

No. 12550

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**BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA,  
PARAGUAY and URUGUAY**

**Treaty of the River Plate Basin. Signed at Brasília on 23  
April 1969**

*Authentic texts: Portuguese and Spanish.*

*Registered by Brazil on 29 May 1973.*

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**BRÉSIL, ARGENTINE, BOLIVIE,  
PARAGUAY et URUGUAY**

**Traité du bassin du Río de la Plata. Signé à Brasília le 23  
avril 1969**

*Textes authentiques: portugais et espagnol.*

*Enregistré par le Brésil le 29 mai 1973.*

[TRANSLATION—TRADUCTION]

TREATY<sup>1</sup> OF THE RIVER PLATE BASIN

The Governments of the Republics of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, represented at the First Extraordinary Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Countries of the River Plate Basin, held at Brasília on 22 and 23 April 1969,

CONVINCED of the need to join forces in order to achieve the fundamental objectives laid down in the Joint Declaration of Buenos Aires of 27 February 1967 and the Act of Santa Cruz de la Sierra of 20 May 1968, and guided by a strong spirit of co-operation and solidarity,

CONFIDENT that joint action will permit the harmonious and balanced development and optimum utilization of the principal natural resources of the region and will ensure the conservation of those resources for future generations if they are utilized rationally,

CONSIDERING further that the Foreign Ministers have adopted a Statute for the Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Committee of the Countries of the River Plate Basin,

Have decided to conclude this Treaty in order to establish firmer institutional arrangements for the River Plate Basin and, to that end, have designated their plenipotentiaries, who have agreed as follows:

*Article I.* The Contracting Parties agree to join forces to promote the harmonious development and physical integration of the River Plate Basin and its zones of direct and measurable influence.

*Sole paragraph.* To that end, they shall promote, in the region of the Basin, the identification of areas of mutual interest, the carrying out of studies, plans and works and the formulation of such operating arrangements and legal instruments as they may deem necessary to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) Facilitating and assisting navigation;
- (b) The rational utilization of water resources, in particular by the regulation of watercourses and their multipurpose and equitable development;
- (c) The conservation and development of animal and plant life;
- (d) The improvement of road, rail, river, air, electrical and telecommunications interconnexions;

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 14 August 1970, i.e. 30 days after the instruments of ratification by all the Contracting Parties had been deposited with the Government of Brazil, in accordance with article VIII (1). The instruments were deposited as indicated hereafter:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit</i>	
Brazil .....	15 October	1969
Paraguay .....	11 February	1970
Argentina .....	22 May	1970
Uruguay .....	25 May	1970
Bolivia .....	15 July	1970

- (e) Regional complementarity, by promoting and establishing industries for the development of the Basin;
- (f) The economic complementarity of areas bordering on the Basin;
- (g) Co-operation with respect to education, health and disease control;
- (h) The promotion of other projects of mutual interest, in particular those relating to the surveying, evaluation and development of the natural resources of the area;
- (i) A comprehensive knowledge of the River Plate Basin.

*Article II.* The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the River Plate Basin shall meet once a year on a date to be suggested by the Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Committee in order to lay down basic joint policy guidelines for the attainment of the objectives established in this Treaty; to assess and evaluate the results obtained; to hold consultations on the activities of their respective Governments relating to the multinational integrated development of the Basin; to guide the work of the Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Committee and, in general, to adopt such provisions as are necessary to ensure the implementation of this Treaty through the specific measures called for herein.

*Paragraph 1.* The Ministers for Foreign Affairs may meet in extraordinary session after being convened by the Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Committee on the request of at least three of the Contracting Parties.

*Paragraph 2.* In the event that, owing to exceptional circumstances, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of a Contracting Party should be unable to attend a regular or extraordinary meeting, he shall be represented by a special delegate.

*Paragraph 3.* Decisions taken at meetings held pursuant to this article shall require the unanimous vote of the five countries concerned.

*Article III.* For the purposes of this Treaty, the Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Committee is recognized as the permanent body for the Basin and shall be responsible for promoting, co-ordinating and following the progress of multinational efforts to ensure the integrated development of the River Plate Basin and of the technical and financial assistance which it may organize with the support of such international agencies as it deems appropriate, and for implementing the decisions adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

*Paragraph 1.* The Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Committee shall be governed by the Statute adopted at the Second Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Countries of the River Plate Basin held at Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 18 to 20 May 1968.

*Paragraph 2.* At an extraordinary meeting specially convened for the purpose, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs may amend the Statute of the Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Committee, but such amendment shall require the unanimous vote of the five countries concerned.

*Article IV.* Without prejudice to the domestic legislation of each country, the national commissions or secretariats established pursuant to the Joint Declaration of Buenos Aires shall be the organs of co-operation among the Governments concerned and shall provide them with advice. The said commissions or secretariats may establish bilateral contacts, which shall in all cases be in conformity with the rules and regulations of the countries concerned,

and shall keep the Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Committee informed as appropriate.

*Article V.* Any joint activities undertaken by the Contracting Parties shall be carried out without prejudice to such projects and undertakings as they may decide to execute within their respective territories, in accordance with respect for international law and fair practice among neighbouring friendly nations.

*Article VI.* The provisions of this Treaty shall not prevent the Contracting Parties from concluding specific or partial bilateral or multilateral agreements designed to achieve the general objectives of the development of the Basin.

*Article VII.* This Treaty shall be known as the Treaty of the River Plate Basin and shall remain in force for an indefinite period.

*Article VIII.* This Treaty shall be ratified by the Contracting Parties and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

*Paragraph 1.* This Treaty shall enter into force 30 days after the instruments of ratification of all the Contracting Parties have been deposited.

*Paragraph 2.* Pending ratification of this Treaty by the Contracting Parties and the deposit of their instruments of ratification, any multinational activities they may undertake to develop the River Plate Basin shall be subject to the provisions agreed upon in the Joint Declaration of Buenos Aires and the Act of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

*Paragraph 3.* A Contracting Party shall notify the other Contracting Parties of its intention to denounce this Treaty at least 90 days before it formally transmits its instrument of denunciation to the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil. Once the Treaty has been formally denounced, it shall cease to have effect, so far as the Contracting Party denouncing it is concerned, within one year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned plenipotentiaries, having deposited their full powers, found in good and due form, sign this Treaty.

DONE in the city of Brasília on 23 April 1969 in one copy in the Spanish and Portuguese languages to be deposited in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, which shall transmit certified true copies to the signatory countries.

For Argentina:  
[NICAMOR COSTA MÉNDEZ]

For Bolivia:  
[VICTOR HOZ DE VILA]

For Brazil:  
[JOSÉ DE MAGALHÃES PINTO]

For Paraguay:  
[RAÚL SAPENA PASTOR]

For Uruguay:  
[VENANCIO FLORES]