

**Signing of Complementary Protocols to the Treaty of Maipú**

**Tuesday, December 23, 2014**

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Chile and Argentina and five years since the signing of the instrument that laid the foundation for our current bilateral relationship: the Treaty of Maipú.

Today, the Foreign Ministers of Chile and Argentina honored the commitment that our respective Presidents, Michelle Bachelet and Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, began five years ago, aimed at deepening our ties of integration and cooperation.

A shared determination to advance growing ties of integration and interconnectivity was expressed at the meeting of Ministers, Secretaries of State, Intendants, Governors and Parliamentarians, held in Buenos Aires on August 29. It was an unprecedented call made with transparency and trust, regarding almost all issues on the bilateral agenda and setting specific deadlines for the further deepening of mutual interests and seeking to overcome difficulties and challenges.

To the great satisfaction the Foreign Ministers of Chile and Argentina, this afternoon the signing of two important Complementary Protocols to the Treaty of Maipú was announced, constituting a significant advance in the development plan for important binational infrastructure works. These are the Second Protocols which grant legal status to the Binational Entity Low Height Trans-Andean Railway (EBIFETRA), and Binational Entity the Agua Negra Tunnel (EVITAN), allowing the call for international bids from companies interested in building this tunnel, linking the province of San Juan with Region IV of Coquimbo and La Serena.

Finally, it was agreed that during the first week of January 2015, negotiations would commence for a new protocol to create a binational entity for the Las Leñas Tunnel, a project linking the Province of Mendoza with the Region of Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins. Preliminary studies will determine the feasibility of this important project.

Today is a great day for bilateral and regional integration. Today we are taking concrete steps to bring about what President Bachelet and President Fernández have agreed.