



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

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

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

Panama City, Panama
20 to 25 November 2003

Distribution:

Limited

UNEP/LAC-IG.XIV/2

Friday 14, November 2003

Original: Spanish

B. MINISTERIAL SEGMENT
24TH TO 25TH NOVEMBER 2003

Provisional Annotated Agenda

I. Introduction

1. The catalytic and coordinating role that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean played in the regional process preparatory to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa; September 2002) demonstrates the maturity and effectiveness that this regional consensus mechanism has achieved.

2. At both the regional and sub-regional levels, the Forum's substantive influence in furthering progress in environmental and other themes associated with sustainable development resulted in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), which has been included in the Johannesburg Plan of Action.

3. The Forum initiated the post-Johannesburg stage with the challenge of implementing the ILAC and converting its Regional Action Plan (RAP) into a tool for focusing on regional priorities and helping to attain the environmental sustainability set forth in Millennium Development Objective 7.

Objectives of the Meeting

3. The Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from 20 to 25 November 2003 in Panama City, Panama.

4. In the preparatory process, a meeting of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) of the Forum of Ministers was held in Brasilia, Brazil, in July 2003. The Presidency of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean (Brazil) subsequently conducted direct consultations with the countries of the region in the months of July and August 2003 on the pertinence and selection of items to be included on the regional environmental agenda for the next few years.

5. The basic aspects of the results and comments gathered coincide with the set of guidelines discussed in Brasilia and form a base for the discussions that will take place in Panama.

6. In this context and in response to recommendations made at previous meetings, the ministers and heads of delegations present at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum will be able to concentrate on adopting decisions regarding the proposals and

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

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

Registration of participants

8. Registration of the ministers and heads of delegations, as well as the distribution of working documents for the ministerial segment of the meeting, will take place on Sunday, 23 November 2003, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Hotel El Panama.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

9. The opening ceremony will take place at 09:00 a.m. on Monday, 24 November 2003, in the Sala Bella Vista of the Hotel El Panama with remarks on behalf of the Government of Brazil and the Government of Panama, which will, respectively, be the outgoing and incoming countries occupying the Presidency of the Forum, and on behalf of UNEP, in its capacity as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting will then be declared officially open by Ms. Mireya Moscoso, President of Panama.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the meeting

2.1. Election of officers

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

2.2. Transfer of the Presidency of the Forum

11. Once the officers have been elected, the new President, Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur will assume their positions to proceed with the work of the meeting.

2.3. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting

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

2.4. Approval of the meeting agenda and schedule of sessions

13. Under this item, the delegations will consider the Provisional Annotated Agenda and the Schedule of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat (**UNEP/LAC-IG.XIV/2** and **UNEP/LAC-IG.XIV/Ord.1**) and will adopt them after incorporating any changes they may deem necessary.

Agenda Item 3: Special Session to exchange experience and information on emerging issues pertinent to the implementation of the Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (ILAC)

14. Taking into account the consultation and preparation process for the Fourteenth Forum and the strategic guidelines for implementation of the ILAC and Johannesburg Plan of Action, as well as the need to advance in putting these commitments into practice in accordance with the region's unique features, visions and goals, it was considered an opportune time to organize special sessions in which international ministers, eminent persons and experts in the sphere of environment and sustainable development could share their perspectives on two of the issues that have been emerging with increasing force and presence on the international and regional environmental agendas.

15. Access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of their benefits and water resources have been selected as the issues for consideration in greater depth because of their strategic importance to fulfilling the commitments assumed in the Millennium Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Consideration was also given to the need to contribute and harmonize activities on the issues selected, and particularly on water, sanitation and human settlements, an issue which coincides with the first cycle of the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), following Johannesburg.

16. Thus, under agenda item 3.1., guest panelists, ministers and representatives of the international system will exchange ideas on the issue of access to genetic resources and equitable distribution of benefits, as well as factors related to biosafety.

17. Under agenda item 3.2., presentations and round table discussions will be carried out on water resources management, integrated watershed management and the UNEP strategy on this theme. Water resources and land-based sources of pollution will also be major agenda items at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum to be held in Korea in 2004.

18. In connection with the presentation of regional perspectives concerning the above-mentioned issues, the recommendations of the experts on the same issues should also be reviewed and any initiatives and activities deemed advisable should be incorporated into the Forum's Regional Action Plan for the biennium 2004-2005.

Agenda Item 4: Strategy for the implementation of the Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (ILAC).

19. Under agenda item 4.1., the Environment Minister of Brazil, in her capacity as President of the Thirteenth Forum, will then make a brief presentation of the criteria and perspectives that served as guidelines in the process of developing the strategy and the lines of action proposed for the 2004-2005 period.

20. Representatives of the agencies that form the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (UNEP, IDB, World Bank, UNDP and ECLAC) will have an opportunity to reiterate the main conclusions drawn from the diagnoses and the analysis of implications linked to problems which, owing to their importance and the potential for making progress to address them in the current international context, have been proposed by the environmental authorities for immediate attention in the framework of regional cooperation over the next few years, as follows:

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

21. Based on the presentation by the previous President of the Forum, the information provided by the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) and the recommendations of the experts in the report to the ministerial segment (**UNEP/LAC-IG.XIV/12**) under agenda item 4.2., the ministers and heads of delegations present will examine factors related to the role of the Regional Action Plan as a tool in the strategy for the implementation of the ILAC, including the role of each of the ITC agencies in supporting the ILAC and the possible incorporation new members in the Inter-Agency Technical Committee of the Forum.

22. On the basis of their conclusions, they will review and adopt proposals and recommendations on the selected issues and the lines for implementation of the 2004-2005 Regional Action Plan. In this context, consideration should be given to the adoption of selection and priority criteria for the implementation of activities, taking into account the comparative advantages of each ITC agency for supporting the implementation of the ILAC, as well as the technical and financial limitations of the Forum and associated agencies.

Agenda Item 5: Initiatives and issues advocated by the Forum of Ministers and linked to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

23. Under this agenda item, the ministers and heads of delegations will follow up on the initiatives and issues that have been advocated by the Forum, as follows:

24. Agenda item 5.1. will include an examination of the process for building environmental indicators for ILAC follow-up that a group of countries in the region has been developing with the support of UNEP and the World Bank. The main elements of the proposed set of indicators will be presented by Costa Rica, which has coordinated the process in follow-up on the agreements adopted in Rio de Janeiro. UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/8.

25. Under agenda item 5.2, the perspectives and future alternatives for environmental education and training in the framework of the strategy for the implementation of the Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development will be examined. Both proposals seek to evolve, not only in regional thought in the field of environmental education, but also in the establishment of regional cooperation mechanisms to facilitate communication, cooperation and joint efforts among the different actors that operate in environmental education in the region. In this framework, consideration will be given to the recommendation of the experts on the proposal to review the UNEP Environmental Training Network (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/9/Rev.1**) and the proposal of the Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Education Programme presented by Venezuela (see Executive Summary, **UNEP/LAC-IG.XIV/10** and the full version of the proposal, **UNEP/LAC-IG.XIV/Inf.12**).

26. Another issue proposed for discussion under agenda item 5.3. is progress in the theme of Health and Environment, taking into account the activities conducted during this period by a working group of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA), established for follow-up on the Meeting of Health and Environment Ministers, held in Ottawa, Canada, in March 2002 with the support of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The Argentine delegation will report on the main conclusions proposed for follow-up on the meeting of the working group in Buenos Aires in early November 2003. Representatives of PAHO and the Government of Canada, which have been supporting this initiative together with UNEP, will be able to provide further information on future activities.

27. Under agenda item 5.4., the Environment Minister of Nicaragua will report on the regional process for implementation of Chapter III, Production and Consumption, of the Johannesburg Plan of Action, based on the results of the meeting held on 15 and 16 October in Managua (see document *"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"*, **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/7**).

28. Under agenda item 5.5., the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will report on the recommendations of the Regional Meeting of Small Island States (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 6 to 10 October 2003), as part of the process towards the Summit of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius, 2004) – see "Report of the Caribbean Regional Meeting to Review the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/11**.

Agenda Item 6: Follow-up and preparation related to the UNEP Governing Council 22 agreements, the Fifth Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the Twelfth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

29. Under this agenda item, it is proposed that the delegations follow up on and discuss the agreements that were adopted by the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi, Kenya; 2003) and are of importance to the region. In relation to these agreements, particular importance should be given to the comments and contributions of the ministers and heads of delegations concerning the strategy to guide the regionalization of the UNEP global programme and support for the implementation of the ILAC (see document *"Strategy of UNEP for Latin America and the Caribbean"* **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/6**).

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

31. An examination of the progress made in fulfilling the agreements in the period between the Rio, Johannesburg and Nairobi meetings will enable the ministers to review the future follow-up measures proposed by the experts for the respective themes and to adopt the recommendations of a operational nature to be included in the Forum's work plan.

Agenda Item 7: Proposal for the participation of non-governmental organizations in activities to support the implementation of the ILAC and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

32. The networks of non-governmental organizations that participated in the regional participation process for the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development and other events promoted by the Forum of Ministers will carry out consultations during the civil society segment on Saturday, 22 November. The main items to be dealt with are potential mechanisms for participation and activities to support the implementation of the ILAC and the 2004-2005 Regional Action Plan, an examination of the results of the meeting to review the Barbados+10 Programme, and preparation for the global meeting of civil society in Korea (March 2004) in the framework of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF). Representatives of the civil society will present to the Ministerial Segment their conclusions and recommendations reached during their consultations.

Agenda Item 8: State of implementation and future perspectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

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

34. Representatives of the conventions and protocols and of the observer countries present will be able to offer further information on the above-mentioned themes.

Agenda Item 9: Other matters

35. Under this item, the delegations will deal with other matters that are of importance to the objectives of the meeting and have not been covered under any of the specific items on the agenda. One of these items, for example, would be the venue and date for the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Agenda Item 10: Review and approval of the report of the meeting

36. Under this agenda item, the delegations will review the draft Final Report submitted by the Rapporteur, including the set of decisions, and will then adopt it, following any necessary changes.

Agenda Item 10: Closing of the meeting

37. The meeting will be closed at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 25 November 2003.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

