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Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean**

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
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**Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of  
the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

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

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

**Contribution from the Second  
Meeting of Government Experts on  
Sustainable Consumption and  
Production of Latin America and  
the Caribbean for the Preparation  
of a Regional Strategy**

**Managua, Nicaragua  
15 and 16 October 2003**



**The government experts and participants in the “Second Meeting of Governmental Experts on Contribution from the Second Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production of Latin America and the Caribbean” for the preparation of a regional strategy”, held in Managua, Nicaragua, from 15 to 16 October 2003,**

***Considering that:***

1. The World Summit on Sustainable Development of Johannesburg established that one of the objectives of its Plan of Action was to promote a 10-year programme to support national and regional initiatives to speed up the change toward new modalities or practices of sustainable consumption and production,
2. For their part, the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region – in the Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (2002) presented at the same Summit – stressed the need to incorporate concepts of clean production into their industries and to work toward sustainable consumption,
3. As proof of the willingness and commitment of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, the First Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in April, 2003, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The main results emanating from the Meeting include: the proposal to create the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production, as well as a First Contribution for the Construction of a Regional Platform on Sustainable Consumption and Production. These results were recognised as exemplary actions during the XI Meeting of the Commission for Sustainable Development (New York, May 2003) and at the International Expert Meeting on a 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech, June 2003),
4. In order to provide continuity to this important process, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) and the Ministry of Development, Industry, and Commerce (MIFIC) of Nicaragua, the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (DTIE) – in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and the Nicaraguan Cleaner Production Centre – organised the Second Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Managua, Nicaragua, on October 15 and 16, 2003,

***RECOMMEND***

***To the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, to be held in Panama City, Panama, from 20th to 25th of November 2003 that it takes into consideration the following elements in the preparation of national and regional strategies for sustainable consumption and production:***

1. *The core aspects of policy for preparing National and Regional Strategies for Sustainable Consumption and Production considered appropriate are:*
  - a) Internalisation of environmental costs (Polluter Pays Principle)
  - b) Elimination of subsidies that have negative impacts on the environment.
  - c) Promote the supply and demand of goods and services with low environmental impact.
  - d) Environmental information and education which encourage consumers to adopt practices of sustainable consumption.
  - e) Harmonisation and strengthening of national regulatory frameworks on consumption and production.

- f) Adoption of codes of Entrepreneurial Social and Environmental Responsibility.
- g) Foster investment in infrastructure and technology transfer that facilitate practices of sustainable consumption and production.
- h) Coordination and cooperation between governments, the private sector, Civil Society, and international organizations.
- i) Create or improve regional and national systems for Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- j) Adopt a sustainable consumption and production programme in the public sector.

*2. The principal actors who should collaborate and actively participate in a national and regional strategy on sustainable consumption and production are as follows:*

- a) Organised civil society, including consumer organizations.
- b) Competent national and local government institutions.
- c) Commerce and industry chambers and associations.
- d) Mass-communication media.
- e) Universities and research centres.
- f) Financial institutions.

*3. The following policy instruments could be used to promote changes to practices of sustainable consumption and production:*

- a) Regulatory Policy Instruments
- b) Economic Policy Instruments
- c) Social Policy Instruments
- d) Monitoring and Assessment Instruments

*4. The methods of implementation for the creation of governmental programmes and policies on sustainable consumption and development are:*

- a) National programmes
- b) National budgets
- c) International support programmes
- d) International financing (support for the generation of capacities)
- e) Public and private associations of cooperation
- f) Voluntary initiatives from the private sector
- g) Voluntary initiatives from civil society

*5. The members of the working group conducted a prioritisation of the guiding goals put forward by ILAC as regards a strategy for sustainable consumption and production. The priorities established are:*

**High Priority:**

- k) Economic Issues, including competitiveness, trade, consumption, and production
  - i. Energy
  - ii. Cleaner production
  - iii. Economic instruments

- iv. Promotion of economic diversification
- v. Access to markets
- I) Water Resources
  - i. Management of basins
  - ii. Management of coastal and marine areas and their resources
  - iii. Improved inland-water quality
  - iv. Water supply
  - v. Management of basins
  - vi. Management of coastal and marine areas and their resources
  - vii. Improved inland-water quality
  - viii. Water supply
- c) Institutional Issues
  - i. Environmental education
  - ii. Development and training of human resources
  - iii. Assessment of indicators
  - iv. Participation and empowerment of civil society
  - v. Environmental dimension in economic and social processes
  - vi. Promotion of public and private associations for the conservation and use of natural resources

***Medium Priority:***

- a) Vulnerability and sustainable Cities
  - i. Land-use planning
  - ii. Areas affected by degradation processes
  - iii. Air Pollution
  - iv. Water pollution
  - v. Solid wastes
  - vi. Vulnerability to anthropogenic disasters and those caused by natural phenomena
  - vii. Vulnerability and risk management
  - viii. Climate change
- b) Social Issues: Health, inequity, and poverty
  - i. Health and environment
  - ii. Environment and job creation
  - iii. Poverty and inequity
  - iv. Development of micro-enterprises

***Low Priority:***

- a) Biodiversity
  - i. Increase of the forest area
  - ii. Territory included in protected areas

- iii. Genetic resources
- iv. Marine biodiversity

*6. Concrete actions and pilot projects forming part of a regional strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production based on the priority areas identified are presented in Annex 4.*

*7. The recommended Regional Strategy for sustainable consumption and production is as follows:*

***a) Establishment and strengthening of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production***

- a) Conduct a compilation of the principal activities on sustainable consumption and production in each of the countries of the region.
- b) Promote the development of national strategies for sustainable consumption and production.
- c) Monitoring and assessment of activities and their respective impacts within the framework of the regional and national strategies on sustainable consumption and production.
- d) Hold annual meetings of the Regional Council of Government Experts.

***b) Creation and strengthening of institutional capacities through workshops, training, information, and technical assistance in the following themes or areas:***

- a) Internalisation of environmental costs and environmental fiscal reform.
- b) Implementation of integrated and cross-cutting policies on sustainable consumption and production.
- c) Sustainable governmental purchasing.
- d) Environmental accounting.
- e) Analysis seminar for the regional promotion of infrastructure and technology transfer.
- f) Use of economic instruments for the designing of environmental policy, with the support of UNEP and ECLAC.
- g) Training in environmental legislation and international conventions.
- h) Seminar on the impacts generated by activities of production and services (industry and tourism) and on the advantages or benefits generated by the implementation of sustainable consumption and production practices.

***c) Strengthening of capacities for the production and financial sectors through workshops, training, information, and technical assistance in the following themes or areas:***

- a) Cleaner production
- b) Eco-design
- c) Life cycle analyses
- d) Entrepreneurial social and environmental responsibility
- e) Integrated sustainable development

- f) Market opportunities
- g) Environmental accounting
- h) WTO chapter on environmental goods and services
- i) Preparation of projects for access to national and international financing
- j) Training in environmental legislation and international conventions
- k) Training for the financial sector in sustainable environment management
- l) Promote an inter-linkage strategy between the production sector and research and development agencies for the generation, dissemination, and implementation of technologies that promote sustainable development
- m) Seminar on the impacts generated by industrial activity and the advantages or benefits generated by sustainable consumption and production practices.

**d) Public-awareness and training campaigns**

- a) Information campaigns on sustainable consumption using effective information and communication strategies
- b) Include the subject of sustainable consumption in formal as well as non-formal education programmes
- c) Creation of joint projects with NGOs to work together on the issue of sustainable consumption and production and environmental education
- d) Implementation of Environment Management in national and local government institutions
- e) Development and training of educators in sustainable consumption

**e) Implementation of pilot projects such as:**

- a) Youth in favour of change; implementation of programmes focusing on young people, including *Youth X Change* (UNEP, UNESCO)
- b) Implementation of Sustainable Government Purchasing Programmes in the region, with support and material provided by the units developed by UNEP
- c) Implementation of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection
- d) National and/or regional seminars on Entrepreneurial Social and Environmental Responsibility
- e) Cooperation projects between large multinational companies and SMEs
- f) Provide support for and continuity to the Sustainable Cities initiatives in the region (transport, energy, and wastes) and encourage the exchange of experiences
- g) Case studies on the production and trading of sustainable products, with particular emphasis on SMEs
- h) Promote the designing of strategies for sustainable consumption and production in the countries of the region
- i) Establishment of credit lines for clean production and re-conversion for sustainable production

**f) At national level, it is suggested that each country :**

- a) Promote the supply and demand for sustainable products and services, in conjunction with other Ministries and important actors such as chambers of commerce and consumer groups, etc.
- b) Strengthen its regulatory framework so as to provide adequate clear indications and incentives for the adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices
- c) Promote the recommendations of the meetings of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production as regards national-level policies
- d) Create opportunities for dialogue among the different national initiatives on sustainable consumption and production, for example, the creation of a coordinating group or a national forum for dialogue on sustainable consumption and production
- e) Conduct a compilation of the principal activities of each country in the region pertaining to sustainable consumption and production

**g) Development of and the quest for financing mechanisms:**

*National:*

Creation of national trust funds, among others

*International:*

Identify the organisations through which the region can gain access to financial and technical assistance so as to strengthen and implement national and regional programmes for sustainable consumption and production

**8.** *Make the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production an official entity.*

**9.** *Provide the resources necessary to enable the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production to function.*

**10.** *Install the Steering Committee of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production.*

**11.** *Request the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Nicaragua to make the appropriate arrangements so that:*

- a) UNEP and UNDESA may take the necessary steps toward consummation of the first official meeting of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- b) The results and recommendations of the Second Meeting of Government Experts – held in Nicaragua on October 15 and 16, 2003 – may be presented at the XIV Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean for its consideration and approval, given that this constitutes part of the process of building a regional platform on the issue of sustainable consumption and production.



**12.** *Congratulate the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua – through its Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources – on the leadership it has shown on the issue of sustainable consumption and production through its initiative of creating a special account to finance national activities pertaining to the issue of sustainable consumption and production.*

**13.** *Thank the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua – through its Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and Ministry of Development, Industry, and Commerce – for its support in hosting the Second Meeting of Government Experts.*

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