

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.