

84th REGULAR SESSION
March 10-14, 2014
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

OEA/Ser.Q
CJI/RES. 206 (LXXXIV-O/14)
March 13, 2014
Original: Spanish

CJI/RES. 206 (LXXXIV-O/14)

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR BORDER INTEGRATION

THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

CONSIDERING its decision in March, 2012, during the 80th Regular Session on the development of a study on “Guidelines for Border Integration”, and

HAVING SEEN the report presented by the rapporteur of the topic, Dr. José Luis Moreno Guerra: “Recommendations to the States of the Americas on Border or Neighboring District Integration”, document CJI/doc.433/13 rev.1,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the rapporteur of the theme, Dr. José Luis Moreno Guerra, for the presentation of the c
2. To approve the above-mentioned report, attached hereto.
3. To communicate this resolution to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States.
4. To consider its work on this topic concluded.

This resolution was approved by unanimous decision during the meeting held on March 13, 2014, by the following members: Drs. Fabián Novak Talavera, David P. Stewart, João Clemente Baena Soares, Ana Elizabeth Villalta Vizcarra, Gélin Imanès Collot, Hernán Salinas Burgos, Hyacinth Evadne Lindsay, José Luis Moreno Guerra and Carlos Alberto Mata Prates.

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OEA/Ser.Q
 CJI/doc.433/13 rev. 1
 September 10, 2013
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RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATES OF THE AMERICAS ON BORDER OR NEIGHBORING DISTRICT INTEGRATION

(presented by Dr. José Luis Moreno Guerra)

1. Mandate

The Inter-American Juridical Committee decided by consensus at its meeting held on March 9, 2012, during its 80th regular session, to include the study of “General Guidelines for Border Integration” on the agenda for its next session, under the powers vested in it by Articles 99 and 100 of the Charter of the Organization of American States and by Article 12.c of its Statutes, with a view to subsequently developing a model bi-national treaty on the subject. At that same meeting, a rapporteur was appointed to submit a preliminary document to the Committee for analysis and debate.

The Rapporteur prepared that report and, in May 2012, sent it to the Committee Secretariat for translation into the official languages and distribution to all the members as far in advance of the session as possible (CJI/doc.415/12).

The aforementioned report was taken up and analyzed at the Committee's 81st regular session, which began in Rio de Janeiro on Monday, August 6, 2012. The Rapporteur took that opportunity to expand on and specify the contents of the report. Given the importance of the subject matter and the interest it aroused, the Rapporteur was asked to present it as a set of "Standards Recommended to OAS Member States with Respect to their Border or Neighboring District Relations."

The new document (CJI/doc.426/12) was analyzed during the 82nd regular session, held in Rio de Janeiro from March 11 to 15, 2013, at which the standards were accepted, with the following recommendations:

- a) That the document be called "Guidelines for Bi-National Border or Neighboring District Integration Agreements";
- b) That the preambular paragraphs be eliminated or moved to an annex to be consulted regarding the sense and scope of each standards; and
- c) That Standard No. 1 be deleted give that is actually a recommendation.

Finally, a decision was made at the 83rd regular session, held in Río de Janeiro from August 5-9, 2013, to replace the term “standards” with “recommendations” to the States of the Americas on border or neighboring district integration.

2. Proposal

Based on above, the following recommendations will be presented for final consideration by the plenary of the Inter-American Juridical Committee at its 84rd regular session, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, from March 10-14, 2014:

1. Responsibility for launching, developing, consolidating, and completing border integration can be assumed in practical terms by establishing one Neighborhood Commission for each country on its borders.
2. The Neighborhood Commission would function as a coordination, support, and follow-up mechanism. It would be the primary source proposing treaty texts and binational regulations and responsible for preparing border integration plans, projects, and actions to be submitted to the two governments.
3. The Neighborhood Commission would comprise both parties' national sub-committees.
4. The respective national sub-committees should have an equal number of members, and members would be from identical or equivalent institutions in the two countries.
5. The national sub-committee would be chaired and represented by a member of that country's diplomatic service, who would be referred to as its Executive Secretary.
6. The Executive Secretary's chief responsibilities would be to negotiate and agree on uniform positions within his or her own country in order to present them and negotiate with the other party; convene meetings at national headquarters and propose the order of business for those meetings; follow up on commitments undertaken; suggest topics and actions and report.
7. The Neighborhood Commission would hold regular and special meetings at the request of either of the parties, at venues alternating from one side of the border to the other or from one country to the other. The meetings would be chaired by the Executive Secretary of the host country, who would present the corresponding report on behalf of the two parties.
8. Each party would appoint a member of its foreign service to act as the "Coordinator" of the national sub-committee. He or she would be responsible for archive maintenance, distribution of the documents needed for each meeting, management of support personnel and management of the logistics for each meeting.
9. The host country would appoint, from among its members, a Rapporteur for each meeting of the Neighborhood Commission and the Binational Committees. His or her job would be to draw up the minutes of the meeting.
10. The Neighborhood Commission would promote training for instructors in each institution with responsibilities relating to the borders or to ports and airports. Their task would be to train new personnel in the new approach to cross-border exchanges, mobility and neighborly relations.
11. The neighborhood commission would establish as many temporary or standing "Binational Committees" as would be necessary to handle each plan, project, or specific action; the committees would comprise technical staff, experts or executives of each party's official entities, who will answer to their respective Executive Secretary; each committee would be headed by a "Director."
12. The parties could agree to include representatives of local official entities, relevant private non-profit institutions, and business groups or chambers as members of the Binational Committees.
13. The Rules of Procedure of the Neighborhood Commission and those of the Binational Committees, and any future amendments thereof, would be adopted by common accord of the parties.

14. The geographical area to be managed by the Neighborhood Commission would be the "Border Integration Zone." Each party would notify the other of the list of political districts adjacent to the border that would form part of that zone.
15. The parties would, by common accord, add more and more political districts to the Border Integration Zone until they achieve the goal of binational integration.
16. Island States could declare both parties' territory to be a Binational Integration Zone.
17. Nationals of both parties may move around the border or Binational Integration Zone, carrying just their I.D.
18. Plans, projects, and actions to be implemented in the Border or Binational Integration Zone would require mutual consent, a set of priorities, and respect for the principle of alternation.
19. Through a Binational Committee, the parties would conduct ongoing programs reporting on and disseminating plans, projects, and actions undertaken or about to be undertaken in the border or bi-national integration zone. Such briefings would target the regional authorities, teachers, leaders, the media, and the general public.
20. Public utilities in the Border or Binational Integration Zone would be charged at the respective domestic rate, denominated in both currencies.
21. Through a Binational "control, security and vigilance" Committee, the parties would maintain a continuous flow of information on citizen security, keep track of criminals, persons fleeing justice, and other undesirables, and would warn the other country if they are likely to visit it.
22. Each party would undertake to recognize the judgments handed down by a competent authority of the other party; to repatriate convicts so that they serve out their sentence in their country of origin; and to arrest and surrender to the other party persons it wants to bring to justice.
23. The parties would pool their efforts and coordinate their actions through a Binational Committee in order to keep up a permanent battle against organized crime, terrorism, trafficking in persons, the smuggling of cultural assets and banned products, and money-laundering.
24. The parties would coordinate joint patrols in the Border Integration or Binational Zone, by land, air, sea, river, and lakes on the border.
25. The parties would eliminate fixed roadside checkpoints in the Border Integration Zone, preserving the right to conduct mobile and random inspections.
26. The parties could authorize the border crossing points opened up spontaneously by the inhabitants of the area and could improve their infrastructure.
27. The border crossing-points authorized by the parties would be open 24/7 throughout the year. Exceptions must be notified to the other party and agreed upon.
28. Works to be carried out by common consent in the Border or Binational Integration Zone would be binational, costs would be shared proportionally, and international financing negotiations would be conducted jointly.
29. In executing binational works, attention would be paid to the principle of alternation, to ensure construction in the territory of both parties.
30. In binational works, implementation of the different phases or stages would alternate between the parties, subject to the domestic law of the executing party.

31. Both countries' currency would be used and circulate freely in the Border or Binational Integration Zone.
32. The parties would undertake to allow duty-free trading, in the Border Integration Zone, of the so-called "family basket" of staple food products that visitors take back to their countries, in volumes, units, and value amounts determined by regulations.
33. The parties could encourage and support the establishment of binational enterprises in the Border or Binational Integration Zone, in all activities required by the population, especially in regular passenger, tour, and freight transportation. The parties could also agree on tax exemptions and elimination of double taxation of the binational enterprises established.
34. The competent Binational Committee would plan periodic meetings of businessmen from both countries.
35. The parties would establish premises for open-air markets in the Border or Binational Integration Zone, with alternating and staggered schedules.
36. A Binational Committee would be responsible for planning and running regular agricultural, farming, industrial, trade, and service expos, among others, in the Border or Binational Integration Zone.
37. Each party could undertake to locate, detain, and return vehicles stolen in the territory of the other party.
38. Through a Binational Committee, the parties would agree on the establishment of binational schools, colleges, institutes, universities and polytechnic institutes in the Border or Binational Integration Zone; they would use the same textbooks and would guarantee free access to students of both nationalities.
39. The studies carried out and the certificates, diplomas, and degrees awarded at every level in the border integration zone would be officially recognized by both parties.
40. The parties would agree to train special teachers for the bi-national educational establishments, and to require them to be bilingual if the languages of the two countries or of the indigenous populations differ.
41. The social security institutions of both parties would reach agreements, whereby members who move to the neighboring country do not lose contributions and continue to enjoy benefits and services.
42. Through a Binational Committee, the parties would organize annual programs of cultural, artistic, scientific, and research activities to be conducted in the Border Integration Zone, with venues alternating from one side of the border to the other.
43. Through a Binational Committee, the parties would organize periodic sports competitions, championships, and contests in the Border Integration Zone, with participants from both countries and in alternating venues.
44. The parties would establish Binational or Binational Committees for electricity, telephone, postal, Internet, fiber optic cable, television and radio signal, and cellular telephony interconnection, so that such services are provided in the Border Integration Zone at standardized (domestic rather than international) rates.
45. The parties would commit to providing immediate and sufficient help in the event of emergencies or disasters in the Border Integration or Binational Zone and to facilitate the entry of relief teams.

46. The parties would have a Binational Committee in place for periodic or standing human, animal, and plant health programs, aimed at preventing epidemics, pandemics, and plagues; for immunization campaigns; to lend assistance to persons with disabilities; for building, equipping, and operating health centers and health posts; for accrediting binational medical personnel; and to provide medicine in the Border Integration Zone.
47. Through a Binational mobility and transportation committee, the parties could simplify and standardize documents in the Border or Binational Integration Zone for air, sea, lake, and overland transportation of passengers, groups of tourists, and freight; they could also standardize or recognize vehicle tag plates, registration certificates, licenses and insurance certificates issued by the other party; and they could also establish timetables, working hours, and uniform rates (based on the domestic, rather than international, rates).
48. The checking of documents for international and regular carriage of passengers, groups of tourists, and freight would be performed at the place of embarkation and at destination, thereby eliminating border controls.
49. The parties would plan and build new highways with the same characteristics on both sides and they would upgrade existing highways.
50. The parties would declare ports and airports to be "alternatives" to those existing in the Border Integration Zone; they would authorize the operation of carriers of both nationalities; and they would standardize rates (based on domestic, as opposed to international, rates).
51. The parties would form a Binational Committee to address the problem of ethnic groups or minorities that share contiguous territories on the border, with the participation of representatives of those groups and using resources allocated by both governments.
52. The environmental issues in the Border or Binational Integration Zone would be handled by the parties with the help of a Binational Committee, particularly with respect to binational watersheds, rivers that form borders or continue on the other side, shared lakes and seas, landfills of border populations, natural parks and reserves, protected species, and reforestation programs, as well as other fields.

* * *

APPENDIX

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING EACH OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLINED

Introduction

It is a pressing and inescapable duty of governments to eradicate the scourge of hunger, drastically reduce extreme poverty, and render poverty bearable.

The best way to tackle social blights, swiftly, effectively, and at least cost, is integration.

Like any construction process, integration needs to go from small to big, not the other way round; that is to say, from the simpler to the more complex, from a smaller to a wider geographical area, from bi-national integration to that involving multiple Member States.

Border integration shapes and determines all the other forms of geographic integration, including bi-national, subregional, regional, and hemispheric.

All the Gordian knots and bottlenecks involved in social conflicts end up at the border.

Border integration is not just a matter of trade and tariffs. It encompasses the whole range of two peoples' needs, without exception.

The objective of any integration is to seek and achieve satisfactory outcomes for the parties, more expeditiously than would be possible on a separate, one-by-one basis.

Economic equality between neighboring States is not a prerequisite for attempting integration. If it were, there would be no integration, because no two States in the world are alike.

The border integration recommendations are applicable, *mutatis mutandi*, to both countries with active borders and those with depressed border areas, i.e. the vast majority.

In most cases, border integration recommendations are also applicable to island States, which have no overland borders. The "Binational integration" approach applies, taking the maritime border as point of reference.

Because of its nature and particular spheres of competence, a Neighborhood Commission does not address matters relating to territorial, maritime, and air space claims, demarcation, boundaries, and related issues.

Regarding Recommendation 1

Experience has shown that the most efficient way to approach border or binational integration is by establishing a "Neighborhood Commission" to eliminate, soften, and overcome the pernicious effects of a border that is traditionally conceived of as an obstacle, wall, fence, or closed door meant to intimidate and punish.

Each State may be on as many "Neighborhood Commissions" as there are States on its overland or maritime borders.

Regarding Recommendation 2

The Neighborhood Commission does not aspire to become an international organization; it does not need either headquarters or a regular staff; it does not replace any existing institution nor does it aspire to do other institutions' jobs for them; it does not require a budget, nor does it need to handle funds; and, finally, it does not turn out to be either a financial burden on the parties or a political booty for either of them.

Regarding Recommendation 3

Each party is authorized to appoint the members of its national sub-committee. There shall be as many sub-committees as there are border or neighboring countries.

Regarding Recommendation 4

Each member of the national sub-committee represents the official entity concerned.

It would be important that there be parity in the number of members of each national sub-committee.

The official entity whose representatives sit on the Neighborhood Commission would be of the same or equivalent kind as the entity of the other party.

The remuneration, fares, and expenses of the members of the neighborhood commission are paid by the official entities to which they belong.

Regarding Recommendation 5

Inasmuch as the integration process involves international management and representation of the State, each national sub-committee would be chaired by a Foreign Service Officer of his or her country, who shall be referred to as Secretary General, which does not imply a post or entail financial remuneration, because both remuneration and the payment of expenses are incumbent upon the institution to which she he or pertains.

Regarding Recommendation 6

The Executive Secretary of each sub-committee becomes the chief negotiator at the domestic level with the various official entities and private institutions participating; he or she is also responsible for negotiating with the counterparty; convening national and binational meetings, workshops, and seminars; is the principal source of initiatives; and is responsible for following up on commitments undertaken.

Regarding Recommendation 7

The neighborhood commission is intended to function continuously, with the venues for its regular meetings alternating between the territories of the two parties.

Alternation is a principle applicable to all border or binational integration activities and consists of successive meetings being held – and works and actions being executed – on different sides of the border or in one country or another.

At each meeting, the Executive Secretary of the host country would present the report on behalf of both parties.

Regarding Recommendation 8

Each national subcommittee appoints a Coordinator from among its Foreign Service Officers, who shall be indispensable for the successful outcome of each meeting. The term "Coordinator" is descriptive; it does not imply the existence of a position.

Regarding Recommendation 9

At each meeting of the Neighborhood Commission and of the Binational Committees, a Rapporteur responsible for drawing up the minutes would be appointed. That appointment would be made by the host country, with the appointee being one of its committee members. Like "Coordinator," the term "Rapporteur" does not denote a remunerated position.

The Binational Committees would comprise staff from the official competent authorities on the subject, which would be responsible for paying their salaries, fares, and per diem expenses, given that the Neighborhood Commission has no payroll of its own.

Regarding Recommendation 10

The innovative border integration process involves altering the behavior and habits of border personnel and adapting them to new approaches. Because police, army, migration, immigration, customs, health and other personnel on duty at the border rotate frequently, it is impossible to provide ongoing training for an indefinite period of time. Such training would therefore be entrusted to each institution's instructors.

Regarding Recommendation 11

It would be up to the Neighborhood Commission to establish, alter, and terminate Binational Committees.

The Binational Committee meetings would be held at alternating venues, preferably in towns or other places related to the topic.

Regarding Recommendation 12

Local official entities and private nonprofit institutions could participate in, collaborate with, and support Binational Committees related to issues they handle.

Regarding Recommendation 13

The parties would adopt General Rules of Procedure to govern the activities of the Neighborhood Commission, as well as individual Rules of Procedure for each of the Binational Committees.

Regarding Recommendation 14

Border integration would take place in the geographic area known as the "Border Integration Zone," comprised of the provinces, departments, municipalities, states or otherwise denominated political districts on the border.

One country's integration zone districts do not necessarily have to equal the other party's, in terms of either area or population size, although a certain balance would be sought.

Regarding Recommendation 15

Experience has shown that successful border integration processes arouse interest in national political districts not yet included. They will exert pressure to become part of the process and their petitions would deserve to be granted in the interest of both sides.

The development and expansion of the border integration zone culminates with the inclusion of each party's entire territory and the achievement of binational integration.

Regarding Recommendation 16

Island States would benefit from the expedited border integration mechanism, taking advantage of the fact that they have a maritime, rather than a land, border.

Regarding Recommendation 17

The chief beneficiary of any integration process is the individual: the subject and object of any juridical construct.

To facilitate exchange, mobility, trade, services and tourism in the Border Integration or Binational Zone, passports, visas, military service I.D.s, police certificates and the other paraphernalia usually required for international travel could be done away with. Visitors would simply carry their I.D.s with them.

Any necessary national filters or screening would be moved to the outer confines of the Border Integration Zone.

Regarding Recommendation 18

Every year, the Neighborhood Commission would approve the plans, projects, and actions to be implemented in the Border or Binational Integration Zone; monitor compliance; warn of shortcomings; and apply corrective measures.

Regarding Recommendation 19

It would be useful for the whole Border or Binational Integration to be broad a process, with all its actors and beneficiaries sufficiently familiar with it and in agreement with it, in order to preempt unnecessary or predictable resistance to it, especially on the part of official institutions, such as customs, the armed forces, police, migration, immigration, and other authorities accustomed to a closed border approach.

It will also be essential to inform and persuade the vested interests that have exploited enclaves and established de facto monopolies exclusively for their own gain – especially in freight and passenger land or water transportation services – of the obvious advantages of border integration.

Regarding Recommendation 20

The parties could standardize rates charged for a series of public utilities in the Border or Binational Integration Zone, and use the currency denominations of both countries to express them, while continuing to be guided by the "domestic rate" criterion.

National enterprises providing services outside of the border would not be economically affected by setting "domestic rates" but, quite the contrary, their earnings would increase from there being more users.

Regarding Recommendation 21

Apart from being ineffective, the treatment regularly meted out by officials to visitors from a neighboring country, as if they were all criminals, is humiliating and likely to make them want to stay away. A more intelligent and practical approach is to keep track of persons wanted by the justice system and warn the neighboring country of a pending visit by them.

Regarding Recommendation 22

Collaboration and assistance in judicial matters cannot be left up to the good will of the judiciaries. Rather, it would be an obligation expressly entered into by the parties, in order to avoid pretexts for rejecting or discriminating against the inhabitants of the neighboring country.

One initiative that is easily implemented and effective in the rehabilitation of convicted persons is to agree to their being transferred to penitentiaries in the country of origin and close to where they live: it is more expeditious for evidence to travel from one country to another than it is for the distressed family members of the detainee.

The procedures relating to issues of recognition of judgments, deportation of convicts, and handing over those wanted by the other party's law enforcement, may develop into a bi-national rules of procedure for judicial cooperation.

Regarding Recommendation 23

Borders are favorite areas for organized crime activities, mafias, terrorism, and illegal trafficking. Therefore, the parties need to coordinate full-time in order to counter those activities, dismantle them, and discourage their presence.

Regarding Recommendation 24

Border patrols, which are indispensable, are more effective if they are joint, that is to say, they comprise personnel from both parties. That also introduces an element of self-supervision and diminishes cases of misuse of authority.

Regarding Recommendation 25

Fixed checkpoints on highways slow down traffic, encourage corruption, and are ineffective, because those who want to elude them know where they can do so.

The authorities would be able to set up mobile and random checkpoints.

Regarding Recommendation 26

For every official crossing point there are several clandestine paths built by locals with their own resources to access adjoining settlements and sell their products.

Such cross-over points could be legalized and their infrastructure improved, in a coordinated and gradual process, until completed.

Regarding Recommendation 27

Restricted opening hours at border cross-over points hamper traffic and trade and are a source of corruption.

The idea is for official border crossing points to operate 24/7 throughout the year.

Regarding Recommendation 28

In principle, all works to be carried out in the Border Integration Zone should be "binational" in order to avoid duplication and ensure that they are complementary; in order to ensure that they are open for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants of both sides of the border; in order to maintain uniform technical standards, to save money; to cater better, and as a matter of priority, to the pressing needs of marginal and marginalized population groups; and in order to take advantage of international financing facilities.

Regarding Recommendation 29

Binational works in the Border Integration Zone could be carried out with a view to alternation and complementarity. That is to say: if a construction job is completed in one party's territory, the next one will be in the other party's territory; and if a hospital or university in one of the parties specializes in certain areas, those of the other party would specialize in different and, where possible, complementary areas.

The main binational works possible in this scenario include, for instance, ports, airports, arterial highways, international bridges, silos, underwater cables, universities, schools, hospitals, and health centers.

Regarding Recommendation 30

Another reason for alternation in the execution of binational works is also applicable so that tasks and responsibilities can be shared. It will also ensure that each party's law is applied in turn, given that both legal systems cannot be applied at the same time to the same work.

In a binational work, if one party was entrusted with the design, the bidding would be done by the other; if the former were in charge of construction, the latter would supervise.

Regarding Recommendation 31

The day-to-day life of the inhabitants of a Border or Binational Integration Zone would include freedom to use either party's currency.

Making the currencies of the parties to the Border or Binational Integration Zone legal tender prevents underground trafficking in foreign exchange, energizes trade, and facilitates business.

Regarding Recommendation 32

Ever since people were cruelly divided by borders, small-scale smuggling of low-cost products from one country to another in which they are either scarce or non-existent has been one way in which

the inhabitants of border zones have earned a living or improved their standard of living. Economically, such petty smuggling has an insignificant impact on tax revenue and it would therefore be useful for it to be legalized, using a "family basket" criterion.

Products in the "family basket" are brought in to offset the rising cost of living in the periphery of states.

Regarding Recommendation 33

An effective mechanism for overcoming friction and mistrust between business associations in neighboring countries is helping them to partner in joint enterprises with a high likelihood of increasing profits by broadening the scope of their activities and users.

As an incentive for binational enterprises, the parties would eliminate double taxation and would allow equipment, machinery, and implements to be imported tax-free.

Regarding Recommendation 34

Private enterprise is called upon to play an active part in the integration process, and may initiate rapprochements with peers in the neighboring country, arranging meetings, and reaching mutually beneficial understandings.

Regarding Recommendation 35

Open-air markets are an expeditious mechanism for settlers to obtain food and staple products and for producers to sell their wares.

The parties would be well advised to facilitate premises, establish schedules of weekly markets on different days in cities and settlements in the border integration zones, with the participation and consent of the inhabitants.

Regarding Recommendation 36

The parties would draw up an annual calendar of multiple or specialized expos at alternating venues in cities in the zone, to attract entrepreneurs, industry leaders, importers, exporters, suppliers, investors, producers, and the general public. These border expos would provide a welcome opportunity to introduce folk groups, artists, musicians, singers, orchestras, theatrical works, and other cultural events inside and outside the zone.

Regarding Recommendation 37

One current blight is vehicle theft, with the stolen cars being sold across the border. This is a matter that merits joint and resolute action.

Regarding Recommendation 38

The fact that the local population or that of the neighboring country is inevitably mobile, for varying periods of time, complicates and impairs the education of the children, due to discrimination in enrollment and unwillingness to recognize studies, grades, diplomas, and degrees.

One very efficient move to strengthen integration is to enable children to start or continue their studies in any educational establishment in the border integration zone, regardless of nationality.

Regarding Recommendation 39

One party's refusal to recognize the studies, diplomas, and degrees awarded by the other is not just a waste of money, it also seems nonsensical.

Regarding Recommendation 40

Educational integration will mean that binational and, where necessary, bilingual teachers will have to be trained.

Regarding Recommendation 41

When a worker moves to a neighboring country, the change of address in practice entails losing his status as a member of the social security system and an interruption of contributions, with obvious negative consequences.

Regarding Recommendation 42

Culture warrants particular attention in the Border Integration Zone, where the parties should strengthen it, preserve values, foster talent, and encourage research.

Regarding Recommendation 43

It has rightly been said that sport brings peoples together and, apart from being a source of entertainment, constitutes a major factor in the physical and mental health of the population.

Regarding Recommendation 44

Interconnection of various utility services in the Border Integration Zone helps bring together scattered areas on either side of the border and substantially improves the quality of life of those living in border areas.

Electrical, telephone, and postal interconnection makes optimal use of equipment and facilities, brings down cost to users, and facilitates mutual assistance in situations of shortage.

Regarding Recommendation 45

The parties would be duty-bound to show solidarity in times of disaster or risk.

Regarding Recommendation 46

Disease respects no borders, so that it is pointless and wasteful for a country to conduct health campaigns only so far as the border with its neighbor, when sources of infection may be just a meter away.

It is important that the parties pool their resources, cover the border with health centers and health posts, manned by professionals of both nationalities, and facilitate the provision of generic medicines.

Regarding Recommendation 47

Getting rid of red tape, eliminating unnecessary requirements, adopting the same formats, and recognizing the validity of each other's documents all greatly facilitate transportation, mobility, and exchange.

The political decision to facilitate and simplify transportation in the Border or Binational Integration Zone is key to implementing decisions by regional and sub-regional integration bodies.

Regarding Recommendation 48

The controls needed for the international carriage of passengers, groups of tourists, and freight are carried out at the beginning and end of the journey, hence they are not needed at the border and are counterproductive in that they hamper traffic and foster corruption.

Regarding Recommendation 49

Binational highways are the stitches that join the loose parts of the same blanket, bring an end to the isolation of peoples, shorten distances, streamline trade, generate employment, and significantly improve the quality of life. Major highways can be built as binational projects.

Regarding Recommendation 50

One way to optimize the use of border or neighboring ports and airports is to make them "alternative" in the sense that they can be used by ships and planes of both countries, with the other side's being accorded the same treatment as domestic carriers.

This simple measure corrects the serious problems arising from ports and airports being closed because of accidents, maintenance, congestion, bad weather, or other reasons, and makes optimal use of costly infrastructure.

Regarding Recommendation 51

The parties would be responsible for redressing the damage done to indigenous populations and ethnic minorities by the division caused by the border.

Regarding Recommendation 52

Environmental issues are very important given their impact on the two neighboring countries that have different regulations; all projects to be executed in the Border Integration Zone would be screened by the bi-national technical committee in order to examine their usefulness, priority, location, characteristics, adverse effects, and remedies.