

Chile Hopes to Resume Bilateral Agenda with Bolivia



Santiago, March 27 (RHC) -- Chilean President Michelle Bachelet Wednesday expressed her interest in "resuming the working agenda" with Bolivia, covering political, economic and border issues.

"We hope to have dialogue and resume the work agenda," Bachelet told reporters during a site inspection of road works.

"We are going to work on all those topics that are of mutual interest," she added.

The agenda, laid out in 2006 during Bachelet's first presidential term, initially included Bolivia's demand for sea access via Chile, which however said it is awaiting the final ruling since Bolivia later took its claim to the Hague-based World Court.

The conservative government of Sebastian Pinera, which succeeded Bachelet's, suspended talks with Bolivia and rebuffed its attempts to discuss a sea route through Chile.

Bolivia lost some 120,000 square kilometers of coastal land, and with it sea access, to neighboring Chile in the 1879 War of the Pacific.

Bolivia has said that talks on a possible resolution to its demand can take place parallel to the court proceedings.

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