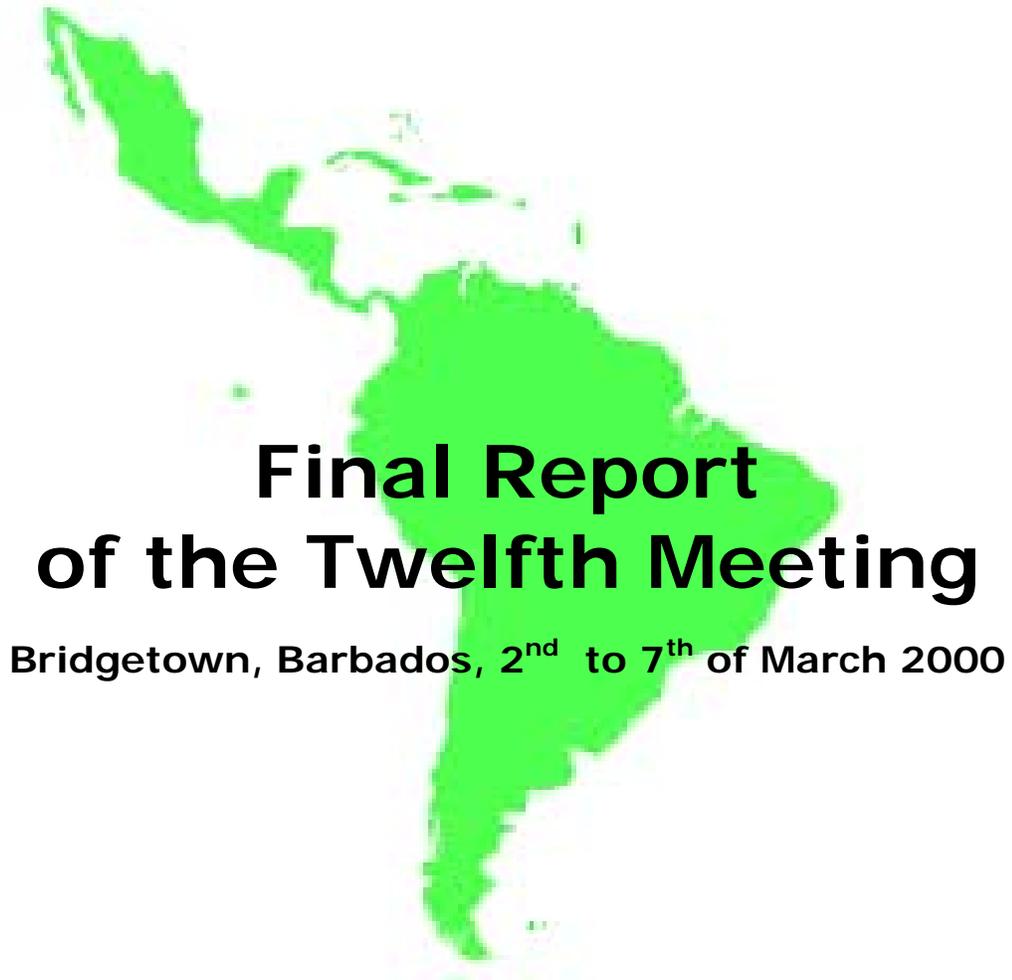




**Forum of Ministers of the Environment  
of Latin America and the Caribbean**



**Final Report  
of the Twelfth Meeting**

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

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## **Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

- First Meeting** Mexico City, Mexico, 1982
- Second Meeting** Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1983
- Third Meeting** Lima, Peru, 1984
- Fourth Meeting** Cancun, Mexico, 1985
- Fifth Meeting** Montevideo, Uruguay, 1987
- Sixth Meeting** Brasilia, Brazil, 1989
- Seventh Meeting** Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 1990
- Eighth Meeting** Santiago, Chile, 1993
- Ninth Meeting** Havana, Cuba, 1995
- Tenth Meeting** Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1996
- Eleventh Meeting** Lima, Peru, 1998
- Twelfth Meeting** Bridgetown, Barbados, 2000





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## I. Background

1. The Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is the longest-standing, most representative and most important political gathering for reaching consensus on environmental policies and responses at the regional level.
2. The Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, hosted by the Government of Barbados, took place in an international political context in which multilateral agreements, and particularly environmental agreements, have attained a great deal of support and influence in both environment and sustainable development policies. Their implementation poses a challenge of major significance in actually bringing about more equitable relations in the use, enjoyment and sustainable management of the environment among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. The serious disasters caused by natural phenomena that have occurred in the past two years in Latin America and the Caribbean, which have been accompanied by major human and economic losses, are another aspect that has marked the region. The Governments of all the sectors of society are consequently demanding greater capacity to prepare for, prevent and face these phenomena. Thus, climate change, deforestation of the plant cover and unplanned growth in urban areas are topics of utmost interest that were considered on the agenda of the Twelfth Forum of Ministers.
4. At the meetings held in Havana, Cuba (21 to 26 September 1995), Buenos Aires, Argentina (31 October to 2 November and 11 and 12 November 1996), and Lima, Peru (10 to 13 March 1998) the ministers underscored the need to specify a priority agenda and for the international system to act in co-ordination to support that regional agenda.
5. At the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (Lima, Peru; 10 to 13 March 1998), the ministers approved that priority agenda, as well as an inter-agency co-ordinating mechanism to formulate and implement projects. Initially, this mechanism, known as the Inter-Agency Technical Committee, consisted of UNEP (which serves as co-ordinator), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); subsequently, they were joined by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Bank (WB).
6. The Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum of Ministers, as a mechanism for follow-up on the decisions, and the innovative Inter-Agency Technical Committee work as dynamic and complementary entities for follow-up on the decisions of the Forum. UNEP, with the close collaboration and support of UNDP, IDB, ECLAC and WB, and in a spirit of inter-agency consensus to support the Forum of Ministers, carried out consultations to prepare the substantive elements of the Barbados meeting.
7. The Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean was convened by the Government of Barbados. UNEP was designated by the Forum of Ministers to serve as the Secretariat of the meeting. The meeting consisted of two parts: a Preparatory Meeting of High Level Experts designated by Governments, held from the 2nd to the 4th of March 2000; and a Ministerial Segment, which took place from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2000.

8. The substantive work of the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean was organised under the following headings, in accordance with the suggestions of the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee (Lima, Peru, 2nd of 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) and to identify mechanisms to achieve such synergies and improve implementation of 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, including a set of priority projects and activities previously identified by the Forum.

## II. Participation

9. 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. The Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was attended by 69 governmental representatives from 24 countries of the region, and 5 representatives from 3 observer countries. Other participants included 30 representatives of 21 international, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and two special guests. The list of participants is attached to this document as **Annex IV**.

## III. Agenda Items

### Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

10. The opening ceremony took place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2000 at the Sherbourne Conference Centre, Barbados. The ceremony began with words from Ms. Atheline Haynes, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, who reported on the work of the Expert Meeting that preceded the Ministerial segment, in her role as Chairperson of the former, and who also acted as the Master of Ceremonies. Introductory remarks were made by Ms. Cristina Boelcke, Director of Regional Co-operation and Representation of UNEP, on behalf of Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP. Interventions were also made by Mr. Reynaldo F. Bajraj, Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Mr. Rafael Asenjo, Director of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Unit of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Mr. John Redwood, Director, Sector Management Unit, Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development, World Bank (WB); and Mr. Walter Arensberg, Environment Division Chief, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), all representatives of the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee. With some additional words, Mr. Rawle Eastmond, Minister of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, on behalf of the Government of Barbados, officially opened the Meeting.

## Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting

11. The meeting continued from 9:00am on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2000.

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

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

### 2.2 Election of officers

13. The Meeting decided it would be presided over by the following countries:

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Rawle Eastmond	Barbados
<i>Vice-presidents:</i>	Mr. Ruben Patrouilleau	Argentina
	Mr. Jose Luis Carvajal Palma	Bolivia
	Mr. Sergio Braga	Brazil
	Mr. Juan Mayr	Colombia
	Ms. Ana Maria Majano	El Salvador
	Mr. Enrique Provencio	Mexico
	Mr. Paul Remy	Peru
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Mr. Jorge Mario Garcia	Cuba

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

14. The Provisional Agenda (UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/1) and the Provisional Annotated Agenda (UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/2/Rev.1) were approved without amendments.

## Agenda Item 3: Special Session

### 3.1. Environmental outlook to the twenty-first century

15. The President of the meeting, Mr. Rawle Eastmond, Minister of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy of Barbados invited the following to take the floor: Mr. Reynaldo F. Bajraj, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC made a presentation on the "Problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in Latin America and the Caribbean"; Professor Al Binger, Director, Centre for Environment and Development University of the West Indies (UWI-CED), who made a presentation called "the Outlook for the Caribbean in the Twenty-first Century"; and Mr. René Castro, Former Minister of the Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, who spoke on "Mainstreaming Environmental Policies: the experience with climate change".

16. The panellists addressed the issue of sustainable development, from economic, social and environmental standpoints, and gave an overall vision of the outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean in the twenty-first century. The comments by the Panel members on the environmental outlook for the twenty-first century served as a general introduction to the round-table topic on which the Ministers and Heads of Delegation expressed their opinions.

### 3.2. Round-table discussions

**17.** The Ministers and Heads of Delegations stressed the importance of the Forum as the highest regional policy body for environmental matters. They stressed the need to move beyond discussions towards the implementation of actions and the achievement of results, taking a regional approach, but recognising the differences and particularities of the subregions. New working methodologies need to be found to convert the Forum into a more dynamic and productive entity, with concrete and verifiable aims on which it would report periodically. One delegation suggested that the Forum should elect a co-ordinator for each of the priority themes approved in the Regional Action Plan. These new methodologies could include internet-based reporting processes.

**18.** The Ministers and Heads of Delegations stressed that the environment could not be treated in isolation, but that environmental issues should be integrated into the decision making process. In addition, facets such as poverty and equity are of relevance to the environment. Environment authorities must be full participants in national policy making, and in this context the proposed meeting between environment ministers and national authorities in charge of trade and finance was welcomed. They also mentioned the importance of awareness raising and environmental education, in order to ensure the full participation of the citizens of the region in environment and sustainable development decision making. It was stressed that external debt remains an obstacle to sustainable development for the countries of the region and needs to be maintained on the agenda.

**19.** The integrated response of the region to environmental issues and the development of unified regional approaches, particularly for environmental conventions and agreements, remain important elements of the work of the Forum. It was also noted that regional integration includes social and cultural exchanges between the countries, particularly of the youth.

**20.** At the same time, the great social, cultural, economic and environmental differences of the countries of the region should be taken into consideration for the design and implementation of policies. In this regard, the special needs and vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) must be borne in mind. There should be a change in focus to better include these needs, including those expressed in the SIDS Programme of Action, in the work of the Forum and its related bodies. In this regard, existing regional organizations should be strengthened.

**21.** There was discussion on the importance of developing strategies for the economic valuation of the region's resources. This strategy could also identify willingness to pay for environmental goods and services, both at the national and global levels, as well as mechanisms to develop this willingness into innovative environmental policies to evaluate the economic and ecological potential of sustainable management.

**22.** Some of the other issues discussed by the Ministers and Heads of Delegations included the need for: more coherent and unified approaches by donor agencies; the need 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 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean of applying resources for climate adaptation strategies in particularly vulnerable areas, such as the island states and other regions; and the desirability of holding an extraordinary meeting of countries and Inter Agency Technical Committee before the COP 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to debate climate change and come up with regional positions. The Delegation of Brazil mentioned that it will be setting up a mechanism within the Ministry of the Environment to follow up on the decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and to support the work of the Forum in general. The Minister of Colombia, as

President of the upcoming meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), mentioned the main themes that are due to be discussed at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CSD, the cross sectoral deliberations that have been planned, and the importance of the full participation of the Latin America and the Caribbean region in the deliberations.

### **3.3. Presentation on Bioregional Planning**

**23.** Mr. Roberto Guimaraes of ECLAC presented the document on “Territorial and Bioregional Basis for Planning” (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.7**) on behalf of the Inter Agency Technical Committee. The report covered an overview of territorial and bioregional planning, including the evolution of the environmental agenda in the region, opportunities for such planning and challenges for strategic action.

**24.** Discussions were then held regarding a number of related issues, including: the possible conflict between the use of bioregional planning and existing administrative boundaries; the availability of information at the bioregional level; the compatibility of bioregional indicators with other indicators currently being used; and past experiences with the use of such planning in various countries of the region. Mention was also made of a very preliminary indicator for measuring sustainable development known as the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW), which would need further discussion within the region to ascertain its suitability. The possibility of using bioregional planning to promote a participatory strategy for the countries of the region was raised, as was the need to identify the main geographical areas in which the planning would be applied and the principal actors within these areas. There was mention of activities already underway in a number of countries in the region to which the bioregional planning study would be a useful addition.

**25.** By special request of the delegation of Venezuela, there followed a presentation on the “Synopsis of the Natural Disaster that occurred in December 1999 in the State of Vargas, Venezuela”. The delegate of Venezuela presented a brief description of the recent phenomenon, the characteristics of the areas affected as well as the damage, mitigation and prevention measures which are being put in place, including a monitoring and early warning system. They also provided estimations of the reconstruction costs.

**26.** The Ministers and Heads of Delegations discussed the relationship between climate change and disasters caused by natural phenomena, and indicated that there is shared responsibility for such events with the international community. At the same time, negotiations regarding this shared responsibility may be difficult, and innovative strategies would need to be sought. Delegates expressed their solidarity with the people and Government of Venezuela and proposed a motion in this regard. The motion was supported by the Plenary and led to a Decision which was unanimously approved. The Minister of Venezuela thanked participants for their solidarity.

## **Agenda Item 4: Discussion and approval of the recommendations contained in the Final Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts**

**27.** It was agreed to modify the agenda so as to address issues related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements before those on Programming Issues within Agenda item 4.

### **4.1. Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements**

**28.** The Chairperson opened this agenda item by giving the floor to a number of Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements. The representatives of the

following made interventions: the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (CCD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**29.** Following these interventions, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations reviewed the recommendations for Decisions made by the High Level Experts Meeting relevant to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, presented in document "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 (**UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/3**).

**30.** Decisions 5,6,7,8 and 9 relevant to the discussions held under this agenda item are included in **Annex I** of this report.

#### **4.2. Programming issues**

**31.** Under this agenda item, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations reviewed the recommendations for Decisions made by the High Level Experts Meeting relevant to Programming Issues, presented in document "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" (**UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/3**).

**32.** Topics discussed by the Ministers and Heads of Delegations included: the Eighth Commission on Sustainable Development and its importance; the addition of other member organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF, for its initials in Spanish), as member of the Inter Agency Technical Committee was debated by the Forum; the proposal for a new operative paragraph in Decision 2 (**UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/CRP.3**); and the paper on the VI Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/CRP.2**).

**33.** Decision 19, *Embargo Against Cuba*, was adopted by the Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Delegation of El Salvador manifested reservations concerning the decision. Honduras and Bahamas added that they would inform on their stands with regard to this decision in the near future.

**34.** Decisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19 relevant to the discussions held under this agenda item are included in **Annex I** to this report.

#### **4.3 Policies**

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

**35.** Under this agenda item, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations reviewed the draft of the Barbados Declaration contained in **Annex II** of document **UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/3**. After some discussions and suggestions for amendments, the Barbados Declaration was adopted by the Forum and is contained in **Annex II** to this report. Haiti informed the Secretariat by fax that they would like to be associated with the Barbados Declaration.

##### *Special Topic: The Caribbean Sea as a Special Area*

**36.** The Ministers and Heads of Delegations focused their discussions on the special needs of the region and the importance of the Small Island Developing States Programme of Action for the Caribbean (SIDS POA) in this regard.

**37.** Decision 11 relevant to the discussions held under this agenda item is included in **Annex I** of this report.

## Agenda Item 5: Various presentations

38. Under this agenda item, a presentation was made by UNEP/ROLAC on the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process in general and the GEO for the Youth project in particular. The Chairman then informed the Forum on the event related to GEO for the Youth that had taken place earlier in the day at a local school in Barbados. In this regard, the Delegation of Argentina offered to hold the second meeting of the GEO for the Youth project in Argentina.

39. A presentation was then made by the representative of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation covering their environmental activities for the protection of the environment and the promotion of development. This was followed by a presentation by the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific. The presentation provided a brief overview of the state of the environment in the South Pacific, and the activities undertaken by the Permanent Commission to address the problems of the region. Finally, the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) made an intervention, focusing on the activities of the organization in the field of energy and sustainable development.

## Agenda Item 6: Other Matters

40. The Chairman announced that Brazil had proposed to host the Thirteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Delegate from Brazil followed by making an intervention confirming their offer to host the next meeting of the Forum in September 2001 in Foz de Iguazu, state of Parana. The meeting will be held in co-operation with Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay as a gesture to symbolise the unity of Mercosur.

41. The Delegation of Brazil also commented on the importance of including Portuguese as one of the languages of the Meetings of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

42. The Delegation from El Salvador made an intervention to offer to host the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in El Salvador. During the review of the final report of the meeting the representative from the Dominican Republic offered his country as an alternative to host the same meeting. It was also mentioned that the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum would be held in September 2000, in Mexico.

43. A motion was proposed on the recent murders of government officials from the National Commission of Protected Areas in Guatemala. Delegates expressed their regrets and condolences and spoke of their solidarity for their fallen comrades. The motion was wholeheartedly supported by the Plenary.

## Agenda Item 7: Discussion and approval of the Final Report of the Meeting

44. The rapporteur submitted a draft of the Final Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean to the Plenary. After incorporating the modifications deemed pertinent by various delegations, the report was approved by the Forum, including the Decisions listed in **Annex I**, and the Barbados Declaration, contained in **Annex II** to this report. The revised Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean is contained in **Annex III** to this report.

## Agenda Item 8: Closure of the Meeting

**45.** The meeting concluded its work at 9:00 p.m., on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2000. Closing remarks were made by Mr. Ricardo Sanchez, who thanked the Government of Barbados for their hospitality and help, before giving the floor to Mr. Haroldo Eric Quej Chen, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Guatemala, the first indigenous person to hold such a high post in the region. Mr. Quej Chen talked of the importance of making use of the indigenous knowledge that exists in the region in facing the environmental problems of today.

**46.** The Delegation of Bolivia, speaking on behalf of all the Delegates, thanked the Government and people of Barbados. Ms. Cristina Boelcke, Director of the Division of Regional Co-operation and Representation UNEP, then followed, underlining the gratitude of UNEP towards the Government of Barbados for the support they had provided in holding the Forum and congratulating the Chairpersons of both the Expert and Ministerial segments for their excellent guidance. Mr. Rawle Eastmond, Minister of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources, Barbados added his personal words of gratitude to the participants and others involved in the Forum before officially closing the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

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# **Annex I**

## **Decisions**



# Annex I

## 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<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2000, taking into account the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts and the deliberations of this Twelfth Meeting of Ministers, adopted the following decisions.

### Decision 1

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

**Recognising** that one of the important objectives of the National Environmental Authorities, with the support of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC), is to ensure that the various economic and social sectors and the political stakeholders in the countries of the region incorporate environmental variables in their management activities 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 state of the environment and of natural resources in the region,

**Recognising** that, for its efficient operation, the ITC should continue guiding its work on the principles of co-ordination, flexibility, mutual co-operation 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 for consensus on a common view, strengthening the negotiating capacity of the region,

#### **DECIDE**

1. **To reaffirm** that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, composed of all the countries of the region, is the principal regional intergovernmental political forum in environmental matters.
2. **To ratify** the prioritised 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 in the priority framework of overcoming poverty, with emphasis on the cross-cutting themes of prevention and mitigation of disasters caused by natural phenomena as well as humid tropical forests.

3. **To agree** that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and its Inter-Agency Technical Committee should improve mechanisms for dialogue and their efforts to influence regional bodies and fora of the authorities in the fields of economic policy, finance, energy, industry, trade, agriculture, welfare and private productive sectors of major influence, based on the political agreements of the Forum itself.

4. **To establish** that the evaluation of the implementation of the decisions of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the support given by 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 its influence on the decisions adopted by the economic and social sectors.

5. **To devote** the attention of the meetings of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean fundamentally to the political co-ordination for regional co-operation on environment and sustainable development topics. These meetings shall also analyse and approve the Regional Action Plans and their priority lines, ensuring that the projects meet effectively and efficiently their goals, in accordance with the defined priority lines. The meetings of the Forum will not directly consider 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 the preparation process of new proposals of action, with a focus on the cross-cutting and integrating themes of disasters caused by natural phenomena, humid tropical forests and urban environmental management 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** its recognition to the Inter-Agency Technical Committee for its contributions to the sustainable development policies and plans in the region, and to ask this Committee to prepare, for its presentation at the next meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum of Ministers:

- A proposal for partnerships with other institutions within the framework of the ITC, based on the criteria of comparative advantages and added value that such an inclusion could provide;
- Criteria for the analysis of the functions and objectives of the ITC and how these can be achieved through the incorporation of new members;

Based on item 7 of Annex III of the Final Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, ensure that the ITC work, through an *ad hoc* group, with the Sustainable Development Unit of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the basis of specific projects related to the Regional Action Plan of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment.

8. **To intensify** efforts to increase regional contacts and co-ordination, with a view to harmonising interests and positions at international fora and conventions on environment and development, taking into account the concrete conditions 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 of the ITC to support the implementation and construction of these opportunities for co-ordination and information exchange as soon as possible.

## Decision 2

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

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

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

**Recognising** 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,

**Recognising also** that the priorities contained in the Regional Action Plan of the Forum of Ministers cut across, to varying degrees, the themes contained in the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States,

#### DECIDE

1. **To entrust** co-ordination for follow-up on implementation of the decisions or agreements adopted by the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, in accordance with the following list:

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| a) Strengthening of the Forum of Ministers  | <b>Peru</b>                          |
| b) Disasters caused by natural phenomena  | <b>Venezuela,</b><br>El Salvador     |
| c) Framework Convention on Climate Change   | <b>Argentina,</b> Bolivia            |
| d) Mechanism for co-ordination and synergy among<br>Multilateral Environmental Agreements | <b>Mexico</b>                        |
| e) Sustainable Development Issues for SIDS: The SIDS-POA                                  | <b>Barbados</b> (interim)            |
| f) Environmental Education and Training   | <b>Cuba,</b> Mexico                  |
| g) Biological Diversity and Protected Areas   | <b>Bolivia,</b> Panama               |
| h) Trade and Environment  | <b>Brazil,</b> Chile                 |
| i) Economic Instruments   | <b>Chile,</b> Brazil and El Salvador |
| j) Integrated Environmental Assessments   | <b>Costa Rica</b>                    |
| k) Tropical Forests   | <b>Ecuador</b>                       |

The working groups will be open-ended and will preferably operate using electronic communications media.

The co-ordinators will convene and develop this process through electronic and other pertinent media. The working groups will be formed by the member countries of the Forum of Ministers and the members of the ITC, as well as other organizations, interested in participating in these groups, whose efforts will be basically aimed at putting into operation and implementing the decisions or agreements.

The co-ordinators will present a progress report every six months to the President of the Forum of Ministers, who will keep the ministers informed. Each co-ordinator will be responsible for presenting an Executive Report at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers. The Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers will provide operational support and facilitate the process, in accordance with the needs of the co-ordinators and the indications of the President of the Forum of Ministers.

In turn, the ITC will provide the co-ordinators with specific support, in accordance with the needs posed by the process.

In relation to other decisions, co-ordination will be the responsibility of the Presidency of the Forum of Ministers with the support of the ITC.

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) Fora for regional and subregional dialogue on emerging topics in international negotiations;
- c) Studies, analyses, guides, manuals and methodological tools;
- d) Binding and non-binding agreements, and common policies, as appropriate;
- e) Workshops for experts;
- f) Exchange of experiences (South-South co-operation);
- g) Mobilisation of funds and financial assessment;
- h) Promotion of projects of common interest.

3. **To ensure** that the process for influencing other international fora includes activities related to the fora 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 preparation of projects and activities for the implementation of the priorities established in the Regional Action Plan. Such criteria shall be forwarded to the Thirteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers for their approval.

### Decision 3

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#### DISASTERS CAUSED BY NATURAL PHENOMENA

**Considering** that disasters caused by natural phenomena 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,

**Concerned** about the continuous loss of human life and property produced by these phenomena, and the severe interruption to social and economic development that increases the vulnerability of our countries,

**Cognisant** of the Region's inadequate capacity to respond to these disasters, and the fragmented approach to prevention, mitigation and response to these disasters caused by natural phenomena,

**Noting** that the prevention, mitigation and response to disasters caused by natural phenomena had not been considered a priority line in the Regional Action Plan, but was considered important by the Inter-Sessional Committee when it recognised that these 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 formally adopt** disaster prevention, mitigation and assistance planning as a priority for the Region, to be included in the Regional Action Plan (**Annex I** of **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4/Rev.1**).
2. **To design, articulate and implement** co-ordinated programs and policies to strengthen prevention, mitigation and response to the impacts of disasters caused by natural phenomena at the national and regional levels, in an effort to reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and human settlements to better achieve the aims and objectives of sustainable development.
3. **To seek** additional technical and financial support from local, regional and international sources to support the implementation of these programmes, which are critical to the social and economic survival of the region.
4. **To request** UNEP/ROLAC, in co-ordination with the ITC, environmental conventions and other international organizations, to assist in establishing mechanisms to support the preparation of environmental and human settlement vulnerability assessments in the region.

## Decision 4

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### INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**Having considered** decision 20/1 of the Twentieth Session of the Governing Council, and the progress report on the Global Environment Outlook (GEO), 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 Twelfth Meeting of the 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 to implement the GEO process at the regional and subregional levels,

**Having considered** the proposal for a regional 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, subregional 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 subregional environmental assessment reports, within the framework of the GEO process and methodology.
4. **To request** UNEP to strengthen 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 when requested, capacity building for carrying out 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, subregional and regional reports are mutually supportive and comparable across the region.

## Decision 5

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### CO-ORDINATION 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,

**Recognising** 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 maximise their efforts to co-ordinate 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) through the Network of Ozone Focal Points of the Montreal Protocol (since 1997) and the CCD Regional Co-ordinating Unit (since mid 1999) respectively has produced positive results in the interaction among the MEAs 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 the Forum of Ministers,

#### DECIDE

1. **To request** UNEP/ROLAC, with the support of the ITC and in consultation with the Secretariats of MEAs, to prepare an analytic document on the possibilities and alternatives for co-ordination among MEAs Secretariats as input for the meeting mentioned below.
2. **To request** UNEP/ROLAC, with a view to establishing this co-ordination, to convene a meeting with the MEAs Secretariats at which the possible scope, objectives and modalities of this regional co-ordination would be examined. This meeting would take into account the agenda of the Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, cross-cutting programmes (humid tropical forests and disasters caused by natural phenomena), current programmes, other MEA initiatives and mandates, as well as the attainment of synergy among the MEAs and between them and the agenda of the Forum of Ministers in the region.
3. **To request** the Conferences of the Parties to the MEAs (COPs), support for a regional co-ordinating mechanism.

4. **To request** UNEP to design a calendar of commitments related to the global conventions (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought) and a matrix that will enable the countries of the area to organise their efforts in relation to participation and budget.




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**Decision 6**

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

**Recognising** 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 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 (SIDS), 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 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 recognise 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 utilisation of coral reef monitoring and associated protocols, the development of information systems for decision-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 in 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 associated phenomena by building on the institutional capacity in the Caribbean region in the furtherance of the work already achieved through the CPACC Project.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The CPACC project is funded by the Global Environment Facility implemented by the World Bank and executed by the Organization 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.

2. **To support** the establishment of such a mechanism to ensure the formulation of a regional operational framework in the Wider Caribbean region and serve as an advisor on Climate Change issues.
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 co-ordinate its efforts with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (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 climate change adaptation, mitigation and capacity-building efforts in the region.



### Decision 7

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#### UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Considering** that climate change is a thematic line in the Regional Action Plan of this Forum and that our region should play a leading role at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be held in November 2000,

#### DECIDE

1. **To strongly urge** the countries Parties to the UNFCCC listed in **Annex I** and in **Annex B** of the Kyoto Protocol to ratify the Protocol so that it may enter into force prior to the revision of Agenda 21 in the year 2002 and to strictly fulfil the obligations they have already assumed and those they will assume when the Protocol enters into force.
2. **To urge** the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean which are Parties to the UNFCCC to sign and ratify, as appropriate, the Kyoto Protocol.
3. **To develop** common positions regarding the Kyoto Protocol and its mechanisms in accordance with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions adopted at COP5.
4. **To develop**, prior to COP6, common positions of Latin America and the Caribbean concerning land use, land use changes and forestry, and the prevention of greenhouse gas emissions or carbon sequestration as means of achieving the final objective of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol and, in keeping with the principle of providing incentives for such actions as described here, request the international financial institutions and other donors to consider providing new and additional development resources to countries taking such actions.
5. **To hold** a regional meeting in the city of Brasilia, Brazil, prior to the COP6 to the UNFCCC, in order to examine the items on the COP6 agenda, seeking to establish common positions that will enable the region to play a leading role in the negotiations.
6. **To request** the Secretariat of UNEP/ROLAC to collaborate in preparing documents, in making organisational arrangements and in all forms of support for holding this regional meeting.
7. **To request** the ITC agencies to make the organisational, financial and all types of preparatory arrangements to hold this regional meeting effectively, including the preparation of documents and promotion of the participation of experts from all the

sectors involved, in order to enrich the discussion and encourage the exchange of knowledge and experience.



## 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 recognise 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.

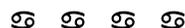
**Reaffirming** our support to the Montreal Protocol regarding substances hazardous to ozone, and declaring our intention to continue working for its successful fulfilment at global as well as regional scale and we exhort all Latin American and Caribbean countries:

- a) To ratify the Montreal Protocol and its amendments where applicable;
- b) To urgently adopt import and export controls for substances hazardous to the ozone layer, 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 layer;
- d) To ensure effective fulfilment of Article 7 regarding the need to report on the consumption of ozone-depleting substances.

**Welcoming** with satisfaction the report prepared by UNEP/ROLAC on the progress made by the Latin American and Caribbean countries in fulfilling the commitments assumed in the Montreal Protocol,

### 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 fulfilment of the Montreal Protocol and the national programmes to eliminate the use of CFCs, 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 meeting (last week of March 2000).



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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 Co-ordinating Unit of Latin America and the Caribbean to Combat Desertification and Drought,

**DECIDE**

1. **To recognise** the positive work which the Regional Co-ordinating 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 Co-ordinating Unit and, in particular, to continue channelling 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 Co-ordinating 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 Harmonisation 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.



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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 organised 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 ITC, to facilitate the establishment and operation of an electronic forum for discussion and information exchange among the participants in the Symposium and judges in the region interested in environmental issues, government and judicial bodies and other sectors of organised civil society.

4. **To organise**, under the auspices of the Secretariat and in collaboration with other organizations, a Judicial Symposium on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development for the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean and for other subregions.



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### Decision 11

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

**Considering** the Special Topic on “Promoting of an Integrated Management Approach in the Caribbean Sea Area in the context of Sustainable Development” presented for the consideration of the Meeting of Experts of the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, refers to Resolution A/RES/54/225, approved at the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

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

**Recognising** 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 relevant declarations and instruments,

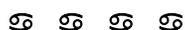
**Further noting** the request of Resolution A/RES/54/225 to the Secretary General of the United Nations to report to the United Nations General Assembly at its 55<sup>th</sup> Session on the implementation of this Resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations,

**Noting** the contents of article 25 of Chapter IV of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Programme of Action (Coastal and Marine Resources) which underscores the importance of the coastal and marine environment of the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States and reaffirms the importance of an integrated approach to the management of these resources,

#### **DECIDE**

1. **To support** a technical process with the objective of developing a comprehensive programme for ocean governance and the integrated 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”.

2. **To further support** the mobilisation of the necessary resources and drawing on the relevant expertise within existing relevant institutions to further implement the resolution.



## 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 increasingly 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 United Nations 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 co-operation 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 materialise,

**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 revitalise 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 co-operation 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 United Nations 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 and CBD, among others) 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 member governments of the Caribbean Environment Programme to adhere to the Cartagena Convention and, as pertinent, to ratify or adhere to its SPAW and LBS Protocols.

## Decision 13

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### ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING NETWORK

**Considering** the important contribution that the activities of the Environmental Training Network make to achieve 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 the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

**Recognising** the need to continue promoting specific projects aimed at environmental education and training among different 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 of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Forum 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 have 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 prior to 5 June 2000.
6. **To request** the Secretariat and the Network co-ordinating 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 recognise** 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 biennium.
8. **To send** to 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. This information shall be made available before the Experts Meeting, 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 requests submitted by the National Focal Points, taking into account for their distribution, 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.

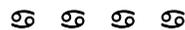
11. **To strengthen** harmonisation of the Network activities with regional priorities of the Forum of Ministers and with the emerging needs of the region.

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.



## Decision 14

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### BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS

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

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

**Recognising** that, with the assistance of the 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 development of the shared critical ecoregions of the countries,

**Bearing in mind** that these draft proposals emphasise co-ordinated 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 co-operation in this field from the Government of Brazil,

**DECIDE**

1. **To recommend** that the 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 GEF and to the implementation of the Meso-American Biological Corridor. In the case of the Andean subregional 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 subregion.
2. **To encourage** the countries of the Region to continue to collaborate on the joint planning of transboundary protected areas and shared ecoregions and to provide support to regional and subregional technical co-operation 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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### Decision 15

#### TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

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

**Considering** that "Trade and Environment" is part of the Regional Action Plan for the 1998-2001 period, and that the room for dialogue between these two sectors is limited,

**Noting** the discussions being carried out in the WTO, particularly in the Trade and Environment Committee, and in other pertinent fora,

**Recognising** that the Agenda of the Eighth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development includes the topic of trade, which is expected to generate debate that will enrich the discussions of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

#### DECIDE

1. **To hold** a conference or dialogue in 2001, at the latest, between environment ministers and the national authorities in charge of trade and finance, as appropriate, in order to make progress in analysing existing synergies between trade and finance policies and environment policies.
2. **To request** the ITC to promote critical, forthright and proposal-oriented reflection through workshops, seminars or other activities, which include the participation of decision-makers, 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 to these activities so that they may be used at the above-mentioned meeting of ministers.
4. **To request** the ITC to make the organisational, financial and other arrangements required to carry out these activities effectively, including the development of a relationship with the World Trade Organization and similar bodies.



## Decision 16

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### ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS AND MARKET BASED INSTRUMENTS

**Recognising** 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 co-operation 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 committing their countries to contribute to this process,

#### DECIDE

1. **To invite** the ITC to continue 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. **To continue** to prepare country case studies to identify the lessons learned and the opportunities, challenges and obstacles involved in designing and using economic instruments.
3. **To disseminate** the experience gained to date in the region.
4. **To hold** workshops for experts using a subregional approach (for example, the Andean area, Meso-America, 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. **To 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. **To prepare** manuals, as a result of this process, for assessing economic costs and benefits of environmental management instruments 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).

## Decision 17

### EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Taking into consideration** that the principal objective of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), 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 levels,

**Recognising** that the agenda of the Eighth Session of the CSD embraces key themes for the future of our region, such as land use and sustainable agriculture, financial and investment resources, economic trade and growth, in addition to the results of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, the Agenda 21 revision process and the International Day of Indigenous Peoples,

**Recognising** 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 CSD.
2. **To promote** an intersectoral focus as well as an open dialogue, enriched by different points of view and experiences in the agenda of the Eight 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 co-operation which transcend the Eighth Session of the CSD.
4. **To urge** that the draft decisions which the CSD will present to ECOSOC for approval, be 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 organise, with the support of the ITC, the Regional Meeting on Sustainable Development in preparation for the review of Agenda 21 in the year 2001, taking into account the conclusions of the Regional Consultative Meeting on Sustainable Development, held in Santiago, Chile, from 19 to 21 January 2000.
6. **To accept** UNEP's offer to support, together with the ITC, the preparation of national reports and citizen participation, and to organise regional and subregional preparatory meetings for the review of Agenda 21, in the year 2001, taking into account all the other regional events and processes on environment and development.

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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,

DECIDES

1. **To ratify** their support for the Regional Project of Global Environmental Citizenship and reaffirm their interest in its prompt approval and implementation.
2. **To request** the implementing agencies and the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to finalise the procedures required for approval of the Project by the GEF.



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Decision 19

EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA

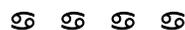
**Taking in account** the United Nations General Assembly resolution 54/21 on the "*necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*",

**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 the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Havana, 1995; Buenos Aires, 1996; and Lima, 1998, respectively, decisions 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 co-operation and exchange in environmental matters in the region.
2. **To call for** the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, 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.



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**Decision 20**

**SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA**

The Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, after having heard the report of the Delegation of Venezuela on the disaster caused by natural phenomena that occurred in December 1999, wishes to express its solidarity with the people of Venezuela and their Government, as well as its determination to strengthen its efforts in the framework and action plan of this Forum to generate the necessary knowledge and actions to prevent the occurrence of such tragedies or, at least, to mitigate their impact.

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**Decision 21**

**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 the Forum of Ministers,

**DECIDE**

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

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## **Annex II**

### **Barbados Declaration**



## Annex II

### Barbados Declaration

**We, the Ministers of the Environment and Heads of Delegations of Latin America and the Caribbean, facing the new millennium and assembled in the city of Bridgetown, Barbados, on 5 to 7 of March 2000, have decided to continue our political dialogue and our efforts at co-ordination and co-operation so as to promote sustainable development in our region:**

**Convinced** of the potential for the development of new economic activities, new investments, greater levels of trade and improved welfare for our region, based on better management of the environmental resources and services that constitute our natural heritage.

**Aware** that the region of Latin America and the Caribbean possesses great human wealth and a significant part of the world's biological and cultural heritage, and we have noted a significant annual loss of plant cover, due primarily to land use changes, which undermine biological diversity and accelerate the desertification process.

**Noting** the progress which some countries of the region have made in building their institutional capacities, legislative frameworks, environmental policies, and in projects for the sustainable management of natural resources.

**Expressing** our concern that the lack of means for economic and social equity which adversely affects the ecological base of our development, compromises environmental quality, hinders the eradication of poverty in the region and, in general, impedes our progress towards sustainable development.

**Noting** that, in recent years, we have been afflicted by an increase in the frequency and intensity of disasters caused by natural phenomena, with catastrophic consequences in terms of human life and economic losses, thereby reducing the investments necessary to overcome poverty.

**Recognising** the contribution of the Regional Office of the United Nations Environment Programme and of the agencies that constitute the Inter-Agency Technical Committee in addressing environmental management in the region.

**Welcoming** the forthcoming Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Sixth Special Session of the Governing Council of UNEP in Malmö, Sweden, and underscoring the need for Member States of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean to present common regional positions in this event.

**Agreeing** that global environmental problems demand that we reach a regional consensus among the countries of the region.

**Deciding** to advance the concept of sustainable development, with equity and social justice, and based on shared priorities and common initiatives with citizen participation.

**We have adopted** the following:

### **LINES OF ACTION**

1. **To seek** the inclusion of sustainability principles as an integral part of macroeconomic and sectoral development policies and maintenance of sustainable development activities linked to economic, political and social development among national priorities.
2. **To consolidate** national policies in the promotion of sustainable development by strengthening institutions, improving legislation, devising innovative instruments, providing incentives for the capacity-building and training of human resources, and expanding citizen participation.
3. **To unite** our activities with international efforts to face global environmental problems based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.
4. **To explore** mechanisms to increase the flow of finance to activities supporting environmental and natural resources management, including financial services for conservation "swaps".
5. **To strengthen** regional dialogue and exchange, in order to develop common positions in international fora on environment and development convened within and outside the United Nations system.
6. **To promote** due consideration of the interests of Latin America and the Caribbean in the formulation of the agendas, deliberations and agreements emanating from regional and international fora.
7. **To promote** synergy among international conventions, and between international conventions and the Governing Council of UNEP.
8. **To achieve** better mechanisms for the integration of the conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources, so as to allow the protection of forests and other ecosystems, as well as coastal and marine resources, which generate productive options and provide rural populations with employment and income.
9. **To advance** national strategies for land-use planning that will give priority to conserving plant cover so as to safeguard its multiple environmental functions, including the reduction of risks associated with disasters caused by natural phenomena. This strategy should reach a balance between the criteria used for planning infrastructure and those utilised in the adoption of development strategies in each country.

10. **To promote** improved environmental quality in urban and rural areas, based on the safe management of pollutants and substances that are hazardous to human health, appropriate treatment of industrial, agricultural and household waste, adequate water quality and availability, and reduced vulnerability of human settlements and productive activities to disasters caused by natural phenomena.

11. **To continue** 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 Small Island Developing States and other regions. In this regard, we must take into account the potential in the region for the prevention of greenhouse gas emissions, through sinks, according to the international agreements that may be reached.

12. **To welcome with satisfaction** the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and to promote its signing, ratification and entry into force, as important steps towards taking advantage of the opportunities, and prevention of the risks associated with the transboundary movement of living modified organisms, actively seeking the strengthening of regional capacity.

13. **To promote** the practical implementation of the regional recommendations embodied in the Quito Declaration of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2000, related to the enforcement and strengthening of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

14. **To intensify** horizontal co-operation among countries of the region and continue to support the operation of multilateral institutions associated with our responsibilities.

15. **To continue** this regionalisation process at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Sixth Special Session of the Governing Council of UNEP in Malmö, Sweden, focusing on the priorities defined in the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. We commend UNEP for taking the necessary measures for convening the Global Ministerial Environment Forum that will bring together Ministers of the Environment from all over the world. We recognise that the issues to be discussed are of critical importance and we, therefore, resolve to attend in full force.

16. **To expand** support for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS/POA) and urge its recognition as the operational framework for the sustainable development of the Small Island Developing States in the region.

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

18. **To further** the fulfilment of the Regional Action Plan with the support of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee.

19. **To reaffirm**, as cross-cutting issues of our agenda, the prevention, mitigation and response to disasters caused by natural phenomena, as well as disaster reconstruction, and the sustainable management in the humid tropics of our region.

20. **To emphasise** the strong relationship between poverty and the degradation of urban habitats, and the need for specific measures for the improvement of urban environmental management.

21. **To ensure** that environmental management becomes a key component of sustainable development, and plays a major role in building productivity and competitiveness in the region, which will allow us to generate income for local populations and gradually eradicate poverty.

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**Ministerio de Desarrollo Social  
y Medio Ambiente**  
ARGENTINA

Sra. Ana María Majano  
Ministra  
**Ministerio de Medio Ambiente  
y Recursos Naturales**  
EL SALVADOR

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Ambassador for the Environment and Chairman of  
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Mr. Richard McPhail  
Parliamentary Secretary  
**Ministry of Health and the Environment**  
GRENADA

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**(CONAMA)**  
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Sr. Enrique Provencio  
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**Ministerio del Medio Ambiente**  
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Sr. Fabio Juan Fajardo Moros  
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**Ambiente (CITMA)**  
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**and the Environment**  
SAINT LUCIA

Mr. Atherton Martin  
Minister  
**Ministry of the Environment**  
DOMINICA

Mr. J. Burns Bonadie  
Minister  
**Ministry of Health and the Environment**  
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Sr. Paino Abreu Collado  
Secretario de Estado  
Presidente de la Comisión Co-ordinadora  
de los Recursos Naturales  
**Secretaría de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores**  
REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

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**Ministry of the Environment**  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Sr. Rodolfo Rendón  
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**Ministerio de Turismo y Ambiente**  
ECUADOR

Sr. Jesús Arnaldo Pérez  
Ministro  
**Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos  
Naturales Renovables**  
VENEZUELA

Signed in Bridgetown, Barbados, on 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2000.

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## **Annex III**

# **Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2000-2001)**

# Annex III

## Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2000-2001)

During the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts of the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, under Agenda Item 3, Programming Issues, the report of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) was presented to and discussed by the plenary. This exercise included a mid-term review (1998-1999) of the Regional Action Plan and proposals for the biennium 2000-2001, including suggestions for new lines of action.

During discussions of the latter item, it was noted that some other issues could be addressed by the Action Plan, such as the importance of South-South co-operation in the exchange of technical knowledge and experiences at the political level, as well as the exchange of personnel dedicated to wildlife protection and land-use planning to improve environmental management, including the prevention of disasters caused by natural phenomena.

Reference was also made to the need to take full advantage of the experiences of the Forum and ITC, in order to continue implementing the priority thematic lines as a way for the Forum to maximise its potential to influence and reorient policies and investments that have harmful effects on the environment.

The importance of the current four priority thematic lines and of continuing work in the framework of these lines, rather than expanding the number of priorities, was reaffirmed. Consequently, the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean should concentrate its attention on the role it plays in influencing regional environmental policy. Furthermore, it was suggested that, in the framework of the existing priorities, implementation of the Action Plan should focus on integrating themes such as the prevention of disasters caused by natural phenomena, and the conservation of the humid tropical forest, as well as urban areas and their relationship with the surrounding environment. The pertinence of the Regional Action Plan and its integrating, cross-cutting themes was reinforced.<sup>(2)</sup>

After prolonged debate on how the review of the Regional Action Plan should be carried out, it was agreed that the countries should be given one month to deliver their responses concerning the documentation linked to approval of the proposed new lines of action contained in 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/Rev.1**).

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<sup>(2)</sup> It should be recalled that at the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima, Peru, on 2 October 1999, the delegates agreed that the two of the integrating and cross-cutting areas of work in the implementation of the priority thematic lines of the Regional Action Plan should be natural disaster prevention and assistance and conservation of the forest cover in the humid tropics.

It is important to note that no responses were received until the date of publication of this report. Taking this into account and the fact that the Ministers and Heads of Delegations ratified in Decision 1 the new lines of action proposed for the years 2000-2001. The Regional Action Plan for the biennium 2000-2001 does not include the lines of action that are no longer valid because they have been fulfilled or because they have already been addressed by some other international co-operation effort or project. In contrast, it does include the new action lines proposed and approved at the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers in Barbados,<sup>(3)</sup> as well as the environmental priorities in Decision 2, adopted by the Forum of Ministers at its Eleventh Meeting, held in Lima, Peru, from 10 to 13 March 1998, which contains four priority thematic lines:

- I. **Institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management**, including:
  - (i) environmental management;
  - (ii) citizen participation;
  - (iii) trade and environment; and
  - (iv) environmental education and training;
- II. **Integrated watershed management**, including:
  - (i) environmental management of coastal and ocean areas, and
  - (ii) integrated management of hydrographic basins;
- III. **Biological diversity and protected areas**; and
- IV. **Climate change**.



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<sup>(3)</sup> The new lines of action added to the Regional Action Plan come from one of the following three sources:

- a) the lines of action proposed in the studies requested by the Forum of Ministers and their subsidiary bodies;
- b) the requests of the Ministers and the Experts during the meetings of the Inter-Sessional Committee held since 1998 (i.e. the First Special Meeting in September 1998 and the Fourth Regular Meeting in October 1999);
- c) the new proposals of one or more ITC agencies in response to the priorities set out in the original Action Plan.

# Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2000-2001)

## I. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK, POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### A. Environmental Management

Lines of action April 1998-January 2000
1. Presentation of case studies and best practices on: environmental legislation and institutional matters, decentralisation, urban environmental management, instruments for environmental policy and the mobilisation of financial resources (1998-1999)
2. Operation and maintenance of databases, organisation of workshops for government officials and civil society, official visits to other countries

New lines of action February 2000 - December 2001 <sup>(4)</sup>
1. Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and environmental legislation
2. Legal symposiums concerning access to environmental justice
3. Drafting of environmental evaluations at the regional, subregional and national levels
4. Development of a vision for harmonised information and of a framework for Latin America and the Caribbean that includes standardised methodology to be integrated into the evaluation, systems for exchange of information, indicators and regional, national or thematic environmental evaluations (e.g., cities)
5. Development of economic instruments
6. Environment and territorial planning studies and analysis
7. Integrating theme on early warning and prevention of disasters caused by natural phenomena: Development of environmental information systems for vulnerability assessment and risk analysis in selected cities of Latin America and the Caribbean; encouraging the exchange of experiences in forest fire prevention and evaluations through regional workshops, development of guidelines, and others
8. Integrating theme on Forest cover for tropical wetlands : Monitoring and evaluating existing tropical forest projects, methodologies currently in use and promoting and exchange of experiences (success stories and failures) throughout the region concerning priority issues (e.g., valuation, sustainable exploitation, education, etc.) as defined by the Forum of Ministers
9. Integrating theme on urban areas and their relationship with the surrounding environment and promoting and exchange of experiences (success stories and failures) throughout the region

<sup>(4)</sup> For further details please refer to the Report of the Inter-Agency Committee to the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean (document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4/Rev.1**).

## B. Citizen Participation

<b>Lines of action April 1998-January 2000</b>
1. Drafting of a document that encompasses subregional and national experiences
2. Exchange of experiences through regional networks via press, radio and electronic means
3. Encourage an interactive session to be held with representatives of civil society together with each Forum of Ministers
4. Implementation of the Tierramerica project

<b>New lines of action February 2000 - December 2001</b>
1. GEO for Youth
2. Element of citizen participation within the framework of the integrating theme: Early warning and prevention of disasters caused by natural phenomena
3. Element of citizen participation within the framework of the integrating theme: Forest cover in tropical wetlands

## C. Trade and the environment

<b>Lines of action April 1998-January 2000</b>
1. Assistance to countries in matters of trade and the environment

<b>New lines of action February 2000 - December 2001</b>
1. Case studies and analysis on decentralisation and competition
2. Element of trade and the environment in the integrating theme: Forest cover of tropical wetlands

## D. Environmental education and training

<b>Lines of action April 1998-January 2000</b>
1. Promotion, consultancy and support for new curricular design that will incorporate the environmental dimension
2. Strengthening the postgraduate system in the areas of the environment and sustainable development
3. Support of environmental training in the context of the community
4. Strengthening an editorial program and producing basic textbooks

<b>New lines of action February 2000 - December 2001</b>
1. Implementation of projects for community education and training for the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests in Mexico; education and training for Caribbean Small Island Developing States
2. Element of education and environmental training within the integrating framework: Early warning and prevention of disasters caused by natural phenomena
3. Element of education and environmental training within the integrating framework: Forest cover in tropical wetlands

## **II. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

### **A. Environmental management of coastal regions and oceans**

<b>Lines of action April 1998-January 2000</b>
1. Prepare a five-year agenda for the management of coastal regions and oceans
2. Examine and evaluate regional and subregional mechanisms, and existing institutional framework for the management of coastal regions and oceans

<b>New lines of action February 2000 - December 2001</b>
1. Element of Environmental management of coastal regions and oceans within the integrating theme: Early warning and prevention of disasters caused by natural phenomena
2. Element of Environmental management of coastal regions and oceans within the integrating theme: tropical forest cover

### **B. Integrated watershed management**

<b>Lines of action April 1998-January 2000</b>
1. Human resources training for the integrated management of hydric resources
2. Program on legislative framework for shared hydric basins in Latin America
3. Exchange of experiences concerning integrated and participatory environmental management of hydrographic basins

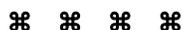
<b>New lines of action February 2000 - December 2001</b>
1. Regional strategy development on water of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
2. Element of integrated management of hydrographic basins within the framework of the integrating theme: Early warning and prevention of disasters caused by natural phenomena
3. Element of integrated management of hydrographic basins within the framework of the integrating theme: Forest cover in tropical wetlands

### III. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND OTHER PROTECTED AREAS

<b>New lines of action February 2000 - December 2001</b>
1. Final endorsement and implementation of (at least) the following projects: Conservation of biological diversity in the Andean system of protected areas, management of protected marine areas in the Caribbean, the plan of action for the Gran Chaco Americano and the Project for the Meso-American Biological Corridor
2. Develop a Regional Action Plan (including workshops and the revision of the biosafety document) to analyse the implications of the Biosafety Protocol and the need to adopt and/or adapt national legislation for the implementation of said Protocol
3. Element of biological diversity and protected areas within the framework of the integrating theme: Early warning and prevention of disasters caused by natural phenomena
4. Element of biological diversity and protected areas within the framework of the integrating theme: Forest cover in tropical wetlands

### IV. CLIMATE CHANGE

<b>New lines of action February 2000 – December 2001</b>
1. Africa- Latin America consultation on climate change
2. Support of Cleaner Production mechanisms and the transfer of technology, and support regional workshop on the development of the Clean Development Mechanism
3. Development of studies of adaptation to climate change (SIDS and "El Niño")
4. Element of climate change within the framework of the integrating theme: Early warning and prevention of disasters caused by natural phenomena
5. Element of climate change within the framework of the integrating theme: tropical forests
6. Energy and the climate change





## **Annex IV**

### **List of Participants**

# Annex IV

## List of Participants

### A. Governmental Delegations

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