



**United Nations Environment Programme**  
**Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean**

PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
PROGRAMA DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS PARA O MEIO AMBIENTE

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

**Panama City, Panama**  
**20 to 25 November 2003**

**Distribution:**

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A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS  
20<sup>TH</sup> TO 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2003

## **Provisional Annotated Agenda**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The catalytic and coordinating role that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean played in the regional process preparatory to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa; September 2002) demonstrates the maturity and effectiveness that this regional consensus mechanism has achieved.
2. At both the regional and sub-regional levels, the Forum's substantive influence in furthering progress in environmental and other themes associated with sustainable development resulted in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), which has been included in the Johannesburg Plan of Action.
3. The Forum initiated the post-Johannesburg stage with the challenge of implementing the ILAC and converting its Regional Action Plan (RAP) into a tool for focusing on regional priorities and helping to attain the environmental sustainability set forth in Millennium Development Objective 7.

### **Objectives of the Meeting**

3. The Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from 20 to 25 November 2003 in Panama City, Panama.
4. In the preparatory process, a meeting of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) of the Forum of Ministers was held in Brasilia, Brazil, in July 2003. The Presidency of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean (Brazil) subsequently conducted direct consultations with the countries of the region in the months of July and August 2003 on the pertinence and selection of items to be included on the regional environmental agenda for the next few years.
5. The basic aspects of the results and comments gathered coincide with the set of guidelines discussed in Brasilia and form a base for the discussions that will take place in Panama.
6. In this context and in response to recommendations made at previous meetings, the ministers and heads of delegations present at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum will be able to concentrate on adopting decisions regarding the proposals and recommendations of

the experts and will be able to determine the Forum's priority lines of action for the period 2004-2005.

7. The purpose of the following annotations on the agenda proposed for the meeting is to facilitate consideration of the various matters that will be addressed. It should be noted that the Secretariat has compiled a set of policy documents which, on the one hand, deal with environmental issues and problems that have been emerging with increasing force and presence on the international and regional environmental agendas and, on the other, include a group of operation reports that reflect the progress in initiatives and activities of interest to the Forum that have been developing since the Thirteenth Forum was held in Brazil.

## **Agenda Item 1: Registration of participants**

8. Participant registration will begin at 08:00 a.m. on Thursday, 20 November 2003, in the Sala Bella Vista of the Hotel El Panama.

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

9. The meeting will begin with an opening ceremony at 09:00 a.m. on Thursday, 20 November 2003, with remarks on behalf of the Government of Brazil and the Government of Panama, which will, respectively, be the outgoing and incoming countries occupying the Presidency of the Forum, and on behalf of UNEP, in its capacity as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **Agenda Item 3: Organization of the meeting**

### **3.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting**

10. It is proposed that the Ministers adopt, *mutatis mutandi*, the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP to govern the procedures of the meeting.

### **3.2. Election of officers**

11. It is proposed to the Ministers that, in accordance with the practice established at previous meetings of the Forum, the officers consist of one President, seven Vice-Presidents and one Rapporteur, taking into account the criteria of geographical representativeness and rotation established by the ministerial meetings.

### **3.3. Approval of the meeting agenda and schedule of sessions**

12. Under this item, the delegations will consider the Provisional Annotated Agenda and the Schedule of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat (UNEP/LAC-IG.XIV/2) and will adopt them after incorporating any changes they may deem necessary.

## **Agenda Item 4: Discussion of the strategy proposed for implementation of the ILAC**

13. To initiate the work under item 4.1 and taking into consideration the consultation and preparation process for the Fourteenth Forum, it is proposed that the Presidency of the Thirteenth Forum present the strategic guidelines for the implementation of the ILAC, which will be presented for consideration to the Ministers and Heads of Delegations for the biennium 2004-2005.

14. Under item 4.2, the ITC agencies that coordinated the preparation of the information packets will then make a brief presentation of the documents that deal with eight of the 25 priority themes in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), as follows:

a) Access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits	UNEP	UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/Inf.4
b) Water Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean	World Bank	UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/Inf.5
c) Human Settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean	World Bank	UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/Inf.6
d) Renewable Energy	Government of Brazil	UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/Inf.7
e) Trade and Environment	IDB	UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/Inf.8
f) Economic Instruments and Fiscal Policy	ECLAC	UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/Inf.9
g) Climate Change	UNDP	UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/Inf.10
h) Environmental Indicators	UNEP	UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/Inf.11

15. These reference documents offer an updated diagnostic study and an analysis of the implications of problems that should receive immediate attention by environmental authorities in the next few years, owing to their importance and the opportunity for progress to be made in the current international and regional contexts.

16. Under agenda item 4.3, taking the information prepared by the ITC and the technical discussions that follow, the delegations present will discuss various aspects regarding ways to focus demands, taking into account ecosystemic or sub-regional characteristics, the most appropriate approaches for areas and themes to be recommended as being of priority to the Forum, and the determination of themes that would offer advantages for regional cooperation. On the basis of their conclusions, they will make proposals and recommendations on the themes selected and the lines of implementation of the Regional Action Plan 2004-2005.

17. It is recommended that selection and priority criteria should be adopted for the implementation of the activities, taking into account the comparative advantages of each ITC agency for supporting implementation of the ILAC and the technical and financial limitations of the Forum and associated agencies.

## Agenda Item 5: Discussion and follow-up on the Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg and Nairobi agreements

18. Under item 5.1, the delegations will carry out follow-up on the agreements adopted at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Forum (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October 2001), based on the Report of the Secretariat (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/3, Part I).

**19.** Under item 5.1.(a), the experts will examine the progress made in themes such as health and environment, taking into account the activities carried out during this period by the working group (HEMA) formed to follow up on the Meeting of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas, which was held in Ottawa, Canada, in March 2002 with the support of UNEP and PAHO. Bearing in mind that a meeting of this group is to be held in Argentina in early November 2003 (which made the presentation of a working document impossible), it was agreed that the delegations would examine the results achieved to date, based on a presentation to be made by the host country of the meeting.

**20.** Another theme proposed for examination under item 5.1.(b) is the process of building environmental indicators for follow-up on the ILAC, which is being carried out by a group of countries of the region under the leadership of Costa Rica with the support of UNEP and the World Bank. A detailed description of the proposed set of indicators being submitted to the Forum for consideration appears in document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/8**.

**21.** Under item 5.2 (a) discussion should focus particularly on the implementation of Chapter III, Production and Consumption, of the Johannesburg Plan of Action, based on the results of the meeting held on 15 and 16 October in Nicaragua, which will be presented by the delegation of Nicaragua. (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/7**).

**22.** Similarly, under item 5.2 (b), the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will report on the recommendations of the Regional Meeting of Small Island States (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 6 to 10 October 2003); as part of the process preparatory to the Summit of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Islands, 2004).

**23.** Under agenda item 5.3, it is proposed that the delegations follow up on and discuss the decisions that were adopted by the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi, Kenya; 2003) and are of importance to the region. In following up on the recommendations adopted by the Governing Council, the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean has outlined a strategy to guide the regionalization of the UNEP global programme and support for the implementation of the ILAC (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/3**, Part II).

**24.** Under item 5.4, the delegations will be informed about and will discuss preparations for the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF; South Korea, 2004) and the Commission on Sustainable Development. It should be noted that, in addition to the themes selected by these two forums (water and human settlements), they present a very timely opportunity to harmonize regional positions and the planning of ILAC activities in the framework of the Regional Action Plan for 2004-2005 in order to link them with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and with the Millennium Development Objectives. Harmonizing agendas and efforts could allow maximum use of technical and financial resources.

**25.** A review of the agreements that were carried out in the period between the Rio, Johannesburg and Nairobi meetings will enable the experts to propose reformulation or future follow-up for related themes and to transmit to the ministerial segment recommendations of a operational nature to be included in the Forum's work plan.

## **Agenda Item 6: Analysis of perspectives and future alternatives for environmental education and training in Latin America and the Caribbean**

**26.** Under this item, it is proposed that the experts review the lines of activities proposed for the UNEP Environmental Training Network and that they adopt guidelines for its future activities, based on the proposal presented by the UNEP coordinating unit. (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/9/Rev.1**).

27. In response to a request from the Government of Venezuela, the Forum of Ministers should also examine the proposal of the Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Education Programme in the framework of sustainable development. This proposal, which should be analysed in terms of its complementarity with the proposal of the Environmental Training Network, in the framework of the strategy for implementing the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, is an attempt to evolve, not only in regional thought concerning environmental education, but also in the establishment of regional cooperation mechanisms to facilitate communication, cooperation and joint efforts among different actors involved in environmental education in the region. These discussions will be carried out under agenda item 6.2, based on document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/10** and will enable the experts to prepare the consultations and recommendations to be dealt with under agenda item 6.3.

## **Agenda Item 7: State of implementation and future perspectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements**

28. At this stage, the delegations will exchange ideas and experiences on the efforts made by their countries in the framework of the principal multilateral environmental agreements, particularly in the context of the forthcoming negotiations on climate change and the UNFCCC COP-9. The delegation from Panama (regional representative at the UNFCCC Bureau) will inform on the preparation for COP 9 and the delegation of Mexico will report on outcomes of the meeting of negotiators held in Mexico City on 29-30 October 2003 regarding deforestation and reforestation options in the framework of the clean development mechanism (CDM). Brazil will present the conclusions of the Regional Preparatory Conference on Renewable Energy, which was held in Brasilia on the same dates. A presentation will also be made on the progress in the fulfillment of the Montreal Protocol commitments by the countries of the region.

## **Agenda Item 8: Other matters**

29. Under this item, the delegations will deal with other matters pertinent to the objectives of the meeting that have not been covered by the specific items on the agenda. One of these matters, for example, would be confirmation of the venue and date of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of the region.

## **Agenda Item 9: Review and approval of the report of the meeting**

30. Under this agenda item, the delegations will review the draft Final Report to be presented by the Rapporteur, including the decisions of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts, and they will adopt it after having made any modifications deemed necessary. The Report will be finalized and delivered to the delegations on 23 November 2003, as a basis for the ministerial segment, which will begin on Monday, 24 November 2003.

## **Agenda Item 10: Closing of the meeting**

31. The meeting will be closed on Friday, 21 November 2003, at 6:00 p.m.

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