



**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

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

Caracas, Venezuela

31st October to 4th November 2005

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A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS
31ST October to 2ND November 2005

Provisional Annotated Agenda of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts

I. Introduction

1. The Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama, November 2003) adopted the agreements necessary to undertake implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), which forms part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Eight priority areas in particular were selected, and concrete activities that comprise the Regional Action Plan (RAP) were identified.

2. The Panama Declaration, adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, established the policy basis on which the Ministers of the Region believed the Latin America and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) should be implemented and it underscored, in particular, the importance of applying the principles related the cross-cutting nature of some themes, common but differentiated responsibility, regionalization, the priority that should be given to the SIDS, the importance of advancing towards an open trade system, the inclusion of civil society, and financing for sustainable development. These basic cross-sectoral policies should be taken into account in the deliberations of the agenda items (see **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/Inf.6**).

3. In the past two years, the countries of the region have made specific progress in implementing the ILAC and have gained valuable experience in making the RAP serve as an instrument for focusing on regional priorities and advancing towards the environmental sustainability proposed in the seventh Millennium Development Goal and the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan.

II. Objectives of the meeting

4. The Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from 2 to 4 November 2005 in the city of Caracas, Venezuela.

5. In the preparatory process, a meeting of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee of the Forum of Ministers, held in Panama City on 12 and 13 July 2005, evaluated the progress made in implementing the 2004-2005 Regional Action Plan and examined the implementation of the decisions adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

6. In this context and in response to the recommendations made at previous meetings, the main purpose of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts will be to formulate recommendations to the Ministers and Heads of delegation present at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum on the implementation of the ILAC in relation to its implementation mechanisms and with regard to the lines of action the RAP 2006-2007 should follow, particularly in the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan. The Meeting of Experts should also review the agreements and results of multilateral environmental forums held during the inter-sessional period and decide on the position the region should take at future international discussions and negotiations, particularly those related to water resources and access to genetic resources and the equitable distribution of benefits arising from their utilization.

7. The purpose of the following annotations to the agenda proposed for the meeting is to facilitate consideration of the various items that will be dealt with there. It should be noted that the Secretariat has prepared working documents to enable consideration of the agenda items, as well as a group of operational reports that reflect the progress made in initiatives and activities of interest to the Forum since its Fourteenth Meeting was held in Panama City, Panama (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/Inf.1**).

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

8. The meeting will begin with an opening ceremony at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 31 October 2005, with remarks by representatives of the Government of Panama and of the Government of Venezuela, as the respective outgoing and incoming countries occupying the presidency of the Forum, and by UNEP, in its capacity as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the meeting

2.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure

9. It is proposed that the Experts adopt, *mutatis mutandi*, the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP for the meeting.

2.2. Election of officers

10. It is proposed to the Meeting of Experts, in accordance with practice established at past meetings of the Forum, that the officers consist of one president, seven vice-presidents and one rapporteur, taking into account criteria of geographical representativity and rotation established by the ministerial meetings.

2.3. Approval of the meeting agenda and timetable of sessions

11. Under this item, the Experts will consider the Provisional Agenda (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/1**) and Provisional Annotated Agenda and its Timetable of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/2**) and will adopt them after incorporating any modifications they may deem necessary. The proposed work timetable appears as Annex I.

Agenda Item 3: Evaluation of advances in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)

3.1. Activities of the member agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) and the coordinating countries of the Working Groups for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for 2004-2005

12. For consideration of this item, the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers has prepared an updated report on the measures adopted to carry out the priority activities of the Regional Action Plan for the biennium 2004-2005 (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/3**). The Report of the First Meeting of the ITC 2005 -held in Panama City, Panama, 12 and 13 July 2005- (see **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/Inf.4**) will also be made available to the Forum. A review of these reports by the Meeting of Experts may prompt recommendations on measures that could be adopted to improve implementation of the RAP in matters such as, for example, the operation of the Working Groups (see **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/4**) and the identification of options to continue fulfilling the commitment reaffirmed by the ITC member agencies to maintain their contribution to implementing the RAP during the biennium 2006-2007, as well as the Bali Strategic Plan.

3.2. Review of the state of implementation of the decisions adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (See Annex II to this agenda)

13. As has been the practice at meetings of experts preceding the work of the Forum of Ministers, a detailed analysis of the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Fourteenth Forum of Ministers will be carried out. Consequently the work agenda of the Meeting of Experts includes the time necessary to cover this agenda item (see **Annex I**).

14. To deal with this item, the Meeting of Experts will have a report prepared by the Secretariat on the results of the implementation of the decisions adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, including particularly the measures adopted by UNEP/ROLAC to fulfil Decision 3 regarding the regionalization of the UNEP Work Programme (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/5**). It will also have the Report of the First Meeting of the ITC in 2005 – Panama City, Panama; 12 and 13 July 2005 (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/Inf.4**). The Experts will review and consider the adoption of recommendations to the Forum of Ministers in relation to agreements and proposals that have arisen from regional and international forums and meetings, such as, for example, the Mauritius Strategy for the further

implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the proposals of the Regional Workshop on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Distribution of the Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, and Associated Traditional Knowledge (Havana, Cuba, 21 and 22 June 2005); the Mar del Plata Declaration adopted at the Meeting of Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 14-19 June 2005); as well as the Report of the Third Meeting of the Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean (Managua, Nicaragua, 3-5 August 2005).

15. On the basis of the reports presented, the discussion and the consensus achieved, the Meeting of Experts may formulate recommendations to be presented to the Forum of Ministers.

Agenda Item 4: Follow-up and discussion on the GC23 decisions

4.1. UNEP Water Strategy

16. At the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of UNEP, it was recognized that water was perhaps the most basic environmental resource and a key factor in the viability and sustainability of global ecosystems. The balance of these ecosystems is being threatened as a result of damage inflicted on the development infrastructure, modification of river courses, deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, overfishing, the introduction of invasive species and discharges of pollutants.

17. The countries participating in the Governing Council session recognized, in particular, that the link between environmentally sound water management and the reduction of poverty was critical and should therefore be considered a priority to ensure that concrete actions were undertaken. Consequently, the Governing Council adopted decision 23/2 in order to continue the process of integrating and implementing the Updated UNEP Global Water Strategy as a framework for guiding UNEP activities in the field of water and sanitation in interested countries during the period 2005-2007 (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/6**).

18. The experts will be able to review the content of the strategy approved by the Governing Council and formulate their proposals to the Forum of Ministers.

4.2. Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building

19. The Bali Strategic Plan was approved by the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi, Kenya, February 2005) through decision 23/1, item I, and is considered an important policy tool for the fulfilment of goals, targets and purposes, especially those in the Plan of Implementation for the decisions adopted at the Johannesburg Summit. Among other goals, the Plan includes preparing systematic and selective, short- and long-term technology support and capacity building measures, taking into account international agreements and based

on national and regional priorities and needs, as well as improving UNEP's delivery of services to developing countries and countries with transition economies in relation to technology support and capacity building. A factor of critical importance to achieving the objectives of the Bali Strategic Plan is the contribution of the financial resources necessary for its implementation.

20. The experts will be able to review the content of the Bali Strategic Plan (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/7**) and formulate their proposals to the Forum of Ministers in the context of the discussion on the RAP 2006-2007 and the provisions established in the ILAC.

4.3. Provisional programmes of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

21. The Governing Council of UNEP, at its twenty-third session (Nairobi 2005) adopted decision 23/12 in which it proposes provisional programmes, dates and venues for the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, to be held in Dubai in February 2006.

22. Pursuant to this decision, the Executive Director of UNEP has prepared preliminary recommendations regarding the structure and organization of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and informal consultations on these recommendations are being conducted.

23. The Meeting of Experts will be able to review the decision of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council and the preliminary recommendations of the Executive Director for the next special session of the Governing Council, with a view to identifying possible positions and proposals of the countries of the region and formulating related recommendations to the Forum of Ministers.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion, proposals and recommendations on the Regional Action Plan for 2006-2007.

24. The Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama, November 2003) decided on eight priority areas that would be implemented for a period of four years. At the ITC Meeting held in Panama in July 2005, the ITC member agencies and the coordinating countries of the working groups evaluated the progress made in implementing the RAP for 2004-2005, and recommended that, when defining priorities for the next biennium, concluded activities should be identified. They also reaffirmed the need for cross-cutting activities, such as capacity building, to continue being applied in accordance with the guidelines established by the Forum of Ministers. As support documents for this task, the information packages on the eight priority themes that comprise the RAP were once again distributed, in addition to a report prepared by the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers, which gives an account of the progress made in the implementation of the RAP for 2004-2005. The Secretariat has also prepared an RAP 2006-2007 proposal which is based on inputs sent by the ITC agencies and the coordinating countries of the working groups and would enable the region to help implement the Bali Strategic Plan.

25. Taking into account the advances and experience gained during the activities programmed in the RAP for 2004-2005, the Meeting of Experts will be able to formulate its recommendations to the Forum of Ministers on the Regional Action Plan for the biennium 2006-2007.

Agenda Item 6: Emerging themes on the international environmental agenda

6.1 Report on the Millennium Ecosystems. The Contribution of Environmental Goods and Services to Sustainable Development

26. To deal with this item, the experts who formed part of the team that prepared the Report will make a presentation on the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/9**), underscoring the high economic cost that the deterioration of life-sustaining ecosystems involves. In turn, the report prepared by various United Nations agencies and entitled "Millennium Development Goals: a view from Latin America (2005)" notes that in our region "the environmental sustainability of development is being put at increasing risk". In particular, it warns that the attainment of social and economic goals in Latin America and the Caribbean will be compromised if land and forest degradation; deforestation; habitat and biodiversity loss; and freshwater, coastal and atmospheric pollution persist. The Meeting of Experts will formulate pertinent proposals to the Forum of Ministers regarding the options for attaining the conservation and sustainable use of natural wealth, since this wealth is of fundamental importance to reducing poverty (see **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/10**).

Agenda Item 7: Discussion and recommendations to the Forum of Ministers on priority environmental themes and negotiations

7.1 Fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (1-12 May 2006)

27. The Meeting of Experts will receive information from ECLAC on the themes the CSD will address at its next session (energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.) and, on that basis, they will be able to formulate recommendations to the Forum of Ministers regarding the possibility of the countries of the region presenting shared initiatives and positions (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/10**).

7.2. Fourth World Water Forum (Mexico, 16-22 March 2006)

28. The countries of the region have been working in coordination at international forums on water resources, which has enabled them to promote initiatives that have been incorporated into agreements at forums such as the Governing Council of UNEP. As the Fourth World Water Forum approaches, the importance of the region playing an active role and presenting a common strategy regarding water resources has been recognized. The Meeting of Experts will receive a related

proposal prepared by Mexico, in its capacity as host country, to be discussed and, if accepted, transmitted to the Forum of Ministers (see [UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/11](#)).

Agenda Item 8: State of implementation and future perspectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (Statements by high-level representatives of the multilateral environmental conventions)

29. Representatives of the secretariats of conventions and protocols who are present will provide information on the different conventions. Progress made by the countries of the region in fulfilling the commitments assumed in relation to the Montreal Protocol will also be presented.

Agenda Item 9: Other matters

30. Under this item, the Experts will deal with other matters that are important to the objectives of the meeting and have not been covered by the specific items on the agenda. One of these matters, for example, would be confirmation of the place and date for the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Agenda Item 10: Review and approval of the draft Report of the Meeting of Experts

31. Under this agenda item, the delegations will review the draft Final Report presented by the Rapporteur, and they will adopt it following any necessary modifications.

Agenda Item 11: Closing of the meeting.

32. The meeting will be closed at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 4 November 2005.

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Annex I Timetable of the Meeting of Experts

Monday, 31 October 2005

08.00 a.m. to 08:45 a.m.	1. Participant registration
09.00 a.m. to 09:30 a.m.	2. Opening of the meeting
09.30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	3. Organization of the meeting 3.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting 3.2. Election of officers 3.3. Approval of the meeting agenda and timetable of sessions
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	4. Evaluation of the advances in the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC). 4.1 Activities of the member agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) and the coordinating countries of the working groups for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for 2004-2005.
11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	<i>Recess</i>
11:15 a.m. to 01:30 p.m.	4.2. Review of the state of implementation of the decisions of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers. (See Annex 1)
01:30 p.m. to 02:30 p.m.	<i>Lunch.</i>
02:30 p.m. to 04:00 p.m.	4.2. Review of the state of implementation of the decisions of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers. (Continuation) (See Annex 1)
04:00 p.m. to 04:15 p.m.	<i>Recess</i>
16:15 p.m. to 07:00 p.m.	4.2. Review of the state of implementation of the decisions of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers. (Continuation) (See Annex I)

Tuesday, 1 November 2005

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	5. Follow-up and discussion on the GC23 decisions. 5.1 UNEP Water Strategy.
10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	<i>Recess</i>
10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	5.2 Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building. 5.3. Provisional programmes of the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	6. Discussion, proposals and recommendations on the Regional Action Plan for 2006-2007.
12:30 p.m. to 13:30 p.m.	7. Emerging themes on the international environmental agenda. 7.1 Report on Millennium Ecosystems. The Contribution of Environmental Goods and Services to Sustainable Development.
13:30 p.m. to 14:30 p.m.	Lunch
13:30 p.m. to 16:15 p.m.	8. Discussion and recommendations to the Forum of Ministers on priority environmental themes and negotiations. 8.1. At the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (1-12 May 2006), the principal themes will be energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.
16:15 p.m. to 16:30 p.m.	<i>Recess</i>
16:30 p.m. to 17:30 p.m.	8.2. Fourth World Water Forum (Mexico, 16-22 March 2006).
17:30 p.m. to 18:15 p.m.	9. State of implementation and future perspectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
18:15 p.m. to 19:00 p.m.	10. Other matters.

Wednesday, 2 November 2003

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	11. Review of the draft Final Report of the Experts to be considered and approved by the Ministers.
12:00 p.m. to 13:00 p.m.	12. Closing of the meeting.



Annex II

Decisions 3 to 17 of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum

SCHEDULE	DECISION	PARTIES RESPONSIBLE
11:15 a.m. to 11:40 am	Decision 3. Regional Implementation of the UNEP Work Programme	UNEP/ROLAC
11:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.	Decision 4. Small Island Developing States.	Saint Lucia, UNEP
12:10 p.m. to 12:35 p.m.	Decision 5. Financial Mechanisms	ECLAC, UNDP
12:35 p.m. to 13:00 p.m.	Decision . Civil Society Participation	UNEP
13:00 p.m. to 13:30 p.m.	Decision 7. Water Resources	Mexico, World Bank
14:30 p.m. to 14:55 p.m.	Decision 8. Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Distribution of the Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.	UNEP
14:55 p.m. to 15:25 p.m.	Decision 9. Health and Environment	Argentina, UNEP
15:25 p.m. to 15:50 p.m.	Decision 10. Adaptation of the Work Programme of the Environmental Training Network to the Implementation of ILAC and Incorporation of the Latin American and Caribbean Programme of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development	Venezuela, UNEP
15:50 p.m. to 16:15 p.m.	Decision 11. Environmental Indicators	Costa Rica, ECLAC, UNEP
16:30 p.m. to 16:55 p.m.	Decision 12. Sustainable Consumption and Production	Nicaragua, UNEP
16:55 p.m. to 17:20 p.m.	Decision 13. Implementation of Economic Instruments and Fiscal Policy for Environmental Management	Chile, ECLAC
17:20 p.m. to 17:45 p.m.	Decision 14. Climate Change	Panama, UNDP
17:45 p.m. to 18:10 p.m.	Decision 15. Renewable Energy	Brazil, ECLAC, UNEP.
18:10 p.m. to 18:25 p.m.	Decision 16. Trade and Environment	Peru, IDB, ECLAC, UNEP
18:25 p.m. to 19:00 p.m.	Decision 17. Regional Meeting in Preparation for the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development	ECLAC

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