



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**



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Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment  
of Latin America and the Caribbean

Bridgetown, Barbados  
2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2000

B. Ministerial Segment  
5<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2000

Distribution:

Limited  
UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/3  
5<sup>th</sup> of March 2000  
Original: English - Spanish

# **Final Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts of the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Bridgetown, Barbados  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2000**



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## I. Background

1. This Preparatory Meeting of Experts of the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was convened by the Government of Barbados. UNEP was designated by the Forum of Ministers to serve as Secretariat of the Meeting, which was held from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2000.

2. The work of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts of the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was organized under the following headings, in accordance with the suggestions of the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee (Lima, Peru. 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1999):

- a) *Policies*: to reflect environmental management experiences in the participating countries, including the incorporation of the environmental dimension in national development;
- b) *Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements*: to propose and discuss the need to create synergies between the mandates and activities of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), to identify mechanisms to achieve such synergies and to improve implementation of the MEAs;
- c) *Programming Matters*: to examine the progress made in meeting the priorities established by the ministers in the framework of the Regional Action Plan, as well as the Provisional Agenda, including a set of priority projects and activities previously identified by the Forum.

## II. Participation

3. All the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean were invited to the meeting, as were regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations. Participants included 47 governmental representatives of 19 countries of the region and 2 representatives of 2 observer countries. Other observers at the meeting were 22 representatives of 15 international, regional and subregional organizations and non-governmental organizations. The list of participants is attached to this document as **Annex III**.

## III. Agenda Items

### Agenda Item 1: Opening Ceremony

4. The meeting was opened by Mr. Ricardo Sanchez Sosa, Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. He provided some brief words of welcome before inviting the Government of Peru, as President of the XI Forum of Ministers to take over the meeting. Mr. Paul Remy, on behalf of the Government of Peru, welcomed participants and thanked the Government of Barbados.

5. Mr. Remy highlighted the spirit of collaboration and understanding that has prevailed in the meetings of the Forum of Ministers. He also mentioned the importance of the Forum as a vehicle for reaching regional consensus on priority environmental issues among the countries of the region and the need to move still further to enhance this potential for co-operation. He then invited Mrs. Atheline

Haynes, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources, Barbados to take over as chair of the meeting.

**6.** Ms. Haynes welcomed the delegates and expressed the enthusiasm of the government of Barbados to host the meeting. After these words, she invited Mr. Ricardo Sanchez to take the floor again. Mr. Ricardo Sanchez took the opportunity to emphasise the role of UNEP/ROLAC as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers and the objective of the meeting to assess the progress made since the XI meeting of the Forum of Ministers held in Lima. He also wished the delegates a successful meeting.

**7.** Senator Tyrone Barker was then invited to officially open the meeting. Senator Barker, in opening the meeting, mentioned the importance of going beyond the identification of regional problems and setting of priorities, to the actual implementation of solutions for achieving sustainable development. He stressed the importance of the regional approach to environmental problems and expressed his concern that the regional agenda should include the priorities of the small island States. Amongst other issues of importance mentioned by Senator Barker for the region as a whole and for the Caribbean and Barbados in particular, were the implementation of environmental legislation, use of economic instruments and sustainable energy.

## **Agenda Item 2: Organisation of the meeting**

### **2.1 Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting**

**8.** In accordance with past practice, the rules of the Governing Council of UNEP were adopted *mutatis mutandis* by the Forum for its work.

### **2.2. Election of officers**

**9.** A proposal was made as a result of previously held informal consultations among the delegates to include Barbados as President of the meeting and Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru as Vice-Presidents; with Cuba as rapporteur. The proposal was approved by consensus.

### **2.3. Approval of the agenda and programme of the meeting**

**10.** The Provisional Agenda (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/1/Rev.1**) was approved without amendments.

## **Agenda Item 3: Programming issues**

### **3.1. Report of the Secretariat**

**11.** Mr. Ricardo Sanchez presented the report of the Secretariat (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/3/Rev.1). In his presentation he made a brief overview of the document, including progress made in the implementation of the decisions of the XI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (Lima, Peru, 10 to 13 March 1988) and the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the UNEP Governing Council (Nairobi, Kenya 1 to 5 February 1999). The discussions of the document focused on the following:

**12.** The countries noted the need for an integrated approach to negotiations and decision-making at international environmental forums, particularly in reference to

the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) on climate change, desertification, biodiversity, etc. To address that need, UNEP/ROLAC, in conjunction with the ITC, was asked to provide support to assist the countries in establishing mechanisms to reach consensus on common regional positions regarding issues that affect the future of the region. They also mentioned the need for making better use of the limited human resources of the region, forming joint political lines of action, and promoting greater cohesion and synergy, in particular with regard to MEAs.

**13.** Reference was made to the issue of co-ordination between UNEP/ROLAC and the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme Regional Co-ordination Unit. The Secretariat underlined that various activities had been carried out by UNEP/ROLAC in 1999 in the Caribbean region and delegates expressed their support for the continued increase in ROLAC's level of work in the Caribbean.

**14.** During the preparation of the Global Environment Outlook report (GEO), an important increase in the capacity of institutions in the region was noted, particularly in the collaborating centres. This increase should be reflected in the report on Governing Council Decision 20/1. Reference was also made to the need for additional information, more comprehensive national consultation mechanisms and longer review periods for Governments in the development the GEO.

**15.** Other points of discussion included: the critical need to measure results of the Forum and ITC and identify the real impact of activities set in motion by the Forum process; possible geographical inequity of distribution of GEF funds; the request for more comprehensive information on the GEF, particularly information on projects being implemented by other agencies in future reports of the Forum; the desire for further information on the status of ratification and implementation of MEAs in the region; and support for continued work in the field of citizen participation in environmental matters and the revision of the timetable of the environmental citizenship project in order to adjust it to the current circumstances of the pilot countries.

### **3.2. Report of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee**

#### **3.2.1. Regional Plan of Action**

**16.** Under this agenda item, Mr. Ricardo Sanchez of UNEP presented the Report of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee to the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4/Rev.1**) on behalf of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC). The report covers progress made in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action in its first phase (1998-1999) and the proposed new lines of action for the second phase (2000-2001). Following the presentation by UNEP, some of the other member organisations of the ITC took the floor to provide additions and clarifications regarding the work of the ITC.

**17.** IDB mentioned that the activities in the ITC report reflect only the activities carried out by the ITC agencies in support of the Forum of Ministers and not all the activities they have carried out in the field of the environment. ECLAC pointed out that the ITC provides an important mechanism for co-ordination of activities and mentioned that the agency has focused on four main areas in support of the Forum: bioregional planning, natural disasters (from a socio-economic perspective), biosafety, and economic instruments. ECLAC reiterated that, pursuant to the respective resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, ECLAC would convene a Regional Meeting in 2001, preparatory to "Rio+10", hopefully with support of the ITC. ECLAC followed up by providing information on the activities of its Subregional Office for the Caribbean within the framework of the Programme of Action for the

sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA), emphasizing its cooperation with other agencies in the region, in the implementation of the Programme of Action within the limits of their resources. Finally, UNDP reiterated its commitment to the Forum of Ministers and presented its Strategy 2000-2005 for the region in the area of sustainable development. It underscored the consistency between most of these strategic priorities and those of the Forum and emphasized the importance of inter-agency cooperation. UNDP presented the results achieved since March 1998. A number of publications were distributed to the participating delegations and additional copies were made available to the countries. Emphasis was placed on the impact achieved by UNDP, particularly with GEF resources, in areas such as environmental management, economic instruments, trade and environment, biodiversity, international waters, climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy, citizen participation and communication for sustainable development. UNDP indicated that, in accordance with its strategy, it will continue working in the same areas in which it has been supporting the Forum and will initiate cooperation in other areas, such as environmental risk management, vulnerability reduction and sustainable management of bioregions.

**a) Mid-term review 1998-1999**

**18.** The countries thanked UNEP and the ITC member agencies for have presented the high quality documents for the meeting. Some regretted not having received the documentation in time to endorse the new proposed lines of action for 2000-2001. Summaries provided of the main technical documents were singled out as particularly useful, but not as a replacement of the documentation. Within this context, the Secretariat clarified the different categories of documentation, as well as the UN regulations on document size with which they must abide.

**19.** It was noted that that the strategic framework for the incorporation of areas or cross-cutting themes that fall beyond the current plan of action should be designed. In this regard, they proposed the following lines of action: meetings for the identification of common regional and subregional positions ahead of major international fora; definition of synergies between the Forum of Ministers and other important processes such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, Rio plus 10 etc.; horizontal co-operation amongst countries, as well as working in a complementary manner with the Inter-American Commission on Sustainable Development; and making maximum use of the financing mechanisms available (e.g. Global Environment Facility).

**20.** The countries supported the increased work of ROLAC on MEAs, welcomed the outcomes of the Judicial Symposium and requested that more specific lines of action be defined, particularly at the sub-regional level. Reference was also made to their interest in more information on the Judicial Symposium to distribute among different layers of national legal institutions.

**21.** It was pointed out that biosafety, biological diversity, climate change and other international environmental topics remain important elements of the Regional Plan of Action. In this regard, co-ordination among the countries of the region ahead of the COPs would be an important step. Commerce, economics and the environment as well as financial instruments were also felt to be important existing elements and should be continued.



**b) Plan of Action 2000-2001**

**22.** The countries supported further work on the implementation of MEAs and the strengthening of mechanisms for implementation of conventions, albeit with different national and subregional priorities. In particular, there was mention of the need for strengthening institutional arrangements within the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM). It was noted that the lack of effective co-ordination at the national level is a barrier to effective implementation of MEAs and that greater co-ordination is needed at the regional and national levels.

**23.** The importance of the GEO process at the global, regional and national levels was highlighted, and it was noted that if the process could become more widespread throughout the region, it would form a solid basis for environmental decision making.

**24.** Some of the other items mentioned during the session which could be addressed by the Plan of Action included: the importance of south-south co-operation for both the exchange of experiences at the political level, and the exchange of expertise at the technical level (e.g. the exchange of personnel working in wildlife protection); land use planning to improve environmental management, including disaster prevention.

**25.** Note was made of the need to make full use of the experiences of the Forum and the ITC, so as to continue implementing the priority thematic lines. Only in this way would the Forum maximise on its potential to influence and reorient policies and investments impacting the environment.

**26.** The delegations reaffirmed the importance of the current four priority thematic lines of action and of continuing to work within the confines of these lines rather than extending the number of priorities further. Consequently, the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean should focus its attention on the role it plays in influencing regional environmental policy. Furthermore, it was suggested that, in the framework of the existing priorities, the implementation of the Action Plan should focus on the integrating topics such as natural disaster prevention, the conservation of forests in the humid tropics, and urban areas and their relationships to surrounding environment.

**27.** After lengthy discussions on how the revision of the Regional Plan of Action should be undertaken, and words of clarification from the Chairperson and head table, the delegations strengthened the pertinence of the Regional Action Plan and its cross-cutting and integrating themes. Some delegations emphasised the need to focus on dialogue at a political-technical level. Some delegations noted that the meetings of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean should not include the approval or rejection of specific projects, but rather their promotion and, especially, the definition of guidelines for regional environmental policies. The countries were given one month to provide their response regarding documents linked to approval of the lines of action contained in document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4/Rev.1**.

**28.** There was further discussion on proposed additional lines including natural disasters, south-south co-operation, negotiation forums for MEAs, decentralisation of environmental management, and funding mechanisms. A number of delegations again outlined the need for a strategic framework for the work of the Forum, including how the Forum can best meet the needs of the Ministers, and the measurement of the impact on their activities.

**3.2.2. ITC documents (working documents) and suggested lines of action**

**29.** This agenda item was discussed along with the previous one, as both are closely linked. The discussions are therefore reflected above.

**3.2.3. Coordination mechanisms for the Inter Agency Technical Committee**

**30.** Under this agenda item, the countries discussed **Annex III** of document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4/Rev.1**, Co-ordination Mechanisms for the Inter Agency Technical Committee.

**31.** Reference was made to the need to formulate specific criteria for new membership in the ITC and it was agreed that any decision regarding new membership in ITC would be deferred for the meeting of Ministers. Nevertheless, a number of issues were discussed including: the importance of maintaining the original spirit and goals of the ITC as a mechanism for inter agency co-ordination in support of Ministerial priorities; the need for more detailed information in the document under discussion; the need for greater synergy in the work of the agencies; the importance of defining a strategic mission; and the need for the evaluation of the results and impact of the activities and projects of the plan of action. One delegation indicated the need to establish mechanisms for coordination and complementary efforts with the Inter-American Commission on Sustainable Development.

**32.** It was suggested that new agencies should be able to complement the other agencies in terms of expertise and funding in the promotion of regional environmental management. In addition, clarification was sought on the criteria for new membership, the technical role the new agencies would be able to play, and the inter-linkages both between the agencies and, in turn, between the agencies and the countries.

**33.** Mention was made of the technical nature of the agencies that are currently members of the ITC and the largely political nature of the Organization of American States (OAS). At the same time, it was noted that membership of the ITC is not a prerequisite for participation in specific projects undertaken in the framework of the Regional Action Plan.

**34.** It was noted that, as indicated in document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4/Rev.1**, the OAS and Andean Development Corporation (ADC) had requested membership in the ITC. When they were given the floor, the OAS and FAO outlined their activities and experiences in the environmental sector, along with their partnership with both the organisations of the ITC and the countries of the region. The ADC was not present.

**Agenda item 4: Report of the environmental training network**

**35.** A Report on the activities of the Environmental Training Network (1998-1999) and Proposal for its Development in the 2000-2001 biennium (**Annex I** of document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/3/Rev.1**) was presented by the Coordinator of the UNEP/ROLAC Environmental Training Network.

**36.** The meeting voiced its support for the Environmental Training Network and environmental education and training in general, and it asked that the mandate of the Trust Fund be extended to the next Forum of Ministers. The meeting also expressed its concerns regarding delays in the contributions to the Trust Fund and the importance of its replenishment to ensure the continuation of its activities. Note was also made of the importance of in kind contributions in implementing the activities of the network, particularly at the national level.

**37.** There was a request for additional information on the distribution of fellowships, especially those being allocated to scholarship recipients from outside the region (USA and Spain). At the same time, delegates noted the imbalance in the distribution of fellowships between university level courses and those at the local or community levels. The geographical inequity of distribution of resources was also noted.

**38.** The countries were requested to designate their national focal points so that they could help select candidates for fellowships. It was also pointed out that the Network activities need to be better aligned with the priorities of the Forum of Ministers as well as other pressing needs of the region such as biosafety, climate change, forestry and urban issues. The training should also be extended to governmental and other experts, as well as decision-makers. Countries of the Caribbean should also be better represented in the activities of the Network.

**39.** One delegation suggested that the meeting of experts should be used to evaluate the activities of the Environmental Training Network in the next biennium. The Network Coordinator addressed many of the concerns raised and, in reference to the fellowships granted, he explained that the the term fellowship holders included instructors who had participated in training activities.

### **Agenda Item 5: Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)**

**40.** In accordance with the request of the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee (Lima, Peru, 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 1999), multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) were discussed as part of the agenda.

**41.** Interventions were made by a number of secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (CCD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. The representatives of the Secretariats detailed their activities, particularly those carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean. Some also outlined their ongoing co-operation with agencies of the ITC and other organisations, and their efforts to work with governments in facilitating their participation in the negotiations of the COPs and the implementation of the respective conventions at the national level.

**42.** Reference was made to the importance of active participation during the negotiations for MEAs, as well as the subsequent follow-up required for implementation. At the same time, many referred to the barriers that exist for the effective implementation of MEAs, primarily due to resource constraints. In this regard, some mentioned the importance of joint political action, with the countries of

Latin America and the Caribbean coming together to form a coherent regional front in the negotiations and implementation of conventions.

**43.** The delegates underscored the need for better harmonisation and integration between these conventions, particularly at the regional level. Reference was made to the potential benefits of a region-based unit and other mechanisms to help foster harmonisation, co-ordination and effective implementation. At the same time, funding restrictions exist and need to be addressed. It was also pointed out that potential synergies exist between multilateral conventions, such as those dealing with biodiversity issues (Convention on Biological Diversity –CBD; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora –CITES; Convention on Migratory Species –CMS) and advantage should be taken of these synergies.

**44.** Note was made of the critical importance of MEAs to the Caribbean and joint Caribbean action, for example the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) initiative. They also endorsed the proposals and recommendations that have emerged from the work of UNEP and Caribbean experts on implementation of MEAs in the Caribbean and urged substantive follow up to these proposals. There was also mention of the importance of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean region, and urged other Caribbean countries to become parties to the convention and its protocols.

**45.** Emphasis was placed on the vulnerability of countries to natural disasters, and climate change was mentioned as another of the important issues that could, in part, be dealt with at the regional level when addressing existing conventions. It was also noted that vulnerability goes beyond the environment but includes physical and economic parameters. In that regard, several delegations underscored the need for support at national, subregional and regional levels.

## **Agenda item 6: Policies**

### **6.1 Proposal for the Barbados Declaration**

**46.** The Chairperson informed the meeting that the draft of the Barbados Declaration had already been circulated and proposed the setting up of a working group to develop the draft Declaration for presentation to the ministerial segment. This proposal was accepted by the meeting and the working group was formulated.

**47.** In introducing the Declaration, it was indicated that it provides an important opportunity to give continuity to the regional environmental agenda and to make a call for the environment to become an integrated part of policy making at the national and regional levels.

### **6.2 Special theme: the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area**

**48.** A representative from the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) addressed the meeting on the proposal developed by the Association of Caribbean States, to have the Caribbean Sea designated as a special area in the context of sustainable development. The presentation was followed by supporting remarks from another delegation which highlighted the region's dependence on its marine and coastal resources. In particular, they also referred to various aspects of the region's unique marine biodiversity, ecological fragility and economic vulnerability. It is in this context that the integrated management of the Caribbean Sea as a single ecological unit is being promoted.

## **Agenda Item 7: Other matters**

**49.** Under this agenda item a number of presentations were made for the information of the Experts. These presentations included:

- A summary of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Area of the Southeast Pacific (Permanent Commission for the South Pacific).
- The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP GPA Co-ordination Office).
- Key elements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Protocol and aspects preparatory to COP 5 (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity).
- Programmatic framework for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity of Mexico, submitted to the GEF (Government of Mexico).
- Disaster Management in the Caribbean (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, CDERA).

**50.** One delegation proposed holding a regional preparatory meeting of experts on access to genetic resources prior to COP 5 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## **IV. Decisions**

**51.** On the basis of the discussion of the above-mentioned agenda items during the Preparatory Meeting of Experts, held on 2, 3 and 4 March 2000, 20 draft decisions were proposed to be submitted for consideration to the ministerial segment of the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, which would be held on 6 and 7 March 2000. The draft decisions appear in Annex I to this report.

## **V. Approval of the Report of the Meeting**

**52.** The Rapporteur submitted a draft Final Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts of the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. After incorporating the modifications deemed pertinent by several delegations, the Report was approved by the Meeting, including the decisions.

## **VI. Closure of the Meeting**

**53.** The Preparatory Meeting of Experts concluded its work at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2000 with words for the Chairperson, Ms. Athelyne Haynes, thanking all the participating delegations for their help and cooperation in bringing the meeting to a gratifying end.



# Annex I

## Draft Decisions

The Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Governments present at the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 2 to 7 March 2000, taking into account the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts and the deliberations of this Twelfth Meeting of Ministers,

### Draft Decision 1

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#### **STRENGTHENING OF THE FORUM OF MINISTERS AND OF ITS INTER-AGENCY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, INCLUDING AGREEMENT ON COMMON POSITIONS**

**Recognizing** that one of the important objectives of the National Environmental Authorities, with the support of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee, is to ensure that the various economic and social sectors and the political actors in the countries of the region incorporate an environmental view in their management and establish the necessary measures to implement sectoral policies aimed at sustainable development,

**Agreeing** that, to benefit effectiveness, the performance of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and of its Inter-Agency Technical Committee should be evaluated in terms of its impact on the states of the environment and on natural resources in the region,

**Recognizing** that, for its efficient operation, the ITC should continue guiding its work on the principles of coordination, flexibility, mutual cooperation and dynamic links with the countries and other agencies,

**Considering** that the next two years will be of vital importance in the negotiation and implementation of various international conventions and agreements on environment and development,

**Considering** that the identification of interest leads to joint participation in these processes, to the construction of opportunities for analysis and debate, as well as consensus on a common view, strengthening the negotiating capacity of the region,

#### **DECIDE**

1. **To reaffirm** that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, formed by all the countries of the region, is the principal regional intergovernmental political forum in the field of environment.
2. **To ratify** the priority thematic lines contained in the Regional Plan adopted at the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Ministers for the 1998-2001 period, as well as the new lines proposed for the years 2000-2001, with emphasis on the cross-cutting topics of natural disaster measures and prevention and forests in the humid tropics.
3. **To agree** that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Inter-Agency Technical Committee should improve dialogue mechanisms and efforts to influence regional bodies and forums of economic, financial, energy, industrial, trade and agriculture authorities based on the political agreements of the Forum itself.

4. **To establish** that evaluation of the performance of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as its Inter-Agency Technical Committee, should be based fundamentally on their impact on the state of the environment and natural resources through environmental management and their influence on the decisions adopted by the economic and social sectors.

5. **To devote** the attention of the meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean fundamentally to the political coordination of environment and sustainable development topics. These meetings shall also consider and approve regional action plans and their priority lines, ensuring that the project effectively and efficiently fulfill their goals, in accordance with the priority lines. The meetings of the Forum will not directly consider the projects of the Forum, since they will be examined through specific mechanisms, unless they are of a crucial nature.

6. **To ask** to the Secretariat to begin preparing new action proposals that focus on the topics of natural disasters, forests in the human tropics and urban development for the next meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee, which will be held prior to the Thirteenth Meeting of Ministers, to be held in Brazil in late 2001.

7. **To express** their recognition to the Inter-Agency Technical Committee for its contributions to the sustainable development policies and plans in the region, and to ask the Committee to prepare, for presentation at the next meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum of Ministers:

- A proposal of guidelines for including other regional institutions in the ITC, based on the criteria of the comparative advantages and added value such inclusion would provide;
- An analysis of the ITC objectives and how they can be achieved.

8. **To intensify** its efforts to increase regional contacts and coordination, with a view to harmonizing interests and positions at international forums and conventions on environment and development, taking into account and respecting the unique features and specific interests of the member countries of the Forum; and request the Inter-Agency Technical Committee to serve as a catalyst and facilitator for such efforts.

9. **To request** the agencies that participate in the ITC to support the implementation and construction of these opportunities for coordination and information exchange as soon as possible.



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**Draft Decision 2**

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**MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN**

**Taking into account** the priorities established in the Regional Action Plan,

**Taking into account also** those mechanisms for implementing the Regional Action Plan should continually evolve in order to provide support for attaining its objectives,

**Recognizing** that new needs have emerged on the international scene since the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was held (Lima, Peru; March 1998), and that those needs should be appropriately included in the framework of the priorities established in the Forum's Regional Action Plan,

**DECIDE**

1. **To expand** the topic of citizen participation in the area of environmental management to include the topic of the decentralization of environmental management.

2. **To define** means of implementing the priorities established in the Regional Action Plan, based on the principles of environmental management efficiency and effectiveness, through the implementation of the following instruments:

- a) Political influence (to have an impact on decision-makers);
- b) Forums for regional and subregional dialogue on emerging topics involved in international negotiations;
- c) Studies, analyses, guides, manuals and methodological tools;
- d) Workshops for experts;
- e) Exchange of experiences (South-South);
- f) Mobilization of funds and financial assessment;
- g) Promotion of projects of common interest.

3. **To ensure** that the process for influencing other international forums includes activities related to the forums and processes in which the countries of the region play an important role.

4. **To develop**, through an *ad hoc* group of experts, criteria for the development of projects and activities for the implementation of the priorities established in the Regional Action Plan. Such criteria shall be forwarded to the XIII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers for their approval.

### Draft Decision 3

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#### NATURAL DISASTERS

**Considering** that natural disasters are becoming increasingly frequent and intense, in their impacts and noting that this could be a consequence of climatic change and inadequate management of ecosystems, which may be affected by climate change,

**Concerned about** the continuity loss of human life and property occasioned by these phenomena, and the severe interruption to social and economic development in our vulnerable States,

**Cognizant** of the Region's inadequate capacity to respond to these disasters, and the fragmented approach to disaster management which currently exists,

**Noting** that natural disaster management had not been considered a priority line in the Regional Action Plan, but was considered important by the Inter-Sessional Committee when it recognized that natural disasters are events which, owing to their recurrence and intensity, have an impact on all the priority lines of action as they cut across and integrate them,

#### DECIDE

1. **To invite** the Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean to formally adopt disaster management and planning as a priority for the Region, to be included in the Regional Action Plan (Annex 1 of UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4/Rev.1).
2. **To request** the Ministers to urgently design, articulate and implement coordinated programs and policies to strengthen disaster management at the national and regional levels, in an effort to reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and human settlements in an effort to better achieve the aims and objectives of sustainable development.
3. **To further request** the Ministers to seek additional technical and financial support from local, regional and international sources, in particular International Financing Institutions, to assist with the implementation of these programs, which are critical to the social and economic survival of the Region.
4. **To further requests** that UNEP/ROLAC, with the support of the ITC, environmental conventions and organizations such as Habitat, should assist in coordinating the preparation of environmental and human settlement vulnerability assessments in the region.

**Draft Decision 4**

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**INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IN  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Having considered** decision 20/1 of the twentieth Ordinary Session of the Governing Council, and the progress report on the Global Environment Outlook, as well as the recommendation of the Governing Council to continue -in close collaboration with Governments, United Nations Agencies and bodies, and collaborating centres and experts- with a third GEO report to be published in 2002,

**Having considered** the progress report of the Secretariat to the XII Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, related to the activities carried out by UNEP in Latin America and the Caribbean region to implement the GEO process at the regional and sub-region levels,

**Having considered** the proposal for a region environmental vision for Latin America and the Caribbean, including harmonised information systems to support decision making and indicators,

**DECIDE**

1. **To express** its appreciation to UNEP for the inclusion of regional views and perceptions on environmental matters in its global and regional assessments, through a broad participatory approach, including collaborating centres and national governments, as well as UN Agencies and regional partners.
2. **To express** its support for the use of participatory procedures in the global assessment process in the preparation of regional, sub-regional and sectoral environmental reports, and in supporting and catalysing the production of similar reports at the national level.
3. **To request** UNEP to continue providing leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean, for the preparation of integrated regional and sub-regional environmental assessment reports, within the framework of the GEO process and methodology.
4. **To request** UNEP to strengthened the regional network of collaborating centres and experts of the GEO process in Latin America and the Caribbean ensuring the participation and training of national experts.
5. **To continue and strengthen** the GEO for the youth process in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. **To request** UNEP to provide where requested, capacity building integrated environmental assessments at the regional and national levels.
7. **To urge** all national, subregional and regional bodies to collaborate in and support the application of common methodologies for regional environmental assessments, in the framework of the GEO process to avoid duplications, save costs and ensure that national and (sub) regional are mutually supportive and comparable across the region.

**Draft Decision 5**

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**COORDINATION MECHANISM AMONG  
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS (MEAs)**

**Noting** the steady development of MEAs, both at the global and regional scale, and their increasing influence on national environmental policies, as evident in the extensive adherence to and ratification of such agreements in the region,

**Noting also** that, in view of the nature of the topics that are included on the environmental agenda at the world and regional levels, there are close links and relationships between MEAs, which makes it advisable to work towards strengthening the synergies that exist among them,

**Recognizing** the need to strengthen the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in the region and considering that the parties to MEAs have frequently urged the secretariats of these agreements to maximize their efforts to coordinate follow-up on the decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties and to identify synergies among their mandates and activities, so as to prevent the duplication of efforts and save financial and human resources,

**Taking into account** that, in accordance with the 1997 Nairobi Declaration, adopted by the Governing Council, UNEP should increase its efforts to use scientific and technical knowledge in order to serve as a catalyst and support the work of the MEAs, and that the experience the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean has gained in supporting the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (CCD) and in coordinating the Network of Ozone Focal Points of the Montreal Protocol (since 1997) and serving as the CCD Regional Coordinating Unit (since mid 1999) has produced positive results in the interaction among the MEA secretariats, UNEP and the countries,

**Bearing in mind** that the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, 2 October 1999), requested that MEAs be included as a specific topic at the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers,

**DECIDE**

1. **To ask** UNEP/ROLAC to convene a meeting in order to consider an MEA regional coordinating mechanism. That meeting could also give consideration to the agenda of the Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, cross-cutting programmes (forests in the humid tropics and natural disasters), current programmes and other initiatives prepared by the ITC and the MEAs, as well as achieving synergy between them and the agenda of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. **To ask** UNEP/ROLAC, in preparation for such a meeting, also to present a proposal regarding the possible scope, objectives and modalities of the regional coordinating mechanism.

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Draft Decision 6

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**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE  
ISSUES IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

**Recognizing the increasing role of the Caribbean** planning for adaptation to climate change (CPACC) project in assisting the region, in addressing the potential impacts of climate change and associated phenomena and the challenge it represents to the management of natural resources in the Wider Caribbean sub-region,

**Noting** that both the Barbados Plan of Action (POA) emanating from the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (GCSIDS) and the subsequent Caribbean Ministers Meeting on the Progress on the Implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action accorded a high priority to addressing climate change in the Caribbean Sub-region,

**Considering** the recommendation of the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima, Peru in 1998 to recognize the CPACC project<sup>(1)</sup> as a model of regional co-operation in addressing global environmental problems (Decision 9 on Caribbean Small Island Developing States),

**In view** of the present efforts by the CPACC Project in the areas of Vulnerability Assessment, Adaptation, Planning, the Valuation of Coastal and Marine Resources, the formulation of Economic and Regulatory Proposals, the Utilization of Coral Reef Monitoring and Associated Protocols, the development of Information Systems for the Decisions Making (i.e. the development of Coastal Resource Inventory System (CRIS) and Capacity Building linked to adaptation Planning,

**Bearing in mind** the favourable review of the World Bank in its recent mid-term review of the Project in September 1999 at which the idea of the establishment of a Caribbean Climate Change Centre was endorsed as a Mechanism for continuity,

**Taking into account** the recent endorsement, by the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) at the Eighth Meeting in Georgetown, Guyana of the evolution of the CPACC Project into a Caribbean Climate Change Centre,

**DECIDE**

1. **To lend** its support to the present initiative to develop and establish a Caribbean Climate Change Centre as a mechanism to address Global Climate Change and related issues in the region in the furtherance of the work already achieved already achieved through the CPACC Project.
2. **To support** the establishment of such a mechanism to ensure the formulation of a regional operational framework in the Wider Caribbean Sub-region and serve as an advisor on Climate Change issues.

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**(1)** The CPACC project is funded by the Global Environment Facility implemented by the World Bank and executed by the Organisation of American States. The work of the project has been co-ordinated through the Regional Project Implementation Unit (RPIU), based in Barbados, since its inception in 1997.

3. **To urge** the support of the Agencies represented in the Inter-Agency Committee of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean to assist in the establishment of the Caribbean Climate Change Centre; and coordinate its efforts with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the UNFCCC.

4. **To support** efforts for the institutional strengthening and capacity-building of the leading regional research institutions in environmental and technical fields with direct relevance to the climate change adaptation, mitigation and capacity-building efforts in the region.



**Draft Decision 7**

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**THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

**Considering** that climate change is a thematic line in the Regional Action Plan of this conference and that our region should play a leading role in the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will take place in November 2000,

**DECIDE**

1. **To urge** the countries of Latin American and the Caribbean Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that have not yet done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.
2. **To urge** Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC to ratify the Kyoto Protocol so that it may enter into force by Rio+10.
3. **To encourage** Ministers of the Environment of the Latin America and the Caribbean region to make efforts to develop a common position on the Kyoto Protocol and its mechanism in accordance with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the Decisions taken at COP5.
4. **To encourage** the Annex I Parties to meet their legally binding qualified emissions limiting objectives (QELRO's) in the time frame specified in the Kyoto Protocol.
5. **To give** consideration within the Latin America and the Caribbean position prior to COP6, land use, land use change and forestry activities which can assist in or lead to the reduction of or sequestration of carbon emissions as a means of achieving the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.



## Draft Decision 8

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### MONTREAL PROTOCOL

**Endorsing** our support to the Declaration of Beijing to protect the ozone layer; being conscious of the serious threat that it represents to the environment and global population, we recognize the progress achieved to date by the countries of the region.

**Noting** that, in spite of our effort, the recovery of the ozone layer is far from being reached, in addition to problems like the illegal trading of hazardous substances, the possible suspension of finance by the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund for specific projects (including those with operating savings due to the price increase of CFC), are a threat to end the general consensus and achievements made.

**Reaffirming** our support to the Montreal Protocol regarding substances hazardous to ozone, and we declare our intention to continue working for its successful fulfillment at global as well as regional scale and we exhort all Latin American and Caribbean countries to:

- a) Ratify, when it proceeds the Montreal Protocol and its amendments
- b) To urgently adopt the control of imports and export of substances hazardous to the ozone, particularly for the use of licensing systems and appropriate legislation.
- c) To take all the necessary measures to comply with the plans to reduce and eliminate the consumption and production of substances hazardous to the ozone.

**Welcoming** with satisfaction the progress made by the Latin American and Caribbean countries in fulfilling the commitments under the Montreal Protocol in order to be considered at our next meeting.

### DECIDE

**To urge** the Forum of Ministers Secretariat to communicate to the Multilateral Fund Secretariat its interest that the latter continues to financially support the Latin American and Caribbean countries, considering their progress in the compliment of the Montreal Protocol and the national programs to eliminate the use of CFAs, as well as to request from the same that this issue be properly considered by the members of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund in its next reunion (last week of March 2000).



**Draft Decision 9**

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**COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Reiterating** the importance of the fight against desertification and drought in Latin America and the Caribbean and its direct relation with sustainable development in our countries,

**Considering** the need to continue reinforcing the work of the Regional Coordinating Unit of Latin America and the Caribbean to Combat Desertification and Drought,

**DECIDE**

**1. To recognize** the positive work which the Regional Coordinating Unit, with headquarters in the UNEP/ROLAC Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico, has been conducting.

**2. To request** the Executive Director of UNEP and the Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought to continue supporting the work of the Regional Coordinating Unit and, in particular, to continue channeling new financial resources through the financial mechanism of the Convention for the continuing implementation of the Regional Action Plan and its subregional components.

**3. To urge** the Regional Coordinating Unit and ROLAC to continue their joint efforts in relation to the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and Drought in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**4. To encourage** implementation of the Regional Project on the Harmonization of Public Policies as it was adopted at the Fifth Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Convention, held in Lima, Peru, in 1999.



**Draft Decision 10**

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**ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**Taking into account** the Declaration of the judges who participated in the Judicial Symposium on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development, held in Mexico City and organized by UNEP in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney-General for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) of the Government of Mexico,

**Considering** the importance of the Study on Access to Environmental Justice in Latin America, presented at the previously mentioned Symposium and the importance of its dissemination,

**DECIDE**

1. **To request** the Secretariat to widely distribute among the Forum of Ministers the documents and information produced by the Judicial Symposium on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development, held in Mexico City.
2. **To further request** the Secretariat to publish that information and distribute it internationally.
3. **To urge** the Secretariat, within the framework of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee, to facilitate the establishment and operation of an electronic forum for discussion and information exchange among the judges who participated in this Symposium or other judges in the region interested in environmental matters and, in general, among government judicial bodies and other sectors of civil society.
4. **To organize**, under the auspices of the Secretariat and in collaboration with other organizations, Judicial Symposium on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development for the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean and for other subregions.

**Draft Decision 11**

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**PROMOTING AND INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO THE CARIBBEAN SEA AREA IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Pursuant** to Resolution A/RES/54/225, adopted at the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the “Promoting of an integrated management approach in the Caribbean Sea Area in the context of sustainable development” is the Special Topic for the consideration of the Meeting of Experts of the XII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean,

**Recognizing** the efforts of Caribbean Countries within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) to develop this concept further, and recognizing the role that the United Nations system, in particular the relevant agencies, and the international community can play in this regard,

**Recognizing** the efforts of relevant national, regional and international programmes to further the implementation of the resolution,

**Noting** that in concert with the development of this integrated management approach, Caribbean countries should seek to ratify and effectively implement all relevant declarations and instruments,

**Further noting** the request of Resolution A/RES/54/225 to the Secretary General of the United Nations to report to the United Nations General Assembly at its 55<sup>th</sup> Session on the implementation of this Resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations,

**DECIDE**

**To request** that the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean consider:

- **Supporting** a technical process with the objective of developing a comprehensive programme for ocean governance and management of the Caribbean Sea covering the economic, social, ecological and other dimensions to address the issues contained in the resolution. The technical process will incorporate, *inter alia*, a review of all relevant declarations and instruments relating to the Resolution A/RES/54/225 “Promoting an Integrated Management Approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of Sustainable Development”.
- **Further supporting** the mobilization of the necessary resources and drawing on the relevant expertise within existing relevant institutions to further implement the resolution.

**Draft Decision 12**

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**STRENGTHENING OF THE REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMMES  
OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Recalling** that the seas and oceans are sources of life and producer of resources for the food and social and economic development of the coastal peoples of the world, a climate regulator and the hydrological cycle, a great sink for greenhouse gases and that, nevertheless, human activity unceasingly continues to deteriorate the marine environment,

**Bearing in mind** the importance of the Regional Seas Programmes in relation to the implementation of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources and the coastal marine component of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, among other international instruments,

**Taking into account** that the Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-east Pacific has been operating successfully in the framework of the 1981 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environmental and Coastal Areas of the South-east Pacific (Lima Convention), based on the fruitful cooperation between the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific and the United Nations Environment Programme,

**Bearing in mind** the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention) and the Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme,

**Recalling** Decision 5 of the Ninth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and Decision 18 of the Tenth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, in which the Ministers urged the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the Regional Seas Programmes effectively and to the greatest extent possible, particularly the Action Plans for the South-east Pacific and the Caribbean Action Plan,

**Recalling** that the Governing Council of UNEP at its nineteenth session adopted Decision 19/14-B, through which it requested the Executive Director of UNEP to give due attention to effective strengthening of regional action plans for the protection of the marine environment and coastal areas, as is the case with the South-east Pacific and the Wider Caribbean Action Plans referred to, through the allocation of sufficient funds for the biennia 1996-1997 and 1998-1999, which failed to materialize,

**Noting** that the Governing Council of UNEP, at its twentieth session, adopted Decision 20/19 A and B, in which it called on UNEP to strengthen the Regional Seas Programmes and to take into consideration Decision 19/14, especially in the framework of regional implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources,

**Considering** that paragraph 74, item 31 of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources establishes that UNEP, in its capacity as the Secretariat of that Programme should revitalize the Regional Seas Programmes to promote and facilitate the Global Programme of Action at the regional level,

**Considering further** the Action Plan for the South-east Pacific and the Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean cover new and greater environmental challenges stemming

from the Rio Conference, including the Global Programme of Action, marine biological diversity, climate change, etc.,

**Taking note** of the renewed impetus given to the Cartagena Convention thanks to the recent approval of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS) and the forthcoming entry into force of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW),

**Aware** of the importance of the Cartagena Convention and its protocols to the sustainable development of the Wider Caribbean region and particularly its potential for attracting donors,

#### DECIDE

1. **To reaffirm** the importance of the Regional Seas Programmes, including that of the South-east Pacific and the Wider Caribbean, as appropriate regional cooperation mechanisms for the protection of the marine environment and coastal areas and for the regional implementation of Agenda 21, Chapter 17, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from land-based Sources and the coastal marine component of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

2. **To urge** the United Nations Environment Programme to execute, in the biennium 2000-2001, the terms provided for in Decisions 19/14-B and 20/19 A and B, of the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Governing Council of UNEP, respectively, by allocating sufficient funds for effective strengthening of the Action Plans for the South-east Pacific and for the Wider Caribbean.

3. **To urge** international agencies (FAO, IAEA, IMO, WHO, WMO, CBD, FCCC, etc.) and financial entities such as the World Bank, IDB and regional financial agencies to support greater strengthening of the Regional Seas Programmes, including the Action Plan for the South-east Pacific and the Action plan for the Wider Caribbean, with the technical assistance and provision of new and additional funds in accordance with the provisions of Agenda 21.

4. **To urge** the Government of the United Nations members of the Caribbean Environment Programme to adhere to the Cartagena Convention and, as pertinent, to ratify and adhere to its SPAW and LBS Protocols.

## Draft Decision 13

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### ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING NETWORK

**Considering** the important contribution that the activities of the Environmental Training Network make to achieving the strategic objectives of environmental education for sustainable development in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean,

**Taking into account** the decisions on the Environmental Training Network adopted at the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Meetings of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

**Recognizing** the need to continue promoting specific projects aimed at environmental education and training among difference sectors and social groups, especially the most underprivileged,

#### DECIDE

1. **To ratify** the decisions of the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Ministers regarding the priorities and fields in which the Network intervenes, seeking greater integration and consistency between the activities of the Network and the priorities of the Forum of Ministers.
2. **To extend** the operation of the Trust Fund of the Environmental Training Network until the date on which the Thirteenth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is held.
3. **To expand** the advisory services and support of the environmental Training Network for the development of national environmental education programmes and projects in which the ITC participates.
4. **To urge** the Governments to maintain their voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund of the Environmental Training Network, since it is the principal source of funding for its activities.
5. **To request** all the countries that has not yet done so to designate their respective National Focal Points of the Environmental Training Network and to notify the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of that designation prior to 5 June 2000.
6. **To request** the Secretariat and the Network coordinating office to give consideration to the distribution of the Trust Fund resources in the region, taking into account the principle of geographical equity, as well as the countries' efforts to contribute to the Fund.
7. **To recognize** that the Preparatory Meeting of Experts, which precedes the Ministerial segment, is the body entrusted with evaluating the operation of the network and with preparing recommendations for the continuation of its activities during the next respective biennium.
8. **To send** the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers, through the National Focal Points of the Environmental Training Network, the Network activities offered and requested by each country for the biennium, following a Meeting of Experts, so the activities can be presented for analysis and decision-making, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5. In the case of the 2000-2001 biennium, these should be sent to the Secretariat prior to 5 June 2000.

9. **To reiterate** that the procedure for granting fellowships is carried out in accordance with the request submitted by the National Focal Points, taking into account their distribution and the wide range of environmental education, and giving particular consideration to decision-makers at the local and community levels; and, in that regard, to increase the financial resources of the Trust Fund allocated to fellowships by thirty per cent.
10. **To use** existing electronic facilities to establish a systematic consultation process by the Secretariat with the National Focal Points of the Network with regard to the decision-making process on fellowships, the publishing programme and the dissemination of news.
11. **To strengthen** harmonization of the Network activities with regional priorities of the Forum of Ministers and with the emerging needs of the region.
12. **To continue** with the Secretariat's follow-up efforts on the proposal for a Regional Inter-Agency Project on Environmental Education and Training, including the new projects for Tropical Forests and for the Caribbean.
13. **To support** community training activities on the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.
14. **To support** training areas for decision-makers at the local level.
15. **To urge** the Governments to maintain their contributions in kind and national currencies for the development of the activities of the Network Programme.



## Draft Decision 14

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### BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS

**Taking into account** that the Twelfth Forum of Ministers of the Environment recommended that ITC in collaboration with FAO, the Caribbean Environment Programme and other organizations and agencies take the necessary steps to support the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean Region in the final formulation and representation of a project to the Global Environment Fund on "Strengthening the Institutions of National Parks and other Protected Areas and Bioregional Planning",

**Considering** that the decisions of the Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum of Ministers to orient the projects to the Meso-American, Insular Caribbean Andean and Grand American Chaco Subregions,

**Recognizing** that, with the assistance of ITC, FAO and other organizations, significant progress has been made in each of the subregions in the preparation of projects that incorporate new concepts of viewing protected areas as strategic spaces that are essential to the growth and future developments of the shared critical eco-regions of the countries,

**Bearing in mind** that these draft proposal emphasize coordinated planning and management of shared priority ecoregions that contribute to sustainable socio-economic development in the subregion and also play an important role in the conservation of its biological diversity,

**Noting** the offer of horizontal cooperation in the field from the Government of Brazil,

#### DECIDE

1. **To recommend** that ITC in collaboration with FAO, continue to provide support to the countries of the Andean, Grand Chaco, Amazonian and Insular Caribbean subregions, amongst others, in finalising the project proposals for presentation and eventual approval by the Secretariat of the Global Environment Fund and to the implementation of the Meso-American Biological Corridor. In the case of the Andean sub-regional project, it is recommended that the conclusions of the Meeting of Government Experts held in February, 2000 in Colombia, be included in the project proposal for that sub-region.

2. **To encourage** the countries of the Region to continue to collaborate on the joint planning of transboundary protected areas and shared eco-regions and to provide support to regional and sub-regional technical cooperation networks and their mechanisms to share experiences.

3. **To request** the ITC and other agencies to support the preparation, implementation and financing of programmes and projects in the shared priority ecoregions in Amazonia and Pantanal.



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**Draft Decision 15**

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**TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Taking into account** the efforts made by UNEP and the ITC members, particularly by ECLAC, in the fields of economics and trade,

**Considering** that "Trade and Environment" is part of the Regional Action Plan for the period 1998-2002, and that the room for dialogue between these two sectors is limited,

**DECIDE**

1. **To hold** a conference or dialogue in late 2001 between environment ministers and the national authorities in charge of trade and finance in order to create greater awareness among the trade and finance authorities of the positive and negative synergies between trade and finance policies and environment policies.
2. **To request** the ITC establish a period of critical, forthright and proposal-oriented reflection through workshops, seminars or other activities, which include the participation of researchers and experts of the region who have worked on the complementarities and counter positions between trade dynamics and the protection and sustainable use of natural resources.
3. **To request** the ITC to prepare the necessary documents related these activities so that they may be used at the above-mentioned meeting of ministers.
4. **To request** the ITC to make the organizational, financial and other arrangements required to carry out this activities effectively, including the development of a relationship with the World Trade Organization and similar bodies.

## Draft Decision 16

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### ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

**Recognizing** the importance of supporting the countries in strengthening their capacities to achieve effective implementation of public policies on environmental management,

**Taking into account** the experience that some of the countries in the region have gained in designing and using economic instruments in the framework of environmental management policies and sustainable development practices,

**Considering** the enormous benefits of regional cooperation and exchange among countries of the region,

**Recommending** the continuation and strengthening of the initiative to further the development of the use of economic instruments and market-based instruments, for environmental management and sustainable development, and they commit their countries to contribute to this process,

#### DECIDE

1. **Invites** the Inter-Agency Technical Committee to continue with the efforts of UNDP and ECLAC and to allocate resources to establish an action programme in this field and make their know-how and experience available to the countries.
2. **Continue** to prepare case studies by country to identify both the lessons learned and the opportunities, challenges and obstacles involved in designing and using economic instruments.
3. **Disseminate** experience gained to date in the region.
4. **Hold** workshops for experts using a subregional approach (the Andean area, Mesoamerica, the Caribbean and Mercosur), combining the participation of experts from the environment and financial sectors of developed countries, experts from the ITC agencies and experts of Latin America and the Caribbean who have gained concrete experience in this field with special emphasis on the priorities established by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. **Establish** technical and financial mechanisms for the exchange of experiences (South-South) among countries of the region and a roster of regional experts who could provide the countries of the region with technical assistance if they request it.
6. **Prepare** manuals, as a result of this process, for assessing economic costs and benefits of environmental management instrument in an integrated manner and prepare guides for formulating, designing and implementing economic instruments and their joint use with other environment policy and management tools (direct, indirect and for development).

**Draft Decision 17**

**EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Taking into consideration** that the principal objective of the Commission on Sustainable Development is to ensure effective follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and to monitor and report on the implementation of the agreements reached at the Rio Summit, at the national, local, regional and international level,

**Recognizing** that the agenda of the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development embraces key themes for the future of our region, such as its agriculture, the integrated approach to the planning and management of its land resources, and, particularly investment, trade and forests,

**Recognizing** equally that the eighth session of the CSD will be an opportunity for those responsible for policy formulation to discuss and mould their ideas in concrete recommendations which will guide future sustainable development policies,

**Noting with satisfaction** that the eighth session of the CSD will be presided over by Colombia, in representation of Latin America and the Caribbean,

**DECIDE**

1. **To support** the action of Colombia as President of the eighth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development,
2. **To promote** an intersectoral focus as well as an open dialogue, enriched by different points of view and experiences in the field of the eighth session of the CSD,
3. **To ensure** that the results of this high-level segment of the Commission will serve as an opportunity to interchange experiences and cooperation which come out of the Eighth Session of the CSD,
4. **To urge** that the draft decisions which the CSD will present to ECOSOC for approval be firm recommendations that are as concrete as possible and can guide the governments in the preparation and execution of their sustainable development policies.
5. **To accept** ECLAC's offer to organize, with the support of the ITC, the Regional Meeting on Sustainable Development in relation to "Rio+10" in the year 2000.
6. **To accept** UNEP's offer to support, together with the ITC, the preparation of national reports and citizen participation, and to organize regional and subregional meetings in a coordinated process preparatory to Rio+10.

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## Draft Decision 18

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

**Noting** that among the topic lines in the Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean emphasis is placed on the need to promote and facilitate citizen participation in regional environmental management,

**Taking note** of the progress made in this field since the last meeting of the Forum of Ministers through the steps taken in relation to the Regional Environmental Citizenship Project,

**Bearing in mind** that provisions have been made for a new timetable for the Regional Environmental Citizenship Project,

#### DECIDES

1. **To ratify** its support for the Regional Project on Environmental Citizenship and to urge the Global Environment Facility to streamline the necessary procedures to facilitate initiation of the Project.

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## Draft Decision 19

### EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA

**Taking in account** United Nations General Assembly resolution 54/21 on the "*necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*",

**Noting with concern** that the embargo is far from reducing the enforcement of its economic, commercial and financial measures against Cuba, and is enforcing them even more strictly,

**Reaffirming** that at the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Meetings of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Havana, 1995; Buenos Aires, 1996; and Lima, 1998), respectively, decision were adopted in relation to the environmental effects caused by the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba,

#### DECIDE

1. **To reiterate** the rejection of all extraterritorial measures promulgated against Cuba, which place a constraint on the normal and essential development of relations of cooperation and exchange in environmental matters in the region.

2. **To call for** the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, so as to allow full implementation of the Cuban National Environment and Development Programme and contribute to the fulfilment of Agenda 21.

3. **To reiterate** its deep concern about the effects afflicting Cuba in all spheres of economic, commercial and financial life, and particularly in environmental matters, as a consequence of the embargo.

**Draft Decision 20**

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS**

The Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Governments present at the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 2 to 7 March 2000, taking into account the deliberations of this Twelfth Meeting of Ministers,

**DECIDE**

**To express** their deep gratitude to the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the People and Government of Barbados for the generous hospitality extended during this Caribbean.

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## Annex II

### Proposal

## Barbados Declaration

**We, the Environment Ministers and Heads of the Delegations of Latin America and the Caribbean**, looking towards the future in this millennium and gathered in the city of Bridgetown, Barbados, on 6 and 7 March 2000, have decided to continue our political dialogue and our coordination and cooperation efforts to promote the transition towards sustainable development in our region.

**We are convinced** of the potential for the development of new economic activities, new investments, greater trade and greater well-being for our region, based on better management of the environmental resources and services that constitute our natural heritage.

**We are aware** that the region of Latin America and the Caribbean has great human wealth and a significant part of the world's biological and cultural heritage, and we have noted the substantial annual losses in plant cover, linked principally to changes in land use, which undermine biological diversity and accelerate desertification.

**We recognize** with satisfaction the progress the countries of the region have made in building their institutional capacities, their legislative frameworks and their environmental policies and in advancing towards the sustainable management of natural resources.

**We express** our concern regarding the lack of economic and social equity that has an adverse influence on the natural base of our development, harms environmental quality, hinders the eradication of poverty in the region and, in general, the construction of sustainable development.

**We note** that in recent years we have been affected by an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme natural phenomena, with their catastrophic effects in terms of human lives and economic losses that reduce the investments necessary to overcome poverty.

**We recognize** the contribution of the Regional Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (and of the agencies that form the Inter-Agency Technical Committee) to environmental management in the region.

We welcome the forthcoming special meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP in Malmo, Sweden, and we underscore the advisability of the member States of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean representing the common positions of the region at that event.

**We agree** that global environmental problems demand that we reach consensus on positions among the countries of the region.

**We are determined** to encourage the sustainability of development with equity and social justice, based on shared priorities and common initiatives with citizen participation.

**We have adopted** the following

**LINES FOR ACTION**

**To seek** the inclusion of sustainability principles as an integral part of macroeconomic and sectoral development policies and the continuation of sustainable development linked to economic, political and social development among our national priorities.

**To consolidate** national policies to promote sustainable development by strengthening institutions, improving legislation, devising innovative instruments, providing incentives for the training of human resources and expanding citizen participation.

**To unite** our activities with international efforts to face global environmental problems, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

**To strengthen** regional dialogue and exchange, in order to develop common positions in relation to international forums and discussion on environment and development convened within and outside the United Nations system.

**To promote** due consideration being given to the interests of Latin America and Caribbean in the formulation of the agendas, deliberations and agreements of regional at international forums.

**To promote** synergy between international conventions and the Governing Council of UNEP.

**To achieve** better forms of integrating the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, so as to allow the protection of forests and other ecosystems, as well as coastal and marine resources, that create production options that will provide the rural population with employment and income.

**To promote** national strategies for land-use management that will give priority to conserving the plant covers so as to safeguard its numerous environmental services, including a reduction in the risks associated with natural catastrophes; this land-use management should reach a balance between the criteria used for planning infrastructure and development in each country.

**To promote** better quality in urban and rural environment with safe management of pollutants and substances that are hazardous to human health, appropriate treatment of industrial and household waste, adequate water quality and availability, and less vulnerability of human settlements and production activities to natural disasters.

**To continue** making proposal to promote the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, underscoring the importance to our countries of applying resources for climate adaptation activities in particularly vulnerable areas, such as the island States and other regions. For that purpose, we must take into account the region's mitigation potential through the sequestration and fixation of carbon in sinks.

**To welcome with satisfaction** the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and to promote its signing, ratification and entry into force, which is an important step towards tapping the opportunities and preventing the risks associated with the transboundary movement of living modified organisms; and to actively pursue the strengthening of regional capacity.



**To strengthen** horizontal cooperation among the countries of the region and continue backing and supporting the operation of multilateral organizations linked to our responsibilities.

**To continue** the regionalization process at the special session of the Governing Council of UNEP in Malmö, Sweden, focusing on the priorities defined in the Forum of Environment Ministers; and to entrust UNEP with taking the necessary measures to convene the Global Forum of Environment Ministers so that it will bring together ministers from throughout the world; we recognize that the topics to be discussed at that meeting are of critical importance and, consequently, warrants significant attendance on our part.

**To expand support** for implementation of the Plan of Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS/POA) and to facilitate its recognition as the operational framework for the sustainable development of the small island States in the region.

**To promote** the consolidation of specific mechanisms through which the financing institutions may support the regional priorities, and finance projects related to climate change, loss of biodiversity, land degradation and other global problems that are affecting the countries in the region.

**To promote** fulfillment of the Regional Action Plan with the support of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee formed by UNEP, UNDP, IDB, ECLAC and the World Bank.

**To reaffirm** the topics of natural disaster prevention and mitigation as well as subsequent reconstruction and sustainable forest management in our region as integral parts of our agenda.

**To ensure** that environmental management is a key component in sustainable development and that it, in turn, plays a major role in building productivity and competitiveness in the region, in order to generate income for local populations and gradually eradicate poverty.

SIGNATURES OF THE HEADS OF THE DELEGATIONS

Signed in the city of Bridgetown, Barbados, on 7 March 2000.

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