

RIVER PLATE BASIN TREATY

The governments of the Republics of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay were represented in the 1st Extraordinary Chancellors Meeting of the countries in the “Cuenca del Plata” (River Plate Basin) carried out in Brasília on the 22nd at 23rd of April 1969.

Convinced of the need to join efforts to be able to duly accomplish all the fundamental purposes that were established in the Joint Declaration of Buenos Aires, dated February 27, 1967 and motivated by a firm spirit of cooperation and solidarity in the Agreement of Santa Cruz de la Sierra dated May 20 of 1968, they felt persuaded that only joint action could allow for a harmonious and balanced development of the zone as well as the optimum use of the great natural resources of the region, which would ensure its preservation for future generations through the rational use of these resources.

Considering that the Chancellors had approved the Statute for the Intergovernmental Coordination Committee of the Cuenca del Plata countries, they decided to subscribe the following treaty in order to strengthen the institutionalization of the “Cuenca del Plata” system and designated their plenipotentiaries which agreed to the following:

“Cuenca del Plata” Treaty

Article 1 The contracting parties agree to join efforts with the purpose of promoting the harmonious development and the physical integration of the “Cuenca del Plata” and its direct and ponderable areas of influence.

Sole paragraph. To that purpose, they will promote within the basin, the identification of areas of common interest and will carry out studies, programs and works as well as formulate operational understandings and judicial instruments that might be deemed necessary and have propensities to:

- a) The facilitation and assistance in matters regarding navigation.
- b) The rational utilization of the water resource, especially through the regulation of watercourses and the unbiased multiple and egalitarian use of these resource.
- c) The preservation and support of flora and fauna.

- d) The perfecting of roadways, railways, waterways, airways, electric and telecommunication interconnectivity.
- e) The regional complementation through the promotion and establishment of industries of interest to the development of the Basin.
- f) The financial complementation in border areas.
- g) The cooperation in matters of education, health and sanitation and the fight against diseases.
- h) The promotion of other projects of common interest especially those that have a relationship with the inventory, evaluation and the exploitation of natural resources in the area.
- i) The comprehensive knowledge of the River Plate Basin.

IN CONSIDERATION THAT the Chancellors have approved the Statute for the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Countries of the “Cuenca del Plata”;

THEY DECIDED TO subscribe the present Treaty to strengthen the institutionalization of the “Cuenca del Plata” system and, to that end, designated their Plenipotentiaries who agreed on the following:

ARTICLE II t The Ministers of Foreign Relations of the River Plate Basin countries will meet once a year, on a date suggested by the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee, in order to be able to establish basic policy guidelines that will allow for the achievement of the established purpose and goals of this Treaty; to appreciate and evaluate the results obtained; to carry out consultations regarding the actions of their governments in the realm of multinational integrated development of the Basin; to direct the actions of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee and, in general, to adopt the necessary measures for the compliance with this Treaty through the specific actions that it demands.

Paragraph 1. The ministries of foreign relations may meet in an Extraordinary Session, with the prior summoning carried out by the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee at the request of at least three of the Contracting Parties.

Paragraph 2. If the Minister of Foreign Relations of one of the Contracting Parties, as an exception, should not be able to concur to a meeting, ordinary or extraordinary, he must be represented by a Special Delegate.

Paragraph 3. The decisions made in meetings carried out in accordance of this article, will always require the unanimous vote of the five countries.

Article III To the effects of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee is recognized as the permanent body of the Basin, in charge of promoting, coordinating and following through on the multinational actions taken that have as their objective the integrated development of the River Plate Basin, and the financial and technical assistance which is organized with the support of international organizations deemed necessary and executes the decisions that are adopted by the Ministries of Foreign Relations.

Paragraph 1. the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee will be governed by the Statute approved on the Second Meeting of Chancellors of the River Plate Basin member countries, celebrated in Santa Cruz de la Sierra on the 18th to 20th of May 1968.

Paragraph 2. In an Extraordinary Meeting which is summoned for this purpose, the Ministries of Foreign Relations may, as long as there is the unanimous vote of the five member countries; reform the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee.

ARTICLE IV Without prejudice to applicable internal provisions of each country, the Commissions or Secretariats of each country's governments will be cooperation and consultation bodies, constituted in accordance with the Joint Declaration of Buenos Aires. These Commissions or Secretariats may establish bilateral contacts, always abiding by the criteria and norms of the interested countries, keeping the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee duly informed when need be.

ARTICLE V The collective actions between the Contracting Parties must develop without prejudice to those projects and companies that decide to implement them in their respective territories, within the framework of respect for international law and according to good practices between neighboring friendly countries.

ARTICLE VI That established in the following Treaty will not inhibit the Contracting Parties in concluding partial, bilateral or multilateral specific agreements, which are pursuant to the obtainment of the general objectives of the development of the Basin.

ARTICLE VII The present Treaty will be called the "Cuenca de la Plata" or River Plate Basin Treaty and it will have an unlimited duration.

ARTICLE VIII The present Treaty will be ratified by the Contracting Parties and the Instruments of Ratification will be deposited before the government of the Federal Republic of Brazil.

Paragraph 1. The following treaty will come into effect 30 days after the instruments of ratification by all the contracting parties have been deposited

Paragraph 2. While the Contracting Parties proceed with the ratification of the present Treaty and the deposit of the Instruments of Ratification, the multinational actions undertaken for the development of the River Plate Basin will be subjected to that which has been agreed upon in the Joint Declaration of Buenos Aires and in the Agreement of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Paragraph 3. The intention of denouncing the present Treaty will be communicated by one of the Contracting Parties to the rest of the Contracting Parties with at least 90 days' prior notice before the formal delivery of the Instrument of Denunciation to the government of the Federal Republic of Brazil. Once the Denunciation is carried out formally, the effects of the Treaty will cease for the denouncing Contracting Party, in a period of one year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned plenipotentiaries, after having demonstrated their full authority, which have been found in good standing and proper form, signed the present Treaty.

ISSUED in the city of Brasilia, on the twenty third day of the month of April of Nineteen Sixty Nine, in one single copy in the Spanish and English languages, which will be submitted for the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Brazil; who will issue out certified authenticated copies to the signatory countries.

NICANOR COSTA MENDEZ
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA

VICTOR HOZ DE VILA
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BOLIVIA

JOSÉ DE MAGALHÃES PINTO
FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

RAUL PASTOR SAPENA
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PARAGUAY

VENANCIO FLORES
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE ORIENTAL URUGUAY

SUBMISSION OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION:

Federative Republic of Brazil:	October 16, 1969
Republic of Paraguay:	February 11, 1970
Republic of Argentina:	May 22, 1970
Oriental Republic of Uruguay:	May 25, 1970
Republic of Bolivia:	July 15, 1970

INITIAL DATE FOR MANDATE ENFORCEMENT: August 14, 1970