



49th Meeting of the Directing Council

Virtual modality, November 20, 2019

RESOLUTION No. 10

CONTINUITY OF THE GEOSUR GEOPORTAL

The 49th Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH), on its virtual modality,

CONSIDERING:

The fact that, through the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) of the PAIGH and the timely support of the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), through the GEOSUR Program, financing the Integrated Map of Central America (MIAC) was achieved, and the production of a first upgrade;

The fact that, with the experience of the work performed and by means of the coordinated execution of a network of specialists from the official cartographic agencies, the Integrated Map of South America (MIAS) was then developed;

The fact that the PAIGH, through the TAP, is currently providing finance for the initiative "Integrated Map of North America";

The fact that the PAIGH has contributed to the coordination of the GEOSUR Program together with the CAF and other international entities during 12 years;

The fact that the GEOSUR Program offers a SDI Geoportal, offers the services of a Viewer of Regional Services, the shared Hydrographic network, the Topographic Processing Service (SPT), Flood Monitoring and Early Warning Services – FEWS, the Early Warnings Viewer, a set of web map services, data download services, the Geoservices Network and the GEOSUR Metadata Catalogue;

The fact that, in October of 2019 a contract between the CAF and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) was signed, for supporting and sustaining the GEOSUR Portal, the applications and associated services over a period to end in September of the year 2020;

The fact that the USGS made clear that it will cease to provide this support as from the final part of 2020; while the CAF made it clear that the corresponding finance to new maintenance periods will cease;

The fact that it is necessary to ensure the continuity of the mechanisms of access and use of these data and services for the benefit of the countries and the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;



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The fact that there is available an offer from the National Center for Geographic Information (CNIG) of Spain for hosting the GEOPORTAL and associated services;

The fact that, by means of a Memorandum of Understanding between the PAIGH and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri), there is a licence for Esri products and 5 000 credits available;

The fact that Resolution No. 16 “Integrated Map of America”, approved at the 48th Meeting of the Directing Council (Bolivia, 2018),¹ resolved to:

“6. Declare the permanent interest of the PAIGH in creating the tools that make it possible to improve the decision-making processes of governments, the academic sector, businesses, non-governmental organizations and all kinds of institutions involved in the formulation of policies for sustainable development at regional scale.

7. Recommend, to the PAIGH National Sections, that the Integrated Map of America be used as a basis for future projects that involve statistics, climate change and the reduction of natural hazards, among others, in order to avoid the duplication of resources.”

The fact that, at the 5th Session of UN-GGIM: Americas (Mexico, 2018) Resolution 2018/6 “Joint Action Plan”² was announced;

The fact that both resolutions cited here recommend the use of the Integrated Map of America (MIA) as a basis for the performance of projects that involve statistics, climate change and the reduction of natural hazards, among others;

The fact that, given the level of development and implementation achieved by the Geoportal of GEOSUR and associated services, it could evolve towards becoming the Geoportal of the Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas;

The fact that the need to keep the GEOSUR Geoportal and associated services on line, makes it necessary to start up a PROJECT that ensures its sustainability over time;

The fact that two of the most relevant GEOSUR Geoportal data sets are MIAC and MIAS and that it will subsequently incorporate the Integrated Map of North America (MINA) to constitute the Integrated Map of the Americas (MIA) map and one of the most relevant map web services is the one that will publish it which constitutes the base on which the transition process will be built, given that it was created by the official organizations of the respective countries;

¹ Resolution No. 16 “Integrated Map of America” of the 48th RCD (Bolivia, 2018) Consulted in: <https://ipgh.org/assets/resolution-no.-16.pdf>.

² Resolution 2018/6 “Joint Action Plan” of the 5th Session of UN-GGIM: Americas (Mexico, 2018). Consulted in: <http://www.un-ggim-americas.org/en/contenido/reuniones/Quinta-sesion-LAGF-2018/pdf/Resolutions%20of%20the%205th%20Session%20UN-GGIM%20Americas.pdf>.



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The fact that contacts and negotiations are being developed for the purpose of increasing support for sustaining the Geoportal and associated services, on the basis of which the following scenarios can be visualized:

Possible scenario:	An Organization is available which, through a modest amount of development, makes it possible for the data contained in the GEOPORTAL to be distributed, viewed and downloaded.
Desired scenario:	The Organization and financial resources for sustaining the GEOPORTAL and its services, and for increasing its capabilities are available.

RESOLVES TO:

1. Set up a project under the responsibility of the General Secretariat of the PAIGH and GEOSUR, with the collaboration of other entities that demonstrate their interest, with the objective of providing viability to the GEOPORTAL and associated services. This project should be in conditions for being submitted to organizations providing finance by April, 2020.
2. Continue to reaffirm the coalition with UN-GGIM: Americas, in order to avoid duplication of effort and for the MIA to be reflected in the MEGA (Mapa Estadístico Geoespacial para las Américas – *statistical and geospatial framework for the Americas*) project.
3. Consider as an option the incorporation of the basic and fundamental data contained in the MIA, avoiding the data corresponding to international limits.
4. Recommend to the Geographic Institutes, producing the MIA data the adoption of an open data policy to facilitate and enhance its use as fundamental data.

