

## **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

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

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED:**

**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.

### **RES/VII MRE-TCA/4**

#### **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.

### **RES/VII MRE-TCA/5**

**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.

**RES/VII MRE-TCA/6**

**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.

**RES/VII MRE-TCA/7**

**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 Sustainability in the Amazon Forest, and the fulfillment given thereto following a broadly participative process.

The Caracas Declaration, dated 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/VII 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.



## **VII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES PARTY TO THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY**

### **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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 Brazil

For the Government of Colombia      For the Government of Ecuador

For the Government of Guyana      For the Government of Peru

For the Government of Suriname      For the Government of Venezuela