

FINAL MINUTES

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

In the City of Manaus, Brazil, on the 14th of September of 2004, the VIII Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Country Members of the Amazon Treaty Cooperation Organization took place.

The Delegations were comprised by: Gustavo Pedraza, Minister of Sustainable Development of Bolivia; Ambassador Celso Amorim, Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil; Ambassador Jaime Girón Duarte, Vice Minister for Political Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia; Ambassador Patricio Zuquilanda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador; Ambassador, Samuel Rudolph Insannally, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Ambassador Manuel Rodríguez Cuadros, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru; Ambassador Maria Elizabeth Levens, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname; Ambassador Jesús Arnaldo Pérez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela; as well as the General Secretary Rosalía Arteaga, Executive Director Francisco Ruiz, Administrative Director, Marco Afonso Pontes de Souza, and Enrique Elias Coordinator on Environmental Affairs of the ACTO. The list of participants is included as Annex I.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

His Excellency Ambassador Celso Amorim, Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil as Delegate of the host country, opened the floor and welcomed the Chancellors and Representatives of the States Members to the ACTO, complimenting the work made by the General Secretary within the lapse of four months, stressing her achievements. The approved Agenda for the meeting is included in Annex II.

Next, Ambassador Amorim granted the floor to the General Secretary to the ACTO, who greeted and welcomed the honorable Ministers and Delegations of the Country Members and made reference to the tasks undertaken within her tenure of the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO from May to September 2004.

Both speeches of the Ambassador Celso Amorim as well as of Rosalía Arteaga's one, can be found in Annex III.

As stipulated in the legal framework, the Delegate of Brazil, Ambassador Macedo Soares, who acted as President of the XII Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, proceeded to present the Report and Minute of the referred Meeting. Both documents are enclosed in Annex IV.

The Chairperson granted the word to the General Secretary of the ACTO, who set forth for consideration before the Distinguished Delegations, the Management Report of the PS/ACTO during its four months of management which was approved. The referred document is presented as Annex V in the present Minute.

DIALOGUE AMONG THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS TO THE ACTO

At this point of the Agenda Chancellor Celso Amorim, stated the next themes:

- The Possibility to invite Observers to the meetings of the ACTO Chancellors; and
- To execute Sectorial Meetings, specifically in areas such as Science and Technology, Environment, Security and Trade affairs.

The Head of the Peruvian Delegation, agreed on the aforementioned points established by the Chancellor of Brazil, since they are in accordance to the points set forth in the Strategic Plan of the Organization.

Advancing in the theme of inviting possible observers to the meetings of the ACTO instances, the government of France was proposed as a possible observer as well as other governments which will enable the decision making processes, correlate to the global agenda on sustainable development. Furthermore, it was proposed that the Chancellors reunite on an annual basis meeting, which would

improve the process of decision making and dialogue in the discussion of the main areas of the Strategic Plan, in which it should be elevated for approval by the Chancellors and must benefit local Amazon populations.

The Delegations approved to undertake five Ministerial Meetings and a technical one, which could be undertaken with the Ministers in Charge of the issues of commerce, social development, science and technology, and the national ministers for Security and Defense issues. The technical meeting will be on intellectual property, whose framework must correspond to the Strategic Plan.

In this context the Chancellor of Peru established that the meetings for Chancellors should be carried out annually and, in this sense, extended an invitation of his Government for carrying out the next meeting Ministers of Foreign Affairs to the ACTO, in the City of Iquitos, Peru, during the month of September 2005. The delegations agreed to this invitation. The exact date for the event will be coordinated by the PS/ACTO and the other Country Members opportunely, using diplomatic channels.

The Chancellor Celso Amorim, retook the floor and contributed to the theme of the participation of countries and other organizations as observers to ACTO meetings. In these sense, the delegate of Colombia took the floor, and after expressing his gratitude to the government of Brazil for the warm welcome in the City of Manaus, and presented the greeting of the Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs, extended his congratulations to the General Secretary and the ACTO staff that supports her, in her important and efficient task. With regards to the theme of the observers, he established that this would support the Organization in following two aspects:

- International Recognition of the Amazon Region and its potentialities;
- Configuration of the Organization as a valid regional interlocutor before the international community, especially among organizations and cooperative resources that will facilitate the execution of projects that strengthen the Organization.

The Chancellor of Suriname expressed his gratitude to the government of Brazil for the warm welcome in the City of Manaus, and to also congratulated the PS/ACTO. Before that, the Chancellor of Suriname stressed that her Government considers the SIVAN/SIPAM initiative as an important tool to protect the Amazon region as a whole. She valorized the willingness of Brazil in sharing information with the other Country Members with the use of the aforementioned tool, yet proposed to discuss the SIPAM mechanism within the framework of a broader perspective as a sub regional initiative.

In relation to the contribution of the government of Suriname to the budget of ACTO, she informed that it would be paid in a month or before.

The delegate of Bolivia agreed with the proposals made by Brazil and Peru to invite as observers of the mechanisms of the Treaty, but that those invitations must consider some parameters, since these are to be incorporated to the technical meetings. He highlighted the importance of including local governments as active parts in the regional development process within the activities of the Treaty.

The Chancellor Zuquilanda, in his turn, highlighted that his country's government made the best selection when presenting Dr. Rosalía Arteaga, as their candidate for General Secretary to the ACTO, and congratulated the other governments for their selection.

The Chancellor of Ecuador also stressed that the answer to the initiative to invite observers to the meetings of the Treaty, should be aimed to exercise sovereign activities in the Amazon region, and in such a way, support the incorporation of observers, but emphasized that it is important to avoid bureaucracy and that the observers must be selected respecting a series of criteria, as for example, direct involvement to satisfy the interests of the Organization, which will enable an efficient implementation of rational use of natural resources of the Amazon region.

The Chancellor of Venezuela greeted the government of Brazil, and congratulated the work of the PS/ACTO, and expressed that he agrees with the initiative of the observers with reference to the sectorial meetings and established that it is important to incorporate the themes of Environment and Education which are directed affiliated to the themes of study.

The Ministers in that sense, agreed on the sectorial meetings are carried out every two months and that each country, if needed, proposes a headquarters to carry them out.

The Chancellors have also suggested holding a Summit Meeting of the Presidents of the Amazon Countries.

Chancellor Amorim suggested that the Organization should establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on the study of responsible and sustainable use of the resource "water".

The General Secretariat emphasized the relevant work performed by the Organization, through the prompt implementation of GEF project "Integrated and Sustainable Management of Water Resources of the Amazon Basin", and that coincidentally, informed about an invitation of the Brazilian Regulatory Agency on Waters (ANA), to visit the place where the Rio Negro and Rio Solimões meet.

Following the agenda, the delegations agreed on approving the Resolution whereby the Strategic Plan of the Organization is approved.

The Chancellor of Venezuela requested to record in the Minute:

"Due to constitutional provisions concerning the participation of Indigenous peoples in the decisions involving their vital environment, Venezuela signs the Strategic Plan WITH RESTRICTION" (this paragraph is recorded as a footnote to item 6 of the Declaration of Manaus and the Resolution whereby the Strategic Plan is approved).

That resolution is compliant to its constitution that demands a broader mechanism of consultation previously to the approval.

Thus, the paragraph of the Resolution whereby it is established the provision that the Strategic Plan is an open document that allows official modifications and contributions and, in the specific case of Venezuela, it will be recorded that the document is signed with restriction of its Government, strictly due to constitutional requirements of the country.

Following, the delegations read and approved the draft Declaration of Manaus and its corresponding Resolutions, attached hereto as Annex VI.

DATE AND SITE OF THE IX MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Government of Peru offered the city of Iquitos to host the next Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the State Members of ACTO, in September 2005, and the date will be duly informed through the pertinent channels.

SIGNING OF THE MINUTE OF THE VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ITS CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The Chairperson to the Meeting preceded the final reading of the Minute and the corresponding Resolutions to be signed by the Chancellors.

CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE MEETING

The Speech of Closing was made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru, Ambassador Manuel Rodriguez Cuadros, as the Head of Delegation of the next host country of IX Meeting Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the State Members to the Amazon Treaty Cooperation Organization.

CONSIDERATION, APPROVAL AND SUBSCRIPTION OF THE MINUTE VIII MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE COUNTRY MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

The Delegates revised the Draft Minute and decided to subscribe it.

ENDING OF THE MEETING

Before closing the meeting, Chancellor Celson Amorim, granted the Government of Amazonas and the SUFRAMA for their important contributions and support that allowed achieved the results of this meeting. He also congratulated the efficient work carried out by the PS/ACTO.

On Behalf of the Republic of Bolivia
On Behalf of the Republic of Colombia
On Behalf of Cooperative Republic of Guyana
On Behalf of Republic of Suriname
On Behalf of the Federative Republic of Brazil
On Behalf of the Republic of Ecuador
On Behalf of the Republic of Peru
On Behalf of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED:

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/1

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

AWARE that the creation of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the establishment of its Permanent Secretariat in Brasilia signify an historic juncture and represent one of the most important turning point in the institutional life of the Treaty, as an instrument of regional cooperation and integration of the Amazon countries, in compliance with the mandates of the Governments of the Member Countries to ACTO;

HIGHLIGHTS the fact that this VIII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries to ACTO is the first Ministerial meeting of their Governments, after the creation of the Organization and of the effective installation of the Permanent Secretariat, as a fully trained mechanism to promote operative cooperation between the Member Countries, including the acquisition of external resources of technical and financial nature;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that ACTO was created for the purpose of ensuring the financial and institutional support which is necessary to carry out the activities of cooperation among its Member Countries;

RESOLVES:

TO REAFFIRM the commitment and political support from the Governments to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, recognizing its undeniable and vitally important, as an instrument of concertation and implementation of sustainable and integral development policies for the Amazon, a region that hosts the greatest biodiversity of the planet;

TO URGE the timely payment of contributions from their governments for the budget of the Organization, which will contribute to the proper functioning of the ACTO's Permanent Secretariat and the fulfillment of the mandates of the instances of the Treaty, as well as of actions relating to the implementation of the programs and projects agreed between the Parties;

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, on this fourteenth day of the month of September, two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/2

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING the initiative of the Permanent Secretariat to provide to the OTCA of a Strategic Plan, conceived as a consensus document of the national policies of the Member Countries for achieving the sustainable and integral development of the Amazon region and a navigation chart for the next few years, so as to ensure its political, technical and financial feasibility;

RECOGNIZING the Strategic Plan of the Organization as an instrument with a long-term vision that will guide the actions of its Permanent Secretariat in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of projects, programs and initiatives which must be viable within a regional in scope, by maintaining the practice of dialog and consultation among the Member Countries, as the main way towards the purposes of the Organization; civil society and researchers, discussed and enriched with their contributions the provisional text of the Strategic Plan of the OTCA;

ACKNOWLEDGING with satisfaction the successful outcome of the First International Meeting of the Permanent National Commissions of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, held in Brasilia on 1 and 2 July 2004, framework within which the representatives of the Member Countries and the most important actors involved in the problematic of the Amazon international agencies, civil society, researchers discussed and enriched by their contributions the provisional text of the Strategic Plan of the OTCA;

Having reviewed the Twelfth Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council the consensus version of the Organization's Strategic Plan (2004-2012), prepared and presented by the Permanent Secretariat of the OTCA, that collects those contributions;

RESOLVES:

To approve the Strategic Plan of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization for the period 2004-2012, as a document open to continually update and inputs by the Member States.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/3

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

Recognizing the unanimous decision of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, to appoint Dr. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, from Ecuador, as Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, who assumed the functions of its mandate on 5 May 2004 and will exercise that function according to the relevant regulations;

RECOGNIZING the performance of the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO during the management of Dr. Arteaga, which highlights, among other achievements, the completion of the consultation process of the text of the Strategic Plan, which was approved by Member Countries;

Having reviewed the Management Report of the Permanent Secretariat, adopted by the Twelfth Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council and presented to the consideration of this VIII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries to ACTO;

RESOLVES:

To welcome the appointment of the Secretary-General of the OTCA, and to congratulate and acknowledge the excellence of the work carried out by Dr. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano as Secretary General, and to the staff of the Permanent Secretariat, under its commendable leadership;

To approve the Management Report of the Permanent Secretariat.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/4

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

Resolution RES/VII MRE-TCA/07, which resolved to start the Process of Tarapoto, and approves the formulation of the Regional Project "Validation of 15 Priority Indicators for Amazon Forest Sustainability ", prepared by the Secretariat Pro Tempore of the TCA;

The recommendation made by of the VII Meeting of Ministers to the Permanent Secretariat of the OTCA, to perform representations among financial sources in order to achieve technical and financial resources for the execution of the referred project;

That to fulfill this mandate, the Permanent Secretariat has signed in Brasilia, on May 25th 2004, with the United Nation Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) the Technical Cooperation Project TCP/RLA/3007 "Validation of 15 Priority Indicators for Amazon Forest Sustainability ", with a contribution of 380,000 US dollars;

The importance of the technical and financial cooperation provided by FAO to the Treaty since 1990, which contributed to the strengthening of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, through the implementation of programs and projects and numerous support activities. This contribution still continues, and makes FAO one of its most important ally;

That in order to start the process of Tarapoto and comply with the schedule for the implementation of this regional project, the Permanent Secretariat conducted in Lima, Peru, on July 26th and 27th 2004, the "First Workshop of Coordination and Programming", with the participation of the National Coordinators of the Member Countries to ACTO, responsible for the forestry policies in their respective countries, as well as the representatives of FAO, from their headquarters in Rome and Santiago de Chile, and the Coordinator of the Special Commission on the Environment of the Permanent Secretariat;

The report prepared by the Permanent Secretariat on the Regional Workshop, which consists in the Management Report of the Permanent Secretariat;

RESOLVES:

Express gratitude and appreciation to the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) for the technical and financial resources given to ACTO, and that currently supports the kickoff of the Tarapoto Proposal and the full implementation of the aforementioned regional Project, as well as its support for any action aimed at strengthening ties between the two organizations, aiming at the benefit of the peoples in the Amazon, the improvement in their standard of living and the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Approve the report and provide the necessary support, both technical and political, to meet the objectives of the Regional Project;

SEND through diplomatic channels to the United Nations Forum on Forests, the above-mentioned report, and continue to report to the Forum on the evolution of the Tarapoto Process, as well as with the other processes that exist on the subject, like the Helsinki, Montreal and the ITTO Processes, among others;

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/5

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

That the current dynamics of the Global Agenda on Sustainable Development and globalization have initiated a natural convergence of proposals between the objectives of cooperation and integration of the Member Countries, leading to the gradual formation of a South American Community of Nations, as well as the establishment of alliances with international specialized agencies;

That the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and more recently, with the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), will help to strengthen the objectives postulated for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and the fulfillment of the mandates of their instances of consultation and coordination, as well as for greater uptake of extra-regional cooperation, both technical and financial;

That, the new political scenario of the Organization and its undeniable role as a forum of regional harmonization of regional policies requires a greater presence in all international environments that develop on matters of sustainable development;

RESOLVES:

TO INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat to initiate the appropriate processes to accredit the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, as an observer, before the international, regional and sub-regional organizations, like the Organization of American States (OAS) and other specialized agencies of the United Nations system;

TO INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat to continue exploring other possibilities for strategic alliances with other organizations for cooperation and integration.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/6

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

That the technical and financial cooperation given by the international agencies, governments and other cooperating entities, allows Member Countries to ACTO the OTCA, in general, and to the Permanent Secretariat, in particular, comply with the mandates of this regional mechanism for consultation and cooperation, as well as other instances who conform the structure of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, like the implementation of projects and relevant activities and vital need, within the framework of its objectives and for the benefit of all Member Countries;

That the Member Countries, during their meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Amazon Cooperation Council have repeatedly emphasized the importance of gathering these resources and have recognized the support provided by these sources of cooperation;

RESOLVES:

To express thankfulness to the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), to the German Cooperation Agency (GTZ), the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); and the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development of the French Government (CIRAD);

TO INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat continue exploring other possibilities for technical and financial cooperation.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/7**VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRIES PARTY OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION****CONSIDERING:**

The Management Report presented by the Permanent Secretariat to the Coordination Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCOOR), on the activities carried out in the period from December 2002, the date of its definitive establishment in Brasilia, and April 2004;

That during the above mentioned period began the process of construction of operational tools for the Organization. These tools must be compatible with the responsibilities arising from the mandates of the Treaty instances to the Secretariat showing a real symbiosis between the regulatory framework of the ACTO and the technological platform that is being implemented;

That this instrument and project management system will encourage all our current and potential cooperating in deepen the formulation of joint programs and projects for the Amazon, including real-time (on-line) to provide greater transparency on the management of the financial funds for such activities;

That these operational instruments cover the fields of development and deployment of the Operations Programming and Biannual Plans of Action; Geo-reference Information Systems Use (GIS) - Changes Analysis (Monitoring, Validation, and Reports); Information, documentation and development of the Organization Web page; Administrative and Financial Management System and Quality Management; Financial Resources and Institutional Sustainability; Institutional Networks; International Cooperation; Strengthening of the Permanent National Commissions and of the Special Commissions of the Amazon Region;

For the implementation of the administrative and financial management system was made an administrative procedure and the supplementary instrument of administrative and financial operation, and for its elaboration the recommendations made by the CCOOR were taken into consideration.

In order to achieve this objective, the Secretariat was supported with the technical and financial assistance, of the National Water Agency of Brazil (ANA), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, without causing expenses in the budget of the PS.

RESOLVES:

To approve the Instrument of Administrative and Financial Management of the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO.

TO RECOGNIZE and express gratitude to the National Water Agency of Brazil (ANA), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil for the support given to the Permanent Secretariat to implement this important mechanism.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September Two Thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/8**VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION****CONSIDERING:**

That the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) aims to promote jointly the Sustainable Development of the Amazonian territories of its member countries, so that these actions will produce equitable results

and mutually beneficial, taking into account the preservation of the environment the rational use of natural resources of the Amazon, the improvement in the quality of life of their peoples in the Amazon;

That the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) is a specialized agency of the Organization of the United Nations (UN) with extensive experience and competence in the field of Health, whose mission is to lead strategic efforts of cooperation among its Member States and other partners to promote equity in health, combat disease and improve the quality of life and life expectancy for the peoples of the Americas;

That the implementation of the project " Joint Actions of Cooperation between the Amazon Countries to Combat Malaria" and the development the "Epidemiological Surveillance Network", which count with the technical support from PAHO/WHO, and were reformulated and submitted to the Member Countries, will be important tools for the achievement of the objectives of the ACTO;

The Permanent Secretariat continues exploring opportunities for joint collaboration, both technical and financial, with other international organizations, countries or relevant entities, in order to fulfill their mandates, implementing the Resolutions of the different instances of the Treaty, mainly from the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Treaty, the Amazon Cooperation Council, the Special Commissions of the Amazon and the Permanent National Commissions of the Amazon Region;

That an alliance with the PAHO/WHO will make possible the fulfillment of such mandates, specifically in the area of the Special Commission of the Amazon Region on Health (CESAM);

RESOLVES:

CELEBRATE and fully support the subscription, in the shortest term, the Framework Agreement between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), which is properly articulated and agreed upon between both entities and that includes the following modalities of joint cooperation:

- A) Development of the institutional capacities of the ACTO and strengthening of the Commissions related to health and environment;
- B) Environmental Health, including water resources management in the trans-boundary basin of the Amazon river;
- C) Communicable Diseases, with emphasis on the epidemiological surveillance network;
- D) Sustainable development of the territories of the Amazon Region.
- E) Improving the quality of life and access to health services for the peoples in the Amazon.

And, in this regard to urge the Governments to comply with the necessary formalities still pending so that the subscription of the Framework Agreement could be carried out as soon as possible.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/9

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

The importance that the Amazon rivers have in the process of economic and social development in the region, according to the provisions of article III, V and VI of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty; and the need to deepen regional physical integration between the Member Countries of the Amazon through river navigation as an essential complement to the achievement of the purposes of IIRSA;

That the Lima Declaration signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Countries Members of the ACT on 5 December 1995 established to elaborate a study on the navigability of rivers of the Amazon,

through the Special Commission of the Special Commission on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure (CETICAM);

That Resolution RES/V MRE-TCA/10 resolved to instruct the CETICAM the realization of a study on the navigability of the Amazon Rivers, within the framework of the project Transportation Network for the Amazon Region;

That in the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, signed on November 22nd, 2002, instructed the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO, in coordination with the IIRSA Executive Committee, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Andean Development Corporation, to foster a work program toward the establishment of a of transportation network in the region, with special emphasis on the modal systems and facilitation of navigation in the Amazon Basin.

RESOLVES:

To instruct the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO to continue developing the work program with the essential purpose of proposing to the Ninth Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries to ACTO, a draft document with Rules (Regulations) aimed at regulating and facilitating the commercial navigation through the river system of the Amazon River Basin.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/10

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

The Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, signed on November 22nd, 2002, that ratifies the commitment to create conditions for the proper functioning of the Organization, through the provision of financial resources and the priority treatment, in the field of national administrations, the actions related to the programs and projects agreed between the Member States;

The commitment of the Permanent Secretariat to continue exploring possible sources of potential extra-regional cooperation, to ensure the compliance with the activities generated by the mandates of the meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Amazon Cooperation Council and the Coordination Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council;

RESOLVES:

To start a study to examine the technical, political and financial implications of the establishment of a fund raising institutional instrument to finance sustainable and integral development in the Amazon region, that includes the study of mechanisms that allow adequate remuneration of services which are generated in the region.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

RES/VIII MRE-OTCA/11

VIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF THE AMAZON TREATY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

CONSIDERING:

The urgent need show the global community the new image of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, as a sub-regional integration mechanism for the fulfillment of its aims, like the revaluation of the traditional knowledge of the native peoples inhabiting the area and the potential

that they represent for its development, in terms of the improvement in their standard of living and the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits of the rational use of natural resources contained in the region;

RESOLVES:

To instruct the Permanent Secretariat, with the support of CCOOR, to study and present a proposal on the institutionalization of ACTO Prize, for the recognition and encouragement of women, indigenous people and young entrepreneurs, whose actions deserve to be highlighted since these actions were directed toward the improvement of the standard of living of their people;

To instruct the Permanent Secretariat -with the support of the private sector- to start a program within the strategy of Tourism and Ecotourism, designed to organize expeditions for young people to the Amazon region, to bring the man into the environment, and to facilitate even more awareness about the impacts that may occur in this interaction.

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, this fourteenth day of the month of September two thousand and four.

DECLARATION OF MANAUS

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, gathered in the city of Manaus, on 14 September 2004, during the 8th Meeting of Chancellors of the States Members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

1. REAFFIRM the crucial relevance of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) as the major tool for carrying out harmonious policies of Sustainable and Integral Development in the Amazon Region, to the benefit of their respective populations;

2. REAFFIRM the sovereign responsibility of the States Members of the ACTO in relation to the sustainable development of the Amazonian region;

3. REITERATE the determination of the States Members of the OTCA to reaffirm the total exercise of its sovereignty on the Amazon resources in order to promote the economic and social development of the region and the protection of its cultural and environmental patrimony, to the benefit of its respective populations;

4. ACKNOWLEDGE the fact that the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), established to ensure the required institutional support to the cooperation activities among the States Members, has reached an effective operational level, capable of energizing the activities related to the different fields of work of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty;

5. EMPHASIZE that this meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO States Members is the first ministerial meeting of their Governments after the establishment of the Organization and the installation of its Secretariat in Brasilia, which institutionalized the Treaty as a mechanism fully capable of promoting effective cooperation among the States Members;

6. RECOGNIZE the approval, in this 8th Meeting of Chancellors of ACTO States Members, of the Strategic Plan for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, which defines the Strategic Axes of Action, the Programmatic Areas, and Operational Tools for guiding the activities of the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO from 2004 throughout 2012¹;

7. REAFFIRM their willingness to coordinate joint positions on issues of common interest in the several fields comprised by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, aiming to promote greater political agreement in international forums, promoting the Sustainable and Integral Development of the Amazon region;

¹ Refer to the Minute of the VIII Chancellor Meeting, entered a reservation by the Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela because of constitutional reasons.

8. DECIDE, furthermore, to intensify the political dialogue on issues of shared interest to the States Members, including the pursuit of mechanisms to guarantee the security and integral defense of the Amazon region.

9. EMPHASIZE, within that framework, the potential of cooperation among the States Members, based on remote data sensing systems such as the *Sistema de Vigilância da Amazônia (SIVAM)* and the *Sistema de Proteção da Amazônia (SIPAM)*; and, have the pleasure of welcoming the bilateral actions underway between Brazil and the other States Members aimed at establishing the adequate conditions of access to the information provided by those systems;

10. DECIDE to promote thematic ministerial meetings in order to advance in the political interlocution on specific topics of interest to the States Members of ACTO. In this sense, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs signalized that areas of common interest lied in themes such as Defense and Internal Security of the Amazon, Social Development, Physical Integration and Infrastructure, Trade and Commercial Integration, Science and Technology, Biodiversity and Intellectual Property.

11. EMPHASIZE their conviction that cooperation and integration among the Amazon countries will positively contribute to the gradual establishment of a South American Community of Nations;

12. STRESS that the formation of a space of political and economic integration in South America, must be built on the bases of the existing mechanisms of cooperation, and in that sense **EMPHASIZE** the importance of strengthening contact channels with ACTO, MERCOSUR, Andean Community, CARICOM, ALADI, the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee to the countries of La Plata River Basin, among others;

13. STRESS the importance of the free trade agreements concluded in the region, and **MANIFEST** their expectation of achieving results in the short term through the generation of additional trade flows among the countries of the region, including Amazonian products;

14. AFFIRM their determination to promote actions oriented to obtain fair conditions of access to the markets of other countries, for products of export interest to the Amazonian region;

15. DECIDE to promote mechanisms to promote a greater flow of investments, goods and services among the countries of the region, especially concerning financing for structural works required to build the physical interconnection; and **STRESS** the relevant role played by institutions such as the Andean Development Corporation - CAF, and the Brazilian Bank of Economic and Social Development - BNDES;

16. AGREE on the need for promoting scientific research, knowledge generation, technological development and capacity-building in the field of human resources, aimed at finding solutions to the economic, social, ecological, technological, educational and cultural issues of the Amazon;

17. DECIDE to start coordination activities aimed at convening next year a Scientific Congress of the Amazon;

18. RATIFY their commitment towards harmonizing policies to guarantee the protection of the biodiversity of the Amazon region; **RESTATE**, likewise, the need for implementing the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity concerning protection of the genetic heritage of Amazonian species and sharing of the benefits arising from its utilization;

19. DECIDE to promote the effective coordination of the competent national entities for fighting biopiracy and to guarantee the full exercise of the sovereign rights of the Amazon countries over the resources of their biodiversity;

20. REAFFIRM the relevance of the traditional knowledge of the Amazon populations on biodiversity resources, and the need to promote mechanisms that guarantee, in both domestic and international areas, the fair and balanced participation in the economic benefits arising from the sustainable commercial use of that knowledge and from natural resources, among others;

21. EXPRESS their willingness to execute adequate policies on protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous communities, the ethnic, social and cultural values of which represent a crucial component of the national identity of the Amazon countries;

22. REITERATE the firm purpose of mitigating the illegal harvesting and trade of timber, and of promoting, through active cooperation, the valuation and sustainable use of the Amazon natural resources;

23. AGREE on the benefits of promoting channels of communication and dialogue at the United Nations Forum on Forests, aimed at the effective participation of the Amazon countries;

24. COMMEND, in that context, the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization – ACTO to promote dialogue and harmonization among the State Members in their participation in the United Nations Forum on Forests, additionally to expand the space for working on forestry issues with the Andean Community of Nations;

25. DECIDE to expand regional cooperation and exchange of experiences concerning the management of protected areas and environmental conservation in the Amazon region;

26. EXPRESS the decision to strengthen cooperation in relation to the due management of water resources in the Amazon region; and **DECIDE** for this objective to create a special work group that examines the different aspects of rational use and sovereign use of these hydro resources in the Amazon, considering the non renewable and economic essence of the resource;

27. STRESS the relevance of Boundary Cooperation, in all thematic fields comprised by the Treaty, and undertake to strengthen this modality of cooperation in the programs and projects developed by ACTO; and note, within that context, their shared interest in intensifying cooperation in the fields of Social Infrastructure, Education and Health, Infrastructure of Transportation, Fluvial Navigation, Power and Communications, Water, Forests, Soils and Protected Natural Areas, Biological Diversity, Biotechnology and Biotrade, Territorial Organization, Human Settlements and Indigenous Affairs, Trade Facilitation, Sustainable and Integral Use of the Amazon Ecosystems; and, Recovery of Degraded Areas and Implementation of Social Programs;

28. RECOGNIZE the relevance of the Initiative on the South American Regional Infrastructure Integration (IIRSA), in promoting the Physical Integration of the Continent, in the fields of Transportation, Power and Telecommunication, and stress the urgent need of advancing the prompt implementation of priority projects, based on the Integration Axes and the existing portfolio of projects;

29. DECIDE to reinstate actions towards the formulation of Amazon legislation on fluvial navigation, as a crucial factor for achieving the objectives of IIRSA initiative.

30. DECIDE to commend to the Permanent Secretariat the survey and application of alternative technologies of transportation, which allow the exchange of goods and services between the inland regions of the Amazon and among them, in terms of transportation security, environmental preservation and resources savings;

31. REAFFIRM ACTO commitment towards supporting the establishment of an Amazonian Program on Biotrade.

32. REITERATE the need for building up mechanisms of incentives for regional and external investment in the fields of Tourism and Eco-tourism and, simultaneously, for sponsoring activities to disseminate, among other countries, the potential of these activities in the Amazon Region;

33. DECIDE to analyze the potential establishment of an institutional tool for raising funds for the sustainable and integral development of the Amazon region, including a survey on mechanisms that allow for the due remuneration for the environmental services generated in the Amazon region;

34. DECIDE to analyze the possibility of creating an “ACTO Award”, aimed to promote projects and initiatives for the development and better understanding of the value and potential of the Amazon, and of organizing an “Amazon youth expedition”;

35. GREET the accomplishment in Manaus, from September 15 to 18 of this year, of the II International Amazon Fair – FIAM- and the participation of the States Members; it is an event of commercial, cultural and academic promotion, which should encourage exchange among the States Members, and disseminate the work of the organization towards the integration and development of

these countries, and RECOGNIZE the relevance of executing the Seminar on “Regional Cooperation and Economic Integration in the Amazon” to be held within the scope of the II FIAM.

36. DECIDE to consider mechanisms to effectively incorporate the civil society of the Amazon countries into the process of generating policies and implementing the plans and programs set forth in the Strategic Plan of the Organization; where such participation is considered crucial to the successful work of ACTO, to the authentic benefit of the Amazon populations.

37. WELCOME the Secretary-General of ACTO, Dr. Rosalía Arteaga and express their recognition for her excellent work as head of the Organization, as evidenced by the exhaustive Management Report submitted to this 8th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO States Members;

38. EXPRESS deepest sympathy to those suffering the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Ivan in its passage through the Caribbean Sea, and to the families of the victims of that natural disaster. They also express their solidarity with the reconstruction efforts of the affected countries;

39. DECIDE to guide the Coordination Council Commission of Amazon Cooperation – CCOOR- in order for the CCOOR and the Permanent Secretariat cooperate jointly to create proposals on criteria for potential participation of Observers in future ACTO meetings.

40. EMBRACE with satisfaction the offer of the Republic of Peru to host the IX Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Country Members of the ACTO, to be realized in the city of Iquitos, Peru, in September of 2005.

41. DECIDE to elevate, under the consideration on behalf of the Presidents of the Country Members of the ACTO, the suggestion that a ACTO Presidential Summit take place in the early months of the year 2006, and take note on the offer on behalf of republic of Ecuador to host this meeting;

42. CONVEY to the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil the gratitude for the hospitality of the city of Manaus, as well as their sincere appreciation for the outstanding organization of the 8th Meeting of the Amazon Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

In witness whereof, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization gathered in the City of Manaus, on the fourteenth day of the month of September of the year two thousand and four, decide to sign this Declaration of Manaus.

On behalf of the Republic of Bolivia, Ministry of Sustainable Development

On behalf of the Republic of Colombia

On behalf of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

On behalf of the Republic of Suriname.

On behalf of the Federative Republic of Brazil

On behalf of the Republic of Ecuador

On behalf of the Republic of Peru

On behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela