



United Nations Environment Programme



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

Bridgetown, Barbados
2nd to 7th March 2000

B. Ministerial Segment
5th, 6th and 7th March 2000

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Provisional Annotated Agenda

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 first meeting of the Forum of Ministers in the twenty-first century, hosted by the Government of Barbados, is taking 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 conservation of the environment among the countries of the world, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. The serious natural disasters 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 provide for, prevent and face these phenomena. Thus, climate change, deforestation of the plant cover and chaotic growth in urban areas are topics of utmost interest that will be considered on the agenda of the Twelfth Forum of Ministers.
4. At the meetings held in Havana, Cuba (21 to 26 September 1995), and in Buenos Aires, Argentina (31 October to 2 November and 11 and 12 November 1996), the ministers underscored the need to specify a priority agenda and for the international system to act in coordination to support that regional agenda.
5. At the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, held in Lima, Peru (10 to 13 March 1998), the ministers approved that priority agenda, as well as an inter-agency coordinating mechanism to formulate and implement projects. Initially, this mechanism, known as the Inter-Agency Technical Committee, was formed by UNEP (which serves as coordinator), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); subsequently, it was 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 Environment Ministers, as a mechanism for follow-up on the decisions, and the innovative Inter-Agency Technical Committee work as dynamic and fellow 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. The fruit of their work is evident in the documents that will be used for the discussion at this Twelfth Meeting.

7. This Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean has been convened by the Government of Barbados. UNEP has been designated by the Forum of Ministers to serve as Secretariat. The Meeting will consist of two parts: a preparatory segment of High-Level Experts designated by the Governments, which will be held on 2 and 3 March 2000, and a second ministerial segment that will take place from 5 to 7 March 2000.

8. In the previous context, the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee, held in Lima, Peru, on 2 October 1999, established the date and the substantive elements on the agenda for the Barbados meeting, as well as the following objectives:

- 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:* particularly those that deal with priority regional matters such as climate change and biosafety;
- c) *Programming Matters:* aimed at the priorities established by the ministers in the framework of the Regional Action Plan, as well as the Provisional Agenda of the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, including a set of priority projects and activities previously identified by the Forum.

9. The purpose of the following annotations is to facilitate consideration of the various items on the agenda proposed for the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

10. The meeting will begin with an opening ceremony on Sunday, 5 March 2000, at 7:00 p.m., with introductory remarks by officers of the Forum of Ministers, the Government of Barbados, UNEP and other representatives of the international system. The names of the speakers will appear in the related order of the day.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the meeting

2.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure for the meeting

11. It is proposed that the ministers adopt, *mutatis mutandi*, the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP for the proceedings of the meeting.

2.2. Election of officers

12. It is proposed to the ministers that, in accordance with the practice established at past meetings, the officers of the Ministerial Segment should be the same countries that served as officers in the Preparatory Meeting of Experts.

2.3. Approval of the agenda and the programme of sessions of the meeting

13. Under this item, the ministers will consider the provisional annotated agenda and the programme of sessions proposed by the Secretariat (see document **UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/2**), and they will adopt them after the incorporation of any changes they consider necessary.

Agenda Item 3: Special session

3.1. Environmental perspectives for the twenty-first century

14. Under this agenda item, a special session will be held in which internationally prestigious individuals in the sphere of environment and sustainable development will share their environmental perspectives for the twenty-first century. The main speakers at this session will be indicated in the order of the day.

3.2. Panel discussions

15. Under this item, the ministers, speakers and representatives of the international system will exchange ideas revolving around the above-mentioned presentations on environmental perspectives for the twenty-first century.

3.3. Presentations on bioregional planning

16. Under this item, the ministers will discuss various aspects and challenges in the bioregional planning presented by the ITC (see Summary 7 of **Annex II** to document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4**).

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

4.1. Programming issues

17. Under this item, the ministers will review the decision recommendations prepared by the experts at the Preparatory Meeting regarding the matters that appear below. The recommendations will be contained in the "Draft Decision prepared by the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts of the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean" (**UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/3**), and they will endorse them following any modifications they may consider pertinent. Here the representatives of the ITC agencies will be able to intervene to make any clarification they consider pertinent and to respond to any concerns of the ministers.

a) Report of the Secretariat

b) Report of the ITC

i) Regional Action Plan (mid-term review of the period 1998-1999 and proposals for the period 2000-2001).

ii) ITC documents and suggested lines of action.

iii) Operational mechanisms for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan (including the incorporation of other agencies into the ITC).

c) Report of the Environmental Training Network

4.2. Implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

18. Under this item, the ministers will examine the decision recommendations prepared by the Preparatory Meeting of Experts on the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), which will be contained in the "Draft Decision prepared by the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts of the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean" (**UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/3**), and they will endorse them following any changes they deem pertinent.

4.3. Policies

19. Under this item, the ministers will examine the decision recommendations prepared by the Preparatory Meeting of Experts on the items that appear below, which will be contained in the "Draft Decision prepared by the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts of the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean" (**UNEP/LAC-IG.XII/3**), and they will endorse them following any changes they deem pertinent regarding the:

- a) Proposal for the Barbados Declaration
- b) Special topic on the Caribbean Sea as a special area

Agenda Item 5: Other presentations

20. Under this item, there will be several presentations, which will be included in the related order of the day.

Agenda Item 6: Other matters

21. Under this item, the ministers will deal with other matters that are pertinent to the objectives of the meeting and have not been covered under the specific agenda items. One of these topics could be, for example, establishment of the place and date for the next meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

Agenda Item 7: Approval of the report of the meeting

22. Under this item, the ministers will examine the draft final report, which will be presented by the Rapporteur, including the decisions adopted by the meeting, and they will approve it after any necessary changes are made.

Agenda Item 8: Closing of the meeting

23. The meeting will be closed on Tuesday, 7 March 2000, at 6:00 p.m. The names of the speakers who will take the floor during the closing ceremony will appear in the related Order of the Day.

Annex I

Schedule of Sessions

Sunday 5th of March 2000

Morning- Tour organised by the Government of Barbados
Afternoon (9:00 hrs. to 3:30 hrs.)

Evening (7:00 p.m.) Opening ceremony (Prime Minister of Barbados, Executive Director of UNEP and heads of the ITC agencies). Reception.

Monday 6th of March 2000

Morning

- Opening of the meeting
- Organisation of the meeting
- Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting
- Approval of the agenda and the programme of sessions of the meeting
- Installation of the officers

Special session:

- Environmental perspectives for the twenty-first century
- Panel discussions
- Presentation on bioregional planning

Afternoon

Discussion and approval of the recommendations in the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts:

- Programming issues
- Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements

Tuesday 7th of March 2000

Morning

Discussion and approval of the recommendations in the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts: (continued):

- Policies

Afternoon

- Other presentations
- Other matters
- Discussion and approval of the Final Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Closure of the meeting