

SUPPORT FOR A HEMISPHERIC MEETING OF MINISTERS  
FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(TC-95-09-33-4-RG)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

REQUESTER: National Department of Planning of the Government of Colombia

EXECUTING AGENCY: Instituto Colombiano para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y Tecnología (COLCIENCIAS)

BENEFICIARIES: The Bank's borrowing member countries

FINANCING: IDB: (in Colombian pesos) US\$120,000 (SF)  
Other donors: US\$160,000  
Local counterpart funding: US\$280,000  
Total: US\$560,000

TERMS: Execution period: 9 months  
Disbursement period: 12 months

ENVIRONMENTAL CLASSIFICATION: The Environment Committee, at its meeting of February 13, 1996, will classify this as a Category II operation.

OBJECTIVES: The purpose of the operation will be to help organize a Meeting of Ministers for Science and Technology with a view to studying the present state of cooperation on science and technology in the hemisphere and to reinforcing such cooperation as a vehicle for sustainable and equitable development in the region.

DESCRIPTION: The Meeting will be attended by senior officials in charge of science and technology from the countries that took part in the Summit of the Americas. To accomplish the objectives proposed, it was decided to draw up an agenda of subjects for discussion in four main areas. These areas are: (i) review and analysis of the progress of programs for hemispheric cooperation on science and technology; (ii) proposals for future action; (iii) reinforcement of institutional mechanisms for promoting cooperation on science and technology in the hemisphere; and (iv) development of mechanisms to promote participation by smaller, less developed countries.

A Declaration of Principles and an Action Plan setting out the results of the Meeting will be submitted

for consideration at the Second Summit of the Americas, to be held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in the first half of 1997.

The technical-cooperation funding proposed herein will be used to fund some of the activities concerned with the preparation, organization, and follow-up of the Meeting. Specifically, it will pay for consultants who will assist with the preliminaries and the drafting of the Declaration of Principles and the Action Plan, and will defray the cost of attendance by representatives from all the Bank's borrowing member countries and of preparing, printing, and distributing a publication containing the resolutions adopted at the Meeting and its conclusions.

**BENEFITS:**

The Meeting will afford a unique opportunity for studying the possibility of enhancing cooperation on science and technology between countries in the hemisphere, so as to modernize production and make it more competitive, and foster sustainable and equitable development.

**RISKS:**

The success of the Meeting will depend on the effectiveness and feasibility of the proposals placed before the ministers and the degree of commitment shown in implementing them. The financing will help to improve the quality of the basic documents and ensure attendance at the event by delegations from the Bank's borrowing member countries, and help offset the cost of a publication containing the conclusions and recommendations emanating from the Meeting.

**THE BANK'S  
REGIONAL STRATEGY:**

The report on the Eighth General Increase in the Resources of the Bank stresses that new technologies are essential if nations are to be competitive and to modernize production structures, and that the Bank will provide technical assistance and loans for initiatives by its borrowing member countries that are conducive to the development of technology in the region.

**EXCEPTIONS TO BANK  
POLICY:**

Given the nature of the operation and the considerable expense entailed at the outset, an initial installment of US\$89,000 equivalent (approximately 75% of the Bank's contribution) will be disbursed in Colombian pesos upon signature of the letter of agreement.

## I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The heads of state of the countries attending the Summit of the Americas in Miami underscored the importance of science and technology as instruments of development. Cooperation on science and technology in the hemisphere – through economic integration, free trade, the transfer of knowledge and its application to resolving problems associated with development – was identified as one of the chief ways of improving the well-being of people in the region. With this aim in mind, the heads of state resolved to convene a Meeting of Science and Technology Ministers from countries in the hemisphere to explore different options for achieving a closer relationship between science and technology and development and greater cooperation in this area.
- 1.2 The Meeting will be held in Cartagena, Colombia, from March 27 to 29, 1996. The committee responsible for implementing the decisions adopted at the Summit designated Colombia as the coordinator for matters concerned with science and technology until the next Summit of the Americas, slated for Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in the first half of 1997. On the Colombian side, these efforts are being coordinated through the "Francisco José de Caldas" Colombian Institute for the Advancement of Science and Technology (COLCIENCIAS) in conjunction with the Summit's Pro Tempore Secretariat (a position presently held by the United States) and its implementing committee.
- 1.3 Various international organizations involved in organizing the next Summit will take part in the Hemispheric Meeting of Science and Technology Ministers. The Bank, the OAS, UNESCO, UNDP, and the Andrés Bello Agreement will provide financing and technical support for the preliminary work.
- 1.4 The Bank has been instrumental in funding programs to develop science and technology in the region. Since its inception, it has approved cumulative financing of approximately US\$2 billion for numerous loans and technical-cooperation projects in the fields of science and technology, agricultural research, and post-secondary education. The aim of some of these projects was to back programs designed to engender closer cooperation on science and technology and agricultural research. Of special note were two regional technical-cooperation projects to promote cooperation on technology between companies in the region and between companies, laboratories, and research and development centers under the Bolívar Program.
- 1.5 The Report on the Eighth General Increase in the Resources of the Bank emphasizes the impact of new technologies on boosting competitiveness and modernizing production structures. It reiterates the Bank's commitment to providing technical assistance and loans to support borrowing member country initiatives that seek to further technological development in the region.

- 1.6 The Action Plan approved at the Summit urged the Bank to support specific endeavors in various fields, including cooperation on science and technology. In convening the Meeting of Science and Technology Ministers, the heads of state referred to the need to promote and evaluate the Bolívar Program and to nurture other initiatives to foster regional cooperation on science and technology.
- 1.7 The Bank will be actively represented at the Meeting by officials from SDS/SOC, RE2/SO2, and RE3/SO3. An analysis paper on experiences with science and technology programs in small countries and a basic document proposing a science and technology strategy for the Bank, perhaps with a draft outline of this strategy, will be presented by the Bank at the Meeting.

## II. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The purpose of this operation is to help organize the Meeting of Science and Technology Ministers described herein. The Meeting itself will analyze the present state of hemispheric cooperation on science and technology and ways of strengthening it as a means of contributing to sustainable and equitable development in the region.

## III. THE PROJECT

### A. Activities

- 3.1 The Hemispheric Meeting of Science and Technology Ministers will be held in Cartagena, Colombia, from March 27 to 29, 1996.
- 3.2 The preparations for the Meeting will cover four main areas of activity: (i) presentation and promotion; (ii) preliminaries and preparatory work; (iii) the ministers' Meeting; and (iv) follow-up and coordination. A short description of these activities is given below. The proposed technical-cooperation operation will assist with the preparation, organization, and follow-up of the Meeting. Specifically, the funding will defray the cost of consultants who will be hired to prepare and draft the Declaration of Principles and the Action Plan, attendance at the event by representatives from all of the Bank's borrowing member countries, and the cost of preparing, printing, and distributing a publication containing the resolutions adopted at the Meeting and its conclusions.
  - (i) Presentation and promotion
- 3.3 The Meeting of Ministers has been announced and promoted at various international forums and events including the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture (CIECC) in Buenos Aires, in February 1995; a meeting of officials responsible for science and

technology from national governmental agencies for science and technology in States party to the Andrés Bello Agreement (CAB), in Cochabamba, in June 1995; the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), in Port-au-Prince, in June 1995; a meeting for the establishment of a regional fund for agricultural research and technological development, in Bogota, in June 1995; a meeting of SELA's Latin American Commission for Science and Technology (COLCYT), in Caracas, in July 1995; a hemispheric interscience meeting, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in August 1995; and a meeting of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, in Belem, in August 1995.

(ii) Preparations for the Meeting

- 3.4 In preparing the agenda for the Meeting, COLCIENCIAS approached senior officials in charge of science and technology in the countries participating in the Summit, and these officials formed a preparatory commission. The commission held an initial meeting in Washington, D.C., on October 10 and 11, 1995, which was attended by a number of international organizations engaged in promoting the development of science and technology in the hemisphere.
- 3.5 Seven working papers on the main issues of hemispheric cooperation and four analysis papers on priority user sectors will be prepared by consultants in advance of the Meeting of Science and Technology Ministers (the agenda for the Meeting is given in Annex II). These papers will be studied at a second meeting of the preparatory commission in Cartagena, Colombia, on January 22 and 23.

(iii) Ministerial Meeting

- 3.6 The Meeting of Science and Technology Ministers will be attended by senior officials in charge of science and technology in the countries taking part in the Summit of the Americas. To accomplish the objectives proposed for the Meeting, it was decided to draw up an agenda of items for discussion in four main areas. These areas are: (i) review and analysis of progress made in hemispheric programs for cooperation on science and technology; (ii) proposals for future action; (iii) reinforcement of institutional mechanisms for promoting cooperation on science and technology in the hemisphere; and (iv) development of mechanisms to encourage participation by the smaller, less developed nations.
- 3.7 A Declaration of Principles and an Action Plan embodying the results of the Meeting will be formally considered at the Second Summit of the Americas, to be held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in the first half of 1997.

(iv) Follow-up and coordination

- 3.8 One of the objectives of the Meeting will be to devise a mechanism for following up on and coordinating the decisions adopted on activities of this kind.

B. Organization and execution

- 3.9 The executing agency for the proposed technical-cooperation operation will be the Colombian Institute for the Advancement of Science and Technology (COLCIENCIAS), an agency that will be in charge of the technical secretariat for the Meeting of Ministers.
- 3.10 COLCIENCIAS will be responsible for preparing two reports. A **progress report**, to be submitted within 45 days of the end of the Meeting, will describe what was accomplished, list the participants, give an account of the Meeting, and reproduce textually the papers presented, together with the Declaration of Principles and the Action Plan. A **final report**, to be submitted within 90 days of completion of the operation, will describe the Meeting's potential impact and results in the medium term and the mechanisms that will be used to carry out the Action Plan.

C. Monitoring

- 3.11 The Bank's Regional Technical Cooperation Division will oversee this technical-cooperation operation with technical support from Social Programs Division III (RE3/S03).

D. Cost and financing

- 3.12 It is estimated that the total cost of the operation will amount to the equivalent of US\$560,000. This includes a contribution from the Bank of up to the equivalent of US\$120,000 in local currency from the Fund for Special Operations, which will be used to pay the cost of: (i) a consultant, (ii) attendance at the event by 36 participants (26 heads of delegation from borrowing member countries and 10 experts from research centers, universities, and/or NGOs in Latin America), and (iii) publications and related expenses. Other donors such as the OAS, UNDP, UNESCO, OEI, and CAB will contribute the equivalent of US\$160,000 of the total cost. A breakdown of the budget by item and source is given below:

# ITEMIZED BUDGET

Item (in US\$ equivalent)	IDB	Local Counterpart
<b>2. Individual consultants</b>		
2.2 Fees		
Senior consultant (2 person-months)	10,000	
Other consultants (13 person-months)		65,000
2.5 Official travel		
2.5.1.1 Fares	1,200	
2.5.1.2 Per diems (4 days x US\$186)	744	
<b>SUBTOTAL 2</b>	<b>11,944</b>	<b>65,000</b>
<b>3. Participants</b>		
3.3 Official travel		
3.3.3.1 Fares (36 x US\$1,000)	36,000	
3.3.1.2 Per diems (36 x 4 days x US\$186)	26,784	
Other fares and per diems		180,000
<b>SUBTOTAL 3</b>	<b>62,784</b>	<b>180,000</b>
<b>6. General support</b>		
6.1.2 Room rental	3,000	40,000
6.3.2 Equipment rental	3,000	53,000
6.4 Supplies	3,000	7,000
6.6 Support staff (secretaries and assistants)		45,000
6.6.2 Simultaneous interpretation	5,000	5,000
6.8 Communications		20,000
<b>SUBTOTAL 6</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>
<b>7. Publications</b>		
7.1 Initial printing costs	2,000	5,000
7.2 Translation	4,000	
7.3 Printing	15,000	5,000
7.4 Distribution	2,000	
<b>SUBTOTAL 7</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>GENERAL SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>111,728</b>	<b>425,000</b>
<b>98. Contingencies</b>	<b>8,272</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>440,000</b>

3.13 Given the nature of the operation and the considerable expense entailed at the outset, an initial installment of US\$89,000 equivalent will be disbursed in Colombian pesos upon signature of the letter of agreement. Subsequent disbursements will be conditional on acceptance by the Bank of the draft publication and the supporting documentation justifying the expenses paid out of the initial installment.

#### IV. BENEFITS AND RISKS

- 4.1 The success of the Meeting will depend on the effectiveness and feasibility of the proposals placed before the ministers and the degree of commitment shown in implementing them. The financing will help to raise the quality of basic documents, ensure attendance at the event by delegations from borrowing member countries, and offset the cost of a publication containing the conclusions and recommendations emanating from the Meeting.

#### V. EVALUATION

- 5.1 In view of its nature, a formal evaluation of the technical-cooperation operation will not be required since a final report is to be submitted as noted above.



PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REGIONAL. NON REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL COOPERATION TO SUPPORT  
A HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE FOR MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE  
FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Board of Executive Directors

RESOLVES:

1. That the President of the Inter-American Development Bank, or such representative as he shall designate, is authorized, in the name and on behalf of the Bank, to enter into such agreements as may be necessary and to take such additional measures as may be pertinent for the execution of the plan of operations referred to in Document AT- with respect to a non reimbursable technical cooperation with the Instituto Colombiano para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y Tecnología, to Support a Hemispheric Conference for Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology.

2. That up to the equivalent of US\$120,000 in pesos colombianos, is authorized for the purpose of this resolution, chargeable to the net income of the Fund for Special Operations.

3. That the above-mentioned sum is to be provided on a non reimbursable basis.