

## **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 an 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 Brasilia, Sao Paulo, and Río 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.