



**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

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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**

B. MINISTERIAL SEGMENT  
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**Final Report**  
**of the Preparatory Meeting**  
**of Experts of the Fourteenth**  
**Meeting of the Forum of**  
**Ministers of Latin America**  
**and the Caribbean**

**Panama City, Panama**  
**20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2003**



## 1. Background

1. The catalyzing and coordinating role that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean played in the regional preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa; September 2002) demonstrated 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 was included in the Johannesburg Plan of Action.
3. The challenge faced by the Forum in the post-Johannesburg period is to implement the ILAC and convert its Regional Action Plan (RAP) into a tool for focusing regional priorities. It also has the added challenge of helping to attain "environmental sustainability" as set forth in the Millennium Development Objective 7.

## 2. Objectives of the Expert Meeting

4. The Preparatory Meeting of Experts of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was held from 20 to 21 November in Panama City, Panama ahead of the Ministerial segment of the Forum. The Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from 24 to 25 November 2003.
5. 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 selection of relevant items to be included on the regional environmental agenda for the next few years.
6. The objective of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment was to develop proposals and recommendations for the Ministerial segment of the Forum and to determine the Forum's priority lines of action for the period 2004-2005.

### Agenda Item 1: Participation

7. Participant registration began at 08:00 a.m. on Thursday, 20 November 2003, in the Bella Vista Room of the Hotel El Panama. The Preparatory Meeting of Experts was attended by 24 government delegations from countries of the region, and 2 observer countries. In addition 16 representatives from 13 international, regional and sub-regional organizations and non-governmental attended.

### Agenda Item 2: Opening of the meeting

8. On behalf of the Minister of Environment of Brazil, the outgoing President of the Forum of Ministers, Ms. Raquel Breda opened the meeting at 09:30 a.m. on Thursday, 20 November 2003. She thanked the countries and agencies for their support during the Presidency of Brazil. Mr. Ricardo Anguizola, President of the ANAM followed by welcoming the participants

to Panama. He expressed his pleasure that the meeting was taking place in Panama and at a special time in the history of the country linked to its independence and centenary celebrations and wished the participants success in their work.

## Agenda Item 3. Organization of the meeting

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

9. Also in accordance with past practice the participants adopted, *mutatis mutandi*, the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP to govern the procedures of the meeting.

### 3.2. Election of officers

10. Also in accordance with past practice, one Chairman, seven Vice-Chairmen and one Rapporteur were elected to preside over the Fourteenth Forum of Ministers. These were as follows:

<b>Chair:</b>	Panama
<b>Vice-Chairs:</b>	Cuba
	Belize
	Brazil
	Mexico
	Peru
	St. Lucia
	Venezuela
<b>Rapporteur:</b>	Argentina

11. The Chair welcomed the countries and organizations present at the meeting. He underlined that the purpose of the meeting was to develop proposals to present to the Ministerial segment of the Forum based on the ILAC and the results of Johannesburg.

12. At the invitation of the Chair, the Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Ricardo Sanchez on behalf of the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers, added his welcoming remarks. He stressed the importance of ensuring that the deliberations of the Forum of Ministers were action oriented. He explained that in accordance with consultations held with the agencies of the ITC and the countries of the region, the Secretariat had organized the meeting to focus on the promotion of the priorities identified by the countries of the region in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC). The ILAC had been developed through extensive consultations and approved at Johannesburg. It had subsequently formed the basis of further discussions to develop mechanisms for its implementation.

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

13. The Provisional Annotated Agenda and the Schedule of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat (UNEP/LAC-IG.XIV/2) were adopted with some small amendments. Given the busy schedule, the Chair proposed the formation of a working group to help develop the "Panama Declaration". The Secretariat designated officials to receive all comments regarding the Panama Declaration to expedite its revision and completion.

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

### 4.1. Presentation of the strategic guidelines for implementation of the ILAC.

14. Brazil, as Chair of the Thirteenth Forum presented the strategic guidelines for the implementation of the ILAC. The delegate of Brazil gave a summary of the progress in the development of the ILAC since it was approved in Johannesburg. This process included consultations held at the margins of the UNCSD and a meeting of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) held in Brasilia, Brazil, in July 2003. Brazil subsequently conducted direct consultations with the countries of the region in the months of July and August 2003 on the selection of relevant items to be included on the regional environmental agenda for the next few years. The process resulted in the following eight themes being proposed as priorities for the work of the Forum of Ministers:

- a) Access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits
- b) Water resources
- c) Human settlements
- d) Renewable energies
- e) Trade and environment
- f) Economic instruments and fiscal policy
- g) Climate change
- h) Environmental indicators

### 4.2. Presentation of the information packets (ITC) and discussion of the priority lines of action of the Forum of Ministers for the 2004-2005 period

15. The agencies of the ITC that coordinated the preparation of the reports on the eight priority themes derived from the ILAC made brief presentations of the documents as follows:

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

**16.** There was support for the work of the Government of Brazil in helping focus the regional environmental agenda through the development of the ILAC and subsequently the eight priority themes. These eight themes encompass areas of great importance and concern for the countries of the region and as such there was general support for their use to help focus given the work of the Forum and the ITC.

**17.** The implementation of the ILAC and its eight priority themes should be the priority of the Forum and the Regional Plan of Action. In this regard, cross-cutting themes should be an integral part of the implementation plan. Where possible, regional and subregional mechanisms should be used in the implementation.

**18.** Water resources management or integrated watershed management should be seen in a comprehensive manner, and its links to other sections such as desertification considered. Genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits are fundamental for the region and is already the source of conflict with developed countries in certain cases. The role of the Like-Minded Megadiverse countries and their work on regulatory frameworks should be reflected in the implementation of activities on this theme.

**19.** In the discussions on human settlements, the importance of land-use planning was stressed. Regarding economic instruments, the importance of regulatory schemes and tariffs were mentioned. With regard to Trade and the Environment the exchange between environmental authorities and those responsible for trade and commerce should be promoted. While it should be recognized that environment is not a priority in the majority of global trade fora, some advances can be seen, such as the recent agreement within the framework of MERCOSUR which is also in line with the ILAC. Reduction of vulnerability to natural disasters is a regional priority. The importance of a solid information base, including indicators, is critical to support decision making.

**20.** Other issues mentioned included: the need to regularly assess and measure the capacity of countries to implement the ILAC; the importance of case studies in the eight priority themes to derive lessons learnt; the Greater participation of the English speaking countries of the Caribbean in the work of UNEP ROLAC was also welcomed.

#### **4.3. Discussion, proposals and recommendations regarding the lines of implementation of the 2004-2005 Regional Action Plan**

**21.** At the invitation of the Chair, and on behalf of the Secretariat of the Forum, Mr. Ricardo Sanchez presented this agenda item. He informed the meeting that the eight themes were drawn from the ILAC and represent priorities selected to facilitate and expedite its implementation. The eight themes emerged from a process of discussion between Brazil, the countries of the region and the ITC. A Regional Action Plan was developed based on the ILAC and the eight priority themes.

**22.** After some discussion it was suggested that the comments of the delegations regarding the Regional Action Plan 2004-2005 would be gathered by the Secretariat and reflected in a revised matrix. The matrix would then be finalized by a meeting of the ITC at the latest by 31 March 2004 and circulated to the countries for their approval. At the same time a decision would be presented to the Fourteenth Forum of Ministers regarding the process outlined above for their review and approval.

**23.** It was suggested that the information contained in the information packages on the eight themes should be reflected in the Regional Action Plan. In addition, the issues of synergies with conventions such as the biodiversity and desertification, should be incorporated into the Regional Action Plan. The link between vulnerability and climate change should also be reinforced.

***a) Access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits***

**24.** Delegations suggested the inclusion of concrete proposals in the Regional Action Plan including the following: the development of regulatory frameworks at the national level and associated capacity building; assistance in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol; studies of traditional knowledge; assessments of the impacts of genetically modified organisms and gene pools; regional exchange on existing mechanisms as well as global discussions on the matter (including in the group of like minded mega diverse countries). The Plan should also help build linkages to the Central American Protocol on genetic resources, the programmes of the like minded mega diverse countries and the Convention of Biological Diversity. Such activities would help ensure that the region maintains its leadership position on the topic.

***b) Water Resources Management***

**25.** Discussions centered on the following: inclusion of non-environmental sectors with responsibility in the activities proposed; the promotion and development of guidelines for integrated watershed management including shared watersheds; the inclusion of activities related to pollution from land based sources; the promotion of the use of groundwater in water scarce countries and promote monitoring of water pollution. It was also mentioned that other watershed projects could be mentioned in the Regional Action Plan, including but not limited to the Guarani Aquifer and the integrated watershed and coastal zone management project in the Caribbean.

***c) Human Settlements***

**26.** It was mentioned that this item should be expanded to include vulnerability reflecting the full title in the ILAC. In addition, activities should be added focusing on land use planning, cleaner production (including lessons learnt), chemical safety, liquid and solid waste management and air pollution related to sectors other than transport. The limited land area available to SIDS as well as their vulnerability should be taken into account in the redrafting of the activities. The extension of the GEO project to cover cities not presently covered by the project was also proposed.

***d) Renewable Energy***

**27.** Delegations discussed the necessity to revise the Regional Action Plan to include the following: promotion of energy efficient technologies; capacity building of local populations in renewable energy technologies; transfer of technologies (e.g. solar power and geothermal technology) through south-south exchanges; provision of support to regional participation in global renewable energy initiatives; helping the development of national renewable energy policies; and renewable energy research. It was also suggested that the revision of the Regional Action Plan should take into account the Platform for Renewable Energy developed in the October 2003 meeting in Brasilia.

***e) Trade and environment***

**28.** With regard to trade and the environment the Regional Action Plan should include: capacity building programmes in line with global initiatives and negotiations; instruments to evaluate projects and activities so as to better direct resources; promote inter-sectoral exchanges between ministries of economy, trade etc. both at regional and national levels; assessment of economic policies and their impact on sustainable development.

***f) Economic Instruments and Fiscal Policy***

29. It was mentioned that the compilation of existing regulatory frameworks rather than their adaptation should be included in the Regional Action Plan. Amongst other elements that could be included as a part of the activities were the IDB sponsored seminar on this topic to be held in the framework of the meeting of Governors of the IDB in Lima and the promotion of training in the use of economic instruments as well as their dissemination.

***g) Climate change***

30. Discussions focused on the following: education and public awareness programmes; support to regional mechanisms addressing impacts of climate change; capacity building of different actors to promote sustainable transport in line with Johannesburg Plan of Implementation; climate change and human health; capacity building (institutional, scientific, south-south) including the clean development mechanism; development, transfer and adaptation of alternative technologies. It was also mentioned that the activities in the Regional Action Plan should be extended to the whole region. In this regard the results of the recent meeting in Mexico could also be reflected.

31. It was proposed that vulnerability activities could be grouped under priority theme (c) above. In this regard more specific activities related to climate change could be developed including: mainstreaming adaptation; mitigation; risk management; capacity building and technology transfer. In addition climate change issues and disaster mitigation should be better integrated into international development assistance programmes.

***h) Environmental indicators***

32. There was some discussion on strengthening collaboration between the different agencies working on indicators including ECLAC, UNEP and the OAS. Indeed the assessment of ongoing indicators initiatives could become one of the activities of the Regional Action Plan. In this way links to other processes such as those of the Millennium Development Goals indicators and the development of vulnerability indices could be strengthened.

33. The delegates discussed the issue of strengthening the non-environmental aspects (social and economic) of sustainability indicators. The production of easy to understand indicators and their use was mentioned as important to help decision makers. The need for a system of early warning and environmental indicators to help confront regional vulnerability was also highlighted.

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

### **5.1. Discussions and follow up of the agreements adopted in Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg and Nairobi**

***a) Building Environmental Indicators to follow up the ILAC***

34. The delegation of Costa Rica, the focal country on indicators designated by the Forum of Ministers, presented a proposal to develop indicators to monitor the progress towards achieving the goals of the ILAC. A detailed description of the proposal, including a core set of indicators, has been submitted to the Forum for consideration (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/8). The main elements of the proposal include:



- a) reaching agreement on a core set of indicators which are readily available in the countries that can be used to measure progress towards the goals of the ILAC;
- b) reaching agreement on a common methodology to measure the indicators in the core set;
- c) initiating the development of a project to strengthen capacities and promote the collection and standardisation of data and indicators at the national level within the framework of the Forum of Ministers;
- d) collecting the national data and indicators and inputting them into a regional environmental information system that allows the Forum of Ministers to monitor progress towards achievement of the goals of the ILAC.

**35.** It was mentioned that the decision to appoint one country as coordinator of a specific theme is a successful mechanism for the implementation of the decisions of the Forum. There was support for the coordination promoted by the project between the statistics offices and the environmental authorities, as well as the development of common or comparable methodologies. At the same time it was noted that the project should ensure consistency with the MDG indicators even though the MDGs have quantifiable targets which ILAC has not. There was also further discussion on environmental and sustainability indicators.

#### ***b) Production and consumption***

**36.** The delegate from Nicaragua presented this agenda item. The presentation focused on: progress in the regional implementation of Chapter III of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, "Changes of Unsustainable Production and Consumption Patterns"; the results of the first governmental expert meeting on sustainable production and consumption (Argentina April 2003) which developed a common position for presentation to the CSD-11 (New York 2003); the international meeting of experts on the 10 year framework programmes (Morocco 2003); and the second meeting of government experts on sustainable production and consumption which elaborated the framework for a regional strategy on sustainable production and consumption.

**37.** During discussions it was mentioned that cleaner production centres are important for changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and there is a need to work closely with SME, industry and the service sector bearing in mind the problem of the informal sector in the region. Similarly the internationally recognized leadership of the region in the implementation of Chapter III of Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was highlighted. The use of different mechanisms such as voluntary agreements to attain the goals of the ILAC and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was also analyzed.

#### ***c) Barbados+ 10 Programme (SIDS)***

**38.** The Government of Trinidad and Tobago reported on the Regional Meeting of Small Island Developing States (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 6 to 10 October 2003) as part of the preparatory process for the Summit of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Islands, 2004). The presentation and subsequent discussions underlined the increasing vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS. The special challenges and constraints faced by SIDS was recognized in the Barbados Programme of Action and re-emphasised at the Regional Meeting. The discussions and recommendations at this meeting focused on: environmental vulnerability; natural and environmental disasters; economic vulnerabilities; social vulnerabilities; and cross-cutting issues (e.g. science and technology and human resource development).

39. Participants signaled that the successful implementation of the BPOA, which remains a valid post-Johannesburg, requires: capacity building and institutional strengthening; partnership initiatives (within Latin America and the Caribbean); resource mobilization and financing (including a regional sustainability fund and increasing donor financing towards the 0.7% of GDP target). UNEP Governing Council Resolution 22/13 should be used as a framework for future activities.

#### ***d) Health and Environment***

40. The delegation of Argentina presented this agenda item pointing to the importance of health and environment issues as recognized in the Pan American Charter on Health and Environment in Sustainable Human Development (1995), the Millennium Development Goals, the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD and the ILAC. The Government of Canada, subsequently presented the outcomes of the Meeting of Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA), held in Canada, in March 2002 with the support of UNEP and PAHO and follow up activities carried out by the HEMA Task Force to address the eight priority areas and twelve goals established at the meeting. The presentation also included the next steps for the HEMA process as determined by the last HEMA Task Force meeting held in Argentina in November 2003. It was clarified that mechanism will be set up for countries to review the final document going to the next HEMA meeting.

41. The importance of the topic was recognised by the delegations. Discussions included the necessity to link biodiversity and ecosystem services to health and environment. Indicators of health and environment were mentioned as important elements for the project.

#### **5.2. Follow-up and discussion on the agreements of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Governing Council (Nairobi 2002).**

42. Mr. Ricardo Sanchez, Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean presented the strategy to guide the regionalization of the UNEP global programme and support the implementation of the ILAC (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/3, Part II) following the decision adopted by the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi, Kenya; 2003). He outlined that the key areas of the strategy include: promote intergovernmental policy dialogue; implement priority global, regional and national environmental programmes; promote the involvement of major civil society groups; strengthen targeted sub-regional implementation of activities; put in place a regionally distributed management system. These activities would be carried out with emphasis on sub-regional implementation of the programme.

43. Delegations underlined that the regionalization of UNEP and other agencies was a priority for the Forum and that the regional and sub regional implementation of UNEP's Programme of Work fell in line with the UNEP Governing Council decisions promoted by the countries of the region. The Strategy was welcomed as a tool for this regionalization and for addressing specific priorities of the different sub regions. It was also underlined that work on ecosystem services would not be limited to mega diverse countries and that the regional seas programmes would continue to be supported in the implementation of the new strategy. Clarifications were made regarding the names of the groups of the countries especially because the terms "Central America" and "Mesoamerica" do not include Mexico in its totality.

#### **5.3. Preparations for the Eighth Global Environmental Ministerial Forum and the 12<sup>th</sup> Commission on Sustainable Development**

44. Ms. Cristina Boelcke, Director of the Division of Regional Cooperation of UNEP gave an overview of the preparations for the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) to be

held in South Korea in 2004. She also introduced the non-paper which provided some guidelines for the discussions of the GMEF and the main themes that will be covered including water, sanitation and human settlements. These same themes will also be discussed in the Ministerial segment of the Forum and are part of the Regional Action Plan.

**45.** Mr. Dirk Pilari from UNDESA informed the meeting of the changes in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) that emanated from the Johannesburg Summit. For the current two year work cycle, 2003-2005, the CSD will focus on the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements and for the work cycle 2005-2007 on the thematic cluster energy, atmospheric pollution and climate change. In preparation for CSD-12, which will take place in April 2004, regional implementation meetings are taking place. One Secretary General's report per theme under consideration by CSD-12 will be prepared in cooperation with UN agencies.

**46.** Mr. Roberto Guimaraes of UN ECLAC subsequently outlined the role of the Economic Commissions of the UN and their evolution to better deal with issues of sustainability and improve the integration of environmental issues in economic agendas. In terms of the CSD, as the ECLAC Period of Sessions will take place after the meeting of the CSD it will not perform the function of a regional preparatory meeting for the CSD. As such, other fora (e.g. MINURVI) have been used to review the CSD areas of work and outline the priorities of the region. Similar inputs from the Forum of Ministers of Environment would be welcome. Delegations expressed some concern that there will not be a regional preparatory meeting for the CSD. Caribbean SIDS will be meeting before CSD and the other countries of the region may wish to push promote a similar encounter, possibly on the margins of the GMEF in January 2004.

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

### **6.1. Presentation of the proposal for the revision of the Environmental Training Network (UNEP) based on the ILAC**

**47.** At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Enrique Leff of UNEP ROLAC presented the proposal for the UNEP Environmental Training Network's (ETN) past activities and future plans (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/9/Rev.1). A comprehensive analysis of the Environmental Training Network took place in 2003. Based on this, the ETN proposed to reorient its activities based on the following: capacity building (focusing on trade and environment and management of ecosystems); links to other networks; publishing programme focusing on the priorities of the Forum. Financing remains a key restriction that needs to be resolved for the continued success of the ETN.

### **6.2. Presentation of the Latin American and Caribbean Programme on Environmental Education within the framework of sustainable development.**

**48.** Subsequently the delegate from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela presented a proposal on the Latin American and Caribbean Programme on Environmental Education within the framework of sustainable development (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/10) and linked with the ILAC. The objectives of the proposal were to establish a regional mechanism that promotes the coordination of policies, stimulates the development of programmes and projects and fosters communication among governments and other social actors in the development of environmental education programmes. Specific action areas of the proposal

are: consolidation of public policies on environmental education; establishment and consolidation of mechanisms for the network; strengthening the conceptual and methodological aspects of environmental education; reinforcing the capacity of educators and other stakeholders involved in environmental education; and promoting the development of financing mechanisms.

### **6.3. Comments, discussions and recommendations**

**49.** There was general support for the ETN as well as the proposed reorientation of its work. There was also support for the programme presented by Venezuela. Key target groups for environmental education ranged from decision makers (e.g. parliamentarians, judiciary) to local communities.

**50.** It was mentioned that the ETN should be a pragmatic programme aimed at resolving concrete environmental problems and serve as an instrument of the ILAC. In this context it was also stated that education is transversal, and should not be limited to a couple but rather extended to all the priority areas of the ILAC. The links between environment and education authorities should be strengthened in the work of the ETN. It is also important to translate some of the main outputs of the ETN into English to enable a wider audience to benefit from them, as well as to promote further collaboration with the Caribbean. Diffusion of environmental education materials already developed in some countries of the region should be considered by the ETN. At the same time, delegations confirmed their intention to pay outstanding contributions to the ETN Trust Fund.

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

**51.** Under this agenda item, presentations were made related to the following Multilateral Environmental Agreements and associated bodies covering their work programmes and regional initiatives:

- a) Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD) by Mr. Alejandro Kilpatrick.
- b) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD) by Mr. Heitor Matallo.
- c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by Mr. Gonzalo Menendez (Panama).
- d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting on land use change and forestry (Mexico 2003) by Ms. Luz Maria Ortiz from the delegation of Mexico (a related document was distributed to the delegates).
- e) Montreal Protocol and its implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean by Ms. Mirian Vega, UNEP ROLAC.

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

**52.** A draft of the *Panama Declaration* was presented by the Chair. After some discussion it was decided that a working group would be set up coordinated by the Government of Panama and supported by the Secretariat of the Forum to revise the draft Declaration. The revised declaration will be returned to delegations on Saturday 22 November for their further consideration.

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

**53.** Under this agenda item, the delegations reviewed and approved the draft Final Report presented by the Rapporteur, including the decisions of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts, with the necessary modifications. 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**

**54.** The meeting was adjourned at 21:00 hrs Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2003.

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## **Annex I. Panama Declaration (provisional)**

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

**Panama City, Republic of Panama  
20 to 21 of November of 2003**

**We, the Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegation of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Panama City, Panama:**

**Considering** that in spite of the efforts made to attain sustainable development, a serious situation of poverty, inequity, and environmental degradation persists in the region;

**Considering** that the immense amount of natural and cultural resources in the region are of world importance and offer opportunities of which we have to take advantage in order to attain equitable, inclusive and sustainable development;

**Considering** that environmental policies require priority attention to decisions related to the future of our peoples;

**Considering** that the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, as an instrument to help attain the priority goals of the Region, was included in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

**Considering** that this Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, which is the first meeting held after the World Summit on Sustainable Development, has identified eight themes of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development for implementation in the biennium 2004-2005: i.e. access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization; water resources; human settlements, vulnerability and land use planning; trade and environment; economic instruments and fiscal policy; renewable energy; climate change and environmental indicators;

**Considering** that transformation of production and consumption patterns, environmental education and the relationship between health and the environment are cross-cutting issues that are strategic to the implementation of the ILAC;

**Considering** that it is indispensable to encourage social participation, as well as strategic partnerships for implementation and financing of sustainable development;

#### **THEREFORE:**

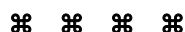
**1. Reaffirm** our political commitment to make our best efforts to implement the principles, commitments and goals of Agenda 21, the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development;

**2. Reiterate** that in order to turn this political commitment of the States into a reality it is necessary to have access to the resources and new financing mechanisms agreed upon at the Johannesburg Summit. Because of this we urge the members of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee of this Forum of Ministers, as well as the multilateral financing and cooperation organisms to – in keeping with their mandates – direct their resources in the manner required to allow the effective implementation of the Regional Action Plan (2004-2005) and the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development.

- 3. Will concentrate** efforts to get the other authorities of our countries to make a commitment to work in a joint and coordinated manner in order to mitigate environmental degradation and the poverty of our peoples.
- 4. Reaffirm** the application of the Rio principles, and in particular those regarding the common but differentiated responsibilities of States and the sovereign right of each country over its natural resources, especially genetic resources, as well as to establish their own levels of environmental protection.
- 5. Urge** the United Nations system to promptly implement the decisions adopted at the Johannesburg Summit with regard to strengthening the regionalization processes, as well as UNEP as far as decisions 22/21 and 22/13 of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of its Governing Council are concerned, in order to make progress in the regionalization of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the UNEP work programme.
- 6. Call** the attention of the international community so that it will urgently adopt the measures required to build up strength in the Small Island Developing States in order for them to handle acknowledged vulnerability problems and ensure a more effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action.
- 7. Recognize** that the Kyoto Protocol established a worldwide consensus to mitigate the effects of global warming and its negative socioeconomic and environmental consequences. We therefore make an appeal for a prompt entering into force of the protocol and its amendments, and encourage the continuation of efforts to implement the Clean Development Mechanism.
- 8. Reiterate** the need to create a fair, just, and equitable multilateral open-market system that is compatible with sustainable development, and that the environmental theme should not be used as a covert restriction to trade, as well as the need to prevent the enforcement of unilateral trade measures in order to tackle environmental problems.
- 9. Recognize** the strategic nature of environmental education for the building of sustainable societies and the need to incorporate into this education the concept of ethics for sustainable development and to intensify the development of national plans for environmental education and heightened awareness in the countries of the region.
- 10. Call** upon all actors from civil society and the government and productive sectors for them to work together and to establish a constructive dialogue in order to help resolve or mitigate environmental problems on the local and national level.
- 11. Make a commitment** to realize efforts to achieve greater synergy and a complementary nature between the agendas of the various ministerial environmental forums in the region.
- 12. Accept** and give thanks for the offer of \_\_\_\_\_ to host the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Environment Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in \_\_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13. Thank** the People and Government of Panama for the successful holding of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and congratulate them on the commemoration of Panama's first one hundred years as a Republic.

*SIGNATURES OF THE MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS PRESENT AT THE  
FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE FORUM OF MINISTERS*

Signed in Panama City, Panama, on 21<sup>st</sup> of November of 2003.





## Annex II. Decisions Proposal

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Governments present at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Ministers of the Environment, held in Panama City, Panama, from 20 to 21 of November 2003,

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### PROPOSAL OF DECISION 1

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#### "THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ILAC: REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION 2004-2005"

PROPOSED BY ARGENTINA, BARBADOS, BRAZIL,  
CHILE, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, MÉXICO, URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA

**Taking into account** that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is the main regional governmental political forum for environmental matters and that it offers to the environmental authorities of the region a space for consensus-building and reflection on the main challenges of the regional and world environmental agenda within the context of sustainable development;

**Considering** that the Regional Action Plan is the principal instrument of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean for the implementation of the agreed regional strategies;

**Also taking into consideration** that the 2002-2005 Regional Action Plan was approved by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirteenth meeting held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in October 2001;

**Underscoring** the need to implement the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) drafted by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and approved at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002;

#### RECOMMEND:

- 1. To recognize** that the Regional Action Plan is a fundamental tool for the gradual implementation of the ILAC.
- 2. To approve** the Regional Action Plan for the 2004-2005 biennium oriented to the implementation of the ILAC with the eight priority lines proposed, i.e., access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization; water resources; human settlements, vulnerability and land use planning and laws; renewable energies; trade and the environment; economic instruments and fiscal policy; climate change; and environmental indicators.
- 3. To requesting** the Inter-Agency Technical Committee to hold a specialized meeting during the first quarter of 2004, that will include the participation of the corresponding member countries of the Inter-Sessional Committee, to complete the final set of activities agreed upon in the 2004-2005 Regional Action Plan, taking into account the new actions proposed and the information packages prepared by the ITC on the aforementioned eight priority themes.



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## PROPOSAL OF DECISION 2

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**“REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME”**

PROPOSED BY ARGENTINA, BARBADOS, BRAZIL, CHILE, COLOMBIA,  
COSTA RICA, CUBA, MEXICO, URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA

**Taking into account**, *inter alia*, Governing Council decision 20/39 of 4 February 1999 on the functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization,

**Noting** the provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit of Sustainable Development, in particular Section XI (g) and the contents of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development,

**Considering** decision 22/21 of the Twenty Second Session of the UNEP Governing Council, of February 2003, regarding regional implementation of the UNEP programme of work,

**RECOMMEND:**

**1. To encourage** the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean to continue working on the implementation of the Regional Strategy in order to provide increasingly effective support to the decisions adopted by the mentioned Forum of Ministers.

**2. To likewise urge** the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean to effectively fulfil the mandate given by the UNEP Governing Council regarding regional implementation of its programme of work contained in Decision 22/21, and at the same time highlight the important role being played by the regional offices of this United Nations Programme.

**3. To request** the agencies of the Inter Agency Technical Committee to establish and strengthen partnerships at the regional and subregional levels with other United Nations bodies, development banks and other institutions, including civil society, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the development and delivery of the programme of work of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**4. To urge** the Latin American and Caribbean countries to actively participate in the Eight Special Session of the Governing Council of UNEP/Global Environment Ministerial Forum, to be held in Jeju, South Korea, from 29 to 31 March 2004, in which occasion follow up will be given to the regional implementation of the UNEP programme of work.

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## PROPOSAL OF DECISION 3

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**“SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION”**

PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATIONS FROM  
ARGENTINA, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, SAINT LUCIA, AND VENEZUELA

**Considering** that the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg established as one of the objectives of its Plan of Implementation the promotion of a number 10 year programmes in support of national and regional initiatives to accelerate the change towards sustainable patterns of consumption and productions,

**Taking into account** that the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region expressed in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development

presented and approved at the aforementioned Summit, the need to incorporate clean production concepts at the industries and to work in favour of sustainable consumption,

**Taking into account that** the results of the First and Second Meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Governmental Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and in Managua, Nicaragua, respectively, include: the proposal for the creation of the Regional Council of Governmental Experts in Sustainable Consumption and Production and a Contribution for the Construction of a Regional Platform on Sustainable Consumption and Consumption.

**Considering** that the results of the First Meeting were recognized as exemplary actions at the Eleventh Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, May 2003) and at the International Meeting on 10-Year Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech, June 2003),

#### **RECOMMEND:**

- 1. To promote** the Regional Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production proposed at the Second Meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Governmental Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- 2. To establish** a Regional Council of Governmental Experts in Sustainable Consumption and Production and to raise the financial resources required for its operation.
- 3. To carry out and inventory** of the major activities on sustainable production and consumption in each country of the region and analyze these activities with a view to identifying best practices and lessons learnt and share them within the region.
- 4. To promote** the strengthening of institutional capabilities of governments by means of the continue exchange of information, among institutions from different sectors as well as to carry out workshops, training, and technical assistance.
- 5. To promote** the production and financial sectors by means of capacity building for workshops, trainings, information and technical assistance.
- 6. Carrying out** campaigns to increase awareness and knowledge of sustainable production and consumption at all levels of society.
- 7. Implementing** pilot projects on sustainable production and consumption for industry and service sectors taking into account the wide variety of such sectors in the region.
- 8. Promoting** the supply and demand of sustainable products and services.
- 9. Creating** opportunities for dialogue between the various national and sub-regional initiatives on sustainable production and consumption.

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#### **PROPOSAL OF DECISION 4**

##### **"RENEWABLE ENERGY"**

PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATIONS OF  
BARBADOS, BRAZIL AND NICARAGUA

**Recalling** that the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development approved at the first special meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 31 August 2002, recognizes the important contribution that bilateral, sub-regional, and regional activities can make to the promotion of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the Platform for Action towards Johannesburg 2002 approved in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in October 2001,

**Highlighting** the positive contribution that the productive use of renewable energy sources can make to the sustainable development of the countries of the region to help mitigate poverty, increase energy security, and diversify national and regional energy matrixes; reduce the risks of hydrological variability; decentralize the production of energy; improve the countries' technological and industrial base; and provide universal supply of electric power and its use,

**Considering** that access to energy is fundamental in order to promote economic growth, protection of the environment, and social equity,

**Taking into account** the Brasilia Platform on Renewable Energy that was adopted at the Regional Conference on Renewable Energy for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Brazil in October 2003,

### RECOMMEND

- 1. To advocate** fulfillment of the goal set by the Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development to ensure that by the year 2010 the region, considered as a whole, will be using at least 10 % of renewable energy in its total consumption of electricity;
- 2. To provide** firm support at the International Conference on Renewable Energy (Bonn, 2004) to the creation of a technical and financial cooperation fund that will facilitate the industrialized countries' cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean in technological development matters, help to reduce current costs, and increase the investment in renewable energy sources in the countries of the region;
- 3. To urge** the financial institutions to finance national, sub-regional, and regional renewable energy projects;
- 4. To define** for each country in the region the agenda, needs, possibilities for implementation and support needed to reach the goals of the ILAC (10 % of renewable energy in the total supply of energy);
- 5. To prepare** studies on experiences and existing projects in the region that can be used to draft initiatives for cooperation and to replicate and adapt those results to the demands of other countries; and
- 6. To mobilize** the political support needed to negotiate, approve, and implement the Latin American and Caribbean Platform on Renewable Energy.

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### PROPOSAL OF DECISION 5

#### "ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS"

PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATIONS OF COSTA RICA,  
COLOMBIA, CUBA, MEXICO AND SAINT LUCIA

**Taking into account** the decisions of the Tenth and Thirteenth Meetings of the Forum of Ministers and the First Special Meeting of the Inter-sectional Committee of this Forum, in relation with our region's need to have an effective tool on environmental statistics and indicators capable of supporting in a pertinent way the decisions adopted in the framework of this Forum as well as national agendas.

**Taking into account, with special attention,** that the ILAC includes specific Guiding Goals and Indicative Objectives in relation with indicators and, in particular, establishes "To develop and implement an assessment process to follow up the progress made towards attaining sustainable objectives including the results of the Johannesburg Plan of

Implementation, adopting national and regional sustainability indicators that respond to the region's unique social, economic and political features."

**Taking into account** that the indicators to monitor progress in the implementation of ILAC must be based on basic environmental statistics that must meet the characteristic of serving multiple purposes, both regional and national.

**Acknowledging** the work carried out in 2003 by UNEP and the government of Costa Rica, including the meeting of experts in environmental statistics and indicators of the Forum of Environmental Ministers (August 2003) during which a proposal on a core set of environmental indicators for ILAC were developed, as well as a proposal for a common methodology sheet.

#### RECOMMEND:

**1. To support** the Environmental Statistics and Indicators Project of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/8) to produce a core set of (national) environmental indicators to assess progress in the execution of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC).

**2. To approve** the matrix of core data and indicators as the initial component of the project, as well as the design of the methodology sheets used to measure the indicators and variables of ILAC in the various countries of the region (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/8).

**3. To request** UNEP to develop software tools at the regional scale to present all the indicators and to provide a regional perspective of the progress in the implementation of the ILAC objectives.

**4. To promote** the gathering and harmonizing of national environmental variables and indicators in the framework of the forum under the coordination of UNEP, the Costa Rican Government as coordinator of the working group for environmental indicators of the Forum. To achieve this if is necessary to strengthen capacities.

**5. To request** the agencies of the Inter Agency Technical Committee and other regional organizations to work with UNEP on the implementation of the activities approved in this decision and other initiatives at the regional level.

#### PROPOSAL OF DECISION 6

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##### "ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION"

PROPOSED BY COSTA RICA, CUBA,  
ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR AND MEXICO

**Taking into consideration** the actions mentioned in paragraph 44 (o) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in regard to *"Negotiate, in the framework of the Convention on Biologic Diversity and being aware of the Bonn Guidelines, the creation of an international regime, to efficiently promote and safeguard a fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the utilization of genetic resources;"*

**Considering that** Latin American and Caribbean initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) establishes in its guiding goals and indicative objectives, the adoption of regulatory frameworks for access to genetic recourses and for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their utilization, compatible with the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**Underscoring** the contents of section B. Integrated Environmental Management, the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Ecosystems, of the Regional Action Plan 2002-

2005 approved by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean;

**RECOMMEND:**

- 1. To request** support for drafting and/or harmonization of national laws in countries that do not have such instruments
- 2. To request the** ITC to support the organization of expert workshops or meetings to exchange experiences and to strengthen the institutional capacities of the countries for implementation of and compliance with legal international mandates.
- 3. To Urge** the Latin American and Caribbean countries to actively participate in the Second Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing of the Convention on Biologic Diversity to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 1 to 5 December 2003, for the purpose of promoting paragraph 44 (o) of the Johannesburg Summit.

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**PROPOSAL OF DECISION 7**

**"HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT"**

PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATIONS OF ARGENTINA, CHILE, COLOMBIA,  
CUBA, EL SALVADOR, SAINT LUCIA AND VENEZUELA

**Recalling** that Decision 17, paragraph 1, adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to support a joint meeting of Health and Environment Ministers during the first quarter of 2002, as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg 2002),

**Considering** that the theme of environment and health is an integrated and vital part of sustainable development and in this regard it was included in one of the six priority areas of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development and highlighted in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

**Taking into account** that the first meeting of Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) (Ottawa, 2002), produced a Ministerial Communiqué setting out 8 areas of priority and 12 goals that required concerted action across the region,

**Also taking into account** that progress has been made in the implementation of the Ministerial Communiqué through a Task Force consisting of representatives from the Ministries of Environment and Health of the region,

**RECOMMEND:**

- 1. To continue** providing support to key regional and sub-regional mechanisms, with the participation of all the countries that are members of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the HEMA, which provides a clear direction to reduce environmental threats to human health in Latin America and the Caribbean and encourages collaboration among all the countries of the region, with the assistance of UNEP and PAHO;
- 2. To work closely** with the Ministers of Health under a common set of objectives to deal with environment and health problems at the national, subregional and regional levels, and to identify priority activities and initiatives to be developed in a coordinated and cooperative manner;
- 3. To recognize** the work undertaken by the HEMA and its Task Force as a complement to the implementation of ILAC on this issue and encourage the continuity of this process, as

well as the implementation of concrete activities and initiatives, such as GEO Health, agreed by the Task Force.

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## PROPOSAL OF DECISION 8

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### “SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES”

PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATIONS OF BARBADOS, BAHAMAS, BELIZE,  
CUBA, DOMINICA, JAMAICA, SAINT LUCIA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**Taking into account** that Agenda 21 highlights the special vulnerabilities and fragilities of Small Island Developing States in achieving sustainable development;

**Recognizing that** the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) outlines specific actions in this regard and that the targets set by Johannesburg Plan of Action and the Millennium Development Goals will be delivered within the framework of the BPOA;

**Mindful that** SIDS continue to be recognized by the international community as highly vulnerable;

**Taking into account** that the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative (ILAC) also urges priority to the SIDS in the Region, especially in financing the implementation of the BPOA;

**Mindful of** the outputs of the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Implementation of the BPOA especially with regards to building resilience to vulnerabilities;

**Recalling** UNEP Governing Council 22/13 of February 2003 which calls for the strengthening of institutional capacity of SIDS.

- a) To strengthen the institutional capacity of small island developing States to effectively achieve the sustainable development goals outlined in the Programme of Action through the provision of dedicated technical and financial support;
- b) To increase funding for those activities during the biennium during 2004-2005, in particular in connection with the preparation for and the implementation of the outcomes of the international meeting to be held in Mauritius in 2004;
- c) Focused support for the development and execution of partnership initiatives presented within the context of implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### RECOMMEND:

**1. To call** for the establishment of a Caribbean SIDS Programme with the support of UNEP which works along with existing and planned Caribbean institutions and mechanisms.

**2. To urge** that the critical elements highlighted by Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10-year Review of the BPOA be used as a basis for the Caribbean SIDS Programme, including,

- a) Support for the establishment of a Regional Sustainability Fund to facilitate the further implementation of the BPOA;
- b) Support for Caribbean member states in their efforts to establish the CSME;
- c) Support for capacity building at regional, sub-regional and national levels that includes institutional strengthening, technology transfer and training to strengthen resilience to vulnerabilities and that every effort be to adopt a coordinated approach,



particularly with respect to the MEAs and initiatives coordinated by UNEP from other funding institutions such as GEF;

d) Support for the establishment of partnerships initiatives between key agencies to catalyze SIDS/POA implementation. Civil society should also be included in these partnerships;

e) Support for a well-established, well-defined regional co-ordinatory mechanism for the further implementation of the BPOA.

**3. To urge** that a consultative process be undertaken with Caribbean SIDS involving governments, civil society, and appropriate regional and sub-regional organizations to elaborate the elements of Caribbean SIDS Programme and to have this process before the International meeting to be convened in Mauritius in August/September, 2004.

**4. To request** UNEP to support the development and implementation of the Caribbean SIDS Programme, within available resources available for the biennium 2004-2005;

**5. To urge** that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean particularly non-SIDS members of the Forum support the BPOA as the platform for the attainment of sustainable development for Caribbean SIDS.

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#### PROPOSAL OF DECISION 9

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**“ADAPTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING NETWORK TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ILAC AND THE INCORPORATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN PROGRAMME OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATIONS  
OF CUBA AND VENEZUELA

**Taking into account** the priority assigned by the Forum of Ministers to the objectives of the work programmed of the Environmental Training Network,

**Considering** with special attention the purposes of the Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean to create and develop national capacities of the priority issues identified,

**Reaffirming** the commitment expressed in the ILAC of: “Improve and strengthen the incorporation of the environment dimension in the formal and non-formal education, in the economy and society”,

**Ratifying** the critical importance of education to promote the sustainable development and increase the capacity of people to tackle environment and development issues, as expressed in Chapter 36 of Agenda 21,

**Taking into consideration** that the United Nations General Assembly declared 2005-2015 as the “Decade for the Education for the Sustainable Development”.

**Recognizing also** the progress reached the environmental education has had in the region and focused in an important process of legitimacy, institutionalization, professionalisation, conceptual, theoretical and methodological development, as well as the progressive incorporation of the environmental dimension within the study programmes, management processes and development plans.

**Recognizing** that there are still obstacles to come, that impede a great effectiveness and impact of the education actions achieved, at the time that huge difficulties for communication, cooperation and exchange of experiences, environmental education projects among the countries of the region persist.

**Convinced** that the need to move forward in the strengthening of the programmes of environmental education as part of the State policies of the different countries of the region through the processes of cooperation, communication and exchange among the countries.

**Highlighting** that the financial contributions to the Trust Fund of the Network come from the Ministries of Environment or equivalents of each of the countries of the Region, who perform a fundamental role in the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative.

**Acknowledging** that the unequal contributions from the countries of the Trust Fund of the Network and the limited available resources in this moment for the implementation of the programme activities for the biennial 2004-2005.

**RECOMMEND:**

**1. Reorient** the Working Programme of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean towards the development of national capacities and training in the priority themes identified in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative,

**2. Request** the countries in the region to reconfirm their commitments and to make efforts to comply with their annual contributions to the Environmental Training Network Trust Fund,

**3. Extend** the operation of the Network Trust Fund for two more years and until the next Forum of Ministers of Environment, requesting UNEP to continue administrating the said fund.

**4. To employ** the financial resources from the Trust Fund of the Environmental Training Network in a priority manner to ensure what is outlined in point 1, with the main direct beneficiaries being the officials, specialists, and personnel in general of the Environment Ministries or their equivalent in each of the countries of the Region in view of the role that these institutions play in the implementation of the Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**5. To recognize** the importance of the role of teachers and public educators for the implementation of ILAC, through activities such as courses, events, research and community action.

**6. To ratify** the usefulness of the Publishing Program of the Environmental Training Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, modifying it so that it can meet the requirements of point 1, including the translation of the texts into English in response to the interest of the English-speaking nations of the Caribbean and the availability of funds.

**7. To develop** in the period 2004-2005, within the work program of the Environmental Training Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, and in accordance with the availability of funds, at least two workshops for the training and development of national capacities, with the participation of all the countries of the region, oriented to the priority goals of the Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative beginning with:

- a) Trade and the environment
- b) Integrated management of eco-systems

**8. To strengthen** the promoting, coordinating, and support-providing nature of the Environmental Training Network reoriented in keeping with the ILAC to the processes of environmental education and training, establishing partnerships and mechanisms of coordination with other regional, sub-regional, and national networks for environmental education.



**9. To support** the proposal of a Latin American and Caribbean Program of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development so that it may be carried out within the framework of the Environmental Training Network.

**10. To request** that the UNEP and the Inter-Agency Technical Committee identify and negotiate technical and financial resources in accordance with their specific mandates and the mandates of the ILAC to support the Network's activities and in particular for the development of the Latin American and Caribbean Program of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development.

**11. To request** the assist of regional and international agencies to prepare modalities of environmental education for decision makers, particularly members of national assemblies and parliaments;

**12. To consider** the necessity for establishing coordination mechanisms between environmental and educational authorities at the national level, while at the same time requesting UNEP to design similar effective and efficient mechanisms at regional and sub regional levels so as to further strengthen environmental education.

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### PROPOSAL OF DECISION 10

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#### "CLIMATE CHANGE"

PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATIONS OF COLOMBIA, CUBA AND MEXICO

**Considering** that at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002, in the framework of the first special meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development (ILAC) was approved.

**Recalling** that the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development acknowledges the important contribution that bilateral, sub-regional, and regional activities can make to promote sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the Platform of Action towards Johannesburg 2002, approved in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in October 2001.

**Taking into consideration** that in the operational guidelines of ILAC a call is made for an active promotion of the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC making an appeal for the ratification of this agreement, particularly by the countries with the largest emissions of greenhouse-effect gases.

**Considering** Decision 3 of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to the Kyoto Protocol where clear disagreement is stated with regard to any kind of attempt to back off on the implementation of commitments to reach the objectives established in the UNFCCC.

**Taking into consideration** Decision 22/3 of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Governing Council, held in Nairobi in February 2003 which points out the need to strengthen One's role in coordination with the Secretariat of the Convention on Climate Changes, to support regional and national activities to reduce the vulnerability of the developing countries to climate change, especially, the least developed countries and the small island developing states.

**Considering** the call made by the Preparatory Meeting of Experts on the Land Use and Land Use changes and Forestry in the framework of the Kyoto Protocol, during the October 2003 meeting on the need to promote capacity building developments and a prompt implementation of forest projects in the CDM framework.

**RECOMMEND:**

- 1. To promote** compliance with operational ILAC guidelines that deal with promotion and support for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Convention Framework on Climate change.
- 2. To support** Decision 3 of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and to urge the countries those have not done so, to ratify the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC.
- 3. To support** decision 22/3 adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN Governing Council held in Nairobi in February 2003 emphasizing the need to strengthen UNEP's role in the Latin American and Caribbean region to reduce the vulnerability of the developing countries to climate change, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing states.
- 4. To welcome** the call made by the Preparatory Meeting of Experts on the Land Use and Land Use changes and Forestry within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean regarding the use of certificates on emission reduction for forest projects on the Clean Development Mechanism.
- 5. To support** continued efforts to facilitate a prompt implementation of the CDM (Including the issuing of emission reduction certificates in line with what is established in decision 17/CP.7)
- 6. To consider** the issue of adaptation to global climate changes, a high priority for the countries of the region, and in this context, to urge the Annex 1 counties to find additional financial ways that will permit the countries of the region to face firmly the implementation of measures for adaptation to such changes.

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**PROPOSAL OF DECISION 11**

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**"GRATITUDE TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA"**

PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATIONS OF ARGENTINA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**RECOMMEND:**

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

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## Annex III. List of Participants

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## Table of Contents

1. Background.....	1
2. Objectives of the Expert Meeting .....	1
<b>Agenda Item 1: Participation .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Agenda Item 2: Opening of the meeting .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Agenda Item 3. Organization of the meeting .....</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting .....	2
3.2. Election of officers .....	2
3.3. Approval of the meeting agenda and schedule of sessions .....	2
<b>Agenda Item 4: Discussion of the strategy proposed for implementation of the ILAC .....</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1. Presentation of the strategic guidelines for implementation of the ILAC. ....	3
4.2. Presentation of the information packets (ITC) and discussion of the priority lines of action of the Forum of Ministers for the 2004-2005 period .....	3
4.3. Discussion, proposals and recommendations regarding the lines of implementation of the 2004-2005 Regional Action Plan.....	4
<b>Agenda Item 5: Discussion and follow-up on the Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg and Nairobi agreements .....</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1. Discussions and follow up of the agreements adopted in Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg and Nairobi .....	6
5.2. Follow-up and discussion on the agreements of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Governing Council (Nairobi 2002).....	8
5.3. Preparations for the Eighth Global Environmental Ministerial Forum and the 12 <sup>th</sup> Commission on Sustainable Development .....	8
<b>Agenda Item 6: Analysis of perspectives and future alternatives for environmental education and training in Latin America and the Caribbean .....</b>	<b>9</b>
6.1. Presentation of the proposal for the revision of the Environmental Training Network (UNEP) based on the ILAC .....	9
6.2. Presentation of the Latin American and Caribbean Programme on Environmental Education within the framework of sustainable development. ....	9
6.3. Comments, discussions and recommendations.....	10
<b>Agenda Item 7: State of implementation and future perspectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Agenda Item 8: Other matters .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Agenda Item 9: Review and approval of the report of the meeting .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Agenda Item 10: Closing of the meeting .....</b>	<b>11</b>

<b>Annex I.</b> Declaration of Panama (Provisional).....	12
<b>Annex II.</b> Decisions Proposal.....	14
Proposal of Decision 1. "The Regional Plan of Action as an Instrument for Implementation of the ILAC: Regional Plan of Action 2004-2005".....	14
Proposal Of Decision 2. "Regional Implementation of the Programme of Work of the United Nations Environment Programme" .....	15
Proposal Of Decision 3. "Sustainable Consumption and Production" .....	15
Proposal Of Decision 4. "Renewable Energy" .....	16
Proposal Of Decision 5. "Environmental Indicators" .....	17
Proposal Of Decision 6."Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization" .....	18
Proposal Of Decision 7. "Health and Environment" .....	19
Proposal Of Decision 8. "Small Island Developing States" .....	20
Proposal Of Decision 9. "Adaptation of the Work Programme of the Environmental Training Network to the Implementation of the ILAC and the Incorporation of the Latin American and the Caribbean Programme of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development" .....	21
Proposal Of Decision 10. "Climate Change" .....	23
Proposal Of Decision 11. "Gratitude to the People and Government of Panama" .....	24
<b>Annex III.</b> List of Participants .....	25

