 10th Meeting in parallel to the onset of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, the Member Countries of ACTO would approve a Declaration with a clear call for results that would allow binding, ambitious and effective commitments to confront climate change.

He ended by saying that this session would address deeply relevant issues for the future, relaunching and consolidation of ACTO. The decisions adopted on its institutional, financial, programmatic and regulatory restructuring will be fruit of a renewed consensus among the Member Countries to project ACTO in the coming years.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru formally opened the work sessions and submitted the Agenda proposed by the Amazon Cooperation Council (ACC) for the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the delegations for consideration. The Agenda was unanimously approved and is attached to these Minutes as Annex 2.

On behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador David Choquehuanca Cespedes, and of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ambassador Pablo Guzman thanked the Peruvian government for the attentions and warmly greeted the

Representatives present in the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO. He expressed his satisfaction in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization's integration process, whose objectives are based on cooperation, exchange and knowledge frameworks guided by the principle of reducing regional asymmetries between the Member Countries.

He also highlighted the relaunching of ACTO, which has the support of its Member Countries in seeking to implement the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda and the new regulations. To conclude he called on the Member Countries and the Secretariat to work in the region and combat the effects of climate change, seeking binding, ambitious and effective commitments.

Ambassador Antonio Patriota, Brazil's Secretary General of External Relations, emphasized the importance of holding the 10th Meeting of Ministers in the year that we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the ACT, and underscored the need for more frequent high level meetings to intensify ACTO's political agenda. In the context of the Organization's relaunching process driven by the 2009 Meeting of Heads of State of the Amazon countries, Ambassador Patriota called attention to the importance of updating ACTO's mandate through a new Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda that includes emerging topics like climate change, energy and regional development.

In his intervention the Brazilian Vice-Minister of External Relations alluded to the fact that the 10th Ministerial Meeting was being held in a context of good relations between the Amazon countries – upon which he complimented the Governments of Colombia and Venezuela for reinstating diplomatic relations – and a rising environmental agenda in the international debate. As an example he cited the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, held simultaneously to the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazon Countries. In this sense Ambassador Patriota stressed the importance of conferring institutional capacity and financial autonomy on ACTO so that it may contribute to improving the quality of life of the Amazonian populations and ensuring greater participation of the Amazon countries in international negotiations on environmental matters.

Demonstrating the Brazilian Government's commitment to revitalizing the ACT, Ambassador Patriota offered to host the next Ministerial Meeting in Brazil in 2011 to follow-up on the initiatives approved in the Lima Meeting.

Subsequently the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Ambassador Maria Angela Holguin, thanked the Government of Peru for hosting the meeting and stressed the importance that her Government attributes to the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which is being held at a particularly important moment for her country due both to the priority being assigned to fulfilling the demands of the Amazon region and to the need to strengthen cooperation at the regional level.

The Head of the Ecuadorian Delegation, Ambassador José Maria Borja, Under-Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, stated that his country will continue supporting all the thematic axes programmed so that the Amazon Region may reach optimal sustainable development levels, including: high standards for health, science, technology and education; timely treatment of indigenous matters; fight against hunger and poverty; protection of biodiversity and the entire Amazonian environment, which provides us with globally unique wildlife; responsible management of water and forest resources; promotion of community-based tourism; use of alternative energy sources; and feasible infrastructure options that provide adequate navigation and transportation systems for the inhabitants of the Amazon.

He also noted that Ecuador's position on environmental matters is reflected in proposals and initiatives like the Yasuni-ITT and Net Avoided Emissions, which will be presented in the coming Cancun Summit. These proposals seek to avoid CO2 emissions and are protected by values like environmental justice, which promotes a development model based on living well and the rights of nature.

Representing his government Ambassador Harry Narine Nawbatt of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to Brazil expressed a firm commitment to the action taken under the current administration of the Permanent Secretariat to give renewed vigor and relaunch the regional cooperation process between the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation

Treaty Organization. He highlighted that on the occasion it would be fundamental to adopt a set of measures to enable compliance with the mandate of the Manaus Declaration, thus enabling the adoption of a new institutional structure and a new Regional Cooperation Agenda. He also thanked the Government of Peru for its efforts in hosting the meeting.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Suriname, Ambassador Winston Lackin, expressed his appreciation for the hospitality offered by the Government of Peru and reiterated the excellent work done by the Permanent Secretariat in relaunching ACTO.

He reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the objectives of the Organization and applauded the results achieved in this 10th Meeting, especially considering that a Surinamese national will be the Secretary General of ACTO in 2012. Minister Lackin further stressed the relevance of ACTO in the wider integration policy of Suriname.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mr Nicolás Maduro, called attention to the geostrategic importance of the Amazon and to the commitment to strengthen it shared by all the member states of the Organization. He especially emphasized the institutional strengthening of CONAPER in Venezuela that made possible the collective construction of the Organization's New Strategic Agenda, the new roadmap of ACTO. He reiterated the interest of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in advancing the formulation of regulations for commercial navigation on the rivers of the 8 countries of the region. Regulations that will lead to its development, a sustainable development that goes hand in hand with improvements for its inhabitants and environmental preservation.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES REPORT

After greeting the delegations the Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, Ambassador Manuel Picasso, thanked the Ministers and Heads of Delegations for their cooperation and support during his 16 months in office, and the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for organizing the meeting. He then presented the Activities Report of the Permanent Secretariat for the period of July 2009 to November 2010, emphasizing the efforts made to reverse the institutional crisis in which the Organization and its Permanent Secretariat had been immersed.

He informed that one of the main tasks had been to assist the Member Countries in identifying the measures needed to endow ACTO with a renewed and modern role as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge and joint projection forum to face the new and complex international challenges. He extended his appreciation for the support and commitment of the Member Countries through the ACC and the Working Groups of Focal Points in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and CCOOR, which had made it possible to fulfill the tasks commissioned.

One of the aspects highlighted in the Activities Report was compliance with the mandate issued in the Manaus Declaration of November 2009 for the Ministers to strengthen the cooperation process by considering the New Strategic Amazonian Cooperation Agenda for the short, medium and long terms. The Agenda contains regional level actions to support the national initiatives.

He acknowledged the work done by the ACC, thanks to which the Organization has a new framework for relating with the international cooperation agencies that will make it possible to ensure this cooperation is aligned with the priorities of the Member Countries.

The Secretary General also referred to the new institutional communication strategy that will expedite work within ACTO through a new website designed with an extranet system to facilitate communication and consultations with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries.

Finally, he noted that to fulfill its current and new mandates ACTO will require greater financial and technical autonomy, in addition to greater leeway for its Permanent Secretariat to operate – strictly within the regulatory boundaries – as an efficient body that produces results, avoiding unnecessary administrative constraints. To this extent he called on the Ministers to strengthen their commitment to act in favor of Amazonian cooperation.

The Chair thanked Ambassador Picasso for his presentation and submitted the Management Report to the plenary for consideration. Following the recommendations of the 14th ACC Meeting the Report was approved and is attached as Annex 3.

2. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE 14TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL ON THE RESULTS ACHIEVED

The Chair of the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the ACC, Ambassador Luzmila Zanabria, Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, was invited to present her report on the results achieved in the meeting. Ambassador Zanabria thanked the ACC delegates and commended them for their work. She noted that they had concluded the review of the draft Lima Declarations, the draft Declaration of the Member Countries of ACTO for the UNFCCC, the new Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda, and the draft Resolutions to be presented next to the Ministers.

The Chair thanked the ACC delegates and submitted to consideration by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs the approval of said Declarations and Resolutions.

3. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The Chair submitted the following resolutions to the plenary for approval:

RES/X/MRE-OTCA/1 – Thirtieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty

RES/X/MRE-OTCA/2 – New Organizational Chart

RES/X/MRE-OTCA/3 – New Regulations of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Amazon Cooperation Council, Coordinating Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council, Permanent Secretariat and Permanent Secretariat Staff

RES/X/MRE-OTCA/4 – Quota Readjustment System

RES/X/MRE-OTCA/5 – Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda

RES/X/MRE-OTCA/6 – Permanent National Commissions

RES/X/MRE-OTCA/7 – Signature of Agreements and Guidelines for Relations with the International Cooperation

RES/X/MRE-OTCA/8 – Commercial Navigation

RES/X/MRE-OTCA/9 – ACTO/PS Activities Report

RES/X/MRE-OTCA/10 – Acknowledgements

The Resolutions were approved and adopted by the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACT. The full texts of the resolutions form an integral part of these Minutes and are attached as Annex 4.

4. DRAFT LIMA DECLARATION

Given the arduous concertation work that preceded the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Chair asked the plenary to approve the total Lima Declaration and highlighted the main commitments assumed by the Member Countries of ACTO. The Declaration was approved and is attached as Annex 5.

In addition the Chair asked the plenary to consider and approve the text of the Declaration of the Member Countries of ACTO for the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. The Declaration was approved and is attached as Annex 6.

The Delegations thanked the Delegation of the Federative Republic of Brazil for offering to host the Amazon Cooperation Council Meeting in the first semester of 2011. They likewise recognized and accepted the offer made by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to host the Amazon Cooperation Council Meeting in second semester of 2011. Finally, they tasked the ACTO/PS with making the necessary arrangements to organize, during the current administration, a regional seminar to analyze the prospects for ACTO and for the Amazon.

Upon concluding the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Heads of Delegations thanked the Government of the Republic of Peru for its hospitality and attentions and congratulated the Permanent Secretariat for its efficient work, which unquestionably enables the institutional strengthening and consolidation of the ACT and our Organization.

Adopted in the city of Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2010.

ANNEX 1

BOLIVIA

Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Amb. Pablo Guzmán Laugier
Director General for Integration Economic Cooperation, Dr. Walter Clarems Endara
First Secretary of the Embassy of Bolivia in Lima, Victor Cáceres

BRAZIL

Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vice-Minister Antonio Aguiar Patriota
Ambassador of Brazil in Lima, Jorge Taunay
Director of the South America Department II, Minister Clemente Baena Soares
Councilor Carlos da Fonseca from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Councilor Carlos da Fonseca
Advisor of the Secretary General of Foreign Affairs, Roberto Doring
Secretary César Vermiglio Bonamigo
Secretary Thiago Couto Carneiro
Secretary Helder Gonzáles
Official, Sergio Pereira

COLOMBIA

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maria Angela Holguin
Chief of Cabinet of the Minister, Dr. Mauricio Baquero
Director of Territorial Sovereignty and Development, Francisco Coy Granados
Coordinator of Bordering Integration, Carlos Alfredo Carretero

ECUADOR

Sub-Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, Minister José María Borja
Ambassador of Ecuador in Lima, Diego Ribadeneira
Director of Integration, Federico Meneses
Chief in charge of ACTO, Sr. Franklyn Quishpe

GUYANA

Ambassador Harry Narine Nawbatt

PERU

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador José Antonio García Belaunde
Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Néstor Popolizio
Subsecretary of Multilateral Affairs, Ambassador Luzmila Zanabria
Advisor of the Subsecretary for Multilateral Affairs, Min. Albero Hart
Minister Maria del Pilar Castro
Secretary Gustavo Enrique Bonelli Vásquez
Secretary Enrique Augusto Noria Freyre
Secretary Jorge Roberto Medina Dancé
Secretary Bernardo Roca-Rey Ross

SURINAME

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Winston G. Lackin
Ambassador Robby Dewnarain Ramlakhan
Official Fariza Marlea Lucia Blokland

VENEZUELA

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sr. Nicolás Maduro
Assistant of the Chancellor, Mr. Gustavo Vizcaino
Charge d'Affairs, Sr. Alexander Yánez
First Secretary Marisela Rojas
First Secretary, Jorge Petit
Ambasador of Venezuela in Brazil, Maximilien Arvelaiz
Director General of Multilateral Affairs Office and Integration/ Coordinator of the CONAPER, Rubén Molina
Assistant Coordinator of CONAPER, Sara Caballero

LIMA DECLARATION

The Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Ecuador, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of Suriname and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, together in Lima the 30th of November 2010 on occasion of their 10th Meeting and celebrating the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty:

CERTAIN that after thirty years of validity of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty advances have been made in the context of an unprecedented cooperation process that needs to be decisively driven and relaunched to enhance, strengthen and expand the integration of the countries of the Amazon region;

DETERMINED to adopt measures that drive and reaffirm the renewed role of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge and joint projection forum to face the new international challenges;

CONVINCED of the urgent need to adopt financial measures to endow the institutional structure of ACTO with appropriate means that allow it to fulfill the mandates and requests of the Member Countries;

DETERMINED to strengthen, deepen and expand dialogue, to continue integrally protecting and conserving their Amazonian territories, to facilitate closer ties between the peoples and to promote their harmonious, participatory and sustainable development;

AWARE that the Amazon presents a valuable potential for the integral sustainable development of the countries that strengthens the capacities of their respective national economies;

PERSUADED of the importance of the inherited historical and socio-cultural wealth that is alive in the peoples that traditionally inhabit the Amazon region;

CONVINCED that the development of the respective Amazonian territories must be underpinned by criteria of environmental sustainability and conservation, and must take into account the cultural and social values and ancestral knowledge and wisdom of the indigenous peoples and other communities that inhabit the region;

In view of the mandates of the Declaration of Heads of State on ACTO adopted in Manaus on 26 November 2009:

DECLARE AND RATIFY:

1. The urgency and importance of relaunching ACTO.
2. The political will of their respective Governments to respect the principles, purposes, objectives and provisions of the Treaty signed on 3 July 1978 and its Amendment Protocol signed on 14 December 1998.
3. The importance of the new role and mission assigned to the Organization and its Permanent Secretariat, promoting full compliance with the objectives of the Treaty and the mandates of the relevant bodies.
4. Their interest in counting with a modern and dynamic organization recognized by the Member Countries and well positioned in the international sphere that produces effective results and meets regional expectations.

5. The relevance and importance of the approval of the new Strategic Agenda of Amazon Cooperation that, in its eight subject areas, strengthens the joint actions of the Member States;
6. Their decision to strengthen the Permanent Secretariat to fulfill all the mandates issued by the Member Countries;
7. The sovereign right of each country over its natural resources, taking into account that promoting the economic and social development of the settlers of the Amazon must be framed in the relevant national development plans, reconciling economic growth and environmental conservation;
8. The importance of strengthening the various cooperation lines between the national bodies responsible for the development of their respective Amazonian territories by enhancing and expanding their mechanisms to share experience, information and new technologies through the Permanent National Commissions (PNCs) and sectoral ministerial meetings at the highest level.
9. The purpose of continuing the process of reactivating and strengthening the PNCs of all the Member Countries in their role of instances in charge of implementing the Treaty in their corresponding territories.
10. The goal of strengthening the Amazonian identity of the Member Countries of ACTO, characterized by possessing megadiverse ecosystems that constitute an exceptional natural heritage.
11. The need to protect and promote – within the framework of their respective national legislations and international law – the traditional knowledge of Amazonian indigenous peoples and other tribal communities, ensuring their rights to prior informed consultation and equitable sharing of the benefits derived of such knowledge, which constitutes intangible wealth that must be recognized.
12. That the fight against hunger and poverty is a crosscutting topic that is part of the challenges that affect the sustainable development of the Organization's Member Countries.
13. The essential and dynamic inter-relation between the Andean and Amazonian regions, taking into account the region's integral development and the complementary aspects of their respective national economies. In view of the above, they agree to reinforce the cooperation actions in the framework of the regionally concerted sectoral thematic agendas.
14. The need to deepen cooperation between the Member Countries and share experience and good practices in science and technology by establishing regional academic and institutional networks and information and communication mechanisms, in addition to improving quality and expanding coverage of basic services in health, education, safe water and sanitation for indigenous peoples and other tribal communities.
15. The priority assigned to ongoing negotiations to endow the Parties with Commercial Navigation Regulations, in compliance with the principles enshrined in the Treaty. These must take into account environmental conservation and are expected to become a practical and effective tool for trade and connection between the various Amazonian national territories.
16. The importance assigned to internal political consultation processes on ongoing international negotiations, processes and conventions – especially concerning forests, biodiversity, protecting endangered species and climate change – for which ACTO, through its Permanent Secretariat, is called on to exercise a liaising and supportive role, according to the interests and mandates of the Member Countries.
17. Their recognition to the governments and international organizations that offer technical and financial cooperation to ACTO.

18. The need for the Permanent Secretariat to intensify the identification of cooperation sources for the execution and development of strategic programs, projects and activities in the framework of the priorities approved by the Member Countries, without prejudice of funding from the countries themselves following the provisions of the Statement of Manaus of Heads of States of 2009.

Signed in Lima on 30 November 2010 in four copies in Spanish, Dutch, English and Portuguese.

By the Plurinational State of Bolivia

By the Republic of Colombia

By the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

By the Republic of Suriname

By the Federative Republic of Brazil

By the Republic of Ecuador

By the Republic of Peru

By the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE ACTO TO THE 16TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES –COP-16 TO UNFCCC

The ACTO Member Countries reaffirm the importance of the new challenges posed by climate change for the Amazon region and the responsibility to be taken by the Member States to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, according to the common but differentiated responsibilities and their respective capabilities.

In this sense, they urge the international community, in particular, developed countries, that will hold the 16th Conference of the Parties – COP-16 – and the Sixth Conference of the Parties serving as a meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol – CMP6 –, being held in Cancun, Mexico, to agree upon effective greenhouse gas reductions for the second commitments period under the Kyoto Protocol, that lead to binding, ambitious and efficient commitments to tackle Climate Change.

Adopted in Lima on 30 November 2010 in four copies in Spanish, Dutch, English and Portuguese.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

RES/X MRE-OTCA/ 1

10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

Its firmest commitment to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty that is celebrating 30 years in force;

Its determination to drive the institutional strengthening of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and its Permanent Secretariat as essential instruments to strengthen work in areas of common interest for cooperation among its Member Countries;

The decision to endow ACTO with a new and modern role as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge and joint projection forum to face the new and complex international challenges that lie ahead,

RESOLVES:

TO EXPRESS its deep recognition and congratulations for the achievements upon celebrating the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

RENEW its political commitment to consolidating and deepening the degree of concertation between the Amazon Countries within the political framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization;

RATIFY its decision to continue cooperating to achieve a shared vision of the Amazonian space.

Adopted in the city of Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2010.

RES/X MRE-OTCA/ 2

10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

The organizational chart of the ACTO Permanent Secretariat was adopted through Resolution RES/VII MRE-TCA/8 signed on 22 November 2002 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia;

The decision to separate the areas of health and indigenous affairs and create two independent Coordinating Offices was made through Resolution RES/IX MRE-OTCA/08 signed on 25 November 2005 in Iquitos, Peru;

In the Declaration of Heads of State on the ACTO adopted in Manaus on 26 November 2009 the Heads of State of the Member Countries reaffirmed the urgency and importance of the Organization's ongoing relaunching process by strengthening its Permanent Secretariat and task the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with adopting concrete actions for its institutional strengthening so that it can fulfill the mandates issued by the Member Countries;

That the intense work developed since it was established has made it possible to gradually consolidate the ACTO/PS, but has also shown the need to adjust its structure to ensure better and more effective compliance with its mandates, respecting the interests and adequate representation of the Member Countries;

That the work performed by the Amazon Cooperation Council and the Ad hoc Group of Focal Points in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs has pointed to the current and future needs at the institutional level to achieve the goals and targets defined by the Member Countries;

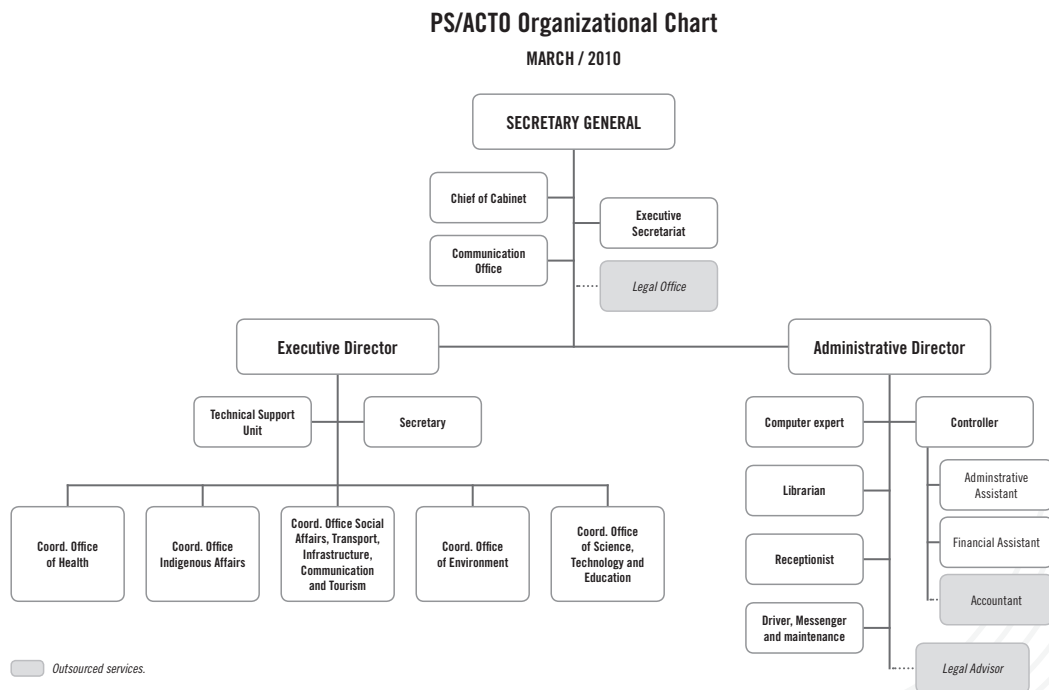
The need to institutionalize the positions that were created to support the functioning of the ACTO/PS;

The need to endow the ACTO/PS with the technical and administrative staff needed to fulfill the mandates issued by the Member Countries,

RESOLVES:

TO ADOPT the new Organizational chart of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization attached to this Resolution.

Adopted in the city of Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2010.



10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

The Regulations of Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs were approved in the 1st Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the signatory countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty held on 24 October 1980 in Belem, Brazil;

The Regulations of the Amazon Cooperation Council were adopted in the 2nd Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council held on 26 September 1986 in La Paz, Bolivia;

The Regulations of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty were adopted through Resolution VI MRE-TCA/1 of 6 April 2000;

The Coordinating Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council was created and its Regulations were adopted through Resolution VI MRE-TCA/2 of 6 April 2000;

The Permanent Secretariat Staff Regulations were adopted through Resolution VII MRE-TCA/5 of 22 November 2002;

The decision to review the regulations of the ACTO bodies and spheres was made through Resolution IX/MRE-OTCA/12 of 25 November 2005;

The Extraordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council of 14 May 2010 decided to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group of the Coordinating Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council to review and adjust the above-referred regulations;

Measures need to be adopted to adapt the institutional structures of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and its functional bodies,

RESOLVES:

TO APPROVE and ADOPT the following new Regulations:

1. Regulations of the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs
2. Regulations of the Amazon Cooperation Council
3. Regulations of the Coordinating Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council
4. Regulations of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
5. Regulations of the Permanent Secretariat Staff of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to adopt the necessary internal measures for strict compliance and dissemination of the new Regulations.

Adopted in the city of Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2010.

10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

The budget and contribution scale agreed upon by the Member Countries for the functioning of ACTO was approved through Resolution VI MRE-TCA/6 of 6 April 2000.

The annual quotas and financial contributions of the Member Countries, according to amounts identified in 1998 and adopted in 2000, have suffered a marked discrepancy that translates into a significant devaluation due to inflation and currency devaluation greater than 100%, which limits the Permanent Secretariat operationally and technically and is urgent and essential to correct;

The Declaration of Heads of State on the ACTO, adopted on 26 November 2009 by the Heads of State reaffirms the urgency and importance of the Organization's ongoing relaunching process by strengthening its Permanent Secretariat and tasks the Ministries of Foreign Affairs with adopting provisions that lead to concrete actions for its institutional strengthening so that it can fulfill the mandates issued by the Member Countries, including a definitive solutions for its permanent headquarters;

There is urgent need to endow the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization with an adequate budget so that it fulfill the new mandates and needs of the Member Countries;

It is also necessary to adopt adequate financial measures to endow the Permanent Secretariat with greater technical and budgetary autonomy so that it is able to respond to the renewed desire of the Member Countries to expand and deepen their ties of cooperation so as to jointly face the new challenges of the international reality;

The renewed commitment to consolidate and deepen the degree of concertation between the Amazon Countries within the political framework of the Organization;

The New Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda that was adopted as an updated and renewed cooperation tool determined by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty requires a technically and financially strengthened Permanent Secretariat to be implemented;

The approval of the new Regulations and Instrument for the bodies of the Treaty and its Permanent Secretariat as well as of the new organizational chart requires the financial resources, which are necessary and essential for its implementation,

RESOLVES:

To initiate the update process of the annual quota system in force in accordance the new budget and new organization chart presented by the Permanent Secretariat with the following increases for 2012:

Category I: Brazil, 70%;

Category II: Colombia (40%), Peru (40%) and Venezuela (40%);

Category III: Bolivia (18.57%) and Ecuador (18.57%);

Category IV: Guyana (5.71%) and Suriname (5.71%).

Commission the Amazon Cooperation Council to draft, in its first session of 2011, a procedure enabling the implementation of a financial adjustment plan as of 2018.

In accordance with the budgetary availability of each Member Country and taking into account the four categories established for this purpose, each Party may consider extraordinary contributions in financial or human resources starting in 2011.

Take measures before the national bodies for payment of the annual quotas to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to take place during the 1st quarter of each fiscal year based on national regulations.

Task the Coordinating Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council-CCOOR, with examining the matters of the permanent headquarters and a mechanism to adjust the scale of quotas.

Adopted in the city of Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2010.

RES/X MRE-OTCA/ 5

10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

The 2004-2012 Strategic Plan of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization was approved during the 8th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in September 2004 in Manaus in the framework of which a set of programs and projects agreed upon by the Member Countries was negotiated, started and is being executed;

The Declaration of Heads of State on the ACTO of 26 November 2009 in Manaus decides to endow ACTO with a new and modern role as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge and joint projection forum to face the new and complex international challenges that lie ahead;

The same Declaration commissions the preparation of a New ACTO Strategic Agenda for the short, medium and long terms with regional level actions to support national initiatives to strengthen the cooperation process;

The New Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda becomes a tool to build an integral vision for regional Amazonian cooperation that incorporates economics, environment, health, indigenous and tribal peoples, education, knowledge, science and technology, water resources, infrastructure, commercial navigation and its facilitation, tourism and communication and emerging topics, with a view to promoting the harmonious and sustainable development of the countries' respective Amazonian spaces;

The process of preparing the new Strategic Agenda of Amazon Cooperation results from a broad and extensive participatory process and governmental consultation; and

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The effort of regional consensus that enabled and still enables, through the Permanent Secretariat, the implementation of programs and projects in the framework of the 2004-2012 Strategic Plan.

RESOLVES:

TO ADOPT the New Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda attached to this Resolution, which reflects the willingness of Member Countries to strengthen the Organization and provide it with an efficient tool that is open to updates.

COMMISSION the Permanent Secretariat to make every effort to disseminate the above-referred Agenda at the national, regional and international levels, as well as to identify new cooperation sources that ensure its implementation.

Adopted in the city of Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2010.

RES/X MRE-OTCA/ 6

10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**WHEREAS:**

Article XXIII of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty establishes that the Contracting Parties shall create Permanent National Commissions responsible for implementing the provisions of the Treaty in their respective territories and executing the decisions adopted by the meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and by the Amazon Cooperation Council, without detriment to other activities commissioned by each State;

The Caracas Declaration of 6 April 2000 ratified that the ACTO/PS must have a positive impact on the desire to expedite procedures and dynamize the execution of the decisions and mandates issued by the decision-making bodies of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

The Santa Cruz de la Sierra Declaration of 22 November 2002 ratified the commitment to create conditions for the Organization's adequate functioning by endowing it with financial resources and assigning priority within the national administrations to actions related to the programs and projects agreed upon by the Member Countries;

The Iquitos Declaration of 25 November 2005 reaffirmed the will to cooperate and offer assistance to strengthen the Permanent National Commissions as a concertation space to favor and facilitate the application of the provisions of the ACT;

The Declaration of Head of States on the ACTO, adopted in Manaus the 26 November 2009 reaffirms the importance of Article XXIII of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty that commands the Member Countries to establish or reactivate their Permanent National Commissions as the bodies in charge of executing the decisions issued in the Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

RESOLVES:

TO EXPRESS its satisfaction for the establishment and reactivation of the 8 Permanent National Commissions of Member Countries.

COMMISSION the Permanent Secretariat with supporting the Member Countries that manifest an interest in strengthening the functioning of their Permanent National Commissions by channeling international cooperation funds.

RECOMMEND the Member Countries to adopt the necessary measures to stimulate participation in the Permanent National Commissions;

RECOMMEND the Member Countries to strengthen their National Offices by, to the extent possible, assigning full time professionals to comply with the Treaty agenda and interact with the ACTO/PS.

Adopted in the city of Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2010.

RES/X MRE-OTCA/7

10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

The need to improve and strengthen, from an institutional standpoint, the cooperation process within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization – ACTO through the examination of the existing regulations of the bodies and instances of the Organization;

The authority and powers of the ACTO Secretary General, especially those included in section I and in paragraph 3 of section II of the Amendment Protocol to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, as well as in the applicable regulations;

The Guidelines for International Cooperation included as Annex to this Resolution.

The need to set procedures, mechanisms and conditions for the consideration, negotiation and signing of proposals of agreement among the Permanent Secretariat and third countries, international organizations or other entities.

RESOLVES:

1. Proposals of agreements may be put forth upon initiative of one or more of the Parties, any instance of the Treaty, or the Permanent Secretariat, in accordance with their mandates.

2. For each initiative of agreement with third countries, international organizations and other entities, the Permanent Secretariat will prepare a Concept Note to be sent to the Parties, including, among others: source of the initiative, purpose, rationale, goals and milestones, footprint in the framework of the Strategic Plan and the Action Plan in force, counterparty and executing entity, term of execution, form, deadlines, sources and funding considered and required.

In case of initiatives of agreements other than with third parties and/or international organizations, said Concept Note will additionally include the following information: juridical form of the entity, source of funding, headquarters, mission and purposes, experience in the area subject matter of the agreement. The information included in this Concept Note may be extended upon request of any Party.

The Concept Note must be submitted for consideration of the Parties in the four official languages of the Treaty: Spanish, Dutch, English and Portuguese.

3. The Concept Note must be submitted to the Member Countries, which will have sixty (60) calendar days as from the date of receipt to send their remarks and recommendations or indicate their acceptance.

Upon expiration of the deadline, without any objection, the PS/ACTO, responsible for the negotiation process, must report to the Member Countries on the status of this process and will revise the drafts based on the recommendations and suggestions submitted.

4. Upon completion of the negotiation process of the relevant Agreement, the PS/OTCA must send the final version to the Member Countries, which will have a maximum term of ninety (90) calendar days for its approval. These documents must be drafted in the four official languages of the Treaty: Spanish, Portuguese, English and Dutch.

5. All Member Countries must expressly state their position for the Secretary General to sign the agreements upon consent by the Members, in pursuance of the paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Resolution.

If a Member State believes that the 90-day term is not sufficient, it may exceptionally file a request for a maximum thirty (30) calendar day extension.

GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

WHEREAS:

The need to have clear guidelines for international cooperation as a mechanism that grants more transparency and efficiency to the management of funds by the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization;

The signing of formal agreements with cooperating agencies will enable to have all administrative information related to the funds of existing projects;

The setting of guidelines between the PS and Member Countries that will enable coordination and supervision of the implementation of regional programs and projects;

The importance of articulating actions between Coordinators and external consultants, in the performance of their duties, in order to have a work methodology that will enable Area Coordinators to participate in the preparation of proposals of agreements or projects;

Facilitation in ACTO decision-making for the implementation of projects with funds from a cooperating source;

The PS mandate for the preparation of a study in coordination with Member Countries to assess possible funding sources from the countries themselves in order to function independently from external sources for the development of the Organization strategic projects.

It is understood that:

1. All projects executed under ACTO must be managed and controlled by the Permanent Secretariat to the extent that it has the technical staff needed and the Cooperation Agreements already signed so authorize.

2. All funds must, insofar as far as possible, be transferred to ACTO or, failing that, must be included in the budgets, thus enabling the PS to periodically inform CCOOR about the use of said funds when it so requests.

3. Ensure that the proposal of agreements or projects with third countries and/or international organizations include the number of consultants that will be employed for the program or project execution, as well as the functional relationship that they will have with Area Coordinators.

4. No external consultant or representative of international organizations or other entities linked to ACTO through cooperation agreements or projects, may participate in international meetings or forums as an ACTO official representative. If his/her participation was necessary, he/she shall be accredited in representation of the cooperating source or as external consultant.
5. With the purpose of promoting the development and well-being of Amazonian populations, ACTO will seek to manage, during the negotiation process of a cooperation project, insofar as possible and in compliance with the rules of cooperating parties, the inclusion of a “social clause” enabling, if applicable, to allocate a percentage of funds to other projects that so require.
6. Each Area Coordinator will be directly responsible for part of the projects’ PS and will have the support of consultants, specialists or technicians appointed by the cooperating source. In case it was necessary to engage a specialist, scientist or technician, priority will be given to professionals from the member countries, preferably from universities, research and study centers of the Amazon region. This engagement will be made in coordination with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as applicable.
7. With the purpose of achieving more transparency in the management of funds for cooperation projects, all information in this regard must be available for member countries, Area Coordinators and the cooperating source.
8. Promote the identification of new funding options by the PS always taking into consideration the priorities set forth by member countries and in consultation with them.
9. Incorporate in all international cooperation Programs, Projects and Initiatives a communication and dissemination component that ensures that positions are open to nationals of Member Countries in the implementation thereof and the public dissemination of outcomes to grant more visibility to the Organization.
10. Regarding international cooperation, the PS will adhere to the provisions set forth in Paragraph 3, Art. 2 of the Amendment Protocol to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.
11. Grant the benefits needed to the PS for the preparation of a study to assess possible funding sources from the countries themselves in order to function independently from external sources for the development of the Organization’s strategic projects.

RES/X MRE-OTCA/8

10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

Article 3 of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and its sole paragraph establish the framework for regional cooperation in the area of commercial navigation;

Resolution IX MRE-OTCA/6 of 25 November 2005 commissioned the formulation of General Regulations for Commercial Navigation on the Rivers of the Amazon, in accordance with the 2004 Manaus Declaration of the 8th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization;

On 12-13 May 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Member Countries held the Meeting on Commercial Navigation on the Rivers of the Amazon that submitted a set of recommendations to the Amazon Cooperation Council to advance negotiations on the draft Regulations;

The Extraordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, held on 14 May 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, approved the recommendations of the Meeting on Commercial Navigation, and a working group was instituted to continue the negotiations;

The reports of the Working Group meetings held in Bogotá, Colombia and La Paz, Plurinational State of Bolivia on 23-24 September and 3-4 November 2010, respectively, evidenced substantial progress in negotiations of the draft Regulations for Commercial Navigation on the Rivers of the Amazon;

RESOLVES:

To Acknowledge the work done by the Working Group on Commercial Navigation and commission it to continue the performance of its activities and submit the final proposal of regulations on Commercial Navigation in the Rivers of the Amazon to consideration of the next meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council.

Thank the offer of the Government of Brazil to hold the Meeting of the Working Group on Commercial Navigation in April, 2011.

Adopted in the city of Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2010.

RES/X MRE-OTCA/9

10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization Permanent Secretariat Regulations establish the obligation to present reports on the activities developed to the Governments of the Member Countries;

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization Permanent Secretariat presented biannual reports corresponding to the periods of July – December 2009 and January – June 2010;

The ACTO Secretary General presented his Management Report;

RESOLVES:

TO APPROVE the Management Reports presented by the Permanent Secretariat;

EXPRESS its recognition and congratulations to Ambassador Manuel Picasso, Secretary General of ACTO and his team for the efforts made to materialize the relaunching of the Organization.

Adopted in the city of Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2010.

10TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

The coordination, organization, consultation and concertation works made by the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) have been essential for the success of this meeting;

The efforts deployed to the same extent by the Republic of Peru with other Member Countries of this regional cooperation organization and the ACTO Permanent Secretariat also played a pivotal role in the success of the works and discussions performed and held here;

RESOLVES:

TO EXPRESS our warmest thankful to the Republic of Peru and its authorities for the outstanding organization of the Ordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council and the ACTO Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs as well as by their warm welcome.

TO EXPRESS the congratulations to the ACTO Permanent Secretariat for his excellent coordination in the performance of this event, which resulted in fruitful and beneficial initiatives for the Member Countries in the furtherance of the sustainable development and environmental preservation in the Amazon basin.

Adopted in the city of Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2010.

11TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

MANAUS COMMITMENT

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Federative Republic of Brazil, Republic of Colombia, Republic of Ecuador, Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Republic of Peru, Republic of Suriname and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, together in Manaus, Federal Republic of Brazil, on 22 November 2011 on occasion of their 11th Meeting:

BASED ON the principles and objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty signed in 1978 and its Amendment Protocol signed in 1998 that fostered expanded and deepened relations between the Amazon countries with positive consequences for the current South American unity and integration process;

DETERMINED to continue the process of relaunching ACTO initiated in November 2009 in the Meeting of the Heads of State of the Amazon Countries to face the new challenges imposed by the regional agenda;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda adopted by the X Meeting of Chancellors of ACTO held in Lima, in November 2010, strengthens the joint actions of the Member Countries of the Organization;

AWARE that the present movement of cooperation amongst the countries of the Amazon region and its peoples needs to take into account the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development;

CONVINCED of the need to promote greater advances in the areas of science, technology and innovation to enable conservation and sustainable use of Amazonian biodiversity;

CERTAIN of the importance of adopting measures that drive the renewed role of ACTO as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge and joint projection forum of Member Countries to face the new international challenges; and

DETERMINED to reaffirm their commitment to the Amazon's sustainable development, generating better living standards for the local populations.

COMMIT TO:

1. Upscale and strengthen initiatives to relaunch ACTO, in accordance with the mandate issued by the Heads of State of the Amazon countries in the 2009 Manaus Declaration and in with the decisions adopted in the 10th Meeting of Chancellors of the Organization held in 2010 in Lima, Peru.
2. Strengthen political dialogue and institutional advances with the aim of expediting approval and execution of Amazonian cooperation projects.
3. Prioritize, in the context of cooperation initiatives between Member Countries, activities that strengthen the ties between ACTO, together with national and local authorities, and the populations that dwell in the Amazon region to facilitate the process of identifying local demands for regional cooperation projects.

4. Promote seminars within each Member Country to contribute towards deepening the political relaunch of ACTO. In this regard, they support the Brazilian Government's initiative of holding the seminar "Amazonian Cooperation Challenges and Opportunities" on 23-24 November 2011 with the aim of repositioning ACTO in the regional political agenda in this new stage of institutional consolidation.

5. Develop greater dialogue spaces with Amazonian peoples by holding a regional seminar to study and analyze the proposals presented in each of the national seminars. In this context, they salute the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for offering to host this event in September 2012.

6. Task the ACC with seeking new funding alternatives with a view to implementing the ACTO Strategic Agenda. In this regard, they highlight the Brazilian Government's initiative of providing access the Amazon Fund to finance forest cover monitoring projects in the Amazon region. Initiatives such as this one can be considered innovative and should be taken as an example to be followed by the Organization.

7. Promote academic mobility between students and professors of teaching institutions of the Amazon region, establishing a regional exchange program to strengthen educational cooperation between Member Countries. In this regard, they instruct the Permanent Secretariat to prepare, in 2012, an Academic Supply Guide for the Amazon Region.

8. Applaud the initiative of the Delegation of Ecuador for the creation of an Amazonian Regional University, as an intergovernmental academic and research center, affiliated to ACTO. Recognize the relevance of the research of generation of knowledge on natural wealth and the Amazonian biodiversity for sustainable development of the region. To this end, it was agreed that Special Committee should be established comprised of delegates from the higher education institutions of the Member Countries to examine the initiative and propose innovative means for its deployment.

9. Intensify cooperation activities in the areas of innovation, science and technology according to the agreements reached in the Regional Meeting held in Puyo, Ecuador, in June 2011; develop an integrated information system and standardized regional indicators to facilitate research on the Amazon by national and regional institutions; and promote the inclusion of ancestral knowledge and the community and local practices of indigenous peoples.

In this context, they instruct the Permanent Secretariat to implement the "Amazonian Observatory", a permanent forum that will gather institutions and authorities related the topic, with emphasis on the study of Amazonian biodiversity. With this purpose the PS/ACTO shall conduct an inventory of the Academic Institutions in the Amazon to explore, together with the CCOOR, a proposal for the implementation of an Amazonian university.

10. Instruct the Permanent Secretariat to take the necessary measures for the simultaneous launch of the three Amazonian tourism circuits: "Amazon-Pacific-Andes Route", "Amazon Caribbean Tourism Trail" and "Amazon Water Route" in the International Tourism Fair of Berlin and to participate in the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Tourism Fair in 2012, as approved in the 2nd Regional Tourism Meeting of the Amazon Countries held in September 2011 in Zamora.

11. Encourage the continued strengthening of the Permanent National Commissions, the national bodies responsible for implementing the Treaty in their respective territories, highlighting their role in liaising and implementing public policies in the Amazon region. In this context, they instruct the Permanent Secretariat to hold new meetings of sectoral authorities in the various topics of the ACTO Strategic Agenda.

12. Promote protection of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and other tribal communities of the Amazon within the framework of their respective national legislations and international law, ensuring preservation of this knowledge and consequently fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from its use. In this sense, they highlight the 3rd Meeting of High Governmental Authorities of Indigenous Affairs of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization held in September 2011 in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

- 13.** Receive the idea of exchanging experiences on topics regarding biodiversity genetic resources and the traditional knowledge associated with the objective of working jointly for its protection. To this end, an experts meeting of the Member Countries shall be held in the first quarter of 2012
- 14.** Support the climate change mitigation initiatives being developed voluntarily in the region. They particularly value the Yasuni-ITT Initiative of the Republic of Ecuador and call on the international community to support the Ecuadorian proposal that seeks to protect biodiversity and indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation, and promote a sustainable development model.
- 15.** Begin dialogue between experts of the Member Countries in the areas of social inclusion, combating poverty and eradicating extreme poverty. In this context, they instruct the ACC to create an Ad Hoc Working Group to propose and examine initiatives for social development in the Amazon region.
- 16.** Contribute to the success of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) by deepening successful experiences in the context of Amazonian cooperation in order to achieve development by reconciling sustainable use, protection and conservation of its resources to transform the current model into economically inclusive sustainable development models that respect nature, its ecosystems and the rights of the peoples.
- 17.** Support the Peruvian proposal of holding the 2nd Meeting of Environment Ministers of ACTO in the first quarter of 2012 in Lima, Peru. On the occasion the Ministers will examine, among other issues, ACTO's contribution to the Rio+20 Conference.
- 18.** Commend the efforts and initiatives of the Member Countries in the context of the International Year of Forests, highlighting the role played by forests in maintaining the Amazonian ecosystem in equilibrium. In this sense they ratify the importance of initiatives to monitor forest cover, implement electronic permitting for species protected by the CITES, prevent and control forest fires and protect forest biodiversity.
- 19.** Highlight the importance of a coordinated regional approach in matters of sustainable development. In this context, they instruct the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO to engage the General Secretariat of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) to identify the means which allow a progressive approach, coordination and joint collaboration.
- 20.** Maintain the current commitments to reinforce the ACTO Budget.
- 21.** Institutionally strengthen ACTO, supporting the activities of its Permanent Secretariat with a view to ensuring full compliance with the objectives of the Treaty and mandates of the Organization's bodies.
- 22.** Salute the commitment of Peru to this Amazonian cooperation process, having hosted the last two meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO, celebrated on the 25th and 30th anniversaries of the entry into force of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.
- 23.** Acknowledge the outstanding work done by the former ACTO Secretary General Ambassador Manuel Picasso and continued by his successor Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo to relaunch and institutionally strengthen the Organization, which made possible the approval of the "Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda" in November 2010.
- 24.** Recognize also the work developed by the Permanent Secretariat staff in executing the mandates issued.
- 25.** Support the future Secretary General of ACTO, who will be proposed by the Republic of Suriname and be instituted in July 2012, and the new representatives of the Member Countries in the Organization, who will take office together with the new Secretary General.

26. Thank the Government of Ecuador for its offer to host the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of ACTO in the second semester of 2012, at a date to be informed by the Permanent Secretariat.

27. Recognize the effort being accomplished by Peru in the Region of Madre de Dios to extinguish the illegal mining, which causes serious damage to Amazonian ecosystems. In this sense, the development of projects in Member Countries by ACTO was considered necessary, aiming real recovering, reforestation and conservation of the affected zones.

28. Thank the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of Amazonas for the warm welcome given to the Delegations in attendance.

Manaus, 22 November 2011

By the Plurinational State of Bolivia

By the Republic of Colombia

By the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

By the Republic of Suriname

By the Federative Republic of Brazil

By the Republic of the Ecuador

By the Republic of Peru

By the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

THE DECLARATION OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ACTO FOR RIO+20 CONFERENCE

The Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization:

Recognizing that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro (Rio Summit) meant consolidating the sustainable development paradigm that integrates the social, environmental and economic mainstays of development at the same level of importance, emphasize the transcendence of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty as a development instrument for sustainable development in the Amazon region.

Certain that the Rio+ 20 Conference is an adequate opportunity to assess and determine actions and measures that enable achievement of sustainable development, emphasize the importance that must be assigned to the Amazon region due to its contribution and significance for biodiversity, climate stability and their integral development.

Guided by the principles of sovereignty, solidarity, cooperation, participation of the Amazonian people, respect and harmony with nature and its ecosystems, integrated sustainable development and reducing asymmetries among the nations of the Amazon region.

Concerned that unsustainable production and consumption patterns continue to exist 20 years after the 1992 Rio Summit, as expressed in the Declaration of the Presidents of the Amazon Countries in February 1992 in Manaus.

Aware that Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on shared but differentiated responsibilities constitutes an essential instrument to overcome those patterns and attain sustainable development.

Convinced of their responsibility to enrich the Rio+20 Conference under a regional approach, have decided to adopt this:

DECLARATION

- Ratify their conviction that development must be attained by reconciling sustainable use, protection and conservation of resources to transform the current model into sustainable development models that are economically inclusive and respect nature, its ecosystems and the rights of the peoples.
- Commit to promoting sustainable development and lifestyles, in harmony with nature and the environment, respecting the rights of the countries to use their own resources to ensure welfare and progress.
- Emphasize support and contribution of South-South cooperation as an instrument to reduce asymmetries and for properly coordinated regional action, and consider that such initiatives must be promoted and strengthened through the possible provision of new and additional resources and an effective transfer of technology and capacity building.
- Urge developed countries to commit strongly to fulfilling internationally agreed upon targets and objectives, with international responsibility and solidarity, and especially through greater commitment to providing new, additional and predictable financial resources.
- Reiterate that after more than 30 years in effect the Amazon Cooperation Treaty has proven to be a valid framework for sustainable and inclusive development in the respective Amazonian territories under the criteria of sustainability, conservation and use of natural resources.

- Reaffirm the regional vision for conservation and sustainable use of renewable natural resources and sustainable development, with emphasis on eradicating poverty and improving the quality of life of the Amazonian population, are transversal axes of regional action.
- Ratify that eradicating poverty is an indispensable element to attain sustainable development, stressing the importance of developing a joint agenda for social inclusion in the Amazon region.
- Recognize the challenges faced jointly by all the Member Countries in the pursuit of sustainable development, where public and/or private production investments, like technology transfer, innovation and finance, must be part of the international and regional negotiation agenda in the quest for mechanisms that contribute to its implementation.
- Hope that the results of the UNCSD Rio+20 translate into actions that make it possible to overcome the obstacles to sustainable development, and solutions for the structural causes of negative environmental, economic and social impacts caused by unsustainable production and consumption patterns and policies in sectors that are essential for the survival of mankind; as such, they hope that the results of the Conference take full account of the social element of sustainability.
- Ratify that the Amazon Strategic Cooperation Agenda adopted in the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs is a model for building consensus and joint work to achieve the new development objectives, including institutional strengthening.

Manaus, 22 November 2011

By the Plurinational State of Bolivia

By the Republic of Colombia

By the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

By the Republic of Suriname

By the Federative Republic of Brazil

By the Republic of the Ecuador

By the Republic of Peru

By the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

RES/XI MRE-ACTO/01

XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

The Regulations on the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization requires the compulsory filing of six-monthly reports to Member States on activities conducted;

The Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization has fulfilled the duty of filing the relevant six-monthly reports for the 2011 January-June and July-November terms;

The Management Reports have been received, for the 2011 January-June and July-November terms by the ACTO Secretary General;

RULING:

TO CARRY the Management Reports filed by the Permanent Secretariat;

TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND CONGRATULATE the Secretary General of ACTO, Alejandro A. Gordillo, as well as the Executive Officers and Steering Officers, and the Coordinators, for all efforts made towards completing the implementing efforts of the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda, and the strengthening of the Organization's relaunch process.

Adopted in Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.

XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

ACTO Member States agree on the need to strengthen the implementation of activities adopted under the Organization's institutional structure.

The Heads of States Guidelines (Manaus, 2009) and those of the X Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers (Lima, 2010), provide for the need of supplying the Organization with “*a streamlined and modern role as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge, and joint projection forum geared towards addressing the new and complex international challenges ahead*”.

The conditions should be relaxed so that Member States and the PS/ACTO implement any activities as agreed upon in the framework of decisions and mandates granted by the highest political instances in the Organization, and also comprised in the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda, adopted by RES XMRE-ACTO/November 5 to 30, 2010.

Member States must absolutely be able to adopt decisions allowing for the execution of the agreed upon activities – in the best possible manner – in compliance with the provisions in the Treaty, and the adopted Rules and Resolutions.

In applying Articles XXI (4 and 5 verbatim) and XXV in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty; Articles 2 (4 and 5 verbatim) and 20 in the Amazon Cooperation Council Rules; Articles 3 (d, g, i verbatim) and 6 in the Rules of the Amazon Cooperation Council Committee, and Articles 3, 4, 5 (1, 4, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 20 verbatim) in the Rules of the ACTO Permanent Secretariat, provisions shall be adopted for implementing specific activities, keeping the regional sense of the cooperation procedure.

RULING:

1. The Procedure shall be applied to expressly identify specific activities, previously approved upon among Member States.
2. Lenient and gradual operational implementation criteria shall be applied, ensuring that the procedure considers that sustainable development and Amazon integration must be comprehensive. Likewise, it shall be warranted that any activities implemented hereunder enable the timely access of Member States to data.
3. It shall be understood that after the adoption of a proposal by the relevant ACTO instances, two or more Member States shall be entitled to start the execution thereof, taking any necessary precautions so that the prospective incorporation of other Member States is ensured to the extent possible. This provision is not a general rule and shall be applied on a specific basis.
4. The PS/ACTO shall take any relevant steps to keep the unincorporated Member States informed on the execution of an activity aimed at an actual follow-up, including the possibility of making any possible adjustments in the associated documents, purporting to its full implementation by all Member States.
5. This procedure shall prevent any delay in the implementation of already approved and funded initiatives.
6. Any Member State may formally be exempted from total or partial application of an approved activity, for a definite or an indefinite time, notwithstanding its subsequent reinstatement in whole or in part, or as an observer thereof.

7. Should a Member Country be incorporated into an initiative underway, resources allocation shall be conditioned to the approved funding structure and to its operational instruments, and shall be examined on a case-by-case basis.
8. On executing activities, Programmes and Projects, the PS/ACTO shall warrant that, even if they are initiatives not comprising all of the Member Countries, disclosure thereof shall be done keeping the vision of the whole Amazon cooperation process.
9. Every aspect not provided for herein shall be individually decided by the ACC.
10. The PS/ACTO shall file a detailed report on the activities conducted under this Procedure on the next Amazon Cooperation Council meeting.

Adopted in Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.

RES/XI MRE-ACTO/03

XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

ACTO Member States agree on the need to strengthen the conditions so that Member States and the PS/ACTO implement any activities as agreed upon in the context of decisions and mandates granted by the highest political instances, especially within the framework of the RES/X MRE-OTCA/5 adopting the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda;

By means of RES/X MRE-ACTO/4 Member States decided to update the Organization's quota system as of 2012;

It is essential to make progress in the definition of innovating funding mechanisms in order to provide the Permanent Secretariat with a higher technical and budgetary Independence, so as to comply with Member Countries mandates and needs;

Member States considered in the Lima Declaration of November, 2010, the need to widen the identification of sources of funding in order to strengthen regional cooperation;

As part of the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda, four sources of likely resources were adopted, and the PS/ACTO was tasked with the exploration of funding choices via triangular cooperation, and that given the financial context of the Organization, mechanisms and operating criteria must be defined for the realization thereof;

RULING:

1. To establish the Organization's additional funding sources below:
 - a. Voluntary contributions from Member States for the funding of specific activities and strategies.
 - b. Voluntary contributions from state or private companies geared towards the appreciation of the Amazon culture;
 - c. Management rates arising from the execution of international cooperation projects with an external funding source or originating in one or more Member States.

2. For the execution of specific activities and strategies funded by extraordinary contributions from Member States, the initiative shall be required to have been adopted within the framework of Resolution RES/X MRE-OTCA/7. To the extent possible, the terms for the adoption of said contributions shall be reduced.
3. Getting contributions from state or private companies for the appreciation of Amazon culture shall be subject to the following guidance:
 - a. It shall require the formal endorsement of the company's host country of the Member State offering the contribution.
 - b. The PS/ACTO shall inform Member States the contribution proposal, including benefits supply, institutional credits, and communication and disclosure means making up the initiative, in accordance with procedures in force.
 - c. The PS/ACTO shall prepare six-monthly reports on the progress of initiatives and a final report comprising an assessment of impacts produced.
4. In the case of management rates for the execution of cooperation projects or initiatives by means of the PS/ACTO structure and facilities, the guidance below shall be observed:
 - a. Management rates shall be collected to the extent possible in all projects and initiatives.
 - b. Management rate value shall be negotiated considering regulations in force in the funding agency, and costs inherent in the management of the initiative.
 - c. Eligible projects for levying management rates are: (i) any project funded with resources from international cooperation, approved by ACTO; (ii) projects suggested by one or more Member States for the execution of counterpart components in an approved initiative; (iii) projects proposed by a Member State for the execution of national activities associated to the initiatives adopted, and the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda.
5. The contribution proposed by one or more countries for executing its counterpart components or for executing national activities shall require prior to the start of the implementation a formal communication specifying its execution guidance. PS/ACTO shall keep a record of these contributions and shall conduct a follow-up and assessment reporting frequently to all Member States.

Adopted in Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.

XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

The Declaration of the II Meeting of Presidents of Amazon Countries, held in Manaus on February 11 and 12, 1992, reasserts: "...the principles and purposes in the Manaus Declaration of May 6, 1989, wherein our countries recorded their common interests in the Amazonia, particularly in the future of the cooperation aimed at the development and conservation of this heritage" and, in this context, they stressed "that these efforts will not be enough to support those made by our States in discharging their duties and in the exercise of their sovereignty";

That in the Declaration of the Heads of State on the ACTO, adopted in Manaus on November 26, 2009, it was decided to provide the ACTO with a streamlined and modern role as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge, and joint projection forum geared towards addressing the new and complex international challenges ahead";

That by means of RES X/MRE-ACTO/5 dated November 30, 2010, the new Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda is adopted and the Permanent Secretariat is entrusted with the disclosing of the above stated Agenda at the regional and international levels, for identifying new sources of cooperation ensuring the implementation thereof, as well as for supporting Member States with their domestic disclosure;

That by RES X/MRE-ACTO/7 dated November 30, 2010, procedures, mechanisms and terms for negotiating and endorsing agreement proposals are approved between the Permanent Secretariat and third party countries, international organizations or other agencies, besides adopting the Guidelines for the relation with international cooperation;

That in the Lima Declaration, adopted on November 30, 2010, gratitude is expressed towards governments and international organizations providing technical and financial support to the ACTO, and the need is ratified for the Permanent Secretariat to further locating cooperation sources for the implementation and development of strategic programmes, projects, and activities, within the framework of the priorities adopted by Member States, notwithstanding funding sources from their own countries, as fulfillment of the directions issued in the Manaus Heads of Stated Declaration of the year 2009;

That adopting decisions is a priority for enabling the endorsement and implementation of Agreements and/or Memorandum with international cooperation, within the framework of the above stated RES X/MRE-ACTO/7;

RULING:

To recognize the contribution made by the international cooperation, through Governments, and International Organizations, for the compliance with the goals and mandates adopted by ACTO Member States, by means of funding for the Projects of the Amazon Strategic Cooperation Agenda highlighting the importance of its expansions and continuity.

To acknowledge the endorsement of the Technical Cooperation Agreement between the ACTO and the Pan-American Health Organization entered into in the city of Washington, on September 27, 2011.

To congratulate ourselves on the starting of the regional survey procedure for the development of a new Regional Project on "Forests Protection, Biodiversity Conservation, and Climate Change", which the Government of Germany has committed to support – by means of KfW – and to commend the PS/ACTO on implementing a new inquiry model aimed at strengthening regional cooperation.

To highlight the furthering of the projects on “Deforestation Monitoring, Forest Harvesting, and Changes in Land Use in the Pan-Amazonian Forest” – ACTO/DGIS/BMZ/ITTO – ; “Built-in and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River, considering climate variability and climate change” – ACTO/GEF/UNEP; – “Strategic Framework for Developing a Regional Agenda for the Protection of Indigenous Peoples under Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact” – ACTO/IDB, and the

To highlight the implementation of the Strategic Framework Programme for the Development of an Environmental Health Monitoring System in the Amazonia ACTO/IDB/HPO/FIOCRUZ-

To instruct the PS/ACTO to further the survey procedure for the realization of the Regional Project on Forest Biodiversity, favored with a support proposal from the Government of Japan and the cooperation of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity “Institutional Strengthening of CTO Member States for the Environmentally Responsible Forest Management and the Conservation of Biodiversity in Amazonian Forests”.

To call upon so that the projects on: Cooperation Framework Agreement between the Andean Development Corporation and the ACTO; Memorandum of Interinstitutional Cooperation between the ACTO and the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations in the Amazon Basin (COICA), and Memorandum of Understanding between the ACTO and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) may be signed as soon as possible in order to enable the subsequent negotiation of specific support for the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda’s activities.

To state the priority granted by Member States for the negotiation and adoption of a Framework Cooperation Agreement to Combat Boundary Forest Fire among ACTO Member States, wherefore international cooperation is hereby invited to make specific contributions.

Adopted in the city of Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.

RES/XI MRE-ACTO/05

XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

In the X Ordinary Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers, Member States agreed to start a joint observation for the strengthening of national institutions’ involvement and commitment in the Amazon cooperation process, reason for which they entrusted the PS/ACTO with the setting up of a Regional seminar widely delving on ACTO’s role and perspectives, in order to better understand the expectations of the Amazon society;

In complying with said mandate, the XVI Ordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council has positively examined the proposal submitted by the PS/ACTO and tasked the latter with the management of the required resources for supporting the organization of National Seminars in every Member State;

The organization of the above-stated National and Regional Seminars shall be landmarks for the opening of the Organization towards Amazon communities;

RULING:

To conduct National Seminars in order to strengthen ACTO's relaunching process during 2012, for which the Permanent Secretariat shall manage the necessary resources with international cooperation to support the Member Countries that express an interest.

To instruct the PS/OTCA and put in place the necessary arrangement for the organization and financing of the Regional Seminal to be held in Bolivia, in September 2012.

Instruct the Permanent Secretariat to explore alternatives which will allow continuous strengthening of the National Permanent Commissions.

Adopted in the city of Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.

RES/XI MRE-ACTO/06

XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**WHEREAS:**

The actions carried out the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) for the year 2011 have led to the determinants in the successful implementation of the mandates for the X Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers, especially the RES/XMRE-ACTO/5 "Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda", and in the setting up and coordinating of this meeting;

The efforts made along the same lines by the Federative Republic of Brazil together with all other Organization's Member States and with the ACTO Permanent Secretariat have also been determinants for the important decisions hereby adopted;

RULING:

TO STATE its most sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the Federative Republic of Brazil, to the Government of the State of Amazonas, and to its inhabitants for the excellent organization of the Special Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, and the XI Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the ACTO, as well as for all attentions received.

TO ACKNOWLEDGE likewise the ACTO Permanent Secretariat on its very good coordination of the implementation of the X Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers mandates, especially RES/X MRE-ACTO/5 "Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda", on the setting up of these meetings, which have allowed for the strengthening and projecting of the Amazon regional cooperation procedure, by implementing agreed upon and fruitful actions for Member States in the areas of sustainable development and conservation of the environment in the Amazon Basin.

Adopted in Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.

XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

Article III of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and its sole paragraph establish the framework for regional cooperation in matters of commercial navigation;

Resolution IX MRE-OTCA/6 of 25 November 2005 tasked the countries with advancing the formulation of draft General Regulations for Commercial Navigation on Amazonian Rivers, pursuant to decision laid down in the “Declaration of the 8th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization” adopted in Manaus in 2004;

The Amazon Cooperation Council in its Extraordinary Meeting of 14 May 2010 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, approved the Commercial Navigation Meeting recommendations and decided to create a Working Group to continue negotiations;

The reports of the Working Group meetings held in Bogotá – Colombia, La Paz – Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Rio de Janeiro – Brazil on 23-24 September 2010, 3-4 November 2010 and 25-26 May 2011 respectively, evidenced substantial progress in negotiations of the draft General Regulations for Commercial Navigation on Amazonian Rivers;

The agreements achieved in the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the ACC held on 18 October 2011 testify to the progress made to date in these negotiations;

RESOLVES TO:

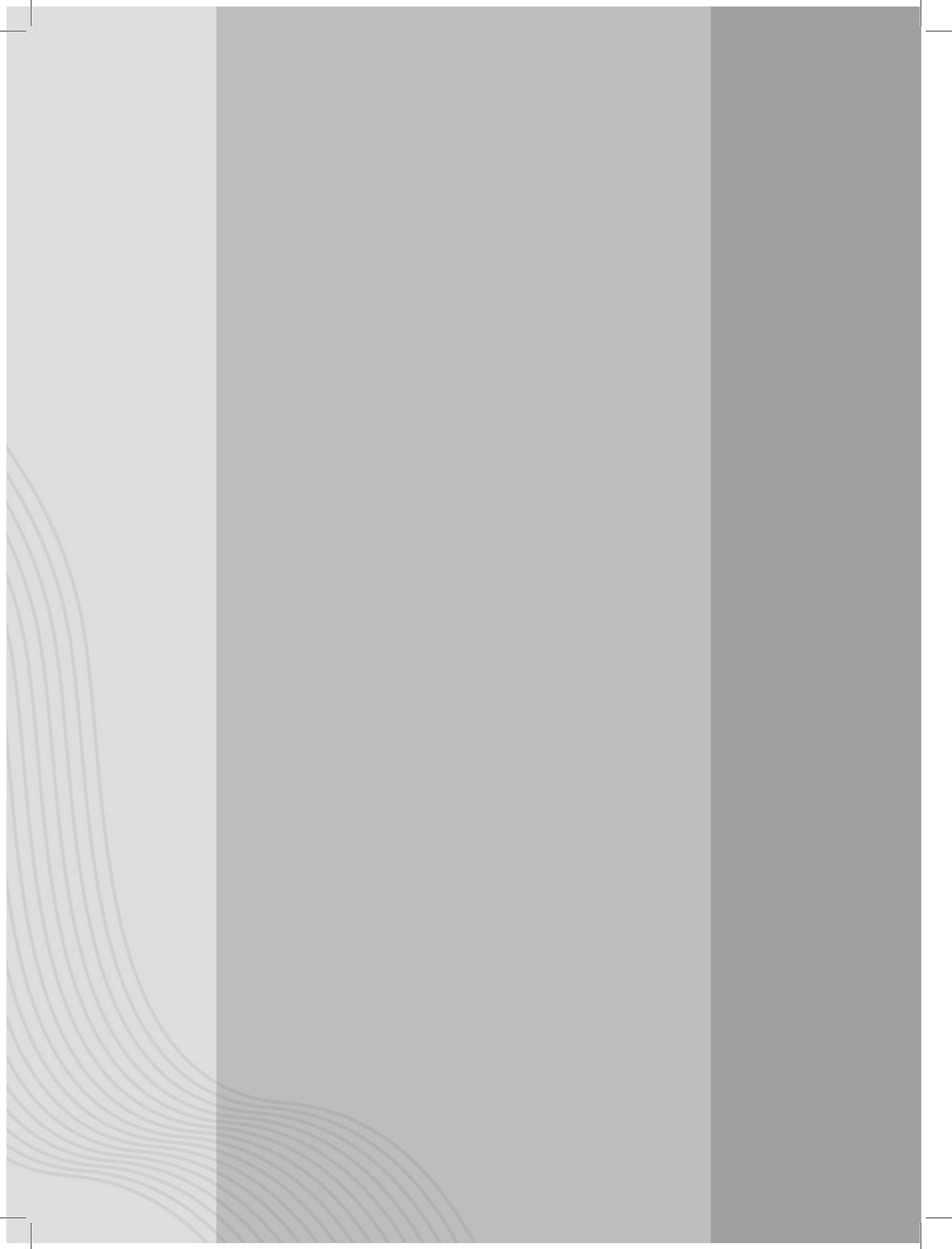
Reactivate the Working Group on Commercial Navigation, under the Presidency of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and task it with resuming its activities and presenting until the end of the first half of the year of 2012 the final proposal for Commercial Navigation Regulations on the Rivers of the Amazon in the next ACC Ordinary Meeting.

Acknowledge, recognize and commend the excellent work done by the Group Presidency, exercised by the Brazilian Government.

Instruct the PS/ACTO to raise funds for the Working Group meetings, considering the possibility of using virtual working tools.

Adopted in the city of Manaus, Brazil, on 22 November 2011.

**MINUTES AND RESOLUTIONS OF
THE MEETINGS OF THE AMAZON
COOPERATION COUNCIL – CCA**



MINUTE

12TH MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

In the city of Manaus, Brazil, on September 13th, 2004, was held the 12th Ordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, convened by the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and by the host country, preparatory to the 8th the Meeting of ACTO Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the ACTO.

The Delegations were presided over by: Mr. Edgar Camacho Omiste Ambassador of the Republic of Bolivia in Brasilia; Ambassador Luiz Felipe de Macedo Soares, Undersecretary of the General Secretariat of South America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Brazil; Ambassador Jaime Girón Duarte, Vice-minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia; by Ecuador, Mr. Diego Ribadeneira, Ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador in Brasilia; by Guyana, Mrs. Marilyn Cheryl Miles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Brasilia; by Peru Mr. Hernán Couturier Mariategui, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru in Brasilia; by Suriname, Minister Councilor Robby Ramlakhan, of the Embassy of Suriname in Brasilia; and, by Venezuela, Mr. Julio García Montoya, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Brasilia. Furthermore, the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization was represented by the Secretary-General, Dr. Rosalía Arteaga Serrano; the Executive Director, Dr Francisco Ruiz Marmolejo; Administrative Director, Prof. Marcos Afonso Pontes de Souza and the Coordinator of Environment, Dr. Enrique Elías Castilla.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Head of the Delegation of Bolivia, Ambassador Edgar Camacho Omiste, in his quality of Delegate of the country host of the 11th Meeting to the CCA, welcomed the delegations and proceeded to the Election of Meeting Head Table, conformed as follows: as President, the Head of the Delegation of Brazil; as Vice-president, the Head of Delegation of Peru and as Secretary to the Meeting, the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO, that would act as Rapporteur.

After taking office, the President of the Meeting thanked for the designation and opened the sessions, putting to consideration the Draft Minute of the Meeting, which was approved without modifications.

PRESENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Following the Agenda of the Meeting, the Presidency granted the floor to ACTO Secretary-General, who also welcomed all the Delegations and briefly presented the Report of Activities prepared by the Permanent Secretariat, for the period of May to September 2004, which approached the following main points, emphasizing as the most important, the accomplishment of the 1st. International Meeting of the National Permanent Commissions of ACTO (Brasilia, July, 1 and 2, 2004) and the improvement of the agreed version of ACTO 2004-2012 Strategic Plan, to be submitted to the consideration and approval of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO Country Members.

Furthermore, were mentioned the results of the Workshop with the officers in charge of the National Programs on Bio-commerce of the Country Members and the Memorandum of Understanding subscribed between the ACTO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), during the 11th Meeting of UNCTAD (São Paulo, Brazil, on June 15th, 2004), which starts up a program of technical cooperation to foster the sustainable use of biodiversity in

the Organization Country Members' Amazon region, named "Regional Program of Bio-commerce for the Amazon"; also informed about the I Workshop of Harmonization and Programming, (Lima, Peru, 26 and 27 of July) within the framework of Project TCP/RLA3007 "Validation of 15 Priority Sustainability Indicators to the Amazon Forest", that derives from the agreement subscribed between ACTO and FAO on May 25th 2005. This project shall be granted US\$ 40 thousand as cooperation, and formally started the "Tarapoto Process". Moreover, the Secretary-General informed that all the Countries Members had fulfilled the requirements for the implementation of the Projects "Joint Cooperation Actions among the Countries of the Amazon to fight the Malaria", and the development of the "Network of Epidemiological Surveillance" with the technical support of PAHO/WHO to contribute towards developing regional initiatives of control and care to other diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/Aids, leishmaniosis and schistosomiasis, among other endemic parasitism. Then, she presented a global panorama on the status of the Regional Program for Integrated Management of Water Resources, approved by GEF; the Proposal of the "Program of Regional Cooperation in the Sustainable Management of Amazonian Protected Areas" that counts with the support of the Center of International Cooperation on Agronomical Investigation for Development (CIRAD) of the French government; the Proposal of Cooperation Agreement with the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ) and other institutions in different fields of joint collaboration; on the imminent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the Andean Community of Nations (CAN).

Dr. Arteaga, also informed about the new Temporary Headquarters of the Organization, declaring the Organization's gratefulness to the Government of Brazil for the hospitality to the Secretariat in the course of its initial installation in Brasilia, at the building of the Palace of Itamaraty.

On the other hand, she referred to the current status of the approval of the Standard Agreement between ACTO and the Government of the Brazil, under the analysis of the Brazilian House of Representatives and Senate.

In that sense, the delegations expressed their congratulations to the Permanent Secretary for the content of the Management Report, emphasizing that the short 4 months of work of the General Secretariat, are inversely proportional to the degree of advance registered, providing CCOOR as a mechanism of support to approaching other regional or sub-regional organizations to support this process, and getting to know, since early stages, the contents of documents such as the Memoranda of Understandings.

Then, the 12th Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council decided to approve the Draft Resolution that approves the ACTO Permanent Secretariat Management Report in the period from May to September 2004.

The Presidency of the Meeting then approached organization-related subjects to be dealt with during the 8th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO Country Members as follows: Standard Agreement between the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO and the Government of the Federal Republic of Brazil; Contribution Quotas of ACTO Members to the plain work of the Permanent Secretariat; Structure of ACTO and its Permanent Secretariat: Organizational Chart and Applications to the vacancies of Special Coordinators; and, Draft Resolutions to be submitted to the consideration and approval of the Chancellors of ACTO Country Members.

Regarding the Standard Agreement, the Head of the Delegation of Brazil commented that this procedure was a novelty for its legislative structure, since ACTO is the first International Organization with headquarters in Brazil.

Concerning the countries' contributions, the delegations committed themselves to continue the efforts in order to settle their contributions. Colombia informed that before the end of the year or the first month of the next one it would be able to settle his pending commitments with the Organization; Suriname, on the other hand, informed that in one month it would regularize its situation. The analysis of the Draft resolutions was postponed.

ANALYSIS OF ACTO STRATEGIC PLAN

ACTO Secretary-General briefly presented the content of ACTO Permanent Secretariat Strategic Plan, stressing the contributions by the Country Members during the 1st International Meeting of ACTO National Permanent Commissions (Brasilia, 1 and 2 July 2004) which have been incorporated to the document. The Executive Director provided details on the information provided by the Secretary-General.

After both interventions the participants agreed that the Plan had been designed like a Navigation chart, of flexible nature, subject to changes along time and the dynamics imposed by the global agenda of Sustainable Development; nevertheless, it was necessary to establish a Work Group Ad hoc to standardize some terminologies and count on a new and more consensual version that would be approved by the Chancellors.

In that sense, the 12th CCA, decided to approve the Draft Resolution that approves the Strategic Plan.

ANALYSIS OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF MANAUS

The Delegates of ACTO Country members, after a profitable exchange of opinions and contributions concerning the document, decided to approve the final version of the Draft Declaration of Manaus to be submitted to the consideration of the VIII Meeting of ACTO Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

ANALYSIS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

ACTO Delegates discussed and approved, with some modifications, the draft Resolutions presented by the Secretariat to be approved by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO Country Members. Furthermore, the delegations of Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil presented new resolutions that were incorporated to the others to be submitted to the consideration of 8th Meeting of Chancellors.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE 8TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ACTO STATE MEMBERS

The 8th Meeting of the CCA, approved, with amendments, the Draft Agenda for the 8th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization Country Members.

OTHER SUBJECTS

The floor was opened for some other contributions beyond the topics foreseen in the agenda. The Chief of Delegation of Peru informed about the invitation of his Government to carry out in Iquitos, Peru, the 9th Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, preparatory to the 9th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The date of this meeting will be coordinated with the Permanent Secretariat and the Country Members' Government will be timely consulted through the specific channels.

READING, APPROVAL AND SUBSCRIPTION OF THE MINUTE OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

The delegates reviewed the Draft Minute of the Meeting and proceeded to subscribe it.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares closed the meeting, recognizing the work conducted by the Permanent Secretariat in its organization.

By the Republic of Bolivia

By the Republic of Colombia

By the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

By the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

By the Federative Republic of Brazil

By the Republic of Ecuador

By the Republic of Peru

By the Republic of Suriname

MINUTE

XIII MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

On November 24 2005, in the city of Iquitos, Peru, the High Officials of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, all Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), met to hold the XIII meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council in preparation for the IX Meeting of Chancellors of the Organization.

The delegations were headed by: HE. Eloy Avila, Ambassador of Bolivia to the Republic of Peru; HE. José Eduardo Martins Felicio, Sub-secretary to the Secretary General for South America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil; HE. Dr. Ricardo Montenegro Coral, Director of Territorial Sovereignty and Frontier Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia; HE. Ambassador Franklyn Chávez, Director General for Regional and Amazonian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador; HE Marilyn Cheryl Miles, Ambassador to Brazil of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; HE. Ambassador Javier González Torrões, Deputy Minister and Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru; HE. Mr. Robby Dewnarain Ramlakhan, Plenipotentiary Minister of the Surinam Embassy in Brazil; and HE. Minister-Counselor Ilenia Medina, Director of Multi-lateral Affairs 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 Secretary General Dr. Rosalía Arteaga Serrano. The full list of participants is attached hereto as Appendix I.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Head of the Brazilian delegation, Ambassador Eduardo José Martins Felicio, as representative of the country hosting the XII Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, welcomed the friendly treatment received in Peru and reiterated that in Brazil's view the treaty should be reinforced and that with Dr. Rosalía Arteaga, the OTC had experienced a great impulse towards sustainable development and the benefits it brings for the peoples of the Amazon and their standards of living as well as for strengthening the countries' Amazonian territories within their national economies. He reminded those present of the important contribution of the ACTO in issues concerning frontiers, as national efforts cannot be detained at the frontier. For this reason, declared the Brazilian delegate, the ACT was created 25 years ago so that themes like education, the environment, health and others, might be dealt with in a regional context.

After Brazil's proposal the meeting turned to the election of the presiding panel which was made up as follows: as Chairman, the Head of the Peruvian Delegation, Ambassador Javier González Torrões; as First Vice Chairwoman, the Head of the Guyana delegation, Ambassador Marilyn Cheryl Miles; as second Vice Chairman, the Head of the Colombian Delegation, Dr. Ricardo Montenegro Coral; and as Meeting Secretary, the ACTO's Permanent Secretary, to carry out the functions of taking the minutes of the meeting. The composition of the presiding panel was submitted to the plenary body and approved.

Once the responsibilities had been taken on, the Chairman of the panel took the floor and in welcoming the delegates, expressed his confidence in a successful conclusion for the work of the session as well as his belief that an ample consensus would be obtained on the pending issues so that the Ministers would be able to declare with total certainty that the ACTO had come out of IX Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs stronger than before and then began the work of the meeting in the following order:

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The preliminary agenda was read out for the delegation's consideration and the following comments were made:

The Venezuelan delegate requested the floor, thanked Peru for the warm welcome given to the delegations and requested that in items 6 and 8 the term “revision” be substituted by the term “consideration” and in item 7 the term “revision” be substituted by the term “presentation”. In addition he explained that the last request was due to the fact that she wished to know Peru’s initial proposal on the Amazon Charter.

The delegate for Peru took the floor, complimented and congratulated Dr. Rosalía Arteaga on her period of office, made a reference to the Amazon Charter and made it clear that the Charter had been put before the Governments in July of 2005 but that he was disposed to make a presentation of the concepts and substance of the Charter.

The delegate for Ecuador, in turn, thanked the Peruvian Government and passed on the greetings of his delegation to the city of Iquitos. In regard to the request of the Venezuelan delegate he showed his concern in relation to the work carried out by the CCACC, which would become useless as would the advances obtained in Brasília, should it be necessary to revise the Amazon Charter. He further stressed that the project had been officially presented to the Governments for their consideration.

The delegate from Venezuela declared that the said project would need further consideration and this would mean additional negotiations for it to be approved. She considered that it would be correct for the “Peruvian Delegation to make a presentation of the Amazon Charter” and reiterated that it was also necessary to change “revision” to “consideration” in items 6 and 8.

On the other hand, the Peruvian Delegate stated that the Amazon Charter was no longer a project because the countries had already expressed their positions officially and there had been consensual work among the delegations.

The Chairman of the meeting took the floor, accepted Venezuela’s request in relation to items 6 and 8 of the agenda but left item 7 as it had been originally proposed. In this way the agenda was approved and the meeting passed on to the next item.

The agenda that was approved is attached to these minutes as Appendix II

2. PRESENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Continuing with the meeting agenda the chairman offered the floor to the ACTO Secretary General who greeted the delegates, expressed gratitude for the extraordinary cooperation and hard work of the Peruvian Chancellery in organizing the Meeting and for the warm welcome offered by the city of Iquitos and then turned to the presentation of the activities report for the period from September 2004 to October 2005.

The Activities Report of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO) is attached to these minutes as Appendix III

The presiding Chairman thanked Dr. Rosalía Arteaga for the presentation and submitted the report for the consideration of the plenary body.

The Brazilian delegate expressed thanks for the far reaching report presented by the Secretary General which reflected the work done by the organization since the meeting in Manaus and made specific references to the following points: he stated that the Headquarters Agreement had been undergoing due process in the Congress for two years in spite of the efforts made by the executive branch for the Brazilian parliamentarians to conclude it. He expressed gratitude for the financial report of the PS/ATCO and complimented the new Administrative Director of the organization, Dr. Flávio Sottomayor.

In regard to the Cooperation Program SIVAM–SIPAM, he explained that in spite of his government’s wishes it had not yet proved possible to find an adequate solution for the costs the beneficiary countries would have to take on, but pointing out that the ATCO could have an important role in the process.

He further mentioned that in the documents that had been circulated, there was a new concept of Andean-Amazonian integrity and expressed his delegation's interest in deepening the discussion of the concept which would call for an ample reflection on the part of the Member Countries.

The Venezuelan delegate expressed her gratitude and in the name of her government, congratulated the Secretary General on the exhaustive report and on the enthusiasm demonstrated. In regard to the multiple agreements and contracts signed by the Permanent Secretary and in view of that set out in the third paragraph of the Protocol of Amendment of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, she requested the Permanent Secretary to supply information on the methodology used for consulting the countries emphasizing the need for Venezuela to have profound knowledge of the contents of the said instruments that had been signed.

The Peruvian delegate expressed his gratitude and congratulated the Secretary General Dr. Rosalía Arteaga on the work done which, in his opinion, personifies the new spirit of the organization thanks to her dynamism, capability and extraordinary projection in the international community. He expressed Peru's satisfaction with the advances attained and extended his congratulations to the entire ACTO team.

The Guyana delegate thanked Peru for its hospitality and her colleagues for their confidence in electing her as vice chairwoman of the meeting. She considered that in spite of its being a young body, the ATCO had produced an important impact in the region due to the dynamism of Dr. Rosalía Arteaga and the arduous labor of the secretariat and reiterated her government's commitment to the organization. She remarked on her government's interest in putting forward a candidate for the post of coordinator in the field of transport, infrastructure and tourism.

In regard to the SIPAM-SIVAM system, she reiterated her government's interest in an initiative that would guarantee small countries like Guyana, access to the benefits of that system. In regard to the Permanent National Commissions she explained the limited technical capacity of her chancellery for coordinating ATCO projects and expressed the need to find mechanisms to permit at least temporary support for the Commission and that would permit it to participate fully in the activities undertaken under the aegis of the Treaty

The delegate for Ecuador added his thanks and expressions of congratulation to those of the other delegations and considered the comparative advantages of the ATCO with its capacity for dealing with Amazonian themes in an integral manner. He further added that his government gave support to work of the Permanent National Commission and mentioned the Financial Report, which demonstrated the transparency of the Secretariat's administrative processes. In regard to what had been mentioned by Venezuela he expressed the idea that the PS/ATCO is fully capable of signing cooperation agreements with other organizations, which may contribute to the carrying out of ATCO mandates.

The Bolivian delegate, in the name of the Bolivian nation, expressed gratitude for the warm welcome offered by Peru and thanked Dr. Rosalía Arteaga for the interesting, complete and challenging report presented. He highlighted the importance of passing on to a phase of developing integral programs, above all, in the field of education wherein the different levels from primary to post-graduate should reflect a better knowledge of the Amazon and make this felt in practice to benefit the populations of our region. The Bolivian delegate announced that Bolivia would put forward a document to that effect.

The Surinam delegate joined his thanks to the people of Peru to those of the delegates, for the warm welcome, and thanked the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the organization and excellent infrastructure offered by that Chancellery and further took the opportunity of thanking the Secretary General for the results that had been obtained in the period dealt with in the activities report, making it known that his delegation has no objection to raise in regard to the said report.

In relation to the Secretariat team made up of 22 people and with a tendency to get bigger, he inquired whether the contributions from the countries would be sufficient to pay these employees. In regard to the agreements signed with third parties, he recognized ATCO's capacity for signing such agreements but requested that PS/ATCO always inform the countries before signing especially when it may imply financial commitments for the countries.

The turn, the Colombian delegate added his thanks for the warm reception offered by the Peruvian Government. He highlighted the efficient way in which the Amazon Cooperation Treaty had been developing until it had transformed itself into a tool that was leading towards the destiny for which it had been conceived. He reiterated Colombia's commitment to this scenario and although it had not proved possible to hold some of the meetings that should have been held pursuant to the mandate of the Declaration of Manaus such as the Meeting on Amazon Integral Security, he confirmed the offer made by the Colombian Minister of Defense to hold the said meeting on February 23 and 24 in the city of Bogotá. He further made it known that the decree establishing the Permanent National Committee, an instrument that can contribute to negotiations between ACTO and third parties, had already been issued and highlighted the importance of the Permanent Secretary's informing the countries about negotiations before signing agreements.

The Bolivian delegate requested the floor to support Venezuela's suggestion that there should be a methodology for circulating information on the agreements prior to their being signed.

The Peruvian delegate made mention of the lack of regulations for the Permanent Secretariat, which resulted in the *de facto* procedures being carried out by the Secretariat. According to the terms of the treaty, it may not sign international instruments that commit the signatory countries, and those that had been signed referred to specific projects in support of the execution of its duties. The budget of the Secretariat as well as the delays in the contributions had made it necessary for the Secretariat to have recourse to international cooperation in order to implement the multiple activities it undertakes. He suggested that a Work Group be constituted to examine and propose an updating of the regulations concerning the Permanent Secretariat. He pointed out that ATCO already has the character of a legally constituted international entity and the regulations had to reflect this delegated capability in view of this same legal nature.

The delegate of the Republic of Venezuela supported the proposal of the Peruvian delegate as the strengthening ATCO was of inestimable value for the Amazon countries and she emphasized the consensus that had been arrived at on the setting up of a Working Group.

The chairman of the meeting gave the floor to Dr. Rosalía Arteaga who expressed her gratitude for the generous words of the delegations representing a substantial backing for the General Secretariat and its work team which, although quite small, had shown extraordinary efficiency and had not spared any efforts to make feasible the results achieved.

In regard to the Brazilian delegate's intervention respecting the SIPAM-SIVAM system, she pointed out that the ATCO could indeed contribute as a platform for the system to benefit the whole region. She emphasized the conversations that had been held with the diplomatic mission of Guyana in Brazil, which had strengthened ATCO's determination to take strong action on this theme.

As for the uneasiness shown by Venezuela and also by other countries, she recognized the obsolescence of the regulations, the gaps that existed and the difficulties these caused for ATCO, a situation of which the CCACC had been opportunely informed. For that reason she was grateful for Peru's initiative, supported by Venezuela, Bolivia and other countries, in regard to the revision of those regulations. To address more specifically the question of the modality adopted by the PS in relation to the agreements that had been signed, she informed the meeting that they had been signed pursuant to the provisions set forth in Article IV if the same regulations which she quoted literally, "... according to the requirements set out in the Work Plan and the specific mandates that the Permanent Secretariat may have been given, it may sign agreements and make commitments with, and to, other countries, international bodies and other entities".

The Secretary General put herself at the disposal of the other countries, should they so wish, to revise each of the agreements and stated that all of them are the result of mandates emanating from the Declaration of Manaus. The Secretary General also made it known that there had been an average of 1.5 meetings a month with the CCACC during the respective period and that the CCACC had been fully and totally informed of all the Secretariat's activities, pointing out that all the minutes of the CCACC have been published on the Organization's web page.

In relation to Bolivia's worry, she finally added that in those cases in which the surety given by the countries implied a commitment of financial resources, there had been formal consultations with the Member States.

In regard to Surinam's uneasiness concerning the eventual impact on the budget caused by the staff involved, the Secretary General explained that the PS/ATCO could not grow beyond its budgeting limitations. She further explained that the increase corresponded to the contracting of consultants by means of widely announced selection processes with the costs being debited to the cooperation projects in question. Thus the increase in the number of staff had not affected the budgeting of the Secretariat in any way.

On taking back the floor the Chairman of the meeting requested approval of the Activities Report of the Secretary General.

The Surinam delegate declared his integral support for the ATCO report.

The Peruvian delegate suggested that the work group proposed by the chairman of the meeting should study a Resolution that would foresee the creation of a Committee to deal with the specific theme of new regulations for the ATCO.

The Guyana delegate reminded the meeting that during the CCACC sessions it had been verified that a large number of regulations needed to be revised. For that reason she suggested that the proposed work group undertake a much wider revision and that it take in all the general themes and not limit itself to those aspects that had been brought up for consideration at the session in course.

The Venezuelan delegate supported the position of the Guyana delegate in the sense of a general revision of ATCO regulations. In regard to the Activities Report she requested that in the coming years the said document be presented to the member countries before being published in its final format.

The Brazilian delegate declared that the activities report was a document that was the entire responsibility of the Permanent Secretariat and did not require prior authorization from Member countries as that was not common practice in international bodies.

The Ecuador delegate expressed his agreement with the words of the Brazilian delegate.

Following that, the Secretary General explained that the said report also served as material to be disseminated and should be considered as such, pointing out that the same was in full agreement with the regulations in force and with the mandates emanating from the Declaration of Manaus. She added that there had not been a single partial activities report presented at each meeting of the CCACC that had not been approved and acclaimed by all the members, which could be proved on the ATCO web page.

The Peruvian delegate agreed with the words of the Brazilian delegate emphasizing that the Secretary General's reports are monthly and that Dr. Rosalía Arteaga had kept the countries' delegations totally and regularly informed of activities throughout the year. She further added that the reports had been approved with great goodwill.

The Guyana delegate suggested that the report be approved and that the comments be aggregated to it in the minutes of the meeting stressing that the activities report is a prerogative of the Secretary General's and not subject to prior approval of the member countries. For that reason, the delegate suggested that the meeting pass to the approval of the same and make the reflections and comments of the delegates that had given rise to the discussion be recorded in the minutes. Brazil and Peru supported that intervention and Venezuela also supported the report and added that the agreement they had arrived at should be recorded in the minutes stressing the importance of a general revision of the regulations.

Finally the chairman of the meeting concluded by considering the Secretary General's Activities Report to have been approved with, in second place, the observations added by the meeting that a work group should be set up to consider the reforming of the regulations of the Permanent Secretariat

With that he reiterated that there were items on the agenda awaiting revision for which reason he suspended the plenary session and constituted a work group session conducted by Ambassador Antonio García Revilla, Sub-secretary for Multi-lateral Affairs.

3. REVISION OF THE THEMES RESULTING FROM THE VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The themes resulting from the VIII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs concerning the proposal “Norms for Commercial Navigation on the River Systems of the Amazon Basin” as well as the proposal for incorporating observers in ATCO meetings were dealt with in the working group session.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE DECLARATION OF IQUITOS PROJECT

The delegates of the ATCO member states, after a fruitful exchange of opinions and contributions to the document, agreed to approve a final version of the declaration of Iquitos Project to be forwarded for consideration by the IX Meeting of Chancellors of ATCO Member States and which is attached to the present minutes as Appendix III.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE AMAZON CHARTER PROJECT

The delegates of the ATCO Member States decided to willingly accept the Amazon Charter Project presented by the Government of Peru and to open negotiations within the ACC that would lead to its being adopted to mark the twenty fifth year of the ACT.

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROJECTS FOR RESOLUTIONS OF THE MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF ATCO MEMBER STATES

The delegations present revised the projects for resolutions put before the XIII Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council – ACC which, after an intense and fruitful exchange, were duly adopted to be submitted for the consideration of the IX Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The projects for the Resolutions are attached to the present minutes as Appendix IV.

At the request of the Brazilian Delegate, the ATCO Secretary General made references to the resolution that proposed the separation of the Coordinating bodies for Health and Indigenous Affairs informing the delegations as to the convenience of separating the said coordinating bodies, given the importance of the indigenous theme which was not restricted to health questions. She further added the proposal of making use of the availability of resources to meet the expenses of the post of Legal Advisor to the new coordinating body as the legal matters that involved the countries should be studied by the respective chancelleries whilst legal matters related to the functioning of the Permanent Secretariat had had to be dealt with by means of professional consultancy services.

At the request of the Columbian delegate, the intervention of the Secretary General regarding the resolution on the participation of observers was recorded in the present minutes insofar as the Permanent Secretariat, pursuant to the mandates received from the VIII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in December 2004, had put before the CCACC a preliminary document of proposals and criteria for the possible participation of observers in future ACTO meetings.

7. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE IX MEETING OF CHANCELLORS OF ATCO MEMBER STATES.-

The XIII Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council ACC approved the project for the Agenda of the IX Meeting of Chancellors of ATCO Member States, which is attached to the present minutes as Appendix V.

8. PROPOSALS OF DATES, VENUE AND THEMES FOR THE AGENDA OF THE III SUMMIT MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF ATCO MEMBER STATES.

The delegations welcomed the offer of the Republic of Ecuador to hold the III Summit Meeting of Presidents of ATCO Member States during the first six months of 2006.

9. PROPOSALS OF DATES AND VENUE FOR THE XIV MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

The head of the delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela informed the meeting of her government's invitation for the XIV Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council to be held in Venezuela in the second half of 2006 preparatory to the X Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

The Chairman of the meeting gave his thanks for the Venezuelan representative's offer and invited the delegates to present it to their Chancellors for consideration.

10. READING, APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF THE XIII MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL.

The Chairman of the meeting, Ambassador Javier García Torrões, after the work established by the agenda had been finished, thanked the delegations present for their willingness and contributions and passed on 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 fifth day of November of the year two thousand and five.

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 do Peru

On Behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

DRAFT MINUTES

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

(Lima, Peru, February 20-21, 2006)

In the city of Lima, Peru, on February 20 and 21 of the year 2006, the High Officers of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, Country Members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), gathered to hold the Extraordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council.

The Delegations were chaired by: Ambassador María Luisa Ramos Urzagaste, Vice minister of Economic Relations and Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia; Minister Clemente de Lima Baena Soares, Head of the South American Division II – DAM II, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil; Mr. Ricardo Montenegro Coral, Director of Territorial Sovereignty and Border Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia; Ambassador Diego Stacey, Undersecretary of National Sovereignty and Border Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador; Marilyn C. Miles, Ambassador of Guyana in Brazil; Ambassador Antonio García Revilla, Undersecretary of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru; R.N.S. Hira, Ambassador of Suriname in Brazil; Minister Counselor Ilenia Medina, Director of Multilateral Affairs, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela. The Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization was represented by the Secretary General, Ms. Rosalía Arteaga Serrano. The whole list of participants can be found in Annex I.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

In his opening remarks, the Chairman of the Meeting, Ambassador Antonio García Revilla expressed the satisfaction of the government and the Foreign Office of Peru with the attendance of the Delegations, which he welcomed. He underlined the importance of strengthening the spirit and the principles underlying the creation of the Treaty as a setting for cooperation and friendship, resulting in new elements that echo the reality and the challenges of the current international agenda: South American integration, social involvement, physical integration, preservation of biodiversity, development of biotechnology and sustainable management of forests, among others.

At the same time, he drew attention on the constructive spirit and the will to reach consensus that should drive the negotiations for the Amazonian Charter Project, submitted by Peru.

He then went on to read and put to consideration of the delegates the Agenda suggested, and he referred to the dynamics of the meeting, reporting on the request made by some delegations to include a subsection MISCELANEOUS, a proposal that was welcomed, and the Agenda was adopted with said incorporation.

Proceeding with the agenda, the Secretary General of ACTO took the floor, who while thanking the government and Foreign Office of Peru for the welcome, calling to and organization of the Extraordinary Session of the CCA, greeted with satisfaction the continuity of the works on the Amazonian Charter, in compliance with the mandates received from the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Country Members, a reinforcing of ACTO, and a stressing of the relevance given by the countries to their relevant Amazonian regions. She finally wished everybody success in the deliberations and discussions adopted.

Next the chairman of the meeting gave the floor to the Delegations to listen to their first general remarks about the Amazonian Charter proposal, before proceeding to negotiate them.

In its intervention, the delegation of Brazil reported that the Brazilian Government supported the Amazonian Charter and that it had received orders from its Foreign Office, in the sense that this meeting should continue doing the required consultations so as to refine the text and move to sign it to the shortest delay possible.

The delegation from Peru stressed the importance of signing a policy document, 25 years after ACT, that allows for, at the international scene, and with no change to the general principles in the treaty, the reassertion and defense of the sovereignty of Amazonian countries, sending a message to the international community on how relevant it is for Amazonian countries, proposing a joint reflection on the challenges posed by sustainable development, in accordance to the mandates received from the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO Country Members.

When taking the floor, the delegation of Venezuela thanked the government of Peru for having facilitated the start of a process of reflexion on the ACT. Next, he reported that CONAPER has organized several meetings to examine and study the Amazonian Charter, and he warns that some of the issues therein are not a part of the ACT, but the Government of Venezuela is ready to embark on a negotiation process, useful for strengthening the Treaty. Progress should be especially made in key issues, such as indigenous and autochthonous populations, as is the case within the framework of other international negotiations, as in the United Nations. He stressed that the negotiation process should take the required time, highlighting the spirit of cooperation of his government to have an Amazonian Charter.

The delegation of Bolivia, when taking the floor, extended a warm greeting to the attendants on behalf of President Evo Morales and of Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador David Choquehuanca Céspedes. He moved on to make some remarks from his government to the Amazonian Charter proposed. The first, regarding the paragraph-based structure, that raises concerns given the various degrees of importance that should be allocated to the issues addressed by the Charter. He also referred to the strategic income concept, noting that not only should the commercial point of view be highlighted or the Amazonian region be only seen as a source of resources.

Likewise, as regards the defense perspective of the region, a more comprehensive vision should be adopted. At the same time, he indicated the existence of other extremely interesting issues for Amazonian countries, which should be underlined, such as culture and indigenous populations, recognizing the main role played by these actors.

In its speech, the delegation of Colombia welcomed the opportunity to resume the work made at Iquitos and to rethink the interests of Country Members on a shared region. The delegation raised concerns and posed questions regarding the work currently done by CCOOR or the one that should be entrusted to it. Nevertheless, it underlined the willingness of its government to contribute in a discussion giving the region and especially its communities the peace of mind of having such an instrument as the Amazonian Charter.

In its intervention, the delegation of Guyana thanked the government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru for the welcome and organization of the meeting. It underlined the relevance of the review of the Amazonian Charter, given the changing situation of the environment after 25 years of validity of the ACT.

At the same time, it requested some key issues be incorporated, namely: granting a greater relevance to stakeholders, as indigenous communities, which in Guyana have dramatically increased over the last 25 years, and have obtained – in a recent law – the recognition as citizens with full rights. Secondly, it referred to the need of addressing, in a declaration dealing with the future, the Amazonian youth, as has been doing the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO, through mechanisms as the Expeditions for young people. Another issue, already addressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana since the meeting in Manaus, relates to the need of having a direct financing strategy, as many of the initiatives suggested require additional funds that the Parties are not capable of contributing. Finally, it addressed the need to underline the cooperation and integration among Andean countries and sub regions, Amazonian plain and the Guyana shield.

AMAZONIAN CHARTER DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION SESSION

When thanking the first general remarks made by the delegations and moving on with the Agenda, the Chairman read the Amazonian Charter proposal, to which the amendments were introduced, that the delegations considered being relevant, and which after a wide, proactive and enriching exchange of ideas, resulted in the text appearing as Annex II.

After discussing the text, the Chairman of the session moved on to recapitulate outstanding issues, so that the delegates can work them in their capitals.

In the preamble to the Amazonian Charter, he stressed four outstanding issues. The first deals with the institutionalization of ACTO, requesting Ambassador Hernan Couturier to prepare a draft text to be sent to the delegations of other countries, and that a new text be prepared in Brasilia by the Ambassadors, following the instructions from their capitals.

The second issue is the term “spirit of democracy and solidarity” of Amazonian countries, the inclusion of which was requested by Venezuela.

The third issue refers to the use of the terms “conservation” and “preservation”. Whereas the Delegation of Brazil favors the first, embodied in the Rio Conference of 92, Venezuela favors the second, adopted in the original text of ACT. In that sense, the Delegate from Guyana noted that in the English version of the Treaty, the term “conservation” is used.

The fourth issue, at the end of the preamble, refers to two paragraphs on the threats and challenges, requesting the Delegations of Colombia and Venezuela to further the discussions to decide if that paragraph will be included or not.

In the operative part of the text, the Chairman lists the paragraphs still requiring negotiation:

Paragraph 3 contains the issue of the full sovereignty, which Brazil requested to put between square brackets.

About paragraph 4, on comprehensive security, the Delegation of Colombia expressed its inconvenience to accept the proposal made by Venezuela, stressing the need to keep discussing the subject, requesting that the original proposal be kept between square brackets.

In paragraph 8, the Delegation of Venezuela reported that it will make consultations, especially regarding the encouragement of the Amazonian populations’ participation.

Paragraphs 10 and 11 will be submitted to consultation, at the request of Colombia and Brazil, respectively.

There was no consensus for paragraph 22, submitted by Ecuador, which will be put to discussion.

That concludes the text review, with the removal of subheadings.

MISCELLANEOUS

Before moving on to the closing part of the meeting, the Chairman of the session gives the floor to the Delegate of Ecuador, who reported that his government intends to organize the Summit of Amazonian Presidents in a city in the Ecuadorian Amazonia and proposes as alternative dates May 29 and 30 or June 1 and 2.

The Delegation of Venezuela put forward the issue of the Expedition “Discovering Amazonia – ACTO and Youth – Paths of Orellana” expressing its concern on inviting a country not member of the Treaty, and questioning on why the same invitation was not addressed to other South American countries, highlighting the need to consult Country Members on such issues.

As regards the Expedition mentioned, the General Secretariat of ACTO read aloud the note verbale addressed to Venezuela regarding the fact that the youth in French Guyana share the Amazonian biome and explained the relevance of the Project, as well as the difficulties and the need to have the support of several players to ensure the initiative's success. It also highlighted the fact that, since the Manaus meeting, the entry of France as an observer is discussed, and in that meeting the possibility was also raised to conduct an expedition, which could not be done in the year 2005. Additionally, there are logistics constraints in terms of the number of young people and the capacity of the ship that will make the journey through the Napo River, a reason for which the young people of other countries outside the region could not be invited. The General Secretariat of ACTO stated the possibility of inviting youths from French Guyana in case Venezuela so determines. It emphasized that decisions are not taken by the General Secretariat, but by the team made up of officers from various Amazon countries.

Added to the considerations raised by Venezuela was the statement by the Delegate of Colombia, and the Delegate of Suriname differed, considering it incorrect to exclude the young people of the French Guyana, as the territory is an integral part of Amazonia. All other Delegations supported the decision to invite French Guyana, stressing the remarkable work done by the Permanent Secretariat in leading the expedition mentioned.

Lastly, at the request of the delegation of Colombia, the General Secretariat of ACTO summarized the current status of the expedition project, listing the support received from private companies, research institutions, government organizations, communication networks from Amazon countries. With that, the Delegations were invited to participate together with the Ministries of Education, in order to ensure their active involvement in the selection process of the young expeditionaries.

READING, ADOPTION AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE MINUTES TO THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

Once completed the work established in the agenda, the Chairman of the Meeting, Ambassador Antonio García Revilla, greeted with satisfaction the willingness and contributions on the part of the delegations present, after which it was announced that the Minutes for this extraordinary session will be adopted and signed in the next meeting.

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

MINUTE

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

(Brasilia, Brazil, July 2, 2007)

The Extraordinary Session of the Amazon Cooperation Council (ACC) was held on 02 July 2007 at the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization in Brasilia-DF, Brazil.

The delegations were headed by the following representatives: Ambassador Pablo Guzmán, Vice-Minister for Economic Relations and Foreign Trade of Bolivia; Ambassador Enio Cordeiro, Head of the South America Division of the Federative Republic of Brazil; Ambassador Mario Galofre Cano, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Colombia; Ambassador Eduardo Mora-Anda, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ecuador; Ambassador Marilyn Cheryl Miles, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Minister César De las Casas, Business Attaché a.i., Embassy of the Republic of Peru; Ambassador Mavis Demon-Belgraef, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Suriname; Ambassador July José García Montoya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and on behalf of ACTO, by Dr. Francisco José Ruíz Marmolejo, Executive Director of ACTO. The complete list of Delegates can be found in Annex I of this Minute.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Head of the Brazilian Delegation, Ambassador Enio Cordeiro, in the quality of Chairman of the panel, thanked the delegations of the member countries of ACTO for their presence in the meeting and informed them of the unfortunate demise of the Ambassador of Bolivia, Mr. Felipe Tredinnick. The Chairman praised his work as a diplomat committed to fostering bilateral relations between Brazil and Bolivia and dedicated to Amazonian causes, as well as his work as Head of the Bolivian Embassy to Brazil. He then gave the floor to the Head of the Bolivian Delegation, Vice-Minister Pablo Guzmán, who thanked the Chairman for his words and invited the delegations to the farewell acts prior to the transfer of the coffin of Ambassador Tredinnick to Bolivia.

The Amazon Cooperation Council made a tribute, during the meeting, to the memory of the Ambassador, who occupied in Brasilia the presidency of the Coordinating Commission of The Amazon Cooperation Council at beginnings of 2007, including a resolution (in annex) that raises its contribution to the objectives of the Treaty.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA TO THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION TO THE CCA

The draft agenda of the meeting was submitted to the delegations for consideration and was approved without objections. The meeting immediately moved on to the third point of the agenda.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF ACTO

The Chairman of the panel informed the group of the candidacies of Ambassador Hernán Couturier and Senator Maria Esther Udaeta presented by the governments of Peru and Bolivia respectively.

He declared that there have so far been two manifestations of support, one for each candidacy, the Delegation of Venezuela had manifested its support to the candidacy of Bolivia, the Senator Maria Esther Udaeta. This situation makes

it impossible to make a unanimous recommendation to the Chancellors of the Member Countries. The Chairman thanked for the managing of Secretary General, Dr. Rosalía Arteaga and proposed that until August 29 the position of Secretary General of ACTO be held temporarily by the current Executive Director, Dr. Francisco José Ruíz Marmolejo.

He furthermore urged the delegations to make every effort so that their respective Chancelleries manifest their preference for one of the candidacies presented so far, or for any other that might be presented until then, no later than August 28. He then gave the floor to the delegations.

The Head of the Bolivian delegation manifested his agreement with the proposal for having an Interim Secretary until August 29 and supported the Chairman's suggestion of insisting that the Chancelleries take a stance on the subject. The Peruvian delegate declared to agree with both delegations.

The Head of the Delegation of Guyana, Ambassador Marilyn Miles, manifested her support to the Brazilian proposal and to the manifestations of Bolivia and Peru. She declared that in the case of Guyana, the President and Chancellor have been away from the country participating in meetings of CARICOM in Barbados and have therefore not had the chance to study the case. She declared to be certain, however, that they will now have time to dedicate themselves to this important issue and will have taken a stance before the established date.

The Head of the delegation of Ecuador, Ambassador Eduardo Mora-Anda, agreed to have the Executive Director of ACTO exercise as interim Secretary General and urged the parties to make an effort to reach a consensus in order to strengthen the organization. He reminded the participants that it is important that this consensus incorporates an equitable distribution of the governing positions within ACTO so that all of the member countries are represented therein.

The Chairman announced to the delegates that in accordance to the regulations that apply to ACC meetings, he had appointed the Heads of the delegations of Guyana, Colombia and Venezuela to, together with the Presidency, report the draft resolutions prior to their formal approval by the Plenary.

Since there were no further recommendations the meeting moved on the fourth point of the agenda.

ACTO/PS BUDGET FOR 2007 (DOC/III.-EXTRAORDINARY SESSION-ACC-ACTO-06)

The Chairman of the panel declared that the document of the Budget for 2007 distributed to the delegations complies with the format and guidelines approved by the Chancellors of the member countries through Resolution RESVIII-07 during the Eighth Meeting of Ministers held in Manaus in September 2004. He further stated that the document has received various suggestions from the member delegations of the CCOOR during various meetings in the sense of improving its format to better reflect the available resources, not just budgetary funds originating from member country contributions, but also extra-budgetary funds coming from various cooperation agencies.

The Chairman then gave the floor to the Administrative Director of ACTO, Dr. Flavio Sottomayor for his presentation and explanation.

Upon presenting the general status of country contributions, the Administrative Director availed himself of the opportunity to thank the Government of Colombia for the payment of the 2007 contribution and to emphasize to the country delegates the need to pay pending contributions as soon as possible. He mentioned the difficulties that ACTO is encountering to comply with its obligations as a result of inflation and especially devaluation of the dollar, which require immediate action by the Member Countries.

He informed the participants that ACTO has had a 47.71% depreciation in the budget from January 2004 until March 2007. In addition, he reported on the savings measures implemented by ACTO in order to reduce costs, including

telephony and general expenses, and pointed to the need of purchasing a popular car for routine activities as well as a representation vehicle for the next Secretary General. He furthermore declared that ACTO has switched banks, having found one that offers better services at zero fees.

Regarding the salaries, he stated that on occasion of the AAC Meeting held in Caracas (4-5 April 2000), the total amount to be contributed by the member countries, together with a corresponding per country percentage thereof, was established at US\$1,139,600. The wages and benefits of the Secretary General, Governing Body and Coordinators, which total 48% of the budget, were determined during the Sixth CCOOR Meeting held 11 March 2003 in Brasilia. The Organization is doing everything it can to function normally with the budget available.

The Administrative Director further informed that the ACTO budget has been complemented with conservative and safe investments in reais and in dollars in order to face the situation. He also mentioned the financial resources managed by ACTO for the coordinating offices, with resources from cooperation funds and with projects being carried out with various institutions.

After the explanation of the budget the debate was opened to the delegations.

The Chairman thanked the Administrative Director for presenting the budget and began the debate by saying that his government had manifested the will to approve the budget as presented in terms of the revenues and expenditures decided upon by the Chancellors. He mentioned the various sessions in which the CCOOR discussed the methodology used to setup the budget and that led to various recommendations made by the Brazilian delegation to improve the format of its presentation. He mentioned the budgetary expenditures resulting from the contributions of the member countries, the investments made by the Permanent Secretariat and the overhead revenues related to the projects developed by the organization, as well as the extra budgetary resources coming from projects developed with ABC, the World Wildlife Foundation, IDB, UNEP, WB, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and others used in programs but not managed by the Organization, and that amount to approximately US\$ 3,100,000.00. The fact is that the contributions of the member countries represent less than 20% of the total, and the budget approved by the member countries is not very programmatic at all, considering these are administrative expenses. In this situation it is important to consider two aspects:

1. Whether the Organization is working with budgetary resources approved and paid for by the member countries that are compatible with the needs of the Organization,
2. To what extent do the existing budgetary checks provide a clear view of all the resources that are used and of the activities carried out using the brand and sponsorship of the Organization?

As a result, he suggested that the ACC approve the presented budget and that a request is presented to ACTO/PS to elaborate a proposal for the revision of the financial and administrative management instrument so that in the future the budget is presented in such a manner as to provide a panoramic overview of the budgetary and extra-budgetary resources, including a full description of their use. This new budget format would then be submitted to Ministers for approval.

With regards to the adaptation of the resources originating from the contributions of the member countries, he suggested that these be reconsidered using realistic criteria that takes into account the possibilities of each member country and gives back to ACTO the purchasing power that it had in April 2002, when the annual amount was established at US\$ 1,139,600.00. This review would be submitted to an ACC meeting and then to the Chancellors.

After his presentation he gave the floor to the Head of the Bolivian Delegation who, in response to the Chairman's declaration of the need to approve the budget in order to allow the Permanent Secretariat to continue its activities, suggested that the first mission of the new Secretary General should be to review the budget and its strategic lines.

He also stated that Bolivia is concerned with the delay in the payment of the contributions, mentioning that participation in various international organizations has a high cost for Bolivia. He declared his approval of the budget, but called attention to the fact that the country contributions have suffered 40% devaluation and that the alternatives and options to correct this situation must be analyzed.

The Head of the delegation of Colombia requested the floor to manifest the support of his government to the approval of the budget with three important recommendations:

1. There is an urgent need to strongly urge the countries to pay their dues;
2. Upon preparing a new budget, the financial experts of ACTO need to define exactly how much the contributions need to be increased in order to recover the purchasing power of the Organization that was programmed in 2004.
3. It is necessary to define the rules for the programmatic budget.

The Peruvian Delegate, Minister Cesar De las Casas, considered it important to approve the budget that same day, modifying the procedures for its elaboration in order to make progress and so that it can be dealt with at a higher level in the Meeting of Chancellors scheduled for the end of August. He suggested that haste be made upon working on the recommendation of the Brazilian delegation.

The head of the Delegation of Venezuela manifested his support and declared that considering the current problems, the budget must be increased in order to compensate for the devaluation of the dollar. Nevertheless, since the idea is to re-establish purchasing power with some adjustments, it is important to keep in mind that the budget is strictly for administrative expenses. Adjusting the budget for operating expenses would imply in even greater contributions and this would not be viable. The great question is how the Organization has been able to function by covering operating expenses with other sources of funding without creating new resources. This would be object of the ACC, since the presentation of the budget was determined by the ACC. He finished by saying that Venezuela supports an increase in the contributions, but with the above-mentioned reservation.

The member of the Ecuadorian Delegation, Councilor Alvaro García, pointed out that in general lines his country agrees with the other countries in what the initial budget is concerned. He urged the participants to consider that only 20% of the portfolio of ACTO is financed by the countries and that there is effectively a need to substantially increase the budgets of the countries. If this is not possible, due to the different realities of the countries involved and to concerns such as that manifested by Bolivia, it is necessary to review the contributions in their original form respecting the percentages established for each country. He emphasized the need to develop a more complete and concrete relation between the programmatic and the administrative budgets in order to provide a clearer idea of the resources obtained as well as to show that part of the programmatic resources are financing part of the administrative expenditures.

The Head of the Guyanese Delegation, upon taking the floor, pointed out that in the case of her country, Guyana has always made an effort to pay its dues on time. Not because of the low monetary amount, since it represents a high percentage, but because the country considers the Organization very important and deserving of this attention. She further stated that it has always been difficult for the countries to pay their contributions at the same time and that before considering the consequences of the currency devaluation the delegations should insist with their governments on the importance of paying their contributions to ACTO on a timely basis.

As a second point, she reminded the participants that ACTO has all of its coordinators for the first time and that these people left their countries with their families and should have their expenses paid for by ACTO in order to be able to fulfill their duties as coordinators. Regarding the contributions and what should be done about the devaluation, she stated that this issue needs to be further examined, as it is the case not only of ACTO but of the embassies as well. The situation requires further consideration in order to find an ideal and more austere solution. Those in charge of the administration

must work to find an alternative and present it during the Ministerial Meeting. Finally, she approved the suggestion for the budget, pointing to the comment made by the delegate of Ecuador in the sense that it is not easy to cover operating expenditures with programmatic expenditures.

In his final comment the Chairman declared that it would be preferable to approve the budget and prepare a new proposal taking into account the various points discussed during the meeting for the 2008 budget. He pointed out that like the other delegations Brazil does not consider it bad for the Organization to manage extra budgetary resources, but that there needs to be a greater level of reporting and control regarding these resources as well as a way to ensure that an excessive dependence on these external funding sources is not developed.

ACTO/PS 2007-2008 PLAN OF ACTION (DOC/III.-EXTRAORDINARY SESSION-ACC-ACTO-05)

Upon moving on to this part of the agenda, the Chairman, Ambassador Enio Cordeiro, considered that because the Plan of Action had already been the object of exhaustive study by the PNCs there was no need for a formal presentation of its content. He pointed out that the ACC is responsible for approving the document and that its content had been extensively debated by the CCOOR. He referred to the last meeting in which a working group was formed to examine the document. This group considered the Plan of Action and evolving document that will be perfected as it incorporates the contributions of the Member States and the experience and practice of the Permanent Secretariat. He suggested that the ACC consider the possibility of approving the Plan of Action as is.

He also suggested that the next presentations of the budget be clearly correlated to the broad lines and budget items of the Plan of Action and that the CCOOR studies the implementation of the Plan on a permanent basis using the document as a reference and improving it on a continuous basis.

The delegate of Bolivia took the floor and manifested his support to the considerations of Brazil. He proposed that the budget should be approved incorporating the observations made by the Chairman as well as two others that would foster the evolution of said document.

1. Link the activities and the resources invested in them so that there is a clearer idea of the practical feasibility of the Plan of Action;
2. Place a greater emphasis on results. Upon analyzing the Plan it seems that some activities derive from results that require another plan to be achieved. This could be improved by including concrete criteria for results to be presented in the final reports and by presenting specific progress on the strategic lines.

The delegate of Peru agreed with Bolivia, regarding the need to link the budget to the Plan in an integrated document where it is possible to see the connection. This would facilitate matters at a higher political level as it would present greater precision regarding the relation between the financial obligations of the Member States and the objectives to be achieved through the Plan of Action. The delegate of Guyana agreed with the previous declarations adding that there are many good ideas, but without funds it will be impossible to carry out the Plan of Action. She pointed to the need of taking into account the asymmetries within and between the countries, since some countries are more developed than others.

Once point 4 of the agenda was concluded, the Chairman submitted the next point of the agenda to the consideration of the delegations.

OTHER TOPICS

Attending to a request made by the Venezuelan government, the Executive Director of ACTO took the floor to inform the participants of the next Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities of Science and technology to be held on November

22-23 in Caracas. This meeting will be preceded by an International Amazonian Meeting scheduled for October 17-19 in Puerto Ayacucho. It is hoped that the Embassies and Chancelleries of the countries will encourage their respective ministers to participate in both meetings.

Upon conclusion of the items of the agenda the Chairman convened a meeting of the Commission responsible for drafting the resolutions. Once their work was finished, the meeting moved on to reading the resolutions which were approved without any observations.

At 12:30 the Session of the Amazon Cooperation Council was closed. The minutes of the session were signed on 02 July 2007 in Brasilia, in three copies in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

By the Government of Bolivia
By the Government of Colombia
By the Government of Guyana
By the Government of Suriname

By the Government of Brazil
By the Government of Ecuador
By the Government of Peru
By the Government of Venezuela

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

RES/EXTRAORDINARY SESSION/CCA/01

MANIFESTS its profound sorrow for the passing away of the Ambassador of the Republic of Bolivia to the Government of Brazil, on July 1st, 2007;

EXALTS his contribution to the implementation of the objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

TRANSMITS its solidarity to the members of his family and the Government of Bolivia on behalf of all the members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

RES/EXTRAORDINARY SESSION/CCA/02

RESOLVES TO:

Appoint Executive Director, Mr. Francisco José Ruíz Marmolejo, to the interim position Secretary General of the Organization, until August 29, 2007.

Urge the Member States to manifest their decision with regard to the candidacies presented to date for the position of Secretary General no later than August 28.

RES/EXTRAORDINARY SESSION/CCA/03

RESOLVES TO:

1. Approve the budget of ACTO for the calendar year 2007;
2. Commission the General Secretariat and the CCOOR to prepare a review of the Financial and Administrative Management Instrument, so that:
 - i) The budget reflects all the budgetary and extra budgetary resources managed in the programmatic and administrative work of the Organization;
 - ii) The budget is linked to the programmatic lines and activities contained in the Plan of Action.
3. Commission the General Secretariat to develop a proposal for the 2008, budget that takes into account the need to recover, to the extent possible, the purchasing power lost as a result of currency fluctuations;
4. Approve the 2007-2008 Plan of Action as an evolving document that will incorporate the successive observations, comments and needs presented by Member Countries. The CCOOR will be in charge of monitoring compliance with these resolutions.

MINUTE

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

(Brasilia, Brazil, August 29, 2007)

The Extraordinary Session of the Amazon Cooperation Council (ACC) was held on 29 August 2007 at the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization in Brasilia-DF, Brazil.

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Jorge Taunay, Under-Secretary-General of South America, and the delegations were headed by the following representatives: Ronald Barrancos, Minister Councilor of the Embassy of Bolivia; Minister Clemente de Baena Soares, Head of the Meridional America II Division of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mario Galofre Cano, Ambassador of Colombia; Eduardo Mora-Anda, Ambassador of Ecuador; Marilyn Cheryl Miles, Ambassador of the Republic of Guiana; Hugo De Zela Martínez, Ambassador of Peru; Mavis Demon-Belgraef, Ambassador of Suriname; Julio José García Montoya, Ambassador of Venezuela; and on behalf of ACTO, the Secretary-General a.i., Francisco Ruiz Marmolejo. The complete list of Delegates can be found in Annex I of these Minutes.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Prior to the plenary session, the Heads of the Delegations met in private.

Upon beginning the Extraordinary Session of the ACC, the Chairman of the panel, thanked the delegations of the Member Countries of ACTO for their presence and submitted the draft agenda to their consideration. A third point was added to the minutes upon request of the head of the Venezuelan Delegation: the holding of a Meeting of Chancellors of ACTO once the new Secretary-General is appointed. The request was approved without objections and the meeting moved on immediately to the second point of the agenda.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ACTO

In accordance to prior consultations held with the heads of the delegations, the Chairman of the panel proposed for a single resolution to be issued from the meeting extending the interim mandate of Mr. Francisco Ruíz Marmolejo as Secretary-General of the Organization until 30 September 2007. No objections were presented by the delegations.

At 11:00 a.m. the Chairman of the Extraordinary Session of the ACC declared the session closed. The present Minutes were signed on 29 August 2007 in Brasilia, in four certified true copies in Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and English.

By the Government of Bolivia

By the Government of Colombia

By the Government of Guyana

By the Government of Suriname

By the Government of Brazil

By the Government of Ecuador

By the Government of Peru

By the Government of Venezuela

ANNEX I

BOLIVIA

1. Second Secretary Ronald Barrancos

BRAZIL

2. Ambassador Jorge Taunay, Undersecretary General for South America
3. Minister Clemente Baena Soares, Head of the South America Division II
4. Second Secretary Sergio Paulo Benevides, South America Division II

COLOMBIA

5. Ambassador Mario Galofre Cano

ECUADOR

6. Ambassador Eduardo Mora-Anda

GUYANA

7. Ambassador Marilyn Cheryl Miles

SURINAME

8. Amb. Mavis Demon-Belgraef
9. Counselor Ruwan Gillian Adjako

PERU

10. Ambassador Hugo De Zela Martínez
11. Second Secretary Julissa Macchiavello

VENEZUELA

12. Ambassador Julio José García Montoya
13. Mr. José Ramón Delgado, Attaché for International Affairs

ACTO

14. Mr. Francisco José Ruiz Marmolejo, Secretary General a.i.
15. Mr. Flavio Sottomayor, Administrative Director

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

RES/EXTRAORDINARY SESSION/CCA/01

RESOLVES TO:

Appoint Executive Director, Mr. Francisco José Ruíz Marmolejo, to the interim position of Secretary-General of the Organization, until 30 September, 2007.

MINUTE

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

(Brasilia, Brazil, September 26, 2007)

The Extraordinary Session of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA) was held on September 2007 at the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization in Brasilia-DF, Brazil.

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Enio Cordeiro, Head of the South America Division, and the heads of the delegations were presided by the following representatives: Minister Counselor Pedro Gumúcio, Business Attaché a.i. of the Embassy of Bolivia; Minister Clemente Baena Soares, Head of the Meridional America II Division of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Mario Galofre Cano, Ambassador of Colombia; Eduardo Mora-Anda, Ambassador of Ecuador; Marilyn Cheryl Miles, Ambassador of Guyana; Hugo De Zela Martínez, Ambassador of Peru; Mavis Demon-Belgraef, Ambassador of Suriname; Julio José García Montoya, Ambassador of Venezuela, and on behalf of ACTO, by Secretary General a.i., Francisco Ruiz Marmolejo. The complete list of attending Delegates can be Annex I of these Minutes.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Prior to the plenary session, the Heads of the Delegations met in private.

Upon beginning the Extraordinary Session of the ACC, the Chairman of the panel thanked the delegations of the Member Countries of ACTO for their presence and submitted the draft agenda to their consideration. The agenda was immediately approved and the meeting moved on the last point of the agenda, namely:

SUCCESSION PROCESS AND INTERIM POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL TO ACTO

In accordance to the prior consultations held with the heads of the delegations, the Chairman proposed for a single resolution to be issued from the meeting extending the interim mandate of Mr. Francisco Ruiz Marmolejo as Secretary General of the Organization until 31 October 2007, when a new ACC meeting will be convened.

The head of the Peruvian delegation formally manifested the concern of his government with the prolonged temporary mandate, a situation that damages the Organization by hindering its progress and ability to fully develop its capacities and potential. He asked the delegates to aim at this being the last extension of the interim mandate and to make every possible effort to put an end to this situation.

The Head of Venezuela delegation supported the motion of the Peruvian delegation and urged the Interim Secretary to take advantage of this period to undertake an exhaustive review of the pending instruments, such as the budget and internal regulations of the organization, so that the process is well advance when the new Secretary General takes office.

Once interventions were finish and there no being no objections on behalf of the delegations, the Chairman submitted to the consideration of the participants the resolution that extends the Interim mandate of the Executive Director, Dr. Francisco Ruiz Marmolejo, as the Secretary General of ACTO (The Resolutions is found in the Annex).

The Secretary General a.i. requested the floor to register, in name of Permanent Secretariat, the dedication, professionalism and commitment demonstrate by all staff of PS/ACTO, including the sectorial and project coordinators as well as the administrative and support staff, during the three month of his mandate. He declared the studies and reports develop

by them and presented during the Meeting of the Coordinating Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCOOR) are a clear testimony to ACTO's compliance with the commitments assumed with the governments and with third parties, for with the Secretary General expressed his heartfelt thanks. He furthermore assured the delegations that this feeling is shared by all the members of the ACTO Permanent Secretariat.

Nevertheless he expressed his concern regarding the financial situation of the Permanent Secretariat, pointing out that to date, the contributions received for the period of 2007 have covered only 20% of the total budget, in spite of which the PS/ACTO has managed to own up to its commitments and keep the Organization functioning with a complete staff. However, resources that were set aside and that have thus far made it possible for ACTO to function normally will only last until the end of the year, at which point it will become necessary to take emergency measure such as taking a bank loan or reducing costs with personnel, including support staff and coordinators. As such reasons, he urged the governments, through the delegates of the CCA, to pay their contributions in the shortest term possible.

Once the interim Secretary General finished the intervention and there being no further comments by the Members Countries, the Chairman of the Extraordinary Session of the ACC declared the session closed. The present Minutes were signed on 26 September 2007 in Brasilia, in four copies, in Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and English.

On behalf of the Government of Bolivia

On behalf of the Government of Colombia

On behalf of the Government of Guyana

On behalf of the Government of Suriname

On behalf of the Government of Brazil

On behalf of the Government of Ecuador

On behalf of the Government of Peru

On behalf of the Government of Venezuela

ANNEX I

LIST OF DELEGATIONS

BOLIVIA

16. Minister Pedro Gumúcio, Head of Business a.i.
17. Second Secretary Ronald Barrancos

BRAZIL

18. Ambassador Enio Cordeiro, Head of the South America Division
19. Minister Clemente Baena Soares, Head of the Meridional America II Division
20. Second Secretary Sergio Paulo Benevides, Meridional America II Division

COLOMBIA

21. Ambassador Mario Galofre Cano

ECUADOR

22. Ambassador Eduardo Mora-Anda
23. Councilor Hernán Yáñez

GUYANA

24. Ambassador Marilyn Cheryl Miles
25. Second Secretary Charlene Phoenix

SURINAME

26. Amb. Mavis Demon-Belgraef
27. Councilor Ruwan Gillian Adjako

PERU

28. Ambassador Hugo De Zela Martínez
29. Second Secretary Julissa Macchiavello

VENEZUELA

30. Ambassador Julio José García Montoya
31. Mr. José Ramón Delgado, International Affairs Attaché

ACTO

32. Mr. Francisco José Ruiz Marmolejo, Secretary General a.i.
33. Mr. Flavio Sottomayor, Administrative Director

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

RES/EXTRAORDINARY SESSION/CCA/01

RESOLVES TO:

Extend the interim mandate of Executive Director, Mr. Francisco José Ruíz Marmolejo as the Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization until 31 October 2007.

MINUTE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, May 14, 2010)

The Special Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA) began at nine o'clock on May 14th at the headquarters of Itamaraty Palace in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

Presiding at the meeting was His Excellency Ambassador Gonçalo de Barros Carvalho e Mello Mourão, Interim General Secretary for Latin America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Brazil. The delegations were headed by Their Excellencies; José Alberto González Samaniego, Ambassador to Brazil of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Minister Clemente Baena Soares, Director of the Department of South America II of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil; Ambassador Alejandro Borda, Chief of the Office of Territorial Sovereignty and Border Development of the Republic of Colombia; Minister Miguel Vasco, of the Embassy of the Republic of Ecuador in Brazil; Mr. Harry Narine Nawbatt, Ambassador to Brazil of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Minister Luis Arribasplata, Consul General of Peru in Rio de Janeiro; Mr. Robby Ramlakhan, Ambassador, responsible for the subject of OTCA within the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Suriname; and Mr. Maximilien Arvelaez, Ambassador to Brazil of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In addition, SP/OTCA was represented by Ambassador Manuel Picasso, General Secretary; Ambassador Mauricio Dorfler, Executive Director, and Mr. Flavio Sottomayor, Administrative Director. The complete list of delegates and auxiliaries may be found as Appendix I of these Proceedings.

The subjects of the meeting were:

COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION ON THE AMAZON RIVERS

The plenary received a report on suggestions produced at the Meeting on Commercial Navigation on International Rivers of the Amazon, held in the city of Rio de Janeiro from May 12-13, 2010. After consideration, the Plenary approved the suggestions and called for Member Countries to designate delegates who will comprise the Working Group created at this time, in order to lend continuity to negotiations. The suggestions approved are in Appendix 2. The delegation from Colombia confirmed its offer to provide a venue for the next meeting of the Working Group treating this theme in the city of Bogotá.

CRITERIA FOR A NEW 2011 BUDGET PROJECT AND A NEW ORGANIZATIONAL CHART PROJECT OF SP/OTCA

The Members of the Council agreed regarding the budgetary difficulties of SP/OTCA, which are the fruit of the loss of value of the quotas of approximately 70%, having been caused by losses related to variation in the value of the type of exchange and to inflation. It was recognized the discussion of the organizational structure of SP/OTCA is linked to budgetary availability, and for this reason this discussion depends on the solution of financial limitations. At the same time, definition of the necessary budget is related to the mandates granted to SP/OTCA, while these in turn are linked to the role to be defined by Member Countries. In this regard, the importance was recognized of having an organization that is efficient and result-oriented.

At the same time, the Members of the Council recognized the presence of an emergency situation that demands that efforts be made in order to encounter a short-term solution. With this end in mind, it was suggested that an Ad Hoc Working Group be established, made up of the Focal Points of the Chancelleries, in order to explore alternatives to be proposed to CCA. In addition, it was agreed that among the options for confronting financial limitations are: (a) that

the payment of pending quotas be facilitated; (b) that internal consultations begin in order to consider the up-dating of the value of quotas beginning in 2012 at the latest; (c) to examine the current organizational chart of PS/ACTO and to consider a reorganization of the same, and (c) that the possibility be explored to provide for special contributions until the basic problem is resolved. As an input to the process for justification of the increase in the value of quotas, SP/OTCA was requested to develop the pertinent documentation.

GUIDELINES FOR RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Council recognized the relevance of cooperation for the functioning of the organization, and expressed its interest in strengthening its relations with cooperating sources and at the same time in clarifying the same. The Council carried out an analysis of proposals for guidelines for the relation with international cooperation and of the Resolution project that regulates procedures, mechanisms, and terms for the consideration, negotiation, and subscription of agreement proposals between the Permanent Secretariat and third countries, international organizations, and other entities.

The Members of the Council expressed the various aspects that they consider necessary to be recorded in the instruments presented, and concluded with approval of the agreed upon text presented in Appendix 3.

The Council recognized the difficult situation that is facing PS/ACTO because of its fragile financial situation and expressed its concern that resources are received from cooperation sources, including those for covering current expenses.

It emphasized that SP/OTCA has continued to present detailed information about the projects that receive resources from international cooperation, and the Council recommended that reports that describe the projects and their status continue to be sent to Member Countries.

BASIC WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE NEW STRATEGIC AGENDA OF AMAZONIAN COOPERATION

The Council received the base document that had been previously presented in the Workshop on Exchange of Experience of the Focal Points of the Ministries of Foreign Relations Responsible to OTCA. The delegates expressed their congratulations to SP/OTCA for preparation of the document and for the beginning of the process, considered it to be a point of departure for the strategic future of the organization. The delegates of Member Countries shall send their complementary comments by next June 21 at the latest, and SP/OTCA shall consolidate these comments and distribute them among the cited Focal Points.

In order to lend continuity to the process of building a strategic agenda, the Council decided that the above-mentioned Ad Hoc Working Group shall prepare an adjusted proposal for consideration at the next Ordinary Meeting of the CCA. The base document may be found in Appendix 4.

PROJECT OF NEW REGULATIONS

Moreover, the Council decided that, through the Ad Hoc Working Group of the CCOOR, SP/OTCA shall continue to work on the up-dating of the five regulations currently in effect. In this sense, it was agreed that Member Countries shall, before June 21, send their comments and initial points of view based on the forms distributed previously by SP/OTCA.

ADMINISTRATIVE – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT PROJECT

A preliminary document was presented on the theme, and it was decided that Member Countries shall send their comments on the proposed contents to SP/OTCA. Moreover, SP/OTCA shall work on a document and will circulate a revised version.

OTHER SUBJECTS

The Council took note of an invitation from Suriname for a meeting of specialists of Member Countries of the OTCA on the REDD+ theme before the next Conference of Parties to the CMNUCC to be held in Mexico. To this end, it will send the corresponding communications, using formal channels, and requested the technical support of SP/OTCA.

The Delegation of Bolivia distributed to Members of the Council a document entitled Agreement of Peoples produced at the World Conference of Peoples on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth. It expressed its interest in participating in the meeting that will be called by Suriname. The Council expressed its congratulations to the Government of Bolivia for having held the above-cited event.

The General Secretary of OTCA thanked the delegations for their presence, as well as expressing his thanks, on behalf of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, to the Government of Brazil for its offer to host these meetings and for the attention it provided.

Upon completion of the Special Meeting of CCA, the delegations expressed their appreciation and congratulations to the Government of Brazil and the Permanent Secretariat for the excellent organization of this meeting and the kindness received by all Council members.

It was decided that the Amazon Cooperation Council shall hold its XIV Ordinary Session in the city of Lima, Peru, tentatively in November, which shall precede the tenth Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

The Chairman of the Meeting declared the deliberations closed at six forty five p.m.

For the Plurinational State of Bolivia

For the Government of the Republic of Colombia

For the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

For the Government of the Republic of Suriname

For the Federative Republic of Brazil

For the Republic of Ecuador

For the Government of the Republic of Peru

For the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

APPENDIX I

LIST OF DELEGATES PRESENT

PLURINACIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

Ambassador José Alberto González Samaniego
Dr. Walter Clarens Endara

FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

Ambassador Gonçalo de Barros Carvalho e Mello Mourão
Minister Clemente Baena Soares
Secretary Lauro de Castro Beltrão Filho
Secretary Hayle Gadelha
Chancellery Official Sergio Luiz Pereira

REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

Ambassador Alejandro Borda
Ambassador Maria Elvira Pombo Holguín
Dr. Carlos Carretero

REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

Minister Miguel Vasco
Counselor Franklin Quishpe
Mr. Ramiro Bonilla, Ecorae

COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

Ambassador Harry Narine Nawbatt

REPUBLIC OF PERU

Minister Luis Arribasplata
Minister Counselor Maria Pilar Castro
Secretary Raúl Meneses

REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

Ambassador Robby Ramlakhan
Secretary Fariza Blokland

BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Ambassador Maximillien Arveláez
Ms. Sara Caballero
Ms. Marlene Davargem

SP/OTCA

General Secretary, Ambassador Manuel Picasso
Executive Director, Ambassador Mauricio Dorfler
Administrative Director, Flávio Sottomayor
Coordinator of Infrastructure, Transport, Communications, and Tourism, Donald Sinclair
Coordinator for Indigenous Affairs, Jan Tawjoeram
Coordinator for the Environment, Antonio Matamoros
Coordinator for Health, Antonio Restrepo
Coordinator for Science, Technology, and Education, Germán Gómez

APPENDIX 2

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL (CCA) RESULTING FROM THE MEETING “COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION ON INTERNATIONAL RIVERS OF THE AMAZON”

Rio de Janeiro, May 12 & 13, 2010

The delegates of the Member Countries present at the Meeting on Commercial Navigation on International Rivers of the Amazon recommends to the Amazon Cooperation Council:

- a)** That a Working Group be established composed of delegates of the Member Countries and with the technical support of SP/OTCA, in order to continue deliberations that make it possible to create a Regulation for Commercial Navigation on Rivers of the Amazon. Member Countries shall communicate to SP/OTCA the designation of their delegates before June 15, 2010.
- b)** That the document of reference to be used as a basis for coming negotiations be the Project distributed by SP/OTCA on April 30, 2010, with the SP-OTCA Circular 262/2010, which includes the proposals received from participating delegates during May 12th and 13th, 2010. The document is contained in Appendix 1.
- c)** That observations, opinions, or comments on the subject be sent to SP/OTCA before July 15, 2010. SP/OTCA shall distribute the same as they are received to all Member Countries.
- d)** That SP/OTCA append the comments sent by Member Countries to the reference document (Appendix 1), and distribute them for the consideration of Member Countries before July 30, 2010.
- e)** That the Working Group meet during the first week of September in the city Bogotá in order to move forward in finalization of the proposal for regulation and to define the next steps to be taken.
- f)** That SP/OTCA send, before May 20, 2010, the glossary of technical terms developed as part of the study entitled: “International Transportation Network in the Amazon” as an input for the subsequent meeting.

APPENDIX 3

DRAFT RESOLUTION RES/ ACC-ACTO

(Version of the Extraordinary Session – 14.05. 10)

CONSIDERING:

The need to promote the institutional strengthening and improvement of the cooperation process within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization – ACTO, by reviewing the regulations that exist in the different bodies and spheres of the Organization;

The attributions and competences of the Secretary General of ACTO, especially those concerning numeral I and in paragraph 3 of numeral II of the Amendment to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, as well as the applicable regulations;

The Guidelines for relation between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the International Cooperation attached to this Resolution

The need to establish procedures, mechanisms and terms for the consideration, negotiation and subscription of agreement proposals between the Permanent Secretariat and third countries, international organizations or other entities.

RESOLVES:

1. Agreement proposals can be presented at the initiative of one or more Contracting Parties or any sphere of the Treaty or of the Permanent Secretariat, in compliance with its mandates.

2. For each agreement initiative with third countries, international organizations and other entities, the Permanent Secretariat will prepare and submit to the Contracting Parties a Conceptual Note including inter alia the following information: origin of the initiative, purpose, rationale, objectives and targets, area of action within the framework of the Strategic Plan and Plan of Action in force, counterpart and executing entity, duration, modality, sources of funding and resources considered and requested.

Whenever the agreement being proposed does not concern a third country and/or international organization, the Conceptual Note will also include the following information: legal nature of the entity, source of funding, administrative headquarters, objectives and purpose, experience in the area that is the object of the agreement. The information contained in this Conceptual Note can be expanded at the request of any of the Contracting Parties.

The Conceptual Note shall be presented to the Contracting Parties for consideration in the four official languages of the Treaty: Spanish, Portuguese, English and Dutch.

3. The Conceptual Note will be presented to the Member Countries, who will dispose of sixty (60) calendar days from the day of its receipt to submit their observations and suggestions or inform their agreement.

Once this deadline is over and unless an objection is interposed, ACTO/PS, responsible for the negotiation process, will inform the Member Countries of the status of the process and will improve the projects by incorporating the suggestions and recommendations presented by them.

4. Once the process of adapting the technical and administrative documents is concluded, ACTO/PS will submit them to the Member Countries for consideration. The Member Countries will then have a maximum period of ninety (90) calendar days from the date of delivery to pronounce themselves. The documents will then be drafted in the four official languages of the Treaty: Spanish, Portuguese, English and Dutch.

5. In order for the agreements signed by the Secretary General to be backed by a consensus between the Member Countries, these must make explicit their position in compliance with the terms established in numerals 3 and 4 of the present Resolution. If a Member Country considers that 90 days is not enough, exceptionally it can request an extension thereof up to thirty (30) calendar days.

PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL

CONSIDERING:

The need to count with clear guidelines for relations with the international cooperation as a mechanism to grant greater transparency to the management of resources by the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization;

That signing formal agreements with the cooperation agencies will provide access to all administrative information on resources of existing projects;

The need to establish directives for the PS and the Member Countries that make it possible to coordinate and oversee the execution of regional programs and projects;

The importance of ensuring coordinated actions between the Coordinators and external consultants performing functions with a view to a work methodology that allows the Area Coordinators to participate in the process of preparing agreement or project proposals;

The need to facilitate decisions within ACTO to implement projects financed by cooperation agencies;

The mandate given to the Permanent Secretariat to conduct a study in coordination with the Member Countries to assess possible sources of funding from the countries themselves in order to overcome ACTO's dependence on foreign financing in developing its strategic projects.

DECIDES:

1. All projects executed under the name of ACTO must be managed and controlled by the Permanent Secretariat so long as it has the necessary technical staff and signed Cooperation Agreements to do so.

2. All financial resources must, inasmuch as possible, be transferred to ACTO, or if this is not possible, be included in the budget. This will allow the PS to report to the CCOOR periodically or whenever requested on the use of said resources.

3. Ensure that all project and agreement proposals with third countries and/or international organizations should include an indication of the number of consultants that will be employed for the execution of the program or project, as well as detail their work relations with the Area Coordinators.

- 4.** No external consultant or representative of an international organization or other entity connected to ACTO through cooperation projects or agreements may participate in international meetings or forums as an official ACTO representative. Should his/her participation prove necessary, then accreditation should occur in representation of the cooperation agency or as external consultant.
- 5.** In order to foster the development and wellbeing of the Amazonian populations, ACTO will seek to include a “social clause” in projects negotiated with international cooperation agencies that allows a percentage of the total funds to be derived to other projects that require them, to the extent possible and in compliance with the standards of the cooperating parties.
- 6.** Each Area Coordinator will be directly responsible for the projects on behalf of the PS and will count with the support of consultants, experts and technical staff appointed by the cooperation agency. Should it be necessary to hire a technical or scientific expert, priority will be given to professionals of the Member Countries, preferably from universities and research and teaching institutions of the Amazon Region. This contract will be done in coordination with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as appropriate.
- 7.** In order to achieve greater transparency in the administration of funds from cooperation projects all information thereon must be made available to the Member Countries, Area Coordinators and cooperation entity.
- 8.** The PS must seek to identify new funding options in accordance with the priorities established by the Member Countries and in consultation with them.
- 9.** All programs, projects and initiatives that involve international cooperation must incorporate a communication and dissemination component in order to guarantee access to their respective selection processes by Party Country citizens. They must also include procedures to make their results public so as to give greater visibility to the Organization.
- 10.** Regarding the international cooperation the PS shall adhere to the provisions of Paragraph Three of Article 2 of the Protocol of Amendment to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty
- 11.** The Permanent Secretariat must be given the necessary conditions for the conduction of a study to assess possible sources of funding from the countries themselves in order to overcome the Organization’s dependence on foreign financing in developing its strategic projects.

MINUTE

14TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

The 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council was held on 29 November 2010 in the city of Lima, Peru, called by the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO) in order to analyze the conduction of the Organization, the enforcement of the provisions of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) and the preparation of the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Lima on 30 November 2010.

DELEGATIONS

The Delegations were presided by the representatives of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ambassador Pablo Guzmán Laugier, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Federative Republic of Brazil, Minister Clemente Baena Soares, Director of the Department of South America II; the Republic of Colombia, Dr. Francisco Coy Granados Director of Territorial Sovereignty and Frontier Development; the Republic of Ecuador, Ambassador José María Borja, Under Secretary of Latin America and The Caribbean; the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Mr. Harry Narine Nawbatt, Ambassador of Guyana to Peru, from the Federative Republic of Brazil; the Republic of Peru, Ambassador Luzmila Zanabria Ishikawa, Under Secretary of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru; the Republic of Suriname, Ambassador Robby Dewnarain Ramlakhan, Deputy Director for Regional Integration; and, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Licentiate Rubén Darío Molina, General Director of the Office of Multilateral Affairs and Integration of the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs.

The complete list of delegations is attached as Annex 1.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Representative of Peru, Ambassador Luzmila Zanabria Ishikawa, warmly welcomed the delegates of the ACTO Member Countries and the Permanent Secretariat, underscoring the importance for all ACTO Member Countries of this meeting because it is the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, and it will discuss significant topics for the future and consolidation of ACTO, such as the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda.

Furthermore, she stressed the importance of the ACTO works, highlighting that the challenges faced by the Organization and its Permanent Secretariat require the maximum political support by the Member Countries. In this context, she said that Peru was particularly interested in endorsing the ongoing relaunching process, which will allow ACTO to play a renewed and modern role as an Amazon forum in charge of promoting and strengthening the sustainable development of the Amazon region, strengthening the capabilities of the economies in the area and the preserving the megadiverse and broad Amazonian territory that shelters many peoples and communities, respecting their ancestral knowledge.

Finally, she underscored the work carried out by the ACTO Permanent Secretariat during these two years in order to consolidate the relaunching process and the institutional strengthening of the Organization.

THE DIRECTIVE BOARD

Ambassador Luzmila Zanabria, Head of Delegation of Peru, chaired the meeting and, the ACTO Secretary General, Ambassador Manuel Picasso, acted as Secretary/Rapporteur, with the assistance of the Permanent secretariat and the host country staff.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair read the draft Agenda. Upon request of the Delegation of Venezuela, the draft Resolution on the approval of Agreements and Guidelines for international cooperation was included. The Agenda was unanimously approved as Annex II to these Minutes.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES REPORT

After greeting the delegations the Secretary General thanked the Member Countries for their extraordinary work and cooperation in the last months, and the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for organizing the meeting. Then, he proceeded to present the Activities Report of the Permanent Secretariat for the period of July 2009 to November 2010.

In accordance with the Regulations in force, the Activities Report of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization Permanent Secretariat (PS/ACTO) consists of biannual reports corresponding to the periods of July – December 2009 and January – June 2010, which were updated in November 2010. The Secretary General's Report is attached as Annex III.

The Secretary General's Report narrates the main actions performed since 13 July 2009, focusing on the efforts made to turn around the institutional crisis in which the Organization and its Permanent Secretariat were immersed.

The Chair thanked Ambassador Manuel Picasso for his presentation and submitted the report to the plenary for consideration.

The Delegates expressed their consent for the presentation of the Report of the Permanent Secretariat highlighting the relaunching of the Organization and its Secretariat. It was stressed the importance of having overcome the institutional crisis that affected our Organization, allowing that the working areas of the current management mirror the mandates of the Member Countries.

The Chair ended this point by expressing her congratulations to the permanent Secretariat for the presentation of the Report and the results achieved.

2. REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF ACTO FOCAL POINTS IN THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Group Report, included as Annex IV to these Minutes, was submitted by the Head of Delegation of Brazil, who stated that in the Extraordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council (ACC) held on 14 May 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, the Council resolved to create an *ad-hoc* Working Group, made up by the Focal Points in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs responsible for ACTO, in order to continue with the preparation of the Strategic Agenda, and to examine the options to tackle the financial constraints of the Organization. The Council resolved that the *ad-hoc* Working Group prepares a restated proposal to be presented to the 14th ACC Ordinary Meeting for its consideration.

The Brazilian Representative stated that, in compliance with the mandate, the *ad-hoc* Working Group, held two meetings. The first one from 23 to 24 September 2010 in the city of Bogota, Colombia, and the second one from 10 to 11 November 2010 in Brasilia, Brazil. He explained that:

2.1. NEW AMAZONIAN STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGENDA

The Brazilian Representative reported that the *ad-hoc* Working Group had carried out a detailed examination of the draft Agenda during its two meetings, underscoring that it was the result of a process of visits and consultations in 8 Member Countries, as well as over 10 regional concertation meetings on several topics included in the agenda.

The delegates resolved to make certain adjustments to the contents of the draft. The Chair of the Meeting submitted to the consideration of the delegates the draft resolution on the New Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda, which was approved to be presented for the consideration of the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

2.2. ALTERNATIVES TO FACE THE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

The Representative of Brazil reported that the *ad-hoc* Working Group had carried out a detailed examination of the options and alternatives of the Organization to face the financial constraints. To this respect, after due exchange of ideas, and considering that it is necessary to agree upon a proposal to solve the financial situation, the Council resolved to present for approval of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs a Draft Resolution that sets forth the percentages that each country will increase in its quotas as from 2012, based on the document drafted by the Permanent Secretariat and which is part of the report of the *ad-hoc* Working Group. Furthermore, it entrusts CCOOR to make suggestions on the possibilities to become the permanent headquarter and mechanism for quota updating.

3. REPORT OF THE CCOOR AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE DRAFT NEW REGULATIONS AND INSTRUMENT

The Group Report that is attached as Annex 5 of these minutes was presented by the Head of the Colombian delegation, who indicated that in compliance with the mandate issued by the ACC in its Extraordinary Meeting of May 2010, the CCOOR Ad Hoc Working Group, created to review the five Regulations in force, met 18 times from 14 July to 22 November 2010.

As a result of its deliberations, the Council considered and resolved to present to the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for its consideration the Draft Resolution that amend the following Regulations: Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Amazon Cooperation Council, Coordinating Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council, Permanent Secretariat and Permanent Secretariat Staff.

Regarding the proposal on the Administrative and Financial Instrument, since it is a very particular administrative document, the ACC resolved that it must be formally approved by CCOR in its next Meeting.

The Delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia submitted a draft to the Member Countries for consideration, which is oriented to the strengthening of participation and commitment of the national institutions.

In this context, the Delegations recognized the significance of the proposal and resolved to entrust the Permanent Secretariat to organize a Regional Seminar with broad participation basis on the role and prospects of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization in order to better meet the expectations of the Amazon society.

4. REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION ON THE RIVERS OF THE AMAZON

The Report, which is attached as Annex VI to these minutes was presented by the Head of Delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, who indicated that the Working Group met on three occasions: from 12 to 13 May in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; from 23 to 24 September in Bogotá, Colombia, and from 4 to 5 November in La Paz, Plurinational State of Bolivia.

As a result of this report, the ACC resolved to submit for consideration to the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs a draft Resolution that commissions the Working Group with preparing a final draft of the Regulations to be presented for consideration in the next ACC Meeting.

5. DRAFT LIMA DECLARATION

The presentation of the draft Lima Declaration was made by the delegation of Peru.

Following a fruitful exchange of opinions and contributions to the document, the Member Country Delegates agreed to approve the final version of the draft Lima Declaration that will be elevated to the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for consideration and is attached as Annex 7 of these minutes.

6. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The attending delegations revised said draft resolutions, which were approved to be submitted for consideration of the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and are attached as Annex 8.

1. 30th anniversary of the coming into effect of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty
2. New Organizational Chart
3. Amendment of Regulations
4. Updating of quotas
5. Strategic Agenda of Amazon Cooperation
6. National Permanent Commissions
7. Signing of Agreements and Guidelines for International Cooperation
8. Working group on the draft Regulations for Commercial Navigation on the Rivers of the Amazon
9. Approval of the Management Report of the Permanent Secretariat
10. Acknowledgements

7. FORMULATION OF A DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 10TH ORDINARY MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council approved the draft Agenda for the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Organization that is attached as Annex 9.

8. OTHER TOPICS

8.1. APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

At the proposal of the Delegation of Brazil, the Amazon Cooperation Council accepted the appointment of Engineer Carlos Aragón Castillo as the new Administrative Director of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

8.2. READING, APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 14TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

Having concluded the agenda, the meeting Chair and Head of the Peruvian Delegation, Ambassador Luzmila Zanabria thanked the delegations for their hard work and contributions and requested ACTO Secretary General, Ambassador Manuel Picasso, in the performance of his duties as Secretary/Reporter to read these minutes. As a sign of conformity, the Heads of Delegation proceeded to sign them in the city of Lima, Peru, on 29 November 2010.

By the Plurinational State of Bolivia

By the Republic of Colombia

By the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

By the Republic of Suriname

By the Federative Republic of Brazil

By the Republic of the Ecuador

By the Republic of Peru

By the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

MINUTE

15TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

On 18 October 2011 the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council (ACC) was held in Brasilia, Brazil, in accordance with the regulations in force. The meeting was convened by the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO) to analyze the Organization's relaunch, compliance with the provisions of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT), the mandates of 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the implementation of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda. It also aimed to prepare the 11th Meeting of Ministers of the ACT scheduled for 22 November 2011 in Manaus.

DELEGATIONS

The delegations were headed by representatives of: the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ambassador Juan Carlos Alurralde Tejada, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Federative Republic of Brazil, Ambassador Antonio Simões, Under Secretary General for South America; the Republic of Colombia, Mr Francisco Coy Granados, Director of Territorial Sovereignty and Frontier Development; the Republic of Ecuador, Ambassador Federico Menezes; the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Ambassador Kellawan Lall; the Republic of Peru, Minister Augusto Arzubiaga, Director of Environment; the Republic of Suriname, Ambassador Marlon Hoesein, Deputy Director for Regional Integration and; the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mr Rubén Darío Molina, Director General for Multilateral Affairs and Integration.

The complete list of delegates can be found as Annex 1 to these minutes.

OPENING CEREMONY

Ambassador Antonio Simões of Brazil warmly welcomed the delegates of the Member Countries of ACTO. He emphasized the importance of the progresses achieved in the meeting at almost one year after the 10th Meeting of Foreign Ministers and in which ACTO has been working with the commitment and will of the Member Countries to give it a new political force with its relaunching. He also highlighted that were taken measures to achieve this goal, at the institutional and programmatic context, by approving the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda. Future challenges, in addition to continuing to implement the mandates, will consist of endowing the Organization with tools to consolidate its position as a reference for our countries and the world, whenever possible adopting common visions to face our many challenges.

Ambassador Simões also referred to the relevance of ACTO's work, emphasizing that the challenges faced by the Organization and its Permanent Secretariat require renewed political support from its Member Countries. In this context, he noted that Brazil has a special interest in increasing its support to the relaunch, thus allowing ACTO to fulfill a modern role as the Amazonian forum in charge of promoting sustainable development in the Amazon region. For this reason he renewed the commitment of his country to raise its contribution to ACTO in 2012. He reiterated the invitation of the Government of Brazil to the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in Manaus in November, noting that two issues require particular attention: the draft regulation of Commercial Navigation in the Amazon rivers and ACTO's contribution to Rio +20.

Finally, he highlighted the work done by the ACTO Permanent Secretariat administration, both while led by Ambassador Manuel Picasso, and now, under the leadership of Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo, who will doubtless strengthen the Organization even further.

CHAIRMANSHIP

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Antonio Simões, Head of the Brazilian Delegation. Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo, Secretary General of ACTO, was given the position of secretary/rapporteur, supported by the PS and by the host country.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman read the draft agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously and can be found as Annex 2 to these minutes.

1. PERMANENT SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES REPORT

After greeting the delegations the ACTO Secretary General thanked each of the Member Countries for their valuable work and cooperation in the last months. He also acknowledged the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for having helped to organize the meeting. He then proceeded to present the Permanent Secretariat Activities Report for the period of January to June 2011. The Secretary General's Report can be found as Annex 3.

The report contains a summary of the period's main activities, with special emphasis on the efforts made to continue implementing the mandates of the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the 14th Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council held in November 2010 in Lima, particularly concerning the implementation of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda.

The Chairman thanked Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo and submitted the report to consideration by the plenary. Delegates expressed their positive opinion of the PS/ACTO report and highlighted the progress made in fulfilling the mandates issued to relaunch the Organization and its Secretariat. They noted the importance of having instituted a work methodology to implement the Strategic Agenda that concretely reflects the mandates of the Member Countries.

The Chairman concluded this point by congratulating the Permanent Secretariat for the report and for the results achieved.

2. REPORT OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF ACTO FOCAL POINTS IN THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Minister Clemente Baena Soares, Director of the South America Department II of Itamaraty, presented to CCA the Report of the 4th Meeting of Focal Points held in October 17, highlighting that the favorable opportunity for the preparation of the XV CCA. Also stressed, among others, the progress made in considering a draft procedure to facilitate the implementation of the activities of ACTO; the preparation by the PS/ACTO of a draft Declaration for Rio +20, and the presentation of permanent observers and progress in the Strategic Agenda.

3. AMAZON FUND – PRESENTATION

On behalf of the BNDES, Mrs. Claudia Costa presented (Annex IV) on the background and establishment and operation of the Amazon Fund from financial contributions from donor countries and companies as recognition of the efforts of Brazil in the reduction of deforestation in the Amazon. The Brazilian Government decided that 20% of funds raised by this fund may be used for other countries with tropical forests similar to the Amazon.

The Head of the Delegation of Brazil, Ambassador Simões expressed on the importance of the Amazon Fund, which has up to 20% that can be used by other Amazon Countries in projects aimed at monitoring deforestation. There are two possibilities for cooperation: structuring a project with the participation of the Amazon with the help of the Brazilian

Cooperation Agency. A second possibility is the cooperation of the BNDES to share with the other Member Countries the system developed by Brazil, both from the institutional view as well as the thematic.

To have a concrete result is expected to be presented at the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and present a regional initiative to be funded by the Amazon Fund.

4. REPORT OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON REGULATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION ON THE RIVERS OF THE AMAZON

The PS/ACTO reported on measures taken with regard to the tasks assigned in the 4th Working Group Meeting. The text of the draft Regulations approved in the 4th Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Commercial Navigation by the representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname was also presented for consideration by the CCA.

To the CCA was informed by the Chairman that high level consultations were conducted by Brazil and Venezuela and waiting for the outcomes.

The Delegation of Venezuela reiterated its commitment to the draft regulation as a concrete sign of strengthening of the regional cooperation. Also informed on the process of internal consultations conducted to present the proposal that was previously delivered to the PS/ACTO.

The delegation of Brazil committed to present the results of consultations before or during the CCA on November 21, 2011 in Manaus.

5. SUCCESSION OF THE ACTO SECRETARY GENERAL IN 2012

The Head of Delegation of Suriname presented the candidature of Mr. Stanley Malone for the post of Secretary General for the period of 2012 to 2015. The Resume of Mr. Malone is in annexed V. After an exchange of ideas and approaches among Member Countries, the CCA received this proposal for consideration for a view to its submission to the 11th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO.

6. RIO + 20 AND THE AMAZON COUNTRIES. MEETING OF ACTO ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS ON THE REGIONAL ACTO VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, FOREST PROTECTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Based on a proposal made by the PS/ACTO in the 4th Meeting of Focal Points, Member Countries debated the feasibility of starting to coordinate the presentation of the countries in relation to the Rio+20 Conference considering the draft document prepared by the PS/ACTO. (Annex VI)

In that context, they agreed to work on a Draft proposal aiming to be considered by the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO.

They instructed the Permanent Secretariat the necessary arrangements to organize a parallel event of ACTO in the framework of the Rio+20 Conference.

7. JOINT REFLECTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTO ACTIVITIES

As a result of the discussions held within ACTO about continued and joint efforts to consolidate a renewed, modern and dynamic Organization to produce effective results and ensure full compliance with the Treaty, as determined by the Member Countries dialogue spaces were created through the 3rd and 4th Meetings of Focal Points to address specific matters related to implementing ACTO activities.

The reflection proposed responds to a demand made by some Member Countries to seek short term alternatives to make the Organization more dynamic and to implement the activities of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda regarding the institutional strengthening.

Considering the interest expressed by Member Countries to begin a discussion on how to expedite the Organization's activities, the Secretariat prepared a procedure proposal to enable the execution of activities, programs and projects as best as possible. It was decided to continue the works preparing the base of a new consolidated document with the comments and suggestions presented at the meeting.

8. PS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMAZONIAN STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGENDA

The PS/ACTO presented the progress made by Member Countries in implementing the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda, highlighting advances in building its activities map by obtaining approval at the technical level of actions to be implemented in the short term to meet the priorities adopted by the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

It also presented a summary assessment of how regulations are being applied since the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the progresses made in the implementation of the communication strategy and the state of situation of the international cooperation.

As a result of the presentation, the Member Countries expressed their satisfaction with the work done for the implementation of the Strategic Agenda, which allows to have a short term activities map with funding of 50% of the agreed implementation actions. The recognized the opportunity for ACTO to position the Amazon in the topics of interest to the international agenda, especially those regarding the vital chance of maintaining environmental balance.

In this context and in order to further strengthen the regional cooperation work, PS/ACTO was instructed to prepare a Draft Resolution with innovative financing alternatives, including options of administration fees as well as other alternative financing resources.

Finally, was reiterated the importance of coordinating the activities of ACTO with other regional and subregional organizations to prevent duplication of efforts and deepen their cooperation. It was suggested to approximate the Secretariat of ACTO to explore alternatives of joint work with UNASUR in the environmental field.

9. PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE OUTLOOK FOR ACTO

In accordance with the decision adopted in the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs the PS/ACTO, following a consultation process, prepared a concept note to guide a Regional Seminar on ACTO's perspectives. The Concept Note was raised to the CCA and the PS/ACTO was requested to manage the necessary national seminars in each country. The Members of CCA thanked the Government of Bolivia for its offer to hold the Regional Seminar in September 2012.

10. STATE OF THE SITUATION OF THE PERMANENT NATIONAL COMMISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RES/X MRE-OTCA/6

The delegates ratified the importance of the Permanent National Commissions as the national entities in charge of executing the decisions made by ACTO's decision-making bodies. In order to share the national experiences and identify common challenges to their full implementation and functioning, the Member Countries presented: (i) the legal and operational situation of the Commission, including the constitution, rules of procedure and number of meetings held; (ii) composition; (iii) specific aspects of its functioning, including a description of the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the Executive Secretariat; (iv) opportunities and challenges for its full functioning, with emphasis on decision-making, operational coordination and activity execution.

Based on the information presented by Member Countries and in compliance with REX/X/MRE-OTCA/6, the delegates agreed that PS/ACTO should continue the management of funds to support the strengthening of the Commissions.

11. CRITERIA FOR THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW PS/ACTO ORGANIZATIONAL CHART IN 2012, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMBER COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

The PS/ACTO reported to the Council on measures taken to implement the Organizational Chart approved through RES/X MRE-OTCA/2, emphasizing associated administrative aspects and taking into account the new contributions to the Organization that were approved through RES/X MRE-OTCA/4 and have not been fully implemented yet.

Specifically, it presented: i) the Organization's financial status on 30 August 2011 and projections until the end of the year; (ii) financial status on 30 August 2011 of projects funded through cooperation; (iii) status of member country contributions and adoption of adjustments linked to the decision to increase them; (iv) draft budget for 2012 and execution conditions; (v) adoption of the funding guidelines approved as part of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda and in accordance with the Declaration of the 10th Meeting of MFA; (vi) advances related to the construction of the PS/ACTO headquarters and discussion on funding prospects and opportunities.

Based on the report presented, the ACC recommend the Member Countries to pay their contributions, if possible, in the first half of every year. They also authorized the PS/ACTO for the adoption of measures to improve its accounting system. It was highlighted the financial management of PS/ACTO which provides reliable, timely and transparent information on the execution of the regular budget and that with funds from the international cooperation.

Regarding the headquarters of the PS/ACTO the CCA welcomed the offer of the Government of Brazil in supporting the development of an Architectural project, once securing a land grant from the Federal District Government, to then begin identifying potential donors for the construction of its institutional seat.

12. 11TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Brazilian Government's reiterated the invitation to the 11th Ordinary Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held on 22 November 2011 in Manaus.

13. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. **Ad-Hoc Observer.** Once the Government of Peru presented to the CCA on the topic. The CCA noted that some work was done prior on this theme and requested the Secretariat to recirculate the existing records.
- b. **Yasuni-ITT Initiative.** With regard the proposal of the Delegation of Ecuador presented to the CCA the Member Countries expressed their support to the initiative of Climate Change mitigation that are being developed voluntarily in the region. Particularly they valued the Yasuni-ITT Initiatives of Ecuador and calls on the international community to support the Ecuadorian proposal that seeks to protect the biodiversity, indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and to promote a model of sustainable development.
- c. **Staff of the Permanent Secretariat.** Considering that next year marks the end of mandate of the officials of the PS/ ACTO, the Delegation of Bolivia suggested the re-election of the officials who meet his first term and generate a turnover of Secretary-General and the two coordinators to become vacant between the three member countries. The Delegation of Peru expressed the need for an internal consultation process. The Delegation of Suriname expressed that there is an existing agreement previously adopted by the Member Countries which should be respected.

- d. **Formulation of a regional project on “Forest protection, biodiversity conservation and climate change” with KfW funding.** The PS/ACTO distributed to the Council members an information sheet and two questionnaires that will enable the beginning of a member country consultation process to prepare up to three project profiles that reflect regional priorities and can later be validated according to a detailed schedule. In this context, the ACC decided the consultation process will be held in the first two weeks of November and agreed to facilitate the process.
- e. **Activities with pending decisions.** The PS/ACTO distributed a list of activities programmed until the end of the year and requested the Member Countries’ cooperation to obtain the pending responses, particularly concerning the draft Memoranda of Understanding being consulted in accordance with RES/X MRE-OTCA/6.

The CCA decided to convene a Special Meeting on November 21 and 22 in Manaus, in preparation of the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO.

The Representatives of the Member Countries to the CCA expressed their deep regret for the loss of Sergio Humberto Diaz Aguilera, a prominent Colombian diplomat who in the last years contributed in his human and professional qualities to enhancing the Amazon regional cooperation process. To make a tribute to his memory, was requested to the Head of the Colombian delegation of the Amazon to convey the condolences of the ACTO to Ambassador Sergio Diaz’s family, friends and colleagues.

The CCA Members thanked the Government of Brazil for the hospitality and attentions received.

14. READING, APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE OF THE 15TH CCA ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

Having completed the agenda, the Head of the Brazilian Delegation and Chairman Ambassador Antonio Simões thanked the delegations in attendance for their contributions and asked ACTO Secretary General Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo, in his capacity as secretary/rapporteur, to read the minutes. In agreement with the minutes, the heads of delegation signed the document on 18 October 2011 in Brasilia, Brazil.

By the Plurinational State of Bolivia

By the Republic of Colombia

By the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

By the Republic of Suriname

By the Federative Republic of Brazil

By the Republic of the Ecuador

By the Republic of Peru

By the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

MINUTE

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

(Manaus, Brazil, November 21-22, 2011)

On 22 November 2011 in Manaus, Brazil, an Extraordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council (ACC) was convened by the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO) in preparation for the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

DELEGATIONS

The Delegations were presided by the representatives of: the Plurinational State of Bolivia, José Crespo, Director General for Multilateral Affairs; the Federative Republic of Brazil, Minister Clemente Baena Soares, Director of the South America II Department; the Republic of Colombia, Mr Francisco Coy Granados, Director of Territorial Sovereignty and Frontier Development; the Republic of Ecuador, Ambassador José María Borja, Under Secretary for America; the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Mr Kellawan Lall, Ambassador of Guyana to the Federative Republic of Brazil; the Republic of Peru, Minister Augusto Arzubiaga, Director of Environment; the Republic of Suriname, M Marlon Hoessein, Ambassador of Suriname to the Federative Republic of Brazil; and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mr Rubén Darío Molina, Director General for Multilateral Affairs and Integration.

The complete list of delegates can be found as Annex 1 to these minutes.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Representative of Brazil, Minister Clemente de Lima Baena Soares, warmly welcomed the delegates of the Member Countries of ACTO and remarked on the importance of the Extraordinary Meeting of the ACC to prepare the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs due to the issues that would be addressed. Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo, the Secretary General of ACTO, in turn called attention to the Member Countries' willingness to support the activities of the Organization.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman read the draft agenda, which was approved unanimously and can be found as Annex 2 to these minutes.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2011 PERMANENT SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES REPORT

After greeting the delegations, the Secretary General of ACTO thanked the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for having helped to organize the meeting. The Management Report for 2011 will be distributed as an annex 3 to these minutes.

The Chairman thanked Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo and submitted the report to consideration by the plenary. The delegates in attendance expressed their positive opinion on the progress made in fulfilling the mandates issued to relaunch the Organization and its Secretariat.

The Chairman concluded this point by congratulating the Permanent Secretariat for the report and for the results achieved.

DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION ON THE RIVERS OF THE AMAZON

In the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the ACC the Government of Venezuela explained that after consultations and a number of internal considerations, it had decided to present, as its position on the Regulations agreed upon by the other 7 Member Countries, the text delivered on 3 August 2011. The Brazilian Government informed that it would make efforts with the Government of Venezuela, which led to a working meeting held in Caracas on 16 November 2011.

The Director of the South America II Department of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, presented the report on the measures taken with the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela with the support of the PS/ACTO in compliance with the mandate received from ACC.

DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF ACTO ON THE RIO+20 CONFERENCE

Following a fruitful exchange the Member Countries concerted the draft Declaration that is attached to these minutes as Annex 4 and will be elevated to consideration by the 11th Meeting of Meeting of Foreign Affairs for adoption.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The draft Resolutions that will be presented by the Permanent Secretariat were approved, and will be adopted by the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

- **RES/XI_MRE-OTCA/1.** Management Report
- **RES/XI_MFA-OTCA/2.** Procedure for implementing ACTO activities
- **RES/XI_MFA-OTCA/3.** Funding alternatives to implement the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda
- **RIS/XI_MFA-OTCA/4.** Regional seminar on prospects for ACTO
- **RES/XI_MRE-OTCA/5.** Implementation of agreements with the international cooperation
- **RES/XI_MRE-OTCA/6.** Acknowledgements

Once consider it the resolution proposals that are presented as Annex 5, there were presented for the approval of the XI Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

AD HOC OBSERVER

In compliance with the mandate issued in the 15th Meeting of the ACC, the Permanent Secretariat circulated a communication recompiling the background on this topic. The delegates agreed that a proposal should be prepared in Meeting of ACTO Focal Points in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs to be considered in the next ACC Meeting. The delegations exchanged observations about the topic, which was not gathered in the Meeting of Manaus.

YASUNÍ ITT INITIATIVE

The Delegation of Ecuador presented to the delegates a proposal to include a paragraph in the Manaus Declaration on supporting climate change mitigation initiatives developed on a voluntary basis in the Region. The proposal was accepted.

SUCCESSION OF THE ACTO SECRETARY GENERAL AND SITUATION OF EXECUTIVE STAFF 2012

Regarding the succession of the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO, the chancellor of Suriname, Sir Winston Lackin, the position of Suriname will be ratified during the dialogue of the Ministers to assume the General Secretariat of ACTO in July 2012.

Regarding the succession of the Executive Staffs, the topic will be addressed in the next ACC meeting that should be held in the first half of 2012.

The Delegates agreed to support the future Secretary General of ACTO, who was proposed by the Republic of Suriname and be instituted in July 2012, and the new representatives of the Member Countries in the Organization, who will take office together with the new Secretary General.

MANAUS COMMITMENT

The Brazilian Delegation presented the draft Manaus Commitment. After a positive dialogue the Council decided that the text attached as Annex 6 will be elevated to consideration by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

FORMULATION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 11TH ORDINARY MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Program and Agenda of the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs are attached as Annexes 7 and 8.

READING, APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 15TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ACC

Having completed the agenda, the Head of the Brazilian Delegation and Chairman Ambassador Antonio Simões thanked the delegations in attendance for their disposition and contributions and asked ACTO Secretary General Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo, in his capacity as Secretary/Rapporteur, to read the minutes. In agreement with the minutes, the Heads of Delegation signed the document on 22 November 2011 in the city of Manaus, Brazil.

The members of ACC send thanks to the Government of Federative Republic of Brazil, State Government of Amazonas and PS-ACTO for the warm reception and the organization of the meeting.

By the Plurinational State of Bolivia

By the Republic of Colombia

By the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

By the Republic of Suriname

By the Federative Republic of Brazil

By the Republic of the Ecuador

By the Republic of Peru

By the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

MINUTE

16TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL

The 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA) was convened on 18 May 2012 by the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO) in Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, in compliance with Article 3 of the Council Regulations.

DELEGATIONS

The delegations were led by the representatives of: the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ambassador Juan Carlos Alurralde Tejada, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Federative Republic of Brazil, Minister Clemente Baena Soares, Head of the South America II Department; the Republic of Colombia, Mr Francisco Coy Granados, Director of Territorial Sovereignty and Frontier Development; the Republic of Ecuador, Mr Horacio Sevilla, Ambassador of Ecuador to Brazil; the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Mr Kellawan Lall, Ambassador of Guyana to Brazil; the Republic of Peru, Minister Augusto Arzubiaga, Director of Environment; the Republic of Suriname acting Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Robby Ramlakhan.

The complete list of delegates can be found as Annex 1.

INAUGURAL ACT

The Chief of Delegation from Bolivia, Ambassador Juan Carlos Alurralde warmly welcomed the delegates of the ACTO Member Countries, emphasizing how important it was for his country and for the city of Cochabamba to host this meeting of the CCA. He noted that considering that ACTO is fulfilling the mandates issued both by the Heads of State in 2009 and by the Foreign Ministers in their 10th and 11th meetings (Lima and Manaus, November 2010 and 2011), 2011 and the first five months of 2012 can be considered positive for ACTO's relaunch, with full political support offered by the governments in implementing the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda (AECA).

He underlined there is a new regulatory framework and a new budget for ACTO activities where direct participation of the countries was ensured in defining priorities and institutional direction based on a clear mandate for the activities to be performed by the Secretariat through the Amazonian Cooperation Strategic Agenda. He also expressed his satisfaction with the fact that pending initiatives have started to be implemented.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair submitted for approval the Tentative Agenda, which was approved unanimously and can be found as Annex 2.

1. ACTIVITIES REPORT OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

After greeting the delegations, the ACTO Secretary General thanked the delegates and expressed his appreciation to the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for contributing to organizing the meeting and proceeded to present the management report for the first half of 2012.

The Chair thanked Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo for presenting the report and submitted it to consideration by the plenary. The delegates in attendance expressed their positive opinion, highlighting the progress made in fulfilling the mandates issued to relaunch of the Organization and its Secretariat.

The Delegate from Ecuador invited to make a reflection on the role of the Organization highlighting the work developed by the PS/ACTO. Accordingly, he stressed three aspects to be considered for future projects: i) the full exercise of sovereignty of the Member Countries of the Amazonian territory, ii) sustainable development that takes into account its various dimensions including the economic, social, environmental and cultural dimensions, and iii) research, science, technology and innovation.

The Delegate from Guyana expressed the importance for his country on its participation in ACTO and highlighted the need for a common vision and a joint approach to address the challenges facing the Amazonian region. One must go beyond the traditional cooperation approaches and make progress within the Manaus Commitment and deepen the process of re-launching.

The Delegate from Brazil stressed the relevance of the proposal of reflection raised by Ecuador and recalled that the ability of the Member Countries to govern the Amazon has been questioned in other situations. This situation was vehemently rejected by all Member Countries. Now the focus should be the implementation of the mandates given by the political bodies of the organization.

The Chairman concluded this point by congratulating the Permanent Secretariat for the report, which was approved, and for the important results achieved.

2. REPORT OF THE 2ND MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS OF ACTO

The PS/ACTO presented the report of the 2nd Meeting of Ministers of Environment of ACTO held on 20-21 March 2011 in Lima, Peru, preceded by the 1st Meeting of Environmental Experts and attended by the 8 Member Countries. Based on this report the Council decided to:

- a. Welcome the initiative of the Sectorial Ministers of the ACTO Member Countries, inviting them to intensify their participation in the implementation of the strategic agenda.
- b. In Reference to the proposal of establishing the Working Group on Illegal Mining, they instructed the PS/ACTO to seek necessary funding for the organization of the Working Group, as soon as possible. The tasks of the Group shall be coordinated with the other regional or subregional initiatives in progress.

3. REPORT OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF ACTO FOCAL POINTS IN THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Having chaired the above-referred meeting, the Bolivian delegate presented the report to consideration by the CCA. After giving its positive opinion, the CCA adopted the report that can be found as Annex 3.

4. DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION ON THE RIVERS OF THE AMAZON

Considering that Resolution RES X-MRE/8 adopted at the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on 22 November 2011 in Manaus, Brazil, reactivates the Working Group on Commercial Navigation, the Presidency of Venezuela informed it had distributed a counter-proposal made by Venezuela to the Regulations through the PS/ACTO and offered to host the 5th Meeting on Regulations for Commercial Navigation on the Rivers of the Amazon. (Note 000264 – 17.02.2012), requesting the governments of the Member Countries to submit their comments on the counter-proposal made by Venezuela. The meeting was postponed at the request of Venezuela until the Chair of the Working Group sets a new date.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, through the Permanent Secretariat, informed the Council that during the course of the next 15 days the Presidency of the workgroup would propose a date for the next Regional Meeting to discuss the proposal Regulations and requested the member countries to send their comments on the Venezuelan proposal.

The Council requested the Presidency of the group to set the date of the meeting of the group as soon as possible, and there will be an occasion for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to explain their proposal and bring this matter to closure.

5. ACTO FINANCIAL SITUATION

6. FUNDING PROSPECTS FOR ACTO ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

7. JOINT REFLECTION ON FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE MEMBER COUNTRIES

Taking into account the document about the current financial situation of the Secretariat circulated by the PS/ACTO, it was agreed that delegates should guide their dialogue towards: (a) analyzing the short term financial situation and indicating possible measures to adapt to different cash availability scenarios; (b) exploring funding prospects for ACTO activities, projects and programs; and (c) reflecting jointly on the Member Countries' future contributions.

After a rich and valuable exchange, the Council urged member countries to adopt the following measures:

- i. To pay the outstanding contributions and to comply with the commitments made at the 10th meeting in Lima in order to update their status with a focus that will allow greater certainty in planning by the Secretariat, ensuring its financial autonomy.
- ii. Support the efforts of the Federative Republic of Brazil to obtain a plot of land for the future construction of the headquarters.
- iii. Identifying alternatives for the contracting of a financial leasing for the acquisition of a property for the headquarters of the PS/ACTO.
- iv. Continue to work with the governments of Germany and the Netherlands with a focus of a new phase of support to the OTCA in the period 2013-2017, considering the proposal presented at the Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Amazon Regional Program held in The Hague last May 9, for which the proposal must be explained in detail for its formalization and consultation with the Member countries who have to take into consideration that the period for the finalizing of these contributions is 2018. For this the PS/ACTO should forward a communication to both governments expressing the will of the countries to comply with this offer.
- v. Submit to PS/ACTO no later than June 2012 a list of public and private entities in member states that could be approached by respective governments in an effort to attract additional resources.
- vi. Manage resources for the projects with an overhead for the PS to support the Secretariat.
- vii. Identify opportunities aimed at furthering ACTO's participation in new initiatives such as the Green Climate Fund approved in the COP17 in Durban, the Global Fund for Climate and others.
- viii. To prepare an informative portfolio containing ongoing projects and programs that have political consensus to identify possible alternative financing. PS/ACTO must present this in the RIO +20 institutional stand.

8. ACTO ACTIVITIES FOR THE RIO+20 CONFERENCE

Based on the report presented by the Secretariat about the ACTO side event "*ACTO Member Countries vision of Amazon forests – Monitoring deforestation*" to be held tentatively on June 20 from 19:00 to 20:30 in Room P3-F of the Rio

Convention Center” and about the space reserved for the institutional stand for June 13-24, the Council decided to approve the proposal presented by the PS/ACTO.

It was agreed that current activities, programs and projects should be presented in the institutional booth as well as a portfolio that include the cooperation opportunities offered by the ACTO. In compliance with the agreement of the II meeting of ministers of environment of ACTO, for the side event the PS/ACTO was instructed to act in behalf of the council to invite the Ministers of Environment to participate.

The PS/ACTO was given the mandate to carry on with the diffusion of both activities as soon as possible adopting the necessary measures to facilitate the access of the invitees of the side event to the facilities at the RIO CENTRE.

The Delegate of Brazil informed that the 21s of June from 15:30 to 19:00 the side event named “The ACTO and the regional cooperation in the construction of sustainable development of the Amazon”, organized by the Federal Senate of Brazil. He also asked for the promotion of and participation in this event.

9. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SEMINARS ON PROSPECTS FOR ACTO

In accordance with the decision made in the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, a concept note was presented during the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the CCA on 18 October 2011 in Brasilia to guide a Regional Seminar on Prospects for ACTO. The Manaus Declaration issued by the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on November 22 in Manaus tasks the PS with: promoting seminars within each Member Country to help deepen ACTO's political relaunch, and expanding dialogue with the Amazonian populations by holding a regional seminar to study and analyze the proposals presented in each of the national seminars.

In this context and based on the proposal presented by the PS/ACTO for the regional seminar, the Council decided to accept it, defining the following theme structure: i) The Amazon today: Social, economic and environmental conditions; ii) The Amazon at the international scenario: ACTO and the Amazon post Rio +20; iii) Local society participation in development: interaction alternatives with ACTO; and iv) ACTO as scenario for regional cooperation: advancements and achievements from the Amazon. To facilitate the dialogue in each one of the four thematic axes, the member countries will forward a list of the suggested speakers to ensure the participation of at least one expert per country.

After the offer made by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Council decided that the aforementioned Seminar could take place in the first week of October 2012. The PS/ACTO informed a funding of \$us 80,000 dollars from the Regional Amazon Program was available for this Seminar. The Secretariat was instructed to continue the tasks to ensure the participation of 4 delegates per country who will be funded by ACTO and possible additional 5 delegates to be funded by their respective countries.

Regarding the national seminars, the Council called on the Member Countries to convene them before the regional seminar scheduled for October 2012 in Bolivia.

10. SUCCESSION OF THE ACTO SECRETARY GENERAL AND SITUATION OF EXECUTIVE STAFF IN 2012

Considering that the ACTO Permanent Secretariat received written communications from the other 7 Member Countries accepting the nomination of Ambassador Robby Ramlakhan for the position of ACTO Secretary General made by the Government of Suriname, the Council decided that the new Secretary General will take office in an Ordinary Meeting of the CCOOR on 2 July, 2012 in the Permanent Secretariat headquarters in Brasilia.

Regarding the situation of the other executive staff of the Permanent Secretariat, the Council decided that the mandate of the following executive functions be renewed as follows:

Executive Director: Bolivia
Administrative Director: Brazil
Coordinator of Environment: Ecuador
Coordinator of Health: Colombia
Coordinator of Science, Technology and Education: Venezuela

It was also decided that the position of Coordinator of Indigenous Affairs will be assumed by Guyana and that of the Coordinator of Transport, Infrastructure, Communication and Tourism will be assumed by Peru.

Regarding the position of Coordinator of Transport, Infrastructure, Communication and Tourism, the Council decided to instruct the PS/ACTO to incorporate the function of Social Affairs into the Financial Administrative Tool. Its new name will be: Social Affairs, Transportation, Infrastructure, Communication and Tourism.

The Council requested PS/ACTO to send a special communication of acknowledgement and gratitude to Ambassador Manuel Picasso, from all the member countries for his work during his tenure as Secretary General which contributed in a fundamental manner in the process of re-launching ACTO.

Finally, the Council unanimously and with special respect, thanked and highlighted the important work of Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo and that of the former Secretary General, Ambassador Manuel Picasso. It also stressed the positive management of his team at the Secretariat that allowed achieving the objectives proposed by the Member countries in the process of re-launching ACTO. The Council warmly welcomed Ambassador Robby Ramlakhan, who is supported by all member countries, to assume the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO starting July 2012.

11. OTHER ISSUES

XII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE ACT

The Ecuador delegation informed that an approximate date has been proposed for the XII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACT on the 22nd of November 2012, preceded by the XVII Ordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council and the VI Meeting of Focal Points on November 21st.

The Council asked the PS/ACTO to inform the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the results of the current meeting since the representative of this country could not attend due to health problems.

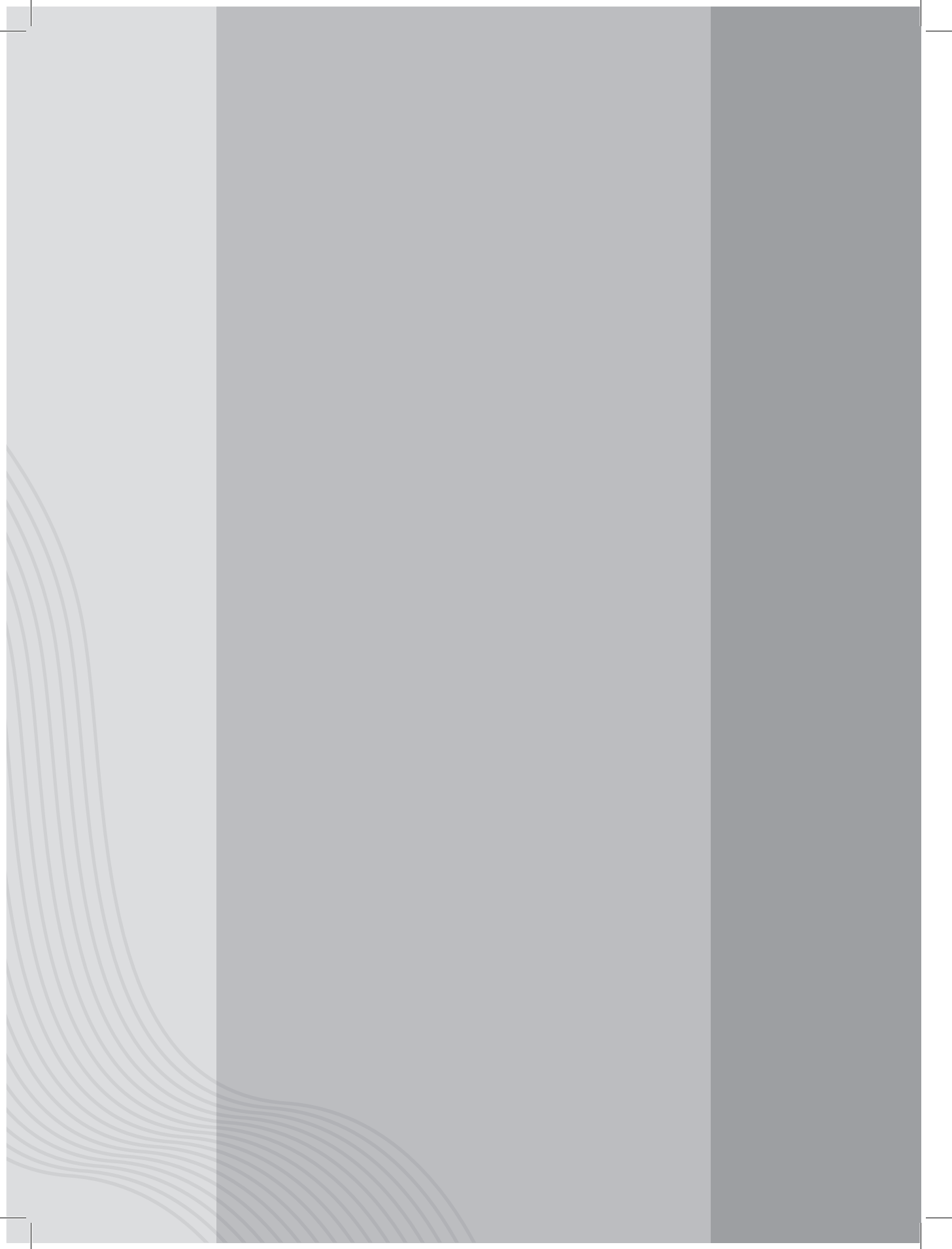
12. READING, APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ACC

After completing the work set out in the agenda, Ambassador Juan Carlos Alurralde, head of the Bolivian delegation and Chairman of the meeting, thanked the delegations for their goodwill and contributions and asked Secretary General Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo to read the Minutes in his capacity as Secretary/Rapporteur. The heads of delegation approved and signed the Minutes on May 18th 2012 in the city of Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia.

For the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
For the Government of the Republic of Colombia
For the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana
For the Government of the Republic of Suriname

For the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil
For the Government of the Republic of Ecuador
For the Government of the Republic of Peru

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING
THE BODIES TO THE AMAZON
COOPERATION TREATY
ORGANIZATION**



REGULATION FOR THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

I. MEETING AND PARTICIPANTS

Article 1. The meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs is the supreme body of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and its organisms:

II. REONSABILITIES OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS

Article 2. In accordance with Article 20 of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty the meeting of Ministers is responsible for:

- a) Establishing the basic guidelines of common policy and cooperation actions;
- b) Assessing and evaluating the general progress of the Amazonian cooperation process; and
- c) Adopting decisions aimed at the attainment of the objectives proposed in the Treaty.

Will be in charge as well, of establishing and adequate the system of financial contributions.

III. DELEGATIONS

Article 3. The delegations shall be headed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. If, in exceptional circumstances, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of any of the Member Countries is unable to attend a Meeting, either ordinary or extraordinary, he/she shall be represented by a special delegate duly accredited.

IV. MEETINGS AND CONVENING OF MEETINGS

Article 4. The meeting shall be ordinary and extraordinary. Ordinary meeting shall be held once every two years. Extraordinary meeting may be convened by any of the Member Countries, whenever supported by at least four other Member Countries, as established in Article 20, paragraph 1 of the Treaty. Through the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO), the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA) may recommend to the Member Counties the relevance or timeliness of holding extraordinary meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and prepare the corresponding agenda.

V. ACCREDITATION

Article 5. The members of each Delegation shall be accredited by their respective governments through written communications addressed to the government of the country hosting the meeting, with copy to the PS/ACTO.

VI. PRECEDENCE

Article 6. The order of precedence of the Delegation for each meeting shall be alphabetical, according to the name of the respective countries, starting with the host country.

VII. OBSERVERS

Article 7. States, international, regional or sub-regional organizations and their specialized bodies could be invited to participate in meetings as observers. Invitations will be sent by the country hosting the meeting after consultation and agreement with Member States.

VIII. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK

Article 8. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the host country shall be the Chairperson of the session.

Article 9. In the impediment of the Chairperson, shall be substituted according to the order of precedence provided for in Article 6.

Article 10. When the Chairperson wishes to participate in the debate, he/she shall turn the chair over to the next in line, pursuant to the Article before.

IX. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Article 11. The Chairperson shall:

- a. Ensure the implementation of the Treaty and other rules of the ACTO
- b. Establish the order of the day according to the meeting agenda;
- c. Open and close the sessions;
- d. Guide the proceedings;
- e. Grant the use of the floor to the delegates in the order in which the speakers indicate their intention;
- f. Submit to a vote matters under discussion and announce the results, promoting the consensus.
- g. Decide on or submit to a vote all points of order;
- h. Take the necessary measures and draw up guidelines of any point related with the proceedings of the Meeting.
- i. Harmonize the views of various delegations;
- j. Suggest to the plenary to receive reports from the chairperson of CCA, CCOOR, from the Presidents of the National Permanent Commissions and of the Secretary General of ACTO.

X. MEETING MINUTES AND REPORTING

Article 12. The PS/ACTO and its staff will be responsible for preparing reports of all the meetings, in which it will be supported by the host country of the meeting.

XI. SECRETARIAT

Article 13. The Secretariat of the meeting shall be the responsibility of the Permanent Secretariat with the support of the host country.

XII. WORKING GROUPS

Article 14. The Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs may set up, by consensus, the working groups deemed necessary, assigning them with specific duties. All the Member Countries may participate in those meetings.

Each may elect a chairperson and a rapporteur, with the same duties indicated for the authorities of the meeting, as considered appropriate.

XIII. AGENDA

Article 15. The agenda of the meetings shall be drawn up by the CCA with the support of the PS/ACTO.

Paragraph 1. In the case of ordinary meeting, the agenda shall be submitted to the governments 20 days prior to the meeting, except in exceptional circumstances.

Paragraph 2. New agenda items that have not been considered within the time taken according to paragraph 1 of this article, to approve the agenda of the Meeting of Foreign Affairs shall be submitted for its consideration to the CCA at least seven (7) days before the meeting, properly justified.

Paragraph 3. In the case of extraordinary meeting, the deadline shall be set upon consultation among Member Countries. It must not be less than (7) seven days, except in exceptional circumstances.

XIV. SESSIONS

Article 16. The plenary sessions shall be open and can become private if requested by the Member Countries. The sessions require the presence of all Member Countries.

Article 17. Closed meeting can only be attended, in addition to the delegations, by the necessary Permanent secretarial staff in consensus with all the Member Countries.

XV. DECISIONS

Article 18. Decisions shall be adopted pursuant to Article 25 of the Treaty, that is, by unanimous vote.

Article 19. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the host country shall open the initial plenary session. In the closing session, use of the floor shall also be granted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the country designated to host the next meeting.

XVI. POINTS OF ORDER

Article 20. During the debates, any delegation may raise a point of order, with the aim of improving the methodology of the discussion.

XVII. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Article 21. The official languages of the meeting shall be Spanish, Dutch, English, and Portuguese.

XVIII. MODIFICATIONS TO THESE REGULATIONS

Article 22. These regulations remain subject to review by the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs motivated by the CCA.

REGULATIONS FOR THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL – CCA

I. CONSTITUTION AND PURPOSES

Article 1. The Amazon Cooperation Council – CCA – is the meeting of high-level diplomatic representatives of the Member Countries in accordance with Article 21 of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT).

Article 2. In accordance with Article 21 of the ACT, the duties of the CCA are to:

1. Ensure that the aims and objectives of the Treaty are complied with.
2. Be responsible for carrying out the decisions made in meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers.
3. Recommend to the Parties the advisability and the appropriateness of convening meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers and of drawing-up the corresponding Agenda.
4. Take in consideration initiatives and plans presented by the Parties and adopt decisions for undertaking bilateral or multilateral studies and plans, the execution of which as the case may be, shall be the duty of the Permanent National Commissions.
5. Evaluate the implementation of plans of bilateral or multilateral interest.
6. Draw-up the Rules and Regulations for its proper functioning.
7. To receive or request reports from Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO).

II. MEETINGS AND CONVENING OF MEETINGS

Article 3. The CCA shall hold two ordinary meeting annually and may hold extraordinary meeting through the initiative of any of the Member Countries with the support of at least 4 of the Member Countries. The meetings must be represented in person, with the possibility to use for specific topics, the format of videoconference or any other technological means of which the Member Countries have.

The venue of the ordinary meetings shall be rotated in alphabetical order among the Member Countries. The country that proposes an extraordinary meeting shall host such meeting and where two or more countries propose an extraordinary meeting, the host country for such meeting shall be decided through consultations between the PS/ACTO and proposing countries.

Article 4. Both ordinary and extraordinary meetings shall be convened by the PS/ACTO.

III. ACCREDITATION

Article 5. The members of each delegation shall be accredited by their respective governments by means of a communication addressed to the PS/ACTO. In the case of an extraordinary meeting, the communication shall be addressed to the PS/ACTO and to the government of the host country.

Article 6. The order of precedence of the delegations for each meeting shall be alphabetical, according to the name of the Member Countries, starting with the host country.

IV. GUESTS

Article 7. Suggested by one or more Member Countries may be considered the request for an invitation to participate in meetings of CCA other governments, international, regional, non-governmental organizations, experts. If there is no objection, the invitations will be sent by the host of the meeting, with copy to the PS/ACTO.

V. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK

A. DIRECTIVE BOARD

Article 8. The Head of the Delegation of the Host Country shall chair the session. When the Chair wishes to participate at the debate, or in his/her absence, will be replaced by the Heads of delegation according to the order of precedence established in Article 6.

Article 9. The Chairperson of the meeting shall:

- a. Ensure the implementation of the Treaty and other rules of the ACTO;
- b. Submit the agenda for the consideration of the delegations for its approval;
- c. Establish the order of the day according to the meeting agenda;
- d. Open and close the sessions;
- e. Guide the proceedings;
- f. Grant the floor to delegates as requested, guaranteeing the equal participation of the delegations; preserving the consensus in the decision making;
- g. Submit to a vote matters under discussion and announce the results, taking into consideration what is established in article 25 of the TCA;
- h. Decide on or submit to a vote all points of order;
- i. Take the necessary measures and draw up guidelines of any point related with the proceedings of the Meeting;
- j. Harmonize the views of various delegations;
- k. Determine aspects not covered in these Regulations in mutual agreement with the Heads of Delegation;
- l. Suggest to the plenary to receive reports from the chairperson of CCOOR, from the Presidents of the National Permanent Commissions and of the Secretary General of ACTO.

B. MEETING MINUTES AND REPORTING

Article 10. The PS/ACTO shall be responsible for preparing the meetings, in which it will be supported by the host country.

C. WORKING GROUPS

Article 11. The CCA shall agree on the establishment of the working groups which, as suggested by the Chairperson of the meeting, the Council may deem necessary for ensuring that the meeting is properly conducted, with duties indicated by the member of the directive board, as board as appropriate.

Article 12. The working groups shall be composed of the delegates of the countries wishing to participate in them. Each working group shall choose a Chair and Rapporteur.

Article 13. The working groups shall meet with the aim of discussing the themes submitted to their consideration by the CCA.

Article 14. The working groups shall present to the CCA through the Chair or Rapporteur of each group, as the case may be, the results of their work.

VI. AGENDA

Article 15. The draft agenda of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings shall be drawn up by the PS/ACTO, which will submit it to the consideration of the Member Countries in advance, so as to allow them enough time to make the necessary amendments.

Article 16. The draft agenda shall be submitted to the consideration of the CCA of the initial plenary session.

Article 17. The agenda for an extraordinary meeting shall comprise only item(s) submitted for consideration in the request for convening that extraordinary meeting.

Article 18. The plenary sessions shall be open, unless the Member Countries request otherwise.

The sessions will require the presence of all Member Countries.

Article 19. In closed sessions may only be present, in addition to the delegations, the staff of the PS/ACTO as deemed necessary by mutual agreement of all Member Countries.

Article 20. All decisions shall be made in accordance with Article XXV of the Treaty, that is, by unanimous vote.

Article 21. During the debates, any delegation may raise a point of order.

VII. PREPARATORY MEETINGS

Article 22. A preparatory meeting may be held prior to the meeting of the CCA, which will be governed by these regulations, as appropriate. To this effect, the member countries shall consult with each other through the PS/ACTO.

VIII. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Article 23. The official languages of the meetings shall be Spanish, Dutch, English, and Portuguese.

IX. MODIFICATIONS TO THESE REGULATIONS

Article 24. These Regulations remain subject to review by the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs motivated by the CCA.

REGULATIONS FOR THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION COUNCIL – CCOOR

I. CONSTITUTION AND PURPOSES

Article 1. The Coordination Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCOOR) is a consultative and auxiliary body of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA) that has the general objective, in addition to the specific objectives described in these Regulations, of monitoring the planning, programming, and execution of the budget of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO), and evaluating the activities developed within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) formulating recommendations, when applicable, for the representatives of the CCA.

Article 2. The CCOOR shall consist of the Heads of Mission of Member Countries accredited in the host country of ACTO or such other high level authorities as the governments deem appropriate, and by its equivalent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil.

II. ATTRIBUTIONS

Article 3. The Commission has the following attributions:

- a) Prepare the agenda of the CCA meetings, in coordination with the PS/ACTO;
- b) Take all relevant recommendations to the CCA, especially those that refer to the planning and programming of activities;
- c) Monitor the decisions and recommendations of the CCA, seeing to their compliance;
- d) Monitor and evaluate cooperation activities on a regular basis with a view to formulating recommendations that it considers pertinent to improve them, and to achieve a more effective use of the corresponding resources;
- e) Monitor the formulation and execution of the ACTO program budget, and make any pertinent recommendations in this area.
- f) Propose extraordinary CCA meetings to address whatever topics it considers important to take to the Council;
- g) Serve as communication and coordination channel between the governments of the Member Countries, the Permanent National Commissions and PS/ACTO informing on the consultation processes, the execution of activities and the progress of the various programs and projects.
- h) Make whatever recommendations it believes are necessary to the Permanent Secretariat regarding tasks and activities to support compliance with the mandates and functions assigned to the CCOOR;
- i) Respond to any consultations made by the Permanent Secretariat regarding compliance with the mandates and functions inherent to international cooperation;
- j) Respond to consultations made by the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO on legal, administrative or personnel matters related to its functioning;
- k) Recommend that Special Amazonian Commission meetings be convened or request pertinent information from the coordinators of the Commissions;
- l) Fulfill the other mandates conferred upon it by the CCA.

III. FUNCTIONING

Article 4. The CCOOR shall meet at least once quarterly, at the request of a Member Country's government or PS/ACTO. In the case it's not deemed necessary depending on the annual work agenda, a Member Country or PS/ACTO may request the postponement of the meeting.

Meetings shall be convened through the diplomatic channels or through PS/ACTO Secretariat, at least fifteen days prior to the date of the meeting. Exceptionally, at the request of one of the Member Countries and with the support of most of the other Member Countries, the above-referred period may be modified.

Article 5. The CCOOR shall session with the presence of all the Member Countries, except in exceptional cases.

Sole Paragraph. The Presidency shall be exercised by the principal representatives for a period of six months for each country following alphabetical order.

During the sessions, the simultaneous exercise as Chair and representative is considered incompatible. Should the Chair wish to participate as a representative, he/she shall be replaced by Vice-President who shall be the representative of the country party that follows in alphabetical order.

Article 6. Decisions shall be adopted pursuant to Article 25 of the Treaty, that is, by unanimous vote.

Article 7. The PS/ACTO shall provide secretarial services to the CCOOR, which include preparing the agenda, distributing documents and preparing minutes, reports and others determined by the CCOOR.

The agenda and working documents shall be distributed by the Permanent Secretariat to the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations and to the Embassies of the Member Countries in the host country.

Article 8. It will be the duty of the CCOOR itself to define any standards for its functioning that are not foreseen in these Regulations, based the procedures adopted by the CCA and by the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of ACTO.

IV. GUESTS

Article 9. Suggested by one or more Member Countries, may be requested an invitation, with specific purposes, to participate in the Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, other Governments, international organizations, NGOs or experts. If there is no objection, the invitations shall be sent by the host country of the Meeting, with copy to the PS/ACTO.

V. MODIFICATIONS TO THESE REGULATIONS

Article 10. This Regulation remains subject to review by the CCA motivated by the CCOOR, ad referendum posterior to the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

REGULATION OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

I. CONSTITUTION AND PURPOSES

Article 1. The Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO) is the executive supportive body to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (TCA) for political matters, in the capacity to sign agreements and make commitments on behalf of ACTO when unanimously authorized by Member Countries.

First Paragraph. The SP/ACTO is also responsible for promoting the Organization as a forum of exchange, knowledge, joint projection and implement the cooperation activities under the TCA on the basis of what was mandated by the Meeting Foreign Ministers and the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA).

Second Paragraph. In executing the actions the PS/ACTO shall take into account the recommendations issued by the Coordination Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCOOR) pursuant to item h) Article 3 of its regulations.

Article 2. The PS/ACTO shall be represented and chaired by the Secretary General of ACTO, who must be a native of one of the Member Countries, elected in the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs based on the proposal put forward by the CCA.

First Paragraph. The Secretary General shall be elected by unanimously by the Member Countries for a three-year term and may be reelected for one additional successive term. In the period immediately following the Secretary General's term, the Secretary General shall not be chaired by a representative of the same nationality as that of the Secretary General who is leaving office.

Second Paragraph. To perform his/her duties, the Secretary General shall count on executive employees, citizens of the member countries, to be selected on the basis of their qualifications in consultation with the Member Countries, ensuring that each country is adequately represented. The number of employees in the team shall be compatible with the budget submitted to and approved for the PS/CTO.

Third Paragraph. A Staff Regulations for PS/ACTO shall be established for the working team which will consist that shall be composed of executive and locally hired employees and an Administrative and Financial Instrument that shall be approved by the CCA suggested by the PS/ACTO. In exceptional cases the Secretary General may make adjustments and updates to the Regulations and to the Instrument ad referendum posterior to the CCA.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Article 3. The PS/ACTO is eligible to represent the interests of Member Countries with respect to the cooperation within the Amazon region, pursuant to Article XXII amended by the Protocol of December 14/1998, and other mandates resulting from the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the CCA.

Article 4. According to the requirements contained in its Strategic Agenda and/or Annual Work Plan as well as to specific mandates from the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the PS/ACTO may sign agreements and commitments with third countries, international organizations and other entities, in behalf of ACTO, when authorized unanimously by Member Countries.

III. DUTIES

Article 5. The PS/ACTO is assigned with the following duties:

1. To promote the cooperation provided for in the TCA in compliance with the mandates received and implement the actions contemplated in its respective Strategic Agenda and Working Plan.
2. To comply and ensure execution of the Resolutions and decisions made by the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the CCA and support them in developing their activities.
3. To put forward to the Special Amazon Commissions proposals for cooperation activities involving scientific research, regular information and exchange systems.
4. To put forward to the CCA through the CCOOR, proposals for the operation of the Permanent Secretariat involving changes to its institutional framework, as well as agreements, initiatives and financing arrangements to be established with third countries and organization.
5. To provide the Special Amazon Commissions with the necessary support in the process of planning and evaluating programs, projects, and activities and to implement cooperation actions as mandated by such commissions.
6. To coordinate with the corresponding governmental authorities/ Permanent National Commissions (PNC) of the Member Countries the logistic aspects required for holding the Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and of the CCA.
7. To coordinate with the Chancelleries and the PNC of Member Countries, with other countries as well as with international organizations, the necessary aspects for organizing seminars and meeting, ad hoc working groups, and other cooperation events.
8. To prepare documentation and carry out management, promotion, coordination, dissemination, and fundraising activities for the projects and activities decided by the Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the CCA. Any agreement related to fundraising or development of cooperation projects, must be done according to the Resolution for Approval of Agreements adopted by the Extraordinary Meeting of CCA, on May 14 2010.
9. To prepare and compile the official mail of the PS/ACTO, and Keep the official files of the Organization.
10. To ensure permanent updating of information system of ACT, based on information received from the Member Countries.
11. To keep the PNC through the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as CCOOR, timely and duly informed of the progress achieved in the different Special Amazon Commissions as well as in seminars, technical meetings foreign affairs, and other activities related to the cooperation process within the scope of the TCA.

Also, to support the exchange and capacitating of the technical staff linked to the PNC.

12. To send to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and to the Embassies of the Member Countries in Brasilia all communications exchanged between the PS/ACTO and the competent agencies in the Member Countries as regards convening meeting or substantive aspects related to the cooperation with third countries or organizations.
13. To monitor and evaluate, in coordination with the Special Amazon Commissions, programs, projects and activities under way and take the necessary steps to ensure their timely and effective execution.

14. To coordinate, at the initiative of any member country and in consultation with the other countries, the organization of studies and meeting on specific themes.

15. To disseminate, in coordination with the Special Amazon Commissions, the PNC or the competent body within the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and with the CCOOR, information on technical cooperation within the scope of the ACT.

16. To submit for the approval of Member Countries, the preparation and dissemination of publications of the Permanent secretariat. The Member countries have a period of sixty days to pronounce from the date of receipt of the texts. Member Countries may agree on the reduction of this period for exceptional reasons.

17. To prepare in coordination with the Special Amazon Commissions, the annual work plan of the PS/ACTO and its chronogram of activities.

This Plan and its chronogram must be submitted to CCOOR at least sixty days before the CCA meeting, which shall make the respective decision.

18. To convene the meetings of the TCA bodies, according to the schedule of activities outlined in the approved Work Plan approved according to what is established in the Regulations of the bodies of ACTO.

19. To submit six-month reports to the governments of the Member Countries on the activities developed by the PS/ACTO during the corresponding reporting periods.

20. To inform the National Coordinators of the CNP, established according to Article XXIII of the ACT, on the results of the discussions of CCOOR in compliance to the mandates from the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the CCA.

21. To ensure that the logo and other signs of ACTO be used in accordance with the objectives of the ACT in accordance with the policy of use approved for that purpose by the PS/ACTO.

22. Fulfill other functions assigned by the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the CCA.

IV. MODIFICATIONS TO THIS REGULATION

This regulation remain subject to review by the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs motivated by the CCA.

REGULATIONS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION PERMANENT SECRETARIAT STAFF

Abbreviations and definitions:

ACTO: Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

Organization: Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

Regulation: Regulations of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization Permanent Secretariat Staff.

Executive Staff Member: citizen of the Member Countries of the Treaty consensually selected based on his/her qualifications, so that all the countries are adequately represented.

Locally hired employee: An employee who is a native citizen of Brazil, or a permanent resident of Brazil at the time of admission, or becomes a permanent resident during his/her period of employment in ACTO. The hiring of this employee will be made by public selection based on his/her qualifications.

These officials will meet technical and administrative functions or those of support.

Consultant and/or expert:

Natural or legal person that, for a predetermined period of time, guide or advise the development and/or execution of processes, work or activities, including decisions on the selection of the means and ways to achieve a certain institutional objective.

The consultant may be hired by the PS/ACTO or designated by international organizations, governments or NGOs, in the context of a program or cooperative agreement.

Natural or legal person hired for a specific period so that, or due to a special need for impartiality, following an examination, investigation or inspection, provide an expert opinion on technical or operational issues related to processes, work or activities, including decisions on the selection of the means and ways to achieve a certain institutional objective.

The Expert may be hired by the ACTO or designated by international organizations, governments or NGOs, in the context of a program or cooperative agreement.

ARTICLE 1. SCOPE

These Regulations govern labor relations and social security provisions between ACTO and its staff members.

Excluded from the scope of this chapter are the relations between the PS/ACTO with consultants and experts, which will be ruled according to Article 11 of the headquarters Agreement and the Administrative and financial Instrument.

1. The organizational chart of staff posts is defined by the Amazon Cooperation Council, who may modify it at any moment at the proposal of the Secretary General.
2. The CCA classifies the posts within the permanent staff (organizational chart) according to their degree of sensitivity, complexity and especially trust, into one of the following categories:
 - a) Executive,
 - b) Locally-hired
 - Technical-administrative
 - Support
3. Based on the decisions of CCA, the Secretary General shall define the selection criteria of the staff and the functions of the new posts that will be approved for the organizational chart of the PS/ACTO.

ARTICLE 2. EMPLOYEE STATUS

Executive employees of the PS are for all legal purposes considered international civil servants and shall conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the interests of ACTO.

The employees admitted locally will be ruled by the head state's labor and security service laws.

ARTICLE 3. HIERARCHY

1. The Employees of the PS/ACTO and answer to him/her in the performance of their work.
2. The Secretary General is responsible for distributing tasks and responsibilities among the staff in accordance with their skills and job descriptions
3. The Secretary General may, on an exceptional basis and in response to an urgent work-related need, delegate additional functions to an employee within his/her normal work hours.
4. In the case above, if the new assignment implies performing work that is better paid, the employee will be entitled to this higher pay, on a provisional basis and instead of his/her original pay, whenever the assignment lasts for a period longer than thirty days.
5. The posts for the executive staff are: Secretary General, Executive Director and Administrative Director, and Coordinators.
6. The post for the locally admitted staff are: technical-administrative and support.

ARTICLE 4. WORK DURATION

1. The work duration of PS/ACTO shall be according to current Brazilian legislation, eight hours daily maximum of two extra hours daily.
2. Overtime worked by locally recruited staff are paid according to current Brazilian law or any collective agreement.
3. National holidays will be observed under Brazilian law, except urgent need of work in which case the Secretary General will indicate the date for compensatory rest, under a collective agreement.

4. Absences considered as such by the Brazilian legislation must be justified. In the case of Executive Officials the Administrative-Financial Instrument will determine the measures to be adopted.

5. The Secretary General may, through prior, general and abstract instruction, institute a flexible work day and compensation mechanisms for the hours worked outside of the ordinary work day for employees in the executive category, considering that their functions tend to include activities developed outside the work premises.

ARTICLE 5. REMUNERATION POLICY

1. Executive employees will be remunerated through a base salary whose monthly amount shall be set in dollars of the United States of America by the CCA, at the proposal of the Secretary General. The locally hired employees shall be remunerated through a base salary whose monthly amount will be set in real by the CCA, at proposal of the Secretary General. The annual adjustment of the salary of those employees will follow the consumer price index, or its equivalency, from the head state or an eventual collective agreement according to the budget.

2. The CCA may authorize, once the respective dollar amounts are set, the monthly payment of the following amounts to employees in the executive category, inasmuch as the ACTO budget allows it:

- a) Compensation for representation, in consonance with the nature and specificities of the position;
- b) Housing allowance;
- c) Additional percentage for professional qualification, in consonance with the nature of the position;
- d) Educational assistance

3. PS/ACTO will cover the installation and return expenses of the executive employees.

ARTICLE 6. CHRISTMAS BONUS

Local employees will be entitled to an annual Christmas bonus equivalent to 1/12 (one-twelfth) of the salary according the labor law of the head state.

To the extent that the budget of ACTO permits the executive officers will be beneficiaries of a Christmas Bonus.

ARTICLE 7. VACATIONS

1. The locally hired employees will be entitled after the first year of work, to vacations according to the legislation of the head state.

The executive officials will be entitled to vacations according to the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).

2. All vacation periods shall be programmed in attention to the interests of the Permanent Secretariat, at the discretion of the Secretary General.

ARTICLE 8. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

At the discretion of the Secretary General may be granted leave to executive employees as determined by the Administrative and Financial instrument as a reference as established by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).

The Leaves of Absence for local staff must apply the Labor Legislation of the head state.

ARTICLE 9. TICKETS AND PER DIEMS

1. All employees transferred to the city of the PS/ACTO headquarters in the exercise of their duties shall be entitled to tickets and per diems.
2. Per diems shall be set pursuant to what's established in the Administrative and financial instrument with reference to the ICSC.
3. Airplane tickets shall be economy class, except for international travel by the Secretary General, who may choose to travel business class.
4. Consultants and experts transferred to the city of the PS/ACTO headquarters in the exercise of their duties shall travel economy class and receive per diems for the duration of their missions. Per diems shall be set pursuant to the table approved by the CCA, except if these expenses are foreseen in an agreement or technical cooperation program of which the Organization is a beneficiary.

ARTICLE 10. ADMISSION AND DISMISSAL

Any admission process of locally admitted employees shall be subject approved by the CCA.

1. National quota systems shall not be observed in the distribution of vacancies within the PS/ACTO. Nevertheless, the best interest of the work shall be respected and an effort shall be made to maintain an adequate representative equity.
2. The Secretary General, shall set the minimum admission criteria, requirements mechanisms and requirements for technical-administrative staff based on objective grounds and merit, and will inform the CCA.
3. Admission processes for locally hired employees shall be directed by the Secretary General, consist of at least a written examination on general and specific knowledge. Knowledge of at least two official ACTO languages is required.
4. The following shall not be admitted: ascendant, descendant or collateral relatives within the second degree of kinship of any employee of PS/ACTO and diplomatic representatives accredited to CCOOR.
5. All technical-administrative employees shall be admitted to a specific position and acquire a statutory bond "Bond of Statutory Nature" with PS/ACTO; they shall be governed by these Regulations and by the other standards of the Organization and labor legislation of the head state.
6. The only grounds for dismissal for a locally hired employee in case of improbity; misconduct; conduct contrary to the work standards of ACTO; unauthorized exercise of functions ultra vires; dereliction of duty; abandonment of post, characterized as thirty days of consecutive absence or sixty days of alternate absence in a period of six months; acts of indiscipline or insubordination, or acts that damage the honor and/or image of ACTO or of the employee's hierarchical superior; unauthorized disclosure of information to which the employee has access as a result of his/her work; a criminal sentence; or inadequate performance verified in a periodic evaluation. In the cases that are not contemplated in this numeral shall consider the provisions of the head state labor legislation.
7. Dismissal of an employee, in the cases referred in the paragraph above, must be supported by adequate with a legal opinion signed by the Secretary General, and by an executive employee; the dismissed employee shall be entitled to give a written statement on the facts that led to his/her dismissal.

Dismissal for inadequate performance may only take place if the employee receives the worst score possible in three consecutive or alternate evaluations.

8. ACTO may also dismiss an administrative employee with tenure in case of downsizing of the Permanent Secretariat's organization chart.

9. The act of dismissing an employee as described in the paragraph above, shall be preceded by a downsizing of the Organization Chart approved by the CCA. The employee thus dismissed shall be entitled to compensation established by the labor legislation of the head state.

Disciplinary actions for executive officials will be ruled by the ICSC.

ARTICLE 11. SOCIAL SECURITY

1. PS/ACTO shall see to it that all locally hired employees are registered with the Social Security in compliance with the legislation of the head state.

2. At the discretion of ACTO, locally hired employees, may be transferred to a private social security scheme that may be contracted with a financial institution or private insurance company, according to budget availability.

3. The Executive employees may, at the discretion of the Secretary General, be registered in the social security scheme of their countries of origin or in a private social security scheme, according to budget availability.

4. PS/ACTO will seek to sign agreements with health insurance companies to provide its employees with special access conditions to private health plans or insurance.

ARTICLE 12. DUTIES OF THE EMPLOYEE

1. PS/ACTO employees are forbidden to follow instructions from any government, foreign, public or private entity in the performance of their work.

2. All PS/ACTO executive employees shall behave in a manner suitable to their condition of international civil servants, even in their private lives, and shall not engage in activities that may cause a conflict of interests with their professional functions or with the institutional profile of the Organization. Although employees are not required to renounce their national loyalties, policies, philosophies, religious or ideologies, they must act with the necessary reservation, impartiality and distance expected from their professional status.

3. PS/ACTO employees are forbidden to hold a directive or executive position in civil society or in the private sector at the head state that generates conflicts of interest in any other country. Only academic activities may be added to the work performed for ACTO, at the discretion of the Secretary General who will require compensation for lost hours of work. The above-referred approval of academic activities is withdrawn in case of incompatible schedules.

4. Employees of the PS/ACTO shall abstain from contact of any form with any type of media, except as part of their official duties and/or with prior authorization by the Secretary General, and shall not reveal their personal opinions on topics related to ACTO.

5. Employees of the PS/ACTO shall refrain from passing on any information to which they have access as a result of their work, except as part of their official duties and/or with prior authorization by the Secretary General.

6. Employees of the PS/ACTO shall not accept favors, gifts or donations of any form from governments, public or private entities without prior consent from the Secretary General.

Whenever the refusal to accept a gift with symbolic or formal value may be interpreted as a lack of courtesy, the employee may receive it but must inform the Secretary General a posteriori.

ARTICLE 13. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

1. In the cases referred in Article 10, item 6, the Secretary General may, if the gravity of the offense so requires it, apply disciplinary measures ranging from a written warning to a 20-day suspension with pro rata dies loss of pay.
2. This warning must be signed by the Secretary General and with a legal statement and must detail the offense that motivated it.
3. A suspension may be applied if an employee commits a serious offense pursuant to any of the cases listed in Article 10, item 6, or if the employee received a written warning in the last twelve months.
4. The application of a warning or suspension must result in a subsequent performance evaluation in which the employee is given the worst score possible.

ARTICLE 14. DISSOCIATION OR RESIGNATION OF AN EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEE

1. Dissociation

1.1. Shall be grounds for dissociation of an executive officer, according to the characterization properly regulated within the Administrative and Financial Instrument (IAF).

- Failure of performance;
- Iniquity;
- Abandonment of post;
- Act of indiscipline or insubordination;
- Act detrimental to the honor and image of the PS / ACTO or any official body;
- Unauthorized disclosure of information which had access by virtue of their functions;
- Misrepresentation on the performance of their duties;
- Workplace harassment, moral and / or sexual.

1.2. Omitted cases will be resolved by the Secretary General who, if deemed necessary, will consult with Directors Executive and / or administrative and may request a legal opinion.

2. Resignation

In cases of resignation for personal reasons, the executive officers are entitled to payment due / proportional to: wages, benefits and relocation to the country of origin of the staff and their dependents.

To be eligible as provided in the previous item, the executive officers must have worked at least 1 (one) year in the PS/ ACTO, starting from their possession.

2.1. In the case of resignation of the Secretary General, the communication should be sent to Member Countries at ministerial level.

2.2. In the event of resignation of Executive Director or Managing Director, the communication should be sent to the Secretary General with 30 (thirty) days notice, who shall inform the Member Countries.

2.3. In the case of resignation of a Coordinator this will be effective by submitting a letter to Secretary General, with 30 (thirty) days in advance, who will inform the CCOOR.

2.3.1. The Secretary General shall appoint the Coordinator to temporarily replace the one who resigned. This situation does not entail recognition of wages or benefits.

2.4. Omitted cases will be resolved by the Secretary-General, as deemed necessary who shall consult the Executive Director and Administrative Director and may request a legal opinion.

3. Duties

3.1. In case of disconnection or resignation, the executive employees will prepare a report containing all information necessary for the adequate transition of his responsibilities.

3.2. The technical documentation must be properly filed and easily accessible.

ARTICLE 15. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. In case of death of an ACTO Permanent Secretariat executive employee, all the benefits to which he/she is entitled shall be paid to the accompanying family; if none exists, they shall go to the heirs, upon liquidation of any existing debts.

In the case of death of the locally hired employees will apply the laws of the head state.

2. In case of death or disability of a executive official, pursuant to proof of need by the family and availability of funds within ACTO, a cash assistance may be extended to the family to an amount set by the Secretary General and within the limits previously established, to cover repatriation expenses to the country of origin.

3. PS/ACTO will not pay the relocation expenses for locally-hired employees that reside in another location than the city of the ACTO/PS headquarters. If, however, contracting this person proves to be more necessary or interesting for ACTO than any other candidate, then a cash assistance may be paid for relocation purposes pursuant to the availability of funds and to an amount that will be established by the Secretary General within the limits previously established by the Amazon Cooperation Council.

ARTICLE 16. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The PS/ACTO will maintain individual records of all its employees.

2. All PS/ACTO employees are entitled to receive, at any moment in time, a certificate signed by the Secretary General describing their actual and past functions within ACTO and containing, when applicable, general comments on their professional performance.

3. Should the CCA be unable to offer a timely decision on a matter, then the CCOOR may deliberate on its behalf on a provisional basis.

4. In the case of the above paragraph, any provisional decisions shall be examined by the CCA during its next meeting, the deliberations of CCOOR, with a view to their ratification or replacement.

In all the provisions that are not covered by these regulations for the locally hired employees, be taken into account as provided in the head state legislation.

ARTICLE 17. MODIFICATIONS TO THESE REGULATIONS

These Regulations remain subject to review by the CCA motivated by the CCOOR.