



**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**

**31<sup>st</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

**A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS**

**31<sup>ST</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2005**

**Distribution:**

Limited

**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/5/Rev.1**

Thursday 25 October 2005

**Original:** Spanish

**Report on the fulfillment of  
decisions 3 to 17 of the Fourteenth  
Meeting of the Forum of Ministers  
of the Environment of Latin America  
and the Caribbean**



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## I. Introduction

1. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean decided to establish the Forum of Environment Ministers to provide a regional political body for analysis and agreement on positions revolving around the themes that make up the regional and international agendas. The Forum of Ministers has been consolidated through the meetings that have been held since 1982, and its influence on debates regarding the international environmental agenda is recognized.

2. The Forum of Ministers has incorporated its deliberations and agreements into precise decisions referring to the environmental priorities of the region and those agreed to internationally. Its principal working bodies are the Inter-Sessional Committee and the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC), which is formed by IDB, UNEP, UNDP, ECLAC and the World Bank.

3. Since the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment was held (Panama City, Panama; November 2003), important events have occurred in the international environmental sphere and they have had repercussions of importance to the dialogue and decision process in the region; these events include particularly the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Nairobi, Kenya; March 2004), the twenty-third session of the UNEP Governing Council (Nairobi, Kenya; February 2005), the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Sustainable Development Commission and the Conference of the Parties to the Conventions on Climate Change and Biological Diversity, as well as the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought.

4. Pursuant to the decision on the operations of the working bodies of the Forum at its Eleventh Meeting (Lima, Peru, 1998), which continues being applied, the first ITC meeting of 2005 was convened, and held July 12 and 13 in Panama, in advance of the forthcoming XV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, October 31 through November 4, 2005.

5. This report, prepared by the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers, describes the advances observed in fulfilling decisions 3 through 17, adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment. This report is submitted to the consideration of the Segment of Experts of the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers as contribution for the development of recommendations and necessary actions, ultimately to be submitted to the consideration of the high-level segment of the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers for the purpose of reaching respective decisions.

## II. Fulfilment of the Ministerial Decisions and Recommendations adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

### DECISION 3

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#### REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

6. One of the priorities the member countries of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean have maintained at international negotiation scenarios on environment and development is to promote the position that the activities of international organizations should increasingly have a clearly regional view, so as to help solve or mitigate the principal environmental problems identified by the regions themselves. The background for this task dates back many years and is linked to the development and maturation of the Forum itself.

7. Some of the most important examples of the above-mentioned foregoing regional view are: decision 20/39 of the twentieth session of the Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi, Kenya; 4 February 1999), on the functions of the regional offices and the measures proposed for strengthening, regionalization and decentralization; the important provisions in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, particularly in Section XI (g); the mandates emanating from the Commission on Sustainable Development; the content of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) and; very particularly, decisions 22/20 and 22/21 of the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi, Kenya; 7 February 2003) regarding the Budget of the Environment Fund for the biennium 2004-2005 and the regional implementation of the UNEP Programme of Work, respectively; and finally, decision 23/3, paragraph 4 of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi, Kenya; February 2005) referring to the Budget and Programme of Work for the biennium 2006-2007.

8. Similarly, the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and other agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee have conducted various activities to fulfil decision 3 of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum (Panama City, Panama; November 2003). In particular, UNEP/ROLAC has followed a regional strategy that includes five key areas in which specific activities have been carried out:

- a) **promotion of intergovernmental policy dialogue.** In this sphere, efforts have been made to strengthen the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and, in full support of the agreements of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, approval of the Regional Action Plan to implement the ILAC was achieved. Efforts have also been made to include the contributions of the region to the global environmental debates, and interministerial meetings have been

- promoted, such as, for example, a meeting between the environment and health ministries, co-sponsored by Argentina, Canada and PAHO, as well as the Meeting of Environment and Tourism Ministers that was jointly convened by the Government of Peru and the WTO. The member agencies of the Inter-Agency Commission are collaborating to respond to the priorities established by the Forum of Ministers;
- b) **implementation of environmental programmes of global, regional and national priority.** UNEP has significantly increased its work in environmental assessment through the various global, regional and national GEO processes. In addition, in this area, efforts have been aimed at the region placing greater value on ecosystems and their services, and consequently adopting comprehensive approaches. Various activities in this sphere are outstanding in the field of protected natural areas, biological corridors and the incorporation of reforestation and afforestation in the clean development mechanism (CDM). The incorporation of sustainability principles in national policies is also being advocated and includes support for the development of environmental legislation, national capacity-building to fulfil the obligations assumed in international environmental agreements, the promotion of policies that incorporate environmental considerations and the establishment of links between poverty and environment. In like manner, sustainable production and consumption has been encouraged, both at government levels and with the private sector. Urban environment has been the focus of special attention, primarily through building the capacity of urban environmental authorities;
- c) **promotion of the incorporation of the principal groups of civil society in environmental activities.** UNEP has helped to expand the participation of civil society in the principal processes of environmental policy dialogue in the region, as well as the production of materials to increase awareness and the training of civil society that forms part of the principal networks. The concrete results in this field include the production of ten thematic manuals on themes included among those being dealt with by the GEF, so as to foster participation both in implementing the projects under way and in projects aimed at lawmakers, religious organizations, local authorities, teachers, etc. A preliminary pilot phase including seven countries will be undertaken. Each country has established a National Coordinating Committee;
- d) **strengthening of specific subregional activities.** This area covers a set of activities that seek to respond to the specific needs and objectives of the countries and subregions. With the Andean Community, joint efforts are being made in the follow-up on WSSD commitments, particularly in the field of climate change and biodiversity; With CARICOM and its member countries, a strategy has been achieved to direct UNEP activities in the Caribbean; with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), various projects related to the priorities of this subregion have been backed; with the Southern Cone, UNEP is collaborating with Working Group No. 6 / Environment, for the

implementation of the priorities established by the countries of the area. In like manner, there has been a notable increase in joint actions undertaken with other agencies of the United Nations System;

e) **establishment of a Regionally Distributed Management System.**

Increasingly greater time of the UNEP/ROLAC team is being dedicated to activities coordinated with subregional organizations, such as CARICOM, CCAD and MERCOSUR. Other joint activities are being carried out through partnerships with HABITAT.

**9.** As part of the UNEP Regional Strategy, the priority theme of the development of the Programme of Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean was addressed. In this case, UNEP/ROLAC followed the guidelines established by the Forum of Ministers by promoting a consultation process with the island developing countries of the Caribbean, including civil society, the private sector and regional and subregional institutions. UNEP/ROLAC has also undertaken other activities that involve the small island developing States of the Caribbean, including, for example, missions and cooperation linked to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol in areas related to reports, permits and freezing the consumption of substances that deplete the ozone layer that lead to the depletion of the ozone layer, of groundwater and others.

**10.** In the sphere of South-South cooperation, some Latin American countries have undertaken a survey and identification of capacities and technologies that could be incorporated into the cooperation programmes of different governmental and academic agencies linked to environmental activities. Upon undertaking the preparation of these lists of opportunities, some Latin American countries have reiterated the importance of selecting environmental agenda items that have been identified as being of priority to the countries that are potential beneficiaries of the cooperation. Modalities are also being explored to make available to the island countries of the Caribbean cooperation packages in which several Latin American countries could participate in a coordinated and joint manner. It is, of course, considered essential for the capacities and needs to be identified jointly between the Latin American countries and the island countries of the Caribbean.

**11.** The Inter-Agency Technical Committee has supported regional implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements. One of the important activities has been carried out through the Montreal Protocol Compliance Assistance Programme, which has supported States Parties to the Protocol in the Latin America and Caribbean region in sustainably fulfilling their commitment.

**12.** UNEP/ROLAC contributed to the fulfilment of decision 3, paragraph 5, of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean by carrying out various activities to foster capacity-building in the public and private sectors, including the users of substances that deplete the ozone layer, in order for them to fulfil the multilateral environmental agreements. Responding to the specific requirements of the countries enabled specific quantitative results to be obtained with considerable progress in various activities that did not involve



investment; and a sense of national ownership of the actions undertaken was evident.

**13.** Actions carried out by the UNEP/ROLAC OzonAction team contributed to the development of capacities in the countries of the region to achieve and maintain compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer through the implementation of projects, activities carried out by networks of countries, workshops, information exchange and continual guidance to the National Ozone Units and focal points. As a work strategy, priority was given to the grouping of different sectors and interest groups at the regional, subregional and national levels.

**14.** In brief, the activities conducted by UNEP/ROLAC to back national efforts have led to the following results in the region since the Montreal Protocol Compliance Assistance Programme began to operate:

- a) full compliance and the sending of A7 ODS data in 33 countries;
- b) fifteen countries have adopted, strengthened or enforced their legislation on trade and authorization of substances that deplete the ozone layer;
- c) thirteen processes to ratify the amendments to the Montreal Protocol were concluded;
- d) more than 20 capacity-building projects were renewed at least once in various countries of the region;
- e) nine countries in which UNEP was involved received resources for their Refrigerant Management Plans;
- f) six countries fulfilled their Refrigerant Management Plans or approved their Total Elimination Plans;
- g) Suriname and Haiti received their pertinent Institutional Strengthening Projects and Refrigerant Management Plans;
- h) Saint Vincent and the Grenadines obtained its action plan to return to compliance, as was approved by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol;
- i) other action plans to return to compliance were obtained by the Bahamas, Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras and Uruguay, in accordance with the decisions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

**15.** The activities of the regional work programme were executed in the budget terms adopted in decision 22/20 and 22/21 of the twenty-second session of the Government Council of UNEP. In reference to the resources that UNEP will channel at the regional level for the biennium 2006-2007, the table in **Annex I** to present document shows a summary of how they were considered and approved at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi, February 2005).

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**DECISION 4**

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**SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)**

**16.** The strategy followed by UNEP/ROLAC to carry out the Programme of the Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean reflects the guidelines established by the Forum of Ministers. One of the working tools this strategy includes is the development of a process for consulting the developing island countries in the Caribbean, including civil society, the private sector, and regional and subregional institutions. Additionally, links and partnerships with international regional and subregional organizations have been developed. Following these two lines of action, various activities have been carried out pursuant to the mandates stipulated in decision 4 of the Forum of Ministers:

- a) consultation among the Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean (Nassau, Bahamas; January 2005) at which the principal elements of the Programme for the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean were adopted on the basis of the document prepared by UNEP/ROLAC;
- b) establishment of a Caribbean Working Group to Formulate Terms of Reference for an Analysis of the Institutional Scheme for Environmental Management (January 2004);
- c) meeting of a Regional Working Group on Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; 3 to 6 February 2004);
- d) presentation and adoption of the Programme for the Small Island Developing States by the Committee on Trade and Economic Development of the Caribbean (March 2004);
- e) convening of a "Technical Session on Innovative Financial Modalities for Sustainable Development in the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean: Towards the establishment of a Regional Fund for Sustainability" (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; 6 to 8 April 2004);
- f) advisory services to prepare the elements of a fund for regional sustainability. A report produced by these advisory services and entitled "Towards the Establishment of a Fund for the Regional Sustainability of the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean" provides the basis for the proposal to establish this fund (Mayo-August 2004);
- g) preparation of the report: "Towards an Institutional Scheme and Policy for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean Community (October 2004);
- h) First Workshop on the Vulnerability of Coastal Aquifers in the Island Caribbean (Havana, Cuba; 12 to 15 October 2004);
- i) First Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on South-South Cooperation (Havana, Cuba; 18-19 October 2004);
- j) technical and institutional support for the recently created Climate Change Centre of the Caribbean Community.

**17.** UNEP/ROLAC has been working closely with civil society in the Caribbean to formulate several initiatives to be incorporated into the Programme of the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean. Furthermore, financial support has been given to representatives of civil society of the Caribbean to facilitate their participation in meetings convened to deal with questions of importance to the small island developing countries. The forums in which the civil society representatives have participated include, particularly:

- a) "Informal Negotiations of the Small Island Developing States for a Comprehensive Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) for the International Meeting on Small Island Developing States (New York, USA; 7 to 11 October 2004);
- b) International Forum of Civil Society at the International Meeting on Small Island Developing States (Mauritius, January 2005);
- c) Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi, February 2005);
- d) thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (17 to 22 April 2005), including a parallel event of Small Island Developing States on the "Role of Civil Society in the Implementation of the Mauritius Agreements" (19 April 2005) and at the Ministerial Forum on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements (New York, 20-22 April 2005);
- e) holding of a specific workshop at the Forum of Civil Society in the framework of the International Meeting on Small Island Developing States.

**18.** The final result of the consultation process was the formulation of a consolidated version of the Programme for the Small Island Developing States, which consists of the following elements:

- a) a coordinating mechanism for advancing in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action;
- b) a financial mechanism, which is the Fund for Regional Sustainability;
- c) a technical programme that is focused on themes related to the environmental pillar of sustainable development and consisting of various shared initiatives, including, for example: the Initiative on Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management; the Initiative on the Management of Coastal Aquifers; the Initiative on Sustainable Management of Non-Timber Forest Products – generating opportunities for the participation of the private sector and the creation of alternative sources of income for indigenous peoples and local communities; A Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean; and a Programme of South-South Cooperation in the field of Trade and Environment; an Assessment and Early Warning Programme; an Environmental Law Programme; the OzonAction Programme; and a Programme of Action Against Land-based Sources of Pollution;

- d) a South-South Horizontal Cooperation Programme, which will begin to operate with some activities between Latin American countries and small island developing States of the Caribbean. These activities include technologies on renewable energy, land degradation, water resources and, particularly, coastal aquifer management, biosafety, trade and environment, climate change, disaster management and integrated management of the Caribbean Sea;
- e) a Programme to Support Civil Society with two principal elements: i) Development of a Comprehensive Regional Programme of Target Communities and Environmental Public Awareness to support the Barbados Programme of Action; and ii) a project entitled "Your Change for a Better Environment".

**19.** Consolidation of the Programme for Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean offers a framework that can be used as a point of departure for the development of a comprehensive sustainable development and environment programme for such States. Furthermore, this programme can also provide a broad framework for achieving sounder mobilization of resources in the region for implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. This framework is sufficiently flexible to favour the development of other initiatives that could be integrated into the Programme. It also provides a tool for the small island developing States of the Caribbean to begin adding their resources in a complementary and comprehensive manner.

**20.** The Programme for the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean can also help to support these States in attaining the Millennium Development Goals, such as, for example, those related to eradicating hunger and poverty and of ensuring environmental sustainability. This Programme also reflects some specific themes that are underscored in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Policy Document, which was prepared for the International Meeting on Small Island Developing States. The themes referred to include management, island biodiversity, protection and development of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, access to drinking water, trade and environment, etc.

**21.** In brief, the progress made in implementing decision 4 of the Forum of Ministers can be summarized in the following activities:

- a) the consolidated version of the Programme of Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean was presented to the Meeting that the Ministers of these States held with the Executive Director of UNEP during the International Conference for the Ten-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action;
- b) follow-up on the activities of the International Conference for the Ten-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action;
- c) work with the CARICOM Secretariat of the small island developing States has continued in an effort to fine-tune the Programme that involves these countries. Several related activities have been undertaken:

- i. joint consultation between officials of the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought and UNEP/ROLAC on the preparation of a Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management;
- ii. a technical consultation to prepare partnership initiatives on the "Sustainable Use of Non-Timber Forest Products" and the "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Island Biodiversity".
- iii. a meeting of the Working Group for the Partnership Initiative on Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management and a meeting of the Expanded Working Group of participating agencies and Latin American countries to promote South-South cooperation among the countries of the region.

**22.** In the sphere of South-South cooperation, some Latin American countries have undertaken a survey and identification of capacities and technologies that could be incorporated into the cooperation programmes in the different government and academic agencies linked to environmental activities. Upon undertaking the inclusion of these lists of opportunities, some Latin American countries have reiterated the importance of environmental agenda themes being identified as themes of priority to the countries that are potential beneficiaries of the cooperation. Modalities are also being explored to make available to Caribbean island countries cooperation packages in which several Latin American countries could participate in a coordinated and joint manner. Of course it is considered essential for the capacities and needs to be identified in a joint manner between the Latin American countries and the Caribbean island countries.

**23.** In reference to funding for this Programme, in addition to the catalytic resources available in UNEP for its execution, several projects and project ideas have been prepared in the GEF to support the implementation of various elements of the Programme. Among such projects, the following may be noted:

- a) prevention of land degradation in the small island ecosystems of the Caribbean through sustainable land management;
- b) development and application of tools and methodologies for the management of highly vulnerable coastal aquifers in the small island developing States;
- c) traditional knowledge and its application to sustainable land management;
- d) establishment of goals and indicators in relation to land degradation and sustainable land management in the small island developing States;
- e) a pilot demonstration project in Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Cuba;
- f) sustainable use of non-timber forestry products;
- g) Conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity.

**24.** UNEP/ROLAC has also undertaken other activities that involve the small island developing States of the Caribbean, such as, for example, missions and cooperation linked to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol in areas related to reports, permits and freezing the consumption of substances that deplete the ozone layer. The countries involved in these activities include the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. In the case of Barbados, technical assistance was provided in formulating a refrigerant management plan and elements were contributed to define a policy for the gradual elimination of CFCs in the refrigeration sector, in accordance with the periods agreed to in the framework of the Montreal Protocol. Various assistance activities in this same sphere were carried out by UNEP in other island developing countries of the Caribbean.

**25.** Five workshops were held to support the implementation and fulfilment of the provision in the Montreal Protocol and other multilateral environmental agreements.

**26.** UNEP/ROLAC also provided technical and legal assistance to the Government of Dominica in the review of policies, legislation and institutional arrangements related to the management of bioprospecting activities, including a legislative initiative on access to genetic resources and the distribution of benefits arising from their use, taking into account the benefits arising from traditional knowledge.

**27.** To strengthen government capacities to implement the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and analyse such capacities, UNEP organized a series of regional workshops. The Regional Workshop for the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean on Compliance with and Enforcement of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements was held in Kingston, Jamaica, in October 2003. This and other activities involved compliance with and enforcement of the MEAs at the national level, taking into account the sustainable development strategies to eradicate poverty. The UNEP Guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of the MEAs were adopted by the seventh special session of the Governing Council of UNEP in February 2002. A manual for the implementation of these guidelines has been developed. The purpose of the above-mentioned regional workshops was to review and analyse the manual project. National laws and regulations for the implementation of the MEAs will be developed and more training courses and workshops for the effective implementation of the MEAs at the national level will be carried out, once the manual has been completed.

**28.** To provide legal advisory services at the request of the countries – including the disbursement of related financial resources and the formulation and implementation of environmental legislation – following up on the needs identified in the pertinent applications, the reports and assessment missions, the UNEP/ROLAC Environmental Law Programme provides legal technical assistance to developing countries. In the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean, support has been given to Antigua and Barbuda and to Grenada in the 2004-2005 period in the analysis of their environmental legislation and in the

formulation of a General Law on Environmental Management and its respective regulations.

**29.** During 2003 and 2004, UNEP convened several Regional Meetings to Assess Needs and Planning for Presidents of Judicial Powers and High-Level Judges, so as to facilitate the development of national capacity-building programmes for judges and attorneys in the field of environmental law, based on the mandate issued in decision 22/17 II A of the Governing Council of UNEP. The Regional Meeting on Needs Evaluation and Planning for Presidents of the Judicial Powers and High-Level Judges of the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean was held on 11 and 12 June 2004 in Trelawny, Jamaica. The judges participating in the event adopted the Jamaica Declaration and presented proposals for the preparation of national Caribbean capacity-building programmes. As follow-up on this subregional activity, a training course for judges in Guyana will be held in late 2005.

**30.** UNEP/ROLAC, together with the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry of Cuba, organized a Regional Latin American and Caribbean Workshop on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Distribution of the Benefits Arising from Their Use (Access and Benefit-sharing, ABS), which took place in Havana on 21 and 22 June 2005. Cuba and the Dominican Republic participated in this event, together with several Latin American countries. The purpose of the workshop was to create a forum for debate and exchange with a view to developing joint positions on the international ABS regime, which includes associated traditional knowledge and is being prepared in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as to discuss and exchange information on matters related to national policies and legislation on this theme in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**31.** The "Caribbean Workshop on the Legal Enforcement of the Regional Seas Conventions and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements" was organized by UNEP from 4 to 6 July 2005 in Kingston, Jamaica. The purpose of the Workshop was to review the precise requirements of the Regional Seas Conventions; to identify what type of legal, regulatory, institutional requirements and practical measures were necessary to implement these conventions; to consider where the statutory and legislative authorities could be located; to discuss the general state of implementation and all requirements in the region. Two delegates from each of the member countries of CARICOM, Cuba and the Dominican Republic participated.

**32.** The Third Regional Workshop on GEO Cities was held in Havana, Cuba, from 25 to 27 June 2005, and included the participation of representatives of 25 cities of the region, as well as UNEP representatives in Africa, Europe and Asia. The plans for the GEO Cities Project in 2005 and 2006 include the following actions:

- a) publish version 3 of the methodology in Spanish, including the inputs received from the Third Regional Workshop of GEO Cities;
- b) prepare and publish comprehensive evaluations of more than ten cities of the region as part of the UNEP-HABITAT Urban-Environmental Strategy;

- c) prepare and publish the second version of the regional compendium on environment in cities;
- d) produce a CD-ROM with all the reports and methodologies published in order to disseminate the information widely and effectively;
- e) conduct training workshops on the use of databases and other information tools;
- f) raise funds to continue implementing the Project after 2006.

**33.** In the first phase of the project, seven pilot cities of the region were identified, all capitals of countries that have different characteristics, but share similar environmental problems. The evaluations were conducted with funds provided by the World Bank and UNEP. In the Caribbean, Havana was selected and its report was prepared by the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry with the support of UNEP authorities and city authorities of Havana. The information in this document is designed to provide material that can be consulted and analysed; it reflects the current state of the environment in the city, its future perspectives and long-term solutions to the existing problems.

**34.** In 2003, UNEP/ROLAC, together with the Caribbean Conservation Association and the Caribbean Network of Young Environmentalists, began working to carry out the GEO Youth Project for the Caribbean. The purpose of the project is to make an evaluation of the state of the environment from the viewpoint of youth for the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean including: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. During the project implementation period, a training workshop for focal points in Saint Lucia was held in November 2003 and an editorial meeting in Dominica in October 2004. At the present time the editing of the GEO Youth report for the Caribbean is being completed.

**35.** UNDP, through the Caribbean Integrated Risk Management and Adaptation Initiative (CRMAI), is in the implementation phase in the region, seeking to respond to the specific needs of the small island developing States in themes of risk management, early warning, and climate risk prevention and mitigation in the Caribbean region.

**36.** In coordination with the subregional unit of the Caribbean Regional Development Knowledge and Services Centre, a collection of good practices in the field of watershed management and integrated coastal resources management in the Caribbean region was compiled. The purpose was to include these environmental practices in the national and regional disaster risk management policies in the Caribbean region.

**37.** On 26 and 27 April 2005, together with UNDP-Jamaica, a workshop on lessons learned from the 2004 hurricane season in the Caribbean was organized with the participation of CDERA, UNDP-BCPR, UNDP LAC SURF and UN-OCHA.

**38.** In June 2005, a Seminar on Preparation for the Hurricane Season was held in Havana under the auspices of the Association of Caribbean States with the support of UNDP and OCHA.



**39.** ECLAC, through the activities of its Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago, has carried out numerous activities to support and strengthen the development processes of the Small island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean. These activities have been and are being carried out with particular attention to the process of reviewing the progress made by the Caribbean countries in fulfilling the decisions of the Barbados Conference on SIDS (1994) in relation to the ten-year review conducted at the Mauritius Conference (January 2005).

**40.** The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters has participated in the following activities, among others:

- a) support for the Caribbean member states in their efforts to establish a specific market and economy in CARICOM;
- b) support for the creation of capacities in the regional, subregional and national spheres, including strengthening of institutions, transfer of technologies, and training to face vulnerabilities;
- c) support for the establishment of strategic partnerships between key agencies as a catalyst for the application of the Barbados Action Programme;
- d) support a well-defined, well-established mechanism of regional coordination for the Barbados Plan of Action;
- e) support for the design of components for a Programme for SIDS countries of the Caribbean; and
- f) support for the establishment of a support group for the SIDS in the Caribbean to help in efforts to promote the application of the Barbados Plan of Action.

**41.** These support activities go hand in hand with numerous studies and specific work, of which some examples are listed below:

- a) Training manual for disaster assessment for SIDS (April 2004) (CD)
- b) Report on the disaster assessment workshop: ECLAC methodology and preparation of a revised training manual (7/19/04)
- c) Evaluation of the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of Hurricane Ivan in Jamaica (10/20/04)
- d) Hurricanes Frances and Jean in 2004 – Impact of the hurricanes in the Bahamas (preliminary version) 11/16/04
- e) Hurricane Ivan 2004 – Impact on the Cayman Islands (12/01/04)
- f) Hurricanes Frances and Jean in 2004 – Impact of the hurricanes in Haiti
- g) Evaluation of Disasters in Guyana (3/9/05)
- h) The ECLAC experience: Lessons learned from disaster assessments (Lance./Erik)
- i) Report of the National Training Workshop on ECLAC methodology to estimate the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the disasters (6/14/05)"

**42.** The Caribbean Risk Management and Adaptation Programme (CRMI), which is initiating its implementation phase in the region, seeks to respond to the specific needs of small island developing States in the themes of risk management early warning and climate risk prevention and mitigation in the Caribbean region.

**43.** In 2004-2005, UNDP compiled good practices in the field of watershed management and integrated coastal resources management in the Caribbean. The purpose was to incorporate these environmental practices in the national and regional disaster risk management policies in the Caribbean region.

**44.** On 26 and 27 April 2005, UNDP, together with the UNDP Office in Jamaica, organized a workshop on lessons learned in the hurricane season of 2004 in the Caribbean, with the participation of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN- OCHA).

**45.** In June 2005, a Seminar in Preparation for the Hurricane Season was held in Havana under the auspices of the Association of Caribbean States and with the support of UNDP and OCHA. At this seminar an action plan was defined to coordinate the assistance of international organizations so as to increase the resilience and response capacity of the countries to natural catastrophes.

**46.** In June 2005, a workshop was held in Jamaica to strengthen the capacities of United Nations national teams in order to provide the countries with a greater degree of effectiveness in coordinating the preparation and response to natural disasters in the Caribbean region. It was also aimed at the United Nations agencies present in each country making risk reduction a cross-cutting activity, beginning in the first phases of post-disaster recovery, and thereby helping to reduce vulnerability. The material produced at the workshop will be useful in replicating the exercise in other subregions.

## **DECISION 5**

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### **FINANCIAL MECHANISMS**

**47.** UNDP and ECLAC, in close coordination and collaboration, have been working on this theme since 2001. The main objective of this programme is to determine public and private environmental spending in the countries of the region, with a view to increasing its effectiveness and efficiency. During the period covered by this report, studies in the private sector were conducted in Argentina, Ecuador and Peru. These studies were carried out at the request of the governments of the respective countries. In the case of Argentina, there was interest in updating a study conducted by ECLAC/UNDP in 2001-2002 to evaluate the evolution of public environmental spending in a context of economic crisis, also bearing in mind spending at subnational levels. In the case of Ecuador, in addition to analysing the evolution of environmental spending, available information on financing sources and economic instruments for environmental management were also compiled. In the case of Peru, the study was carried out with the active cooperation of CONAM and UNDP-Peru and the initial phase served as input for the National Report of Peru on Millennium

Development Goals (MDG). The last two studies were presented at the Third Regional Workshop on Fiscal Policy and Environment (January 2005) held in ECLAC. In the period covered by this report, two studies were carried out in the private sphere, one in Brazil and the other in Colombia. They included the theme of environmental spending and indicators of good practices in entrepreneurial environmental management. These studies were complemented with a cross-cutting study on eco-efficiency indicators in the private sector. Finally, there was an evaluation of the clean development mechanism in activities involving land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) and their potential in the Latin American region as opportunity for sustainable development financing.

**48.** Since the year 2004, UNDP has been supporting the government of Paraguay in the development of a debt conversion operation with the government of the United States. UNDP has provided legal advisory services that include: documentation, systematization and identification of the lessons learned in the negotiation of the debt conversion agreements of Belize, Colombia and Panama with the USA. Support was provided in organizing and conducting a workshop to launch the initiative in Paraguay.

**49.** Similarly, efforts are also under way on the theme of mechanisms for public debt conversion in the case of El Salvador, and concretely in the case of debt conversion between El Salvador and the government of Germany.

**50.** Efforts were also made to advocate standardized and comparable methodologies in the countries of LAC in order to quantify and classify public and private environmental spending and investment and to identify different financial sources linked to the environmental sector.

**51.** The activities conducted include:

- a) preparation of the document "Financing for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean: from Monterrey to Johannesburg".
- b) the conducting of seven country case studies (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago).

**52.** As part of its mandate, IDB finances a great variety of environmental projects each year with loans and donations, and it provides its technical capacity to support the countries in improving their environmental management and protection. The new IDB policy (to be approved, 2005) follows this line and proposes positioning the Bank to continue supporting and promoting environmental management and protection in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## DECISION 6

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### PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

**53.** UNEP/ROLAC continued promoting civil society participation in the region through the Global Environmental Citizenship (GEC) Project, financed by GEF and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as well as the governments of Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru and six civil society networks. The activities carried out in the framework of this project include four manuals (International Waters, the Ozone Layer, Biodiversity and Climate Change); six manuals for each of the networks; development and implementation of the seven National Coordination Panels; selection of pilot municipalities in seven countries where the GEC project is being implemented; six websites of the networks and seven sites of the countries, as well as the principal site, hosted by the UNEP/ROLAC website.

**54.** The Regional Meeting of Civil Society in Latin America and the Caribbean preparatory to the twenty-third session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Panama, 22 and 23 November 2004), in which more than 30 delegates of civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean participated. The participants approved the General Consensus Document which includes the following principal points:

- a) agreement to continue and strengthen civil society participation in intergovernmental meetings;
- b) preliminary contributions to the document "Review of the Preliminary UNEP Programme of Work 2006-2007 from the perspective of civil society";
- c) proposal to organize civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean for its relationship with UNEP/ROLAC and the Governing Council of UNEP.

**55.** In a manner consistent with this decision of the Forum of Ministers, UNEP facilitated civil society participation in the interregional meeting of Small Island Developing States (Bahamas, January 2004), the Preparatory Meeting for the Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), which took place in Nairobi, and the informal sessions of subsequent negotiations.

**56.** Other UNEP/ROLAC activities with Caribbean civil society were carried out in the framework of the Civil Society Support Programme, which includes two principal areas: the development of a broad environmental programme for greater public awareness and warning of the regional community to support the implementation of the BPOA and the project "*Change for a Better Environment*".

**57.** UNEP/ROLAC organized several meetings to promote civil society participation, including particularly:

- a) a seminar of indigenous women of Latin America "*Women and Environment*", (Mexico City, 23-25 September 2004), which was supported by the United Nations Development Fund for Women the offices representing other United Nations agencies in Mexico;

- b) a workshop to build capacities on biological diversity and different conventions related to biodiversity for 150 members of the Argentine indigenous communities (Jujuy, Argentina; April 2004).

**58.** At the meeting “Women as the Voice for the Environment” (Nairobi, Kenya; 11 to 13 October 2004), a significant delegation of women from Latin America and the Caribbean participated. At this forum “The Manifesto of the Global Women’s Assembly on Environment” was approved.

**59.** The second phase of the project on community training for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of natural resources, established through a cooperation agreement between ROLAC-ETN and the government of Mexico, was initiated. A workshop of Training for Indigenous People and Peasant-Farmer Communities for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (August 2004) was coordinated by SEMARNAT (Mexico) and linked to the activities being carried out through the Mexican Biological Corridor and the UNDP Small Grants Programme. The workshop included the participation of leaders of 50 communities in five areas of southeast Mexico.

**60.** The UNEP Technology, Industry and Economics Unit (UNEP/TIE) actively promotes partnerships with the private sector and NGOs to advance in meeting the commitments agreed to at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals. One of its principal lines of action is aimed at capacity building and technology transfer through training courses and workshops for employees in the industrial, ozone and youth sectors in the following areas: sustainable consumption, cleaner production, Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies on a Local Level (APELL) and sustainable tourism. These activities have benefited more than 2,000 people in the region.

**61.** In the area of sustainable consumption for youth, various activities were carried out in collaboration with Mexican organizations, including particularly; a television lecture broadcast through 62 stations and specifically to more than 1,500 young people; the interactive digital version of the manual *Jóvenes X el Cambio (Youth for Change)* in Spanish; and implementation of the Certificate Course on Sustainable Consumption in collaboration with the Consumer Protection Agency (PROFECO) in Mexico.

**62.** Promotion of the development of environmental legislation – including draft versions of important legislative instruments – and an increase in attention to environmental issues among parliamentarians continued through a programme that involved various countries of the region and included technical assistance to the Environment Commission of the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), by UNEP/ROLAC, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of the Commission.

**63.** Various activities related to promoting recognition of the important role the judicial apparatus plays in achieving sustainable development continued. Among these activities, note should be made of the Meetings on Common Law of the English-speaking Caribbean and Civil Law of Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Latin America (Trelawny, Jamaica, June 2004 and Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 2004). Other activities at the country level have been organized following the Johannesburg Guidelines on the Role of Law and Sustainable

Development (adopted at the Global Judges Symposium, Johannesburg, August 2002) and the UNEP Capacity Building Programme.

**64.** UNEP/ROLAC organized a training course on environmental legislation for 70 agrarian judges from throughout Mexico, in response to a request by the Mexican Agrarian Supreme Court (Puebla, Mexico, 11 October 2004). The international environmental law experts invited to the forum underscored the need to protect the environment and strengthen environmental legislation.

**65.** Training workshops for journalists were held and support was given to strengthening the Network of Environmental Journalists of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**66.** Expansion of the Network of Environmental Videocassette Libraries continues with a current total of 18 countries of the region. Operators have been trained in each of them. This project is showing an important impact on civil society in the countries that have joined this effort.

**67.** There has been a broad response of civil society to UNEP's invitations to participate in the global photography and children's drawing contests. In the youth category of the global photography contest, first prize was awarded to Monica Terrazas from Mexico. She was selected from among nearly 4,000 participants. And in the children's drawing contest, first prize also went to a Mexican girl, a representative of the region, whose drawing was selected from among more than 4,000 drawings.

**68.** Each year in the third week of September, a global activity called "*Clean Up the World*" takes place. For the first time, UNEP participated in the organization of this festival in Mexico and promoted it widely in the region. In Mexico City, 12 non-governmental organizations participated in cleaning up Chapultepec Forest, including 60 divers who worked in one of the lakes there.

**69.** Five representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the Global Youth Retreat (Nairobi, Kenya, 14 to 18 February 2005) in which experiences in environmental studies directed by young people were exchanged. Expansion of this innovative GEO project for the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean to include national and subregional initiatives proved to have practices successful at involving youth in discussion and activities to deal with environmental problems.

**70.** The GEO Project for Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean supported a Capacity-Building Workshop in Argentina (Buenos Aires, Argentina; 21 to 23 March 2005), which was held in collaboration with partners of the GEO Project for Youth in Argentina. The Workshop included the participation of young people from 24 provinces of the country, in addition to three representatives of the GEO Project for Youth in Uruguay. The purpose of the activity was to build capacity for implementing the GEO for Youth training manual.

**71.** Members of the GEO Network for Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean met at the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Leadership Summit (Belo Horizonte, Brazil; 12 to 16 May 2005) to discuss advances in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The GEO Network for Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean was represented by delegates of Argentina, Brazil,

Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru, who participated in the workshops on environment and sustainable development.

**72.** As part of the activities of the GEO Project for Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean, on 26 February 2005, a pilot capacity building programme based on the GEO for Youth Capacity-Building Manual was launched in Mexico City. More than 100 representatives of academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and community groups participated in workshops on environmental assessment, project design and management, group leadership, participation processes and decision-making. The project results will be presented at an open forum in the summer of 2005.

**73.** In January 2005, the team of GEO for the Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean held a meeting with representatives of various sectors that will, in the near future, collaborate in preparing a report on a GEO for the Youth of the Estado de México. On 24 February 2005, the government of the Estado de México, in turn, organized a workshop to prepare the GEO project for Youth in the Estado de México in the Parque Naucalli, which included the participation of 30 young people of different municipalities in the state.

**74.** The GEO Project for Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean was represented at the *Second Water Fair in the Roma neighbourhood of Mexico City* in April 2005. This event included workshops, lectures, videos, activities for children and other attractions to make civil society more aware of the importance of sustainable water use and care for the environment.

**75.** As a result of the Johannesburg Summit and its Plan of Implementation, ECLAC has been making efforts to consolidate opportunities for civil society participation in environmental themes since 2002. It has advocated regional implementation of the principle of access to information, citizen participation and justice in environmental matters (Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development) through the promotion of dialogue between governments and civil society in the countries of the region.

**76.** One of the central channels for these efforts was to sustain capacity building at national levels in relation to this principle, which was requested by countries of the region, bearing in mind the European experience based on the Aarhus Convention. For that purpose, two regional capacity-building efforts have already been carried out (one in Mexico in 2003 for the countries of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean; and the other in Paraguay, aimed fundamentally at the countries of MERCOSUR). ECLAC has also participated in various events and meetings convened both by governments and by civil society, including the Symposium of Judges and Prosecutors on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, the Public Prosecutor's Office of Brazil, the Access Initiative for Latin America, and advisory services as part of the Advisory Committee of the Access Initiative for Chile.

## DECISION 7

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### WATER RESOURCES

**77.** The eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, from 29 to 31 March 2004, adopted the Jeju Declaration, through which it recognized the need to strengthen cooperation so that, together with the important actors, new policies and mechanisms can be implemented to face the serious problem of water shortage, inequality in consumption, distribution and recovery of the real costs of the services. The Declaration was presented to the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 14 to 31 April, 2004) as a contribution from UNEP.

**78.** On that occasion, it was underscored that the crucial nature of the water crisis lies in the limitations to obtain, distribute among all users and return to nature (under appropriate conditions) the vital fluid so that we may once again have it available in less time and under the best possible conditions. Also stressed was that the appropriate governance of water can only become sustainable through processes involving citizen participation, ranging from planning through the execution of the corresponding policies on the Integrated Management of Water Resources.

**79.** The theme of valuing water as a vital and scarce resource on the part of the population was underscored as necessary in the planning and design of environmental education policies that should be advocated; similarly, it was considered indispensable to seek greater cooperation among the actors involved in such efforts. The representatives of 150 countries shared the challenge of delivering sufficient safe water to more than 2 billion people and of providing better sanitation systems to nearly 2.5 billion inhabitants.

**80.** During the Regional Consultation of Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory to the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of UNEP/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Panama City, Panama; 24 and 25 November 2004) UNEP presented advances in the new Programme for Environmentally Sound Fresh Water Management, ratifying its importance among its priority activities. Some delegations reported details on their water legislation and management, as well as the need for capacity-building to apply them effectively. In this context, Mexico set forth the need for the twenty-third Governing Council to clearly direct the Commission on Sustainable Development, in turn, to contribute to the success of the Fourth World Water Forum, to be held in Mexico in 2006. In this regard, a group of countries of the region, including Peru, Cuba, Venezuela, Barbados and Mexico, worked on a draft resolution on Integrated Water Resources Management, which was presented to the plenary. Mexico committed to, and continued to work on, a proposal that comprised the concerns of the countries of the area, presented to the 23rd Session of the UNEP Governing Council.

**81.** The twenty-third session of the Governing Council /Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 21 to 25 February



2005, considered, among other factors, that the countries should achieve environmentally sustainable use of water and the implementation of integrated water resources management, including the ecosystem approach (increasing the availability of clean water, in order for it to form an integral part of measures aimed at supplying the poor with clean water and sanitation), as well as the idea that non-sustainable costs of water use should also be quantified.

**82.** Improvement in mechanisms and institutional governance in terms of water resources are important factors in mobilizing funds; however, equally important is to attain substantial increases in donor aid, to be complemented by the creation of capacities. The international community must comply with its commitment to increase the flow of financial resources.

**83.** During this session, the Updating of UNEP Water Policies and Strategies was adopted (decision 23/2). It called for the incorporation of new concepts in its review, such as: an ecosystem approach; integrated management among other concepts for water resources; governance in water resources themes, as well as transborder resources; the use of innovative policy instruments to promote the protection of water-related ecosystems; underground waters; and support for global, region and subregional entities in charge of water. It offered assurance that UNEP actions would be compatible with the Millennium Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It specifically recommended that, in his review, the Executive Director should take into account areas of interest and concerns related to the following concepts included in the Updating of Water Policies and Strategies, among other concepts:

- a) ecosystem approach to integrated water resources management;
- b) emerging concepts;
- c) global assessment and monitoring;
- d) innovative instruments;
- e) participation and governance in the field of water;
- f) support for regional and subregional entities in the field of water;
- g) underground waters;
- h) mention of the Final Report of the World Commission on Dams;
- i) conceptual precision in the use of terms: global waters, international waters and transborder waters, applied to oceans, seas and inland bodies of water.

**84.** The concerns expressed by the representatives of the participating countries in the Regional Consultation of Latin America and the Caribbean in November 2004 were incorporated into the decision proposal in this theme, which appears as decision 23/2.

**85.** The thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York, United States, from 11 to 22 April 2005, adopted a policy document on water and sanitation, which deals with the themes of access to basic water services, integrated water resources management, sanitation, hygiene education, wastewater collection, and water treatment and reuse.

**86.** Incorporation of the ecosystem approach in integrated water resources management was achieved, as well as the use of innovative policy instruments to promote the protection of water-related ecosystems, such as forests and wetlands. With this decision, there are now more international elements of consensus to continue promoting them in other international forums and, in particular, for them to remain duly established and developed in the review of the UNEP Water Policy and Strategy. The related paragraphs are cited below: Emphasize our commitment to the results of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, particularly to the policies and activities on water and sanitation aimed at:

- a) improving governance and guaranteeing the supply of basic water services to vulnerable population groups through institutional strengthening and regulatory reforms, capacity-building and innovation;
- b) implementing integrated water resources management, paying particular attention to economic development and to social and environmental needs;
- c) strengthening the sustainability of ecosystems that provide basic resources for human well-being and economic activities related to the implementation of decisions on water.
- d) promoting the active participation of all the actors involved, as well as capacity-building and technology transfer.
- e) mobilizing resources so that all nations will be able to achieve the development goals agreed to internationally, including those established in the Millennium Declaration.

**87.** In turn, UNEP/ROLAC carried out various activities related to:

- a) preparation and dissemination of a "Manual on the Ecosystem Approach to Water Management" (January 2004);
- b) UNEP water strategy;
- c) Workshop on underground waters in the Caribbean, preparation of the GEF Project;
- d) Land management in the Gulf of Fonseca Basins;
- e) Project for manuals on rainwater use; and
- f) Support for the inter-American dialogue on waters.

**88.** UNDP, in partnership with governmental and non-governmental institutions has been supporting the Governments of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras in developing initiatives to improve water resources management through the following activities: National Water Agenda – El Salvador, the Water Platform – Honduras, and the "Process to Reform the Drinking Water and Sanitation Sector". These activities are supporting the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7 by advocating integrated water resources management under the concept of Integrated watershed management, in partnership with civil society and governmental agents.

**89.** Together with UNDP El Salvador, the IDB and the Global Water Partnership, support was given to the organization of the Central American Water Forum from

30 November to 2 December 2004. UNDP El Salvador, with the support of the Regional Development Knowledge and Services Centre compiled and published the Proceedings of the Forum, in which the state of progress of the Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management in Central America (PACADIRH) was reviewed, and steps were planned for the forthcoming World Water Forum to be held in Mexico in 2006.

**90.** In August 2005, the UNDP Offices in Meso America met to exchange experiences and identify more efficient ways of continuing to support initiatives that will help to improve the governance of water, understanding governance of water to be a key factor in efforts aimed at achieving the Millennium Goals. In view of UNEP's scorekeeping role in relation to the Millennium Goals and its hosting the Millennium Project, UNDP has been entrusted with serving as the leader of the theme "Provision of water and sanitation" at the Fourth World Water Forum, to be held in Mexico. In this regard, it is coordinating activities with the Government Mexico and other agencies, including HABITAT, UNICEF and WHO, among others.

**91.** IDB, with resources of the IDB-Netherlands Programme for Integrated Water Resources Management, has been supporting the countries with international commitments adopted within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. With the former, the countries committed themselves to reduce by half the population without access to drinking water and sanitation services by 2015 and with the latter, to develop national plans for integrated water resources management (IWRM) by 2005. In the context of the MDGs, the Bank has supported countries such as Bolivia in preparing a national plan to meet the MDG drinking water and sanitation target and Peru in redesigning its rate systems. It has also carried out various regional initiatives to establish the relationship between water and poverty, and to design financial mechanisms to facilitate the extension of service to rural and peri-urban areas. In the context of the Johannesburg Summit, the Bank has been supporting the planning of water resources through regional initiatives to develop methodologies, training and identification of needs ("road maps"), as well as in the preparation of national IWRM plans and strategies such as that in Costa Rica, which is the first strategy prepared in Latin America and those of Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Brazil, which are in the process of being prepared. The Bank will also be supporting the holding of the Fourth World Water Forum through specific activities such as:

- a) The Programme for training Journalists in drinking water and sanitation themes in association with other international agencies such as the World Bank, the OAS, the World Water Council (WWC) and the Secretariat of the Forum.
- b) Analysis of IWRM implementation, including a critical analysis of the concept of IWRM and the viability of its implementation in real situations, in association with the National Water Agency and the Institute of Environmental Protection (IPA) in Brazil.
- c) Innovative Financing Models for Drinking Water and Sanitation Services: Alternatives for Local Governments, where various applied models will be

analysed and a new approach to accelerate the expansion of services will be proposed.

**92.** The World Bank has developed new projects geared toward increasing potable water coverage in the region and improving institutionalism and the legal frameworks for the sustainable management of watersheds, aquifers and coastal zones. Among the most important developments in the implementation of this project are the Guaraní Aquifer, in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, and the execution of sustainable management projects for natural resources in coastal zones, such as the Project for the Prevention of Coastal Pollution in Patagonia, Argentina. Other projects, both approved and proposed, during the 2004-2005 period are:

a) Water Supply and Sanitation

- i. Water Supply Infrastructure Improvement Project (Saint Lucia)
- ii. Project to Support Water Supply and Sanitation (Colombia)
- iii. Project for Environmental Services for Rio Amoyá (Colombia)
- iv. Project for Urban Improvement in Recife (Brazil)
- v. Project for Urban Services, Bogotá (Colombia)
- vi. Project for the Management and Rehabilitation of Waters (Peru)
- vii. National Project for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (Peru)
- viii. Project for Rural Infrastructure (Honduras)
- ix. Project for the Development of Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian Communities (Ecuador)
- x. Infrastructure Project, Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- xi. Project for the Consolidation of the Water Sector (Guyana)

b) Solid Waste Management

- i. Project for the Management of Waste and Carbon Sequestration (Mexico)
- ii. Project for Methane Capture, Olavarria (Argentina)
- iii. Project for Management and Rehabilitation, Valle del Vilcanota (Peru)
- iv. Project for Technical Assistance for the Modernization of the Water and Sanitation Sector (Mexico)

c) Management of Resources in Coastal Zones

- i. Project for Sustainable Tourism in Coastal Zones (Honduras)
- ii. Project for the Management of Polluted Water and Coastal Zones, Espirito Santo (Brazil)
- iii. Project for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, San Andrés Archipelago (Colombia)

**93.** As an implementing agency, the World Bank has supported studies and proffered technical assistance for improving the efficiency of the use of water and its integrated management, such as:

- a) support for the National Water Plan, 2001-2006, Mexico. The objectives of this project include: (i) improving conditions for the management and sustainable, integrated use of national water resources through strategic planning and concrete actions; and (ii) putting a halt to the accelerated deterioration of water resources in areas of risk;
- b) implementation of the integrated management project for water resources in the state of Ceará, Brazil. The objectives of this project include: (i) increasing the sustainable supply of water for multiple purposes and improving the efficiency of the management system for water resources in Ceará; (ii) promoting efficient and participatory management of all state water resources; and (iii) promoting the efficient use and rehabilitation of the water environment of soil;
- c) conclusion of the Country Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) in Colombia, and the preparation of similar studies for Peru, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Among the objectives of these environmental assessments are: the definition of environmental priorities based on estimating the cost of environmental deterioration, the analysis of institutional capacity and the use of natural resources, with an emphasis on water resources.

**94.** With the objective in mind of adopting an integrated, comprehensive focus for the environmental management of resources in the Caribbean Sea, the World Bank has executed various projects that focus on the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, including operations in Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica and Grenada.

**95.** An essential element in the development of all World Bank initiatives is the consolidation of dialogue among the diverse stakeholders at all regional and subregional levels. The participation at all sub-national levels of government, of civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders is a key instrument to ensure the best possible results in the long term. The World Bank recently approved the first loans for the programmatic reform of environmental sustainability (*Programmatic Environmental Development Policy Loan*) to provide assistance to the environmental sustainability programs of Brazil, Mexico and Colombia. One of the components incorporated into the design of this loan is the improvement of communication networks between government, the economic sectors and civil society, as well as the promotion of transparency and increased public participation.

## DECISION 8

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### **ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND FAIR AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR USE**

**96.** In the framework of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in February 2004, adoption of a decision to prepare and negotiate the international regime on Access to Genetic Resources and Distribution of Benefits was achieved.

**97.** Mexico, in its capacity as lead country of the Working Group in this theme together with Canada and with the support of Switzerland, organized an International Workshop of Experts on Access to Genetic Resources and Equitable Distribution of Benefits in Morelos, Mexico, from 24 to 27 October 2004, to contribute technical inputs to the negotiations on the international regime in the framework of the CBD, as well as matters related to disclosure requirements in intellectual property applications. Participation included 60 experts from both developed countries and developing countries (nine members of the Group of Like-minded Megadiversity Countries –Kenya, Philippines, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, South Africa and Mexico- and others from Canada, Australia, United States, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Cameroon, Belgium, Germany and El Salvador).

**98.** The Workshop dealt principally with the general view of the elements that could comprise the international regime and specific aspects for its preparation through the presentation of papers on national experiences in the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on access to genetic resources, intellectual property rights and biopiracy, the role of *sui generis* regimes, protection of traditional knowledge, derivatives, prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities, as well as complementary instruments that could help to achieve the objectives of the international regime.

**99.** At the Third Meeting of the Open-ended Special Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and the Distribution of Benefits of the CBD, which took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 14 to 18 February 2005, various proposals on the approach and scope of the international regime were presented. The proposals were reflected in the final text of the meeting under different "options", which will be the basis for discussion at the Forth Meeting of the Working Groups, to be held in Spain in March 2006. In the final text, paragraphs related to certificates of legal origin were included.

**100.** In reference to the measures in user countries, the Parties and other actors were invited to send comments on the occurrence, nature and cost of improper appropriation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge; the effectiveness and cost to ensure compliance with prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms; problems of compliance with national laws. A paragraph was also included inviting the Parties and Governments to consider including in their national legislation on intellectual property rights the disclosure of

origin/source/legal origin of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in applications for intellectual property.

**101.** In relation to the certificate of origin/source/legal origin, emphasis was placed on the need for the Parties and others what are interested to send detailed information on the objectives, desirable characteristics and viability, and possible costs of the certificates. Such information will be presented at the fourth meeting of the Working Group. It was also requested that specific times be assigned for the discussion of each of these matters during the next meeting so as to encourage technical discussion of greater depth.

**102.** To support the formulation and development of national legislation in the field of access to genetic resources and the distribution of benefits, UNEP/ROLAC has provided technical assistance to Panama and Chile by sending experts of the region in those fields. These experts met under the coordination of the environmental authorities in those countries with the actors involved and presented reports on their respective conclusions and recommendations in the themes and exchanged knowledge and experiences on legislation regarding access and distribution of benefits with them in order to support the processes for preparing such legislation, which is occurring in the above-mentioned countries. At the end of their visit, the experts prepared and presented some reports with their own conclusions and recommendations).

**103.** UNEP/ROLAC organized a training workshop for indigenous peoples on international instruments related to biodiversity, access to genetic resources, distribution of benefits and associated traditional knowledge, which included the participation of 150 representatives of various indigenous communities (Jujuy, Argentina; April 2004).

**104.** A Manual on Community Environmental Management, Use and Conservation of Biodiversity of Indigenous Farmer-Peasants in Latin America and the Caribbean was prepared by UNEP/ROLAC.

**105.** In February 2004, the book "Naturaleza, Culturas y Necesidades Humanas, Ensayos de Transformación" was published as part of the series on Latin American Environmental Thought by UNEP/ROLAC.

**106.** At the request of the Government of Peru, UNEP/ROLAC technical legal assistance was provided to the National Environment Council of Peru to strengthen its Biodiversity Unit and enable it to appropriately carry out its numerous functions and responsibilities, including implementation of the National Strategy and the Regional Andean Biodiversity Strategy, as well as to support the National Biodiversity Commission (CONADIB) in order to strengthen its capacity to respond appropriately to the various international initiatives in the areas of biodiversity and biosafety.

**107.** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Andean Community and UNEP/ROLAC to provide support to the subregional organization in the implementation of its action plan to follow up on the commitments adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in the themes of priority to the Andean Community (CAN); that is, biodiversity, climate change and water resources. Under this agreement support was given to organizing the

Second Meeting of the Andean Committee on Genetic Resources (Cuenca, Ecuador, 8 June 2004) and the Third Meeting of this Committee (Lima, Peru, 30 March 2005) from which resulted in important follow-up mandates in the theme.

**108.** Support has been given to the countries of the Andean Community in designing and presenting a GEF/UNEP project related to the evaluation and implementation of decision 391: Common regime of access to genetic resources and to the development of an Andean position in negotiations on an International Regime on Genetic Resources and Distribution of Benefits. Under the above-mentioned decision, a workshop of the CAN countries was organized in December 2005 to arrive at common positions on the theme of access to genetic resources and the distribution of benefits in the framework of the international system in this field).

**109.** UNEP/ROLAC organized a regional workshop on "Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Distribution of the Benefits Arising from Their Use and Associated Traditional Knowledge" (Havana, Cuba; 21 and 22 June 2005). The objectives of the workshop were to facilitate a regional forum for exchange among Latin American countries regarding their legal practices and national policies on the theme of access to genetic resources and fair and equitable distribution of the benefits arising from their use, and for seeking greater agreement on the positions of such countries at international forums where the issue is being dealt with and at forums where an international regime in the field is being negotiated. In this workshop the participating experts formulated a document that includes proposals for drawing up a possible decision of the Forum of Ministers in the field of access to genetic resources and distribution of benefits (see **Annex II** to this document). At the First ITC Meeting of 2005, it was agreed that the ITC would transmit this recommendation to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment.

**110.** To provide assistance to the countries of the region in the field of legislative development on biosafety, UNEP/ROLAC prepared a study on advances in such legislation in the countries of Latin America, which is in the process of being published.

**111.** The First and Second UNEP Regional Programmes in Environmental Law and Policy were held in Mexico City in November 2004 and in Panama City in August 2005, respectively. They included various themes related to biodiversity and were aimed at officials in the three branches of government and in local government, as well as representatives of civil society.)

**112.** UNDP, in coordination with the GEF Small Grants Programme and the Equator Initiative, organized a regional workshop on local environmental management experiences and sustainable livelihoods, which was held in Merida, Mexico, from 25 to 27 May 2005. More than 27 community micro-companies active in the themes of social forestry, ecotourism and eco-agriculture from more than 12 Latin American countries analysed and discussed the horizontal and vertical integration potential of their activities. In particular, the access to certification mechanisms and access to fair markets for community micro-companies was discussed as a way to achieve the Millennium Goals, attacking rural poverty and generating opportunities for biodiversity-friendly companies.



**113.** UNDP, through the Capacity 2015 programme, followed up on preparatory assistance initiated under Capacity 21 in Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti, which enabled capacity building of communities, sectors and civil society to strengthen their role in the sustainable use of natural resources. In the case of El Salvador, specific support was given to civil society organizations for the formulation and defence before Congress of a bill regarding intellectual property rights over biodiversity. The tools and the methodologies developed in the framework of the programmes will be disseminated among civil society organizations in Central America to provide support in negotiation processes for free trade agreements in the region. The new initiatives being advocated by Capacity 2015 in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama have been characterized by an emphasis on capacity building for planning comprehensive sustainable development at the local level, providing methodologies and training social actors at the provincial and municipal level.

**114.** In 2004, ECLAC conducted a project together with the Andean Development Corporation (ADC), whose purpose was to identify and analyse the biotechnological and institutional capacity of the Andean countries to use and process genetic resources. The results were supposed to provide the ADC and ECLAC with the necessary information to identify opportunities for activities to support the countries in formulating biotechnological development policies..

**115.** The project set forth two objectives:

- a) to study research and development capacity – R&D – in areas related to the use and processing of genetic resources and biotechnology;
- b) to make policy recommendations for supporting the selected countries and for regional and subregional analysis, promotion and development.

**116.** The project results were applied respectively to four studies:

- a) market analysis for the utilization of biodiversity platforms in the Andean region through technology applications;
- b) study of the biotechnological and institutional capacities for using biodiversity in the countries of the Andean Community;
- c) possibilities of biotechnology for the sustainable use of biodiversity resources in the Andean region: recommendations and strategic guidelines;
- d) biotechnology for sustainable use of biodiversity: local capacities and potential markets.)

**117.** An important effort carried out by ECLAC in the field of biological diversity specifically linked to biosafety and genetically modified living organisms is a study called *Los transgénicos en América Latina y el Caribe: un debate abierto* (Transgenics in Latin America and the Caribbean: an open debate) by Alicia Bárcena, Jorge Katz, César Morales and Marianne Schaper, published in June 2004.

**118.** The World Bank, with the support of GEF, approved the project for the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) with the objective of increasing the quality and quantity of regional information regarding biodiversity, and improving institutional capacity in the region to share this

information. The project was approved on June 29, 2004, and declared in effect in October of 2004. The IABIN encompasses six (6) thematic networks (specimens, species, ecosystems, protected areas, pollenizers, invasive species). Each network will receive facilitation by coordinating institutions, which will comprise a group of experts that, together with the member countries, will determine the type and content of information on biodiversity that will be put into systematic order and made available to the users. This foresees the possibility of thematic networks on specimens and species including the review of information on access to genetic resources, based on approval by the countries. Through the IABIN, this allows for an increase in the quantity and quality of information available on specimens and species, beginning the first quarter of 2006, when each respective thematic network is implemented.

**119.** The World Bank has undertaken GEF projects whose components and activities are related to the traditional knowledge and know-how of the indigenous communities where said activities are developed. These are:

- a) PROCYMAF (Mexico)
- b) Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC)
- c) High Andes (Colombia)
- d) Paraná, Biodiversity (Brazil)
- e) Amapa, Sustainable Communities (Brazil)
- f) Indigenous Management of Protected Areas (Peru)
- g) Participatory Management of Natural Areas (Peru)
- h) Integrated Management of Ecosystems in Indigenous Communities (Mexico)
- i) Community Management of the Bio Itza Reserve (Petén)
- j) Project for Conservation and Community Management, Sarstoon Temach (Belize)
- k) Sustainable Production of Cacao, Salamanca, Costa Rica
- l) Regional Project for the Integrated Management of Ecosystems in Indigenous Communities of Central America (PMIE)

## DECISION 9

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### HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

**120.** The countries of the region continued supporting the regional and subregional mechanisms that help us to consolidate a view and strategy on the theme of health and environment. At the continental level, the process of the Meeting of Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) is outstanding. In the framework of HEMA, representatives of the health and environment sectors met three times in 2004 and 2005 both to identify priority actions in the region, guided by the ministerial decisions on the eight priority areas and 12 initial goals in the Ministerial Communiqué of the HEMA Meeting in March 2002 in Ottawa, Canada, and to develop an inventory of existing activities in countries linked to the HEMA priorities.

**121.** Several events have been organized in which the members work to disseminate information on HEMA. These are:

- a) information session on the HEMA process (Washington, USA, February 2004) – Canada and Argentina made a presentation on HEMA follow-up activities to collaborators and potential donors;
- b) Caribbean information session on the HEMA process (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 2 June 2004) – coordinated by the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) alongside the Second Environmental Forum of the Caribbean;
- c) roundtable on the HEMA process (Puerto Rico, 22 to 27 August 2004) .- alongside the twenty-ninth Inter-American Sanitary and Environmental Engineering Congress (AIDIS) to inform AIDIS about the HEMA activities and possible working links between the Association and HEMA objectives.

**122.** In June 2005, various meetings on the theme were held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and were co-sponsored by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), UNEP/ROLAC and the Organization of American States (OAS). An important result of these forums was the Mar del Plata Declaration (see **Annex III** to this document) in which the participating ministers and officials reaffirmed their desire to achieve improvement in the health and environment conditions in the region.

**123.** Annexed to the Mar del Plata Declaration is a detailed cooperation agenda that includes national activities and regional cooperation in the following priority themes: integrated water resources and solid waste management, Safe management of chemicals and environmental health of boys and girls. Specific activities in these spheres are listed. The Declaration also includes specific provisions for implementing an agreed cooperation agenda and a follow-up mechanism.

**124.** The Mar del Plata Declaration recognized the importance of expanding the participation of civil society organizations and of major groups in the design of activities aimed at mitigating and preventing the threats that are a burden to human health and environment.

**125.** An outstanding message in the Declaration is the recognition it gives to previous activities carried out by diverse subregional integration organizations, in particular, efforts aimed at fulfilling the agreements adopted at the Meeting of Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas, held in Ottawa in March 2002. Finally, it makes an appeal to the Heads of State to support implementation of the above-mentioned cooperation agenda.

**126.** It also recognizes the efforts of the working group established at the Ottawa meeting and the support received from the OAS, UNEP/ROLAC and PAHO, and it entrusts the group with follow-up on the Declaration and its cooperation agenda.

**127.** Finally, it makes an appeal to the Heads of State to support the implementation of the above-mentioned cooperation agenda at the forthcoming Summit of the Americas that will be held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November this year.

**128.** UNEP, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Organization of American States (OAS) have backed this process from its beginnings up to the present time as members of the HEMA Coordinating Committee, and they will play a leading role in coordinating regional activities in the priority areas identified in the Declaration.

**129.** At the subregional level, the Andean countries have undertaken a process by the Andean Health Ministers, who at their meeting in March 2004, decided to recognize the environment as a decisive health factor – Implementation of the Ottawa Agreement of 2002 from the health sector in the Andean subregion.

**130.** Although the countries have not yet achieved coordination of the sectors involved and the ministers to address health and environment problems, a working mechanism has been established to achieve common objectives. Jamaica, for example, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding among the Health Ministry, the National Environment Agency, Planning and Water Resources, and the Disaster Preparedness Office to implement a water quality management project. In Colombia there is a process for reviewing and updating the standard for drinking water quality, in an interinstitutional effort coordinated by the Social Protection Ministry (MPS) and the Environment, Housing and Land-use Development Ministry (MAVDT).

**131.** In relation to integrated solid waste management, technical assistance is being provided to Venezuela for the process of pooling efforts for integrated solid waste management in Sucre, Miranda and Táchira, together with an interinstitutional team formed by MARN, MSDS and FUNDACOMUN.

**132.** GEO Health, the joint project of UNEP and PAHO, has advanced in its planning and implementation since the last meeting of the Forum of Environment Ministers. Thanks to the contribution received from technical entities, such as the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), the comprehensive evaluation project has been able to produce the Evaluation of the existing methodologies focusing on their applicability to the region, the Methodological framework of the evaluation (working document) and the Glossary for comprehensive evaluation of health and environment.

**133.** In February 2005, a Workshop on Indicators was organized with the participation of more than 20 regional experts in the framework of the project to make a preliminary attempt to prepare indicators that would promote the evaluation and monitoring of the state of the environment and health in an integrated manner. At this time, UNEP, PAHO and FIOCRUZ, together with the Health and Environment Ministry of Argentina, are coordinating the beginning of a GEO Health pilot project. Similar negotiations are under way in the Caribbean, in coordination with the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI). The project will continue with its objectives of assisting decision-makers in the field of health and environment, in keeping with the importance of the effort, reiterated in the HEMA Mar del Plata Declaration.

**134.** The World Bank has supported the development of projects for the management of solid waste and sewerage, given that these are activities closely linked to public health. Since 2004, the Bank has prepared several projects with the objective of improving waste management and sewerage. One example is

the Project for the Management of Solid Waste in Argentina. This project has five major components: (i) universal coverage for solid waste; (ii) the shutting down and subsequent rehabilitation of dumpsites; (iii) the introduction of regional dumpsites; (iv) minimization of waste; (v) recovery, recycling and composting of solid waste.

**135.** The World Bank has also undertaken projects for the integrated management of solid waste, with carbon sequestration elements included. Thanks to the initiatives provided by the Kyoto Protocol, particularly the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the Río Frío (Colombia) project was implemented. The purpose of this project is carbon sequestration, through the modernization of techniques for water sanitation.

**136.** Since early 2005, the World Bank began preparing a regional study on the costs of environmental deterioration, emphasizing the pollution of air and water. The study includes a socio-economic cost analysis of environmental deterioration, particularly the linkage between environmental deterioration and public health;

**137.** The cost of environmental deterioration has been evaluated and put into eight categories: (i) pollution of urban air; (ii) water, sanitation and hygiene; (iii) pollution of interior environments; (iv) municipal waste collection; (v) deterioration of agricultural soil; (vi) over-exploitation of fishing; (vii) deforestation; (viii) natural disasters. The study includes new methodologies to quantify the preferences and values of individuals and communities within the context of environmental quality, the conservation of natural resources and environmental risks for public health. The primary objective of this is that this linkage may take on much needed priority status in the public agendas of the countries of the Region.

**138.** The World Bank has begun preparation of a study on the management of natural resources in Brazil, specifically analyzing the link between environmental deterioration and poverty.

## DECISION 10

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

**139.** In compliance with the decision adopted by the Forum of Ministers, the work programme of the Network has been reoriented, concentrating its training activities on national capacities in the themes of ecosystemic management of natural resources and in the theme of trade, environment and sustainable development.

**140.** In reference to the contributions to the Trust Fund of the Environmental Training Network, in 2004-2005 contributions were received from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Venezuela, for a total of US\$ 191,000. In addition, the operation of the Network Trust Fund was extended for two additional years and until the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers is held.

**141.** In conformity with the requests of the Forum of Ministers, the courses carried out in 2004 had broad participation of officials designated by the environment ministers or their equivalent officers from each of the countries of the region.

**142.** The Network supported the training of teachers and community educators of the Conference of Education Workers of the Argentine Republic and their teacher career training, as well as the First National Congress on Environmental Education in the Argentine Republic. The Network has also supported the activities conducted in the framework of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru.

**143.** The Network has directed its publishing programme towards the ILAC themes, particularly towards ecosystemic resources management, which includes the publication of two manuals on ecosystemic management of water resources, as well as three more titles in its series Latin American Environmental Thought. An English version of the basic textbook on agroecology by Miguel Altieri was also prepared and is ready for publication. The Network has established a virtual library of free access with more than 35 titles from publishing programme of Environmental Training Network.

**144.** Several regional training courses on ecosystem management of natural resources were organized and disseminated through the Network Focal Points, including agroforestry courses of the Universidad de Chapingo in Mexico and distance courses of the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica, as well as a distance course in Agroecology, in collaboration with REDCAPA and the University of California at Berkeley. A course on multilateral negotiations, international commerce and sustainable development was organized together with ECLAC (Panama City, Panama, 4 to 8 April 2005) with participants from most of the countries of the region.

**145.** The Network has continue strengthening its character as a promoter, linkage, coordinator and supporter of the environmental education, training and capacity-building in the countries of the region, particularly with the national networks of environmental educators in Argentina and Mexico. The establishment of a national environmental education network in Chile has been promoted.

**146.** With regard to the promotion of specific education exchange and experiences between member countries of the Forum, the training of educators and preparation of important civil society actors, a meeting of those responsible for environmental education in the Environment ministers of the region was organized on the island of Margarita, Venezuela, to prepare a preliminary plan of implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Programme of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (PLACEA), and within the framework of the Environmental Training Network –whose key objective is to develop a permanent regional mechanism to promote the coordination of policies, stimulate the development of programs and projects, and foster communication, exchange and mutual support among the governments of the region, as well as between these and the stakeholders involved in the development of environmental training programs. In November of 2004, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela extended an invitation to all governments of the region to hold on the Isle of Margarita, in the state of Nueva Esparta, the First Meeting of Specialists in Public Management of Environmental Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (22 - 26 November 2004).

**147.** The Meeting drafted an initial PLACEA implementation plan, to be coordinated by Venezuela and UNEP. The plan defines the following spheres of action within the program to be: a) Training of environmental managers, environmental education in communities and schools, b) Training programs at higher education centers; c) Prioritization of educational processes based on the priority themes stipulated by ILAC (Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development), leaving the door open for the inclusion of new themes as suggested by focal points per their specific needs. It was also agreed at this encounter that the project for producing textbooks on environmental education for the elementary level of formal education should continue. In the final report produced by this meeting the organizational structure of PLACEA is established (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/Inf.8**).

**148.** The Final Report was translated into English with the objective of fully incorporating English-speaking nations to PLACEA, and has been disseminated through the Environmental Training Network to all countries of the region. Additionally, a survey was designed and circulated, with the intention of learning of the status of progress of PLACEA in each one of the subregional coordination units and to incorporate the information collected into the web page of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, along with an email address to receive comments and suggestions concerning PLACEA (placea@marn.gob.ve). The Network supported also a subregional consultation, through the initiative of CONAM in Peru for the development of an Andean – Amazonian Sub-programme on Environmental Education (PANACEA) and for carrying out the First Andean – Amazonian

Encounter on Environmental Education and Communication (Lima, Peru; 25 to 27 October 2005).

**149.** In reference to the identification and management of technical and financial resources to support the Network activities and, in particular, the Latin American and Caribbean Programme of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development, UNEP has negotiated initial resources from the Environment Ministry of Spain and has established a cooperation agreement with the Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México to develop the project to prepare environmental education textbooks for the basic formal education system, which should be completed in December 2006. The proposal and initial design of these textbook prototypes were distributed at the Iberoamerican Forum of Environment Ministers, held in Colón, Panama, on 21 and 22 de September 2005.

**150.** In several countries of the region, national laws and projects on environmental education have been established to enable progress to be made in the coordination between national environment and education authorities on the theme of environmental education. With the launching of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, UNEP has initiated contacts with the Regional Office of UNESCO to establish a regional coordination mechanism. The Network also supported and participated in the Third International Seminar on University and Environment, held in Bogota, Colombia, from 8 to 10 November 2005.

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## DECISION 11

### ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

**151.** UNEP has supported the activities of the Working Group responsible for this area, providing resources and facilitating mechanisms that have helped to achieve concrete advances in the generation and use the core indicators of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) at the national level.

**152.** In relation to the production of core environmental indicators (national) and economic, social and institutional indicators needed to evaluate the progress achieved in the implementation of the ILAC, Costa Rica assumed the task of collecting information on the 38 indicators proposed in the final ILAC matrix to prepare a document that would provide information on the current situation in the country. The initiative is the first application of the ILAC indicators at the national level. The results of the exercise are presented in **Table 1**.



**Table 1. Costa Rica: ILAC Indicators**

Themes	Proposed Indicators	Indicators collected	Indicators substituted	Number of maps generated
Biological Diversity	4	4	0	3
Water Resources Management	5	3	0	2
Vulnerability, Human Settlements and Sustainable Cities	11	9	2	6
Social Themes, including Health, Inequality and Poverty	8	5	1	4
Economic Aspects including Trade and Production and Consumption Patterns	5	4	1	1
Institutional Aspects	5	4	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>

**153.** The number of national indicators that could be collected in Costa Rica, based on the list of core indicators approved by the Forum of Ministers, was almost 92%, indicating that certain indicators, owing to their nature, could not be calculated. This exercise, replicated in several countries, will enable a base to be constructed for future analysis of the ILAC matrix of indicators approved by the Forum of Ministers.

**154.** Another country that has decided to conduct the exercise has been Mexico, who expects to complete the report by late July, so it can generate more informed discussion, based on data. To date, the degree of progress made in applying the indicators in Mexico is shown in **Table 2**.

**Table 2. México: ILAC Indicators**

Themes	Proposed indicators	Indicators collected	Indicators substituted	Number of maps generated
Biological Diversity	4	4	0	3
Water Resources Management	5	5	0	5
Vulnerability, Human Settlements and Sustainable Cities	11	11	0	6
Social Themes including Health, Inequality and Poverty	8	8	0	1
Economic Aspects including Trade and Production and Consumption Patterns	5	5	0	0
Institutional Aspects	5	4	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>

**155.** The number of indicators that could be collected from the total list of core indicators was 97%. Only one indicator (Total hours of teaching environmental science in primary education), owing to its nature, could not be calculated.

**156.** The recommendation of the Forum of Ministers to apply the ILAC indicators at the national level has given rise to various initiatives in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Saint Lucia, countries that have begun to take the first steps towards the construction and collection of the information necessary to generate the report.

**157.** Thanks to the support of UNEP and the the Development Observatory of the University of Costa Rica, a workshop was organized in San Rafael de Heredia, Costa Rica with the ILAC National Focal Points in October 2005. The purposes of this workshop are: 1) conclude the discussion on the methodological sheets for the indicators already approved by the Forum of Ministers; 2) generate discussion and an exhaustive review of the indicator matrix so as to change, eliminate or propose new indicators in the light of the experience gained to date; 3) make an overall review of the portal of GEO-LAC environmental data prepared by the Development Observatory- Regional Coordinating Unit (OdD-UCR) and UNEP to make the changes deemed necessary prior to its official launching as the site of the Regional System of Environment Statistics and 4) disseminate the proposal of the Regional Environmental Statistics Systems mentioned further on and intended to build capacities for dealing with environmental statistics capacities in the countries of the region.

**158.** With regard to the approval of the matrix of data and core indicators as the initial component of the project, and the design of the methodological sheets used for measuring the ILAC indicators and variables in the different countries of the region, discussion on the ILAC methodological sheets continued. A website ([www.geodatos.org/foroILAC](http://www.geodatos.org/foroILAC)) has been prepared by OdD-UCR, in coordination with UNEP, to serve as a discussion forum for the different National Focal Points. Of a total of 34 focal points identified by the national parties (either environmental or statistics agencies), the forum now has only 11 national focal points of nine countries registered, in addition to four international agency participants. (See **Table 3**).

**Table 3. Total Focal Points Registered in the ILAC-FORUM by region**

Region	Active focal points	Total focal points
Caribbean	4	9
Meso-America	5	13
South America	6	12
Total	15	34

**159.** UNEP invited a representative of the official statistics entity and another from the official environmental body of each country to participate as focal points. In relation to the institutions and organizations, their current state of registration in the discussion forum may be seen in **Table 4**.

**Table 4. Total of participating organizations by type of institution**

Subregion	Statistics Agency		Environment Ministry		International Agencies		Total	
	Active	Inactive	Active	Inactive	Active	Inactive	Active	Inactive
Caribbean		1		2			0	3
Meso-America	1		2	1			3	1
South America		1		3			0	4
Agencies					1	3	1	3
Total							4	11

Note: the difference in the total is due to the inclusion of international agencies

**160.** This website consists of five major areas: the first section contains both the 38 methodological sheets and the comments that the different focal points have made on each of the themes and goals; the following sections include news items, a calendar of forum activities, a section for downloading documents (where the final matrix of indicators may be obtained) and, finally, a section of links for the region, where there are website addresses of national statistics institutes, environment ministries and environmental information systems. The country with the greatest participation has been Mexico (see **Table 5**).

**Table 5. Number of countries that have commented on the major ILAC themes through the ILAC-FORUM**

Themes (number of indicators)	Countries
Biological Diversity (4)	3
Water Resources Management (5)	3
Vulnerability, Human Settlements and Sustainable Cities (11)	3
Social Themes including Health, Inequality and Poverty (8)	3
Economic Aspects including Trade and Production and Consumption Patterns (5)	2
Institutional Aspects (5)	2

**161.** UNEP backed the development of information technology on a regional scale to present all the indicators and gain a regional perspective on the progress made in fulfilling the ILAC objectives. In addition to the website generated to facilitate the discussion process on the methodological sheets, UNEP and the OdD-UCR have published a brochure on the ILAC indicators in Spanish and English. UNEP distributed the publication at several forums in the region in the course of 2004 and 2005 to disseminate information on the initiative of the ILAC core indicators and the efforts of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum of Ministers. The brochure is available online ([www.geodatos.org/foroILAC](http://www.geodatos.org/foroILAC)) in the document section of the Discussion Forum.

**162.** In fulfilment of decision 11, the OdD-UCR designed a survey for ILAC focal points. The purpose of this survey is to learn which of the ILAC indicators can be built at the national level, as well as to assess aspects such as the source, limitations and periodicity of information, among other aspects. It is important to note that through October 2005, the following countries had responded: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru. The main results are presented in the charts below.

**163.** The ten countries interviewed have capacity to build on average 30 ILAC indicators, which represents 79% of the matrix. As can be seen in **Table 6**, Mexico and Costa Rica are the countries that can build the greatest number of indicators. On the other hand, countries such as Nicaragua, Argentina and Cuba cannot produce nearly 22% of the matrix.

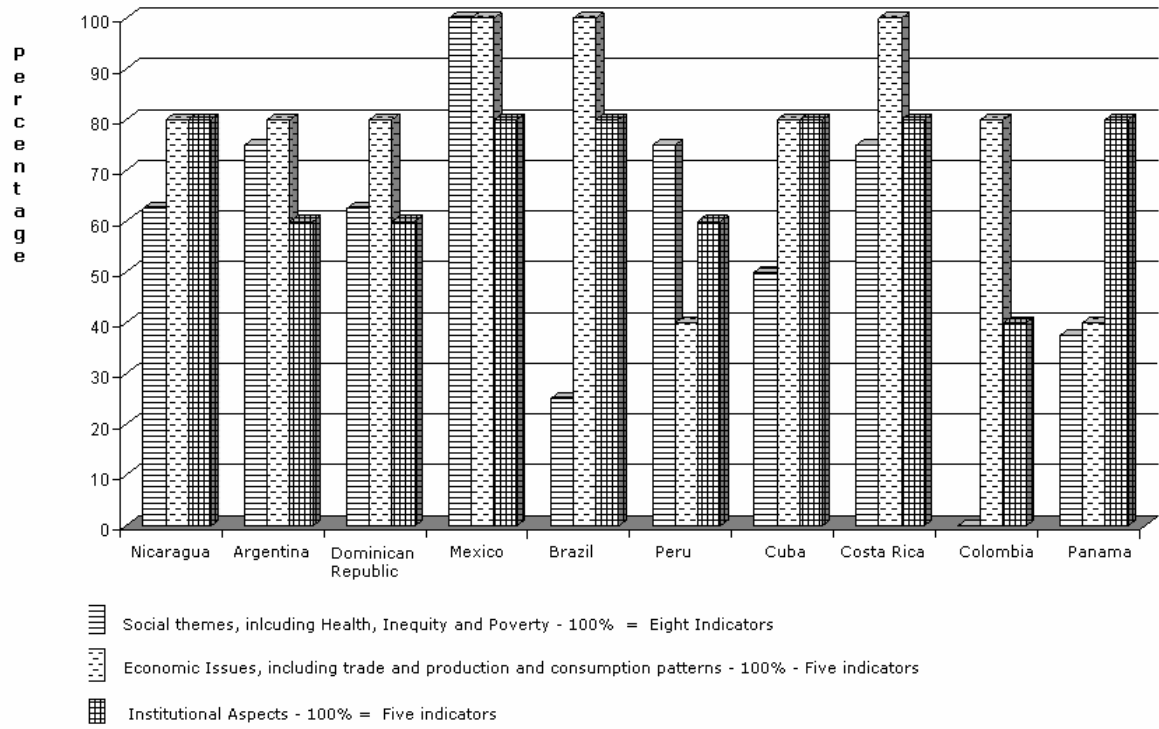
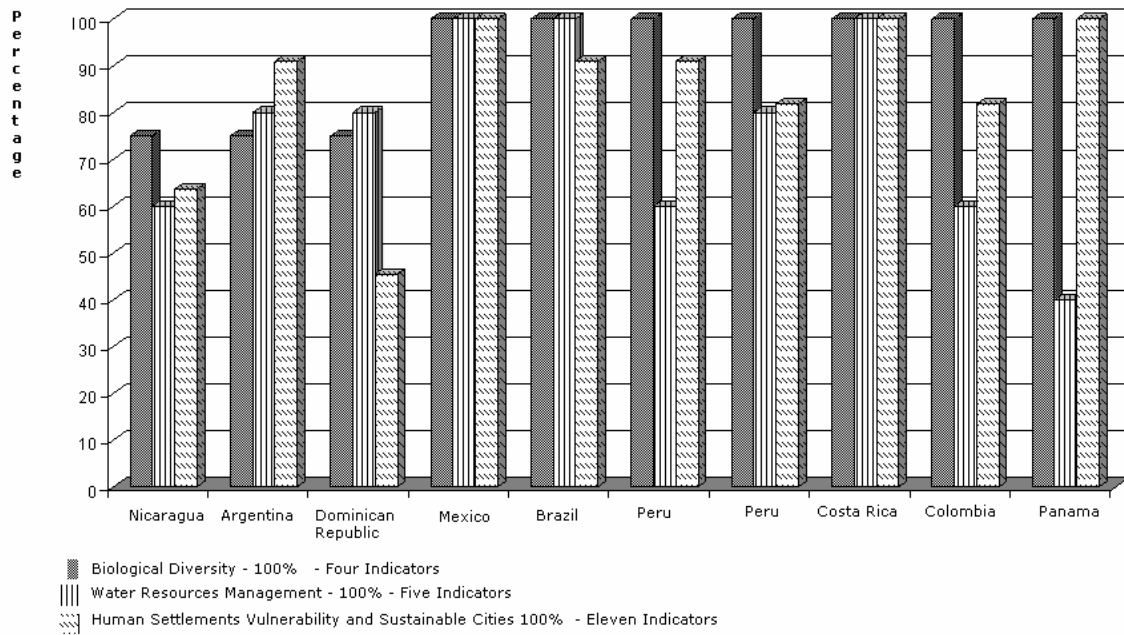
**Chart 6. Total ILAC indicators that each country stated it could produce**

Country	YES	NO	Under revision	Did not respond	Total
Nicaragua	26	11	0	1	38
Argentina	30	8	0	0	38
Dominican Republic	24	5	0	9	38
Mexico	37	1	0	0	38
Brazil	30	6	0	2	38
Peru	28	6	0	4	38
Cuba	29	9	0	0	38
Costa Rica	35	3	0	0	38
Colombia	22	7	9	0	38
Panama	26	5	0	7	38

**164.** Graphics of **Figure 1** shows the ILAC themes and the countries that have difficulties in building some of the indicators.

**165.** As can be observed in both graphics, some countries exhibit certain difficulties in building indicators related to the ILAC indicators. For example, the Dominican Republic reached only 45% of the indicators proposed for the theme of Vulnerability, Human Settlements and Sustainable cities (11 total). Panama faces some particular difficulties with the Water Resources issue. As concerns Social issues, Economic issues and Institutional arrangements, the possibility of building the respective indicators is relatively high among the countries that responded, with the exception of Brazil, Cuba and Panama with the Social issues, Panama and Peru with the Economic issues, and Colombia with the theme of Institutional arrangements. In the specific case of Colombia, there are indicators associated with the themes presented in the second graph, which are in the process of being reviewed to assess the viability of their being constructed. That is why the values presented for Colombia are very low in comparison with the other countries.

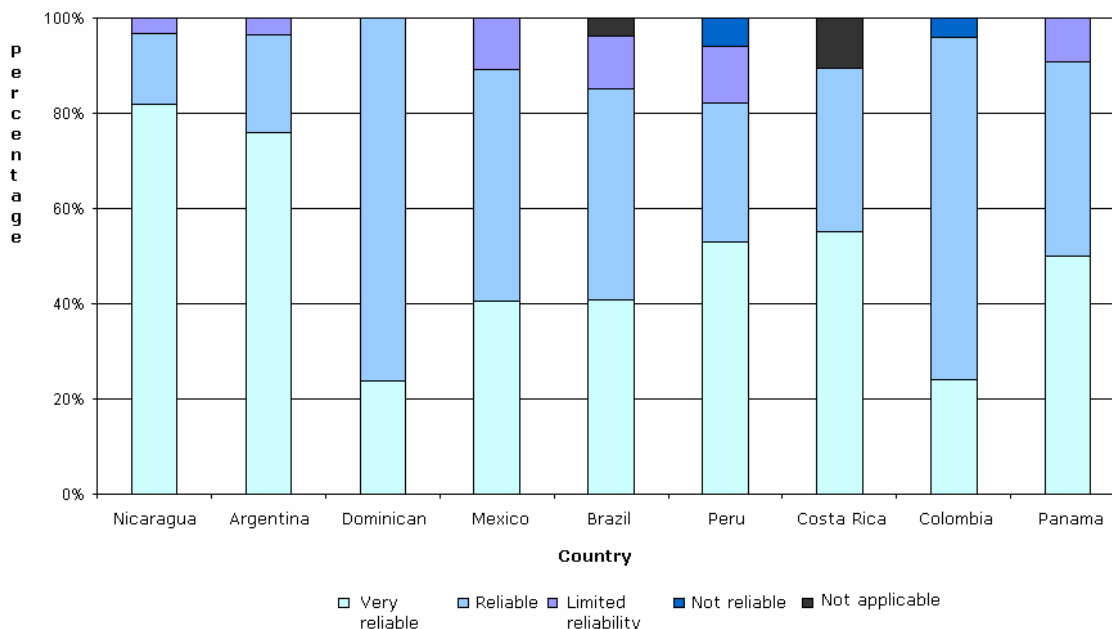
**Figure 1. ILAC Indicators**  
Percentage of ILAC indicators that the countries are capable of building by theme and per country



1 Colombia: Indicators for Social Issues theme -including health, inequity and poverty- are currently under revision.

166. Another aspect assessed was that related to the degree of reliability of the primary sources of information for each one of the ILAC indicators. The main results obtained can be seen in **Figure 2**, where we present the percentile distribution of the degree of general reliability for the 38 indicators.

**Figure 2**  
**ILAC. Percentage of indicators according to the level of confidence in the primary source of information, by country**



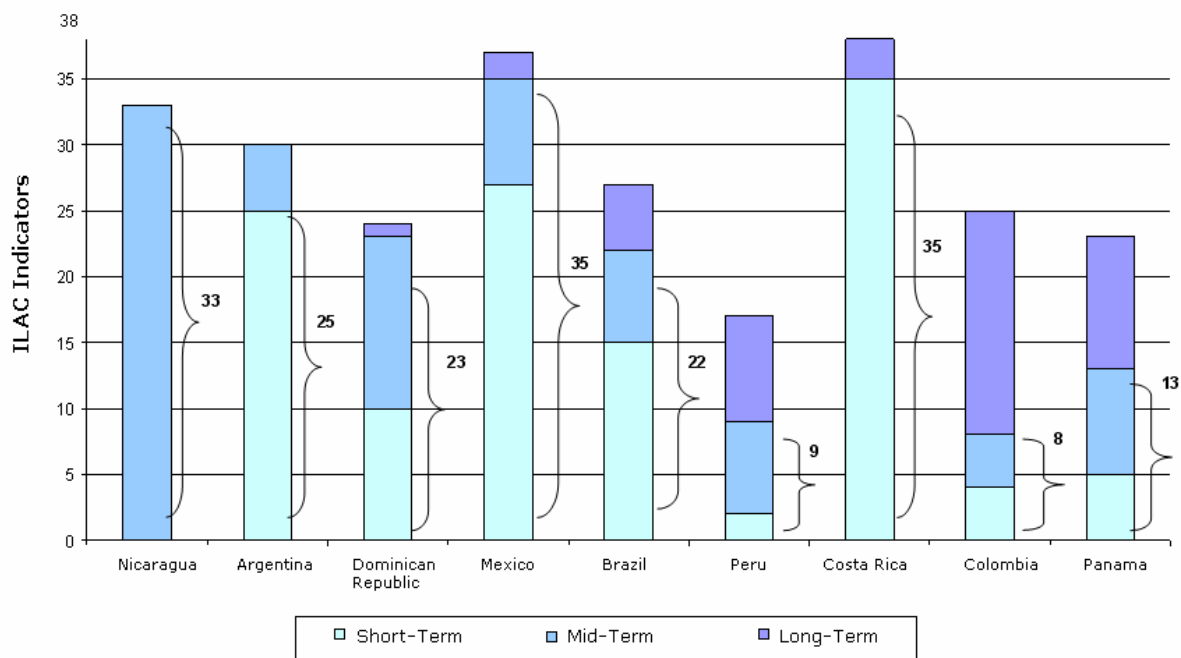
167. It is important to note that Brazil, Mexico and Peru indicate that close to 10 percent (on average) of the data obtained –pursuant to the primary source of information– is not very reliable, whereas Peru is the only country that declares that close to 5 percent of its data is not very reliable.

168. Finally, a question was posed concerning the immediate availability of the ILAC indicators and the results presented in **Figure 3**. It can be seen that a large part of the indicators can be obtained in the short and medium term, with the exception of Nicaragua, which stated that it could have most of the indicators available in the medium term.<sup>(1)</sup>

169. The countries that also show greater problems with the availability of information are Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Peru, which could provide information within 3 to 5 years. In like manner, the countries that can provide information more expeditiously –in less than one year -are Mexico and Costa Rica, given their processes for producing their own national ILAC reports.

<sup>(1)</sup> "Short term" is understood as having data available in less than one year. "Medium term" refers to having data available in one to three years from now, and "long term" to having data available in more than three years from now.

**Figure 3**  
**ILAC. Availability of ILAC indicators for calculation**  
**in the short-term, mid-term and long-term, by country**



**170.** The countries declared that there were a series of limitations for each one of the indicators proposed in the matrix, salient ones being:

- It is impossible to obtain information given that the source for such data compiles the data every 10 years through a census, as expressed by Argentina and Panama. On the other hand, there is information that is obtained based on projections that do not necessarily agree with what is proposed on the methodology sheets, as stated by Mexico, Brazil and Peru.
- It stands clear that there is limited capacity as regards the periodicity of information, given that the years for the public source do not necessarily match the years requested by ILAC.
- In both the regional and national sphere, there is a risk of the information generated reflecting only certain municipalities or cities, as stated by all the countries.
- There is not as yet a clear definition in certain methodology sheets, which makes it impossible to reach comparisons between countries.
- Countries such as Mexico, Peru and Argentina indicate that it is necessary to carry out specific studies for producing certain indicators, which at a given moment might affect the production of future publications as regards the continuity of data.
- Another problem indicated by Peru is that certain indicators do not follow a process to update information.

- g) Argentina points out that several of the indicators selected by ILAC do not meet the objective therein proposed; they mentioned the specific case of forest coverage, in which the indicator does not measure quality.
- h) Mexico mentioned that by law certain information couldn't be provided, in itself an obstacle to the production of certain indicators.

**171.** Early, in May 2005, UNEP and the OdD-UCR initiated the second phase of building the GEO-Data Portal. This phase is intended to develop three major projects. First, the incorporation of the changes that UNEP, the Working Group and other members have requested which already entered into force on 3 September 2005 on the official site [www.geodatos.org](http://www.geodatos.org); second, the additional of new functions, such as consultation by key words, theme bookmarking, chronological series, regions and countries, collaborating centres, subregional consultation by chronological series filters, recovery of forgotten passwords, password changes and personal reference files; and third, generate a geographical application to represent the indicators through maps.

**172.** Once these phases have been concluded, the GEO-Data Portal is expected to be ready for its launching and consultation by the public, who will be able to access the ILAC indicators both for the region and by country, thereby forming the site of the Regional Environmental Statistics System.

**173.** Additionally, UNEP, in coordination with regional experts, has initiated a process aimed at to prepare a document that includes the short-, medium- and long-term requirements for building a Regional System of Environmental Statistics (SIREA, the acronym from its name in Spanish), following the general guidelines observed at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers. A mission formed by representatives of UNEP, the Coordinator of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum of Ministers, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) visited the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in New York on 14 July to talk about not only an inter-agency coordination mechanism but also the scope and expectations revolving around the Regional Environmental Statistics System (SIREA). On 18 July 2005, this mission met with representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank to explore possibilities of financing for the SIREA proposal.

**174.** In the Regional Consultation of the Working Group, in which Costa Rica, Mexico and Saint Lucia participated, the Work Plan for 2005 was presented, and it included the following activities:

- a) continue discussing the 38 methodological sheets until August 2005;
- b) identify core indicators not yet defined for indicative purposes of the ILAC (March 2005);
- c) identify the availability of data in the countries for core indicators (June 2005);
- d) continue UNEP efforts in the national application of the indicators, initiating the process in four countries: Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico and Saint Lucia.



**175.** The results of the survey sent to the focal points to determine the availability of data for the core indicators all approved (results presented in **Table 6** and **Figure 1**) justified a more extensive review of the indicators already selected for ILAC to assess their viability in different national contexts. This was the purpose of the meeting convened by the Working Group in San Rafael de Heredia, Costa Rica, on 10 and 11 October. As a result of this meeting, the methodological sheets of the 27 indicators were finalized. Another 11 indicators are in the process of final review and near being finalized. Experts of the region proposed 12 indicators for the goals that had no indicators, and the experts of the countries, including those of Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico and Peru, are preparing draft methodological sheets for these new indicators. As a result of the discussion on this occasion, Argentina is also making preparations to begin applying the ILAC indicators at the national level.

**176.** In November 2004 in Panama City, during the Regional Consultation of Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of UNEP/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the countries adopted recommendation 1, which was "to organize a workshop to establish a platform for sharing information among the countries with high capacity for using satellite information and other geospatial applications necessary to strengthen South-South cooperation" prior to the end of second quarter of 2005.

**177.** In fulfilling this recommendation, the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC) in Panama held the "First meeting of institutions with experience in the management of geospatial information and land systems Information" and, at the same meeting, underscored the importance of using geospatial Information technologies and land observation systems to generate environmental information as a strategic tool for decision making through the construction of an environmental atlas, the preparation of maps on land-use changes during three decades and the standardization of methodologies, taking the principle of training as a cross-cutting theme for implementing these goals in the countries of the region. In the sphere of regional cooperation, it was agreed to submit the following recommendations to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers: 1) Expand access to spatial information; 2) Improve national infrastructure; and 3) Establish a working group coordinated by Panama to serve as a platform for sharing information among countries.

**178.** Similarly, in recommendation 1 of this meeting, it is suggested that a workshop be organized to establish a platform for information among countries with great capacity for using satellite information and other geo-spatial applications, which is necessary to strengthen South-South cooperation. This workshop is scheduled for the third quarter of 2005 in Panama.

**179.** In compliance with the recommendations of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of the region, ECLAC established fruitful cooperation and coordination efforts with UNEP/ROLAC to the extent that agreements were reached on the division between the agencies, aimed at standardizing definitions and methodologies to obtain data and information that can be fed into the environmental indicators that the countries need. In this regard, since ECLAC

gathers and processes primary data information, it was agreed that it would carry out the efforts requesting environmental information from the countries, so the information would be requested once and not repeatedly.

**180.** With regard to the information and availability of environmental indicators, ECLAC has made significant efforts in this field as requested by the environmental authorities. Thus today, any Internet user has access to information in the ECLAC Database on Environmental Statistics and Indicators of Latin America and the Caribbean (BADEIMA), a tool that makes available to the public environmental information that contains nearly 70 variable of up to for only 12 countries in the region. The BADEIMA database offers the general public official environmental statistics and, in some cases, data from international agencies. A Network of Institutions and Experts in Social and Environmental Statistics (REDESA) was also established in view of the need to strengthen the capacity of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to produce timely and reliable social and environmental statistics to enable better formulation and monitoring of development policies and, at the same time, improve the level of coordination in the production of such statistics among the countries of the region. REDESA works in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

**181.** Similarly, ECLAC has developed a project called Assessment of the Sustainability of Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (ESALC), in which a systemic approach was used to develop a conceptual framework of sustainable development indicators. This system is supported by a database that includes economic, social, environmental and institutional indicators. Under this same approach of a socio-environmental system, indicators of interrelationships between specific subsystems were established and they are also accessible on the Internet. In the framework of this project, various training activities have been carried out, including regional courses in Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

**182.** IDB has financed a project for the development of indicators on vulnerability to natural disasters and natural disaster management. National seminars with decision-makers were held in 10 countries to discuss the results, which were also presented at a regional conference in Manizales, Colombia, in November 2004. The results of the studies and the indicators developed are being printed and will be available in English and Spanish in September 2005.

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## DECISION 12

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### SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**183.** Promotion of the Regional Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production continued at the "Third Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production" (Managua, Nicaragua; 3 to 5 August 2005), organized by MARENA and UNEP/ROLAC in collaboration with UNEP/DTIE and UNDESA as the main result of this encounter, the Managua Declaration was adopted and is attached herein as **Annex IV**.. Additionally, the Second Global Meeting on the Marrakech Process will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, September 2005, and carried out jointly by UNEP/DTIE and UNDESA.

**184.** Regional activities in this sphere include, in particular, the proposal of a project to promote sustainable production and consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean, implemented by UNEP/ROLAC and financed by UNDA. Other activities that involved several countries of the region were the creation of five sustainable production and consumption information centres with the support of UNEP/ROLAC in Argentina, Cuba (2), Panama and Venezuela and the preparation of a Regional Report on Sustainable Production and Consumption by CETESB of Brazil in collaboration with UNEP/ROLAC.

**185.** In relation to public awareness campaigns and training for sustainable consumption and production at all levels of society, a campaign that includes 15 television spots and printed material that has been presented on various television networks in the region, including CNN, was launched to promote sustainable production and consumption.

**186.** In reference to capacity building in different sectors, APELL methodology training workshops (APELL = Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at a Local Level) were held in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and other countries in collaboration with local governments, civil society and industry. A Project on Sustainable Consumption Training for Youth was carried out in Mexico in collaboration with SEMARNAT, PROFECO and INJUVE. This project has benefited more than 2,500 young people. Additionally, a project was undertaken to build capacities in eco-design for universities of the region, carried out by UNEP/ROLAC in collaboration with IHOBE of Spain.

**187.** In relation to the development and implementation of pilot projects on sustainable consumption and production in the industry and services sectors, the following activities should be noted:

- a) *Third Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption* (Managua, Nicaragua; from 3 to 5 August 2005), organized by MARENA, UNEP/ROLAC in collaboration with UNDP/DTIE and UNDESA;
- b) *Second Global Meeting on the Marrakech Process* (San José, Costa Rica; September 2005), organized by UNEP/DTIE and UNDESA;
- c) creation of *Five Information Centres on Sustainable Production and Consumption* with the support of UNEP/ROLAC in Panama, Argentina, Venezuela and Cuba (two);
- d) project for *capacity-building in eco-design for the universities of the region*, carried out by UNEP/ROLAC in collaboration with IHOBE of Spain;
- e) *project proposal for the promotion of sustainable production and consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean*, implemented by UNEP/ROLAC and funded by UNDA;
- f) *Regional Report on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean*, implemented by CETESB of Brazil in collaboration with UNEP/ROLAC;
- g) *design and implementation of a campaign to promote sustainable production and consumption* that includes 15 television spots and printed

material that have been presented on various television networks in the region, including CNN;

- h) *implementation of a Project for Training in Sustainable Development for Youth in Mexico* in collaboration with SEMARNAT, PROFECO and INJUVE. This project has benefited more than 2,500 young people.
- i) *training workshops in APELL Methodology* (Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at a Local Level) have been conducted by UNEP/ROLAC in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and other countries in collaboration with local governments, civil society and industry;
- j) *implementation of the Project to Promote Sustainable Tourism in Protected Natural Areas*. Project carried out in collaboration with UNESCO in Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala;
- k) *signing of the Declaration on Cleaner Production* by companies of the region in Panama and El Salvador;
- l) support for presenting the *Central American Environmental Innovation Award*, organized by CCAD and CEGESTI;
- m) *First Congress of Companies on Cleaner Production in Central America*, organized by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Environment Ministry of El Salvador, in collaboration with UNEP/ROLAC.
- n) launching of the *Global Pact* in Mexico in collaboration with UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, UNEP/ROLAC and others;
- o) *Eighth High-level Seminar on Sustainable Production and Consumption*, organized in Monterrey, Mexico, by SEMARNAT, UNEP/DTIE and UNEP/ROLAC;
- p) the *Amazon River Declaration on Sustainable Tourism* resulting from the Second Iberoamerican Forum of Environment and Tourism Ministers, organized in Iquitos, Peru, by CONAMA and the Tourism Ministry with the support of UNEP/ROLAC and ILO;
- q) *project for technical assistance to SEMARNAT in the theme of Green Purchasing in Mexico*. Implemented by UNEP/ROLAC.

**188.** The following publications in Spanish were issued:

- a) *APELL para Minería* (APELL for Mining)
- b) *La Producción más Limpia y Consumo Sustentable en ALC* (Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption in LAC)
- c) *Manual de Jóvenes por el Cambio y Consumo Sustentable* (Youth Manual for Change and Sustainable Consumption)
- d) *Manual de Consumo Sustentable para el Proyecto de Ciudadanía Ambiental* (Manual on Sustainable Consumption for the Environmental Citizenship Project)
- e) *Publicación Inter-activo sobre Eco-Diseño y Análisis de Ciclo de Vida* (Interactive Publication on Eco-Design and Life-Cycle Analysis)

- f) *Eco-Diseño para Pequeñas y Medianas Empresas* (Eco-Design for Small- and Medium-Sized Companies)
- g) *Problemas / Emergencias y Soluciones APELL* (Problems / Emergencies and APELL Solutions)
- h) *Elementos Clave en una Política Nacional de Producción más Limpia*. (Key Elements in a National Policy for Cleaner Production)

**189.** Other activities include support for granting the Central American Environmental Innovation Award, organized by CCAD and CEGESTI; and the launching of the Global Pact in Mexico, in collaboration with UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, UNEP/ROLAC and others.

**190.** The principal efforts carried out in Nicaragua in the field of sustainable production and consumption have been aimed at:

- a) internalizing the theme in the permanent structures of the Ministry, principally in the area of trade and environment;
- b) defining a national action plan that will develop a national policy on production and consumption, a development strategy and a national action plan;
- c) obtaining financing for these three initiatives;
- d) organizing and planning the Third Meeting of Experts on Production and Consumption in coordination with UNEP;
- e) preparing project proposals to carry out activities in collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands;
- f) preparing a project proposal for development in Nicaragua with the support of GEF funds.

### DECISION 13

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#### IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS AND FISCAL POLICIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

**191.** Among the activities related to this decision, note should be made of the Seminar on Environmental Investment and Competitiveness in the Framework of Economic Integration (Lima, March 2005), which was organized by the National Environment Commission of Peru in the context of the forty-fifth IDB Assembly of Governors and the Assembly of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), under the auspices of UNEP, GTZ and the Government of Peru.

**192.** The seminar agreed that better coordination and governance between fiscal policies and environmental policies was needed, and proposed linkages between aspects of the fiscal and environmental areas that could improve dialogue. Similarly, opportunities of new approaches and instruments of environmental management for the competitiveness of our productive, financial and trade sectors were presented.

**193.** Two other seminars were held in parallel with the main seminar. One was on the CAMISEA Project and the other on multilateral environmental agreements and environmental services.

194. UNDP, in partnership with governments of the region, ECLAC and the World Bank, has conducted several activities to support this decision, including:

*Support for capacity building through South-South exchange of experiences and cooperation:*

- a) **UNDP-ECLAC Project** "Application of Economic Instruments in Environmental Management in Latin America and the Caribbean". This project responds to the interest of UNDP and ECLAC in providing the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean with programming support by conducting case studies in which the lessons learned and good practices in the design and application of economic interests are identified on the basis of experiences in the region and the exchange of experiences among countries. To that end, the challenges and decisive factors in applying economic instruments in environmental management in the following countries were analysed: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. In the framework of this same project, a seminar that brought together financial and environmental authorities was carried out to exchange experiences and methodologies.
- b) **Technical Support in the Use of Economic and Fiscal Instruments in Environmental Management.** Various missions to provide governments of the region with technical assistance have been conducted since 2002 to support the use of economic and fiscal instruments in environmental management, including Barbados, Colombia, El Salvador, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela.
- c) **Environmental Knowledge Fair: Experience in Costa Rica.** This activity was carried out in December 2004 in San José, Costa Rica. The purpose of the fair was to provide a space to promote the exchange of South-South experiences and cooperation in a format of supply and demand of knowledge. Approximately 200 parties interested in knowing about Costa Rica's experience participated in this event in which more than 25 governmental and non-governmental institutions and the private sector offered their experience in sustainable environmental management. Forty-two experience exchange agreements were signed. Additionally, Costa Rica's experience in developing environmental services payment schemes, ecotourism and other mechanisms to support sustainable environmental management were documented and presented.
- d) **Documentation of Experiences in Developing Environmental Services Payment Schemes.** Various experiences that have developed payment for water services were analysed and a document presenting practical aspects linked to the development of such schemes was prepared, in addition to a rapid diagnosis guide for identifying the development potential of environmental services.
- e) **Support for Capacity-building through Courses and Training Workshops.** From 2003 to 2005, UNDP, in cooperation with other

agencies and regional governments, has organized activities to support capacity-building in the use of economic instruments in environmental management. These workshop were held in:

**Cuba** (June 2004 – Regional workshop with the participation of five countries of Central America and the Caribbean, organized in collaboration with ECLAC);

**GEF** (July 2004) – in view of the strong demand for capacity building in GEF projects being implemented by UNDP, a seminar was held in Cuba to provide appropriate knowledge in economics and environment to supply the resources needed to establish future economic sustainability of the initiatives supported by the GEF.

**Panama** (May 2005 – UNDP, UNEP, ANAM and the Panama Canal Authority organized a workshop entitled “Experiences applied in the valuation and payment for environmental services in Latin America and the Caribbean”, whose main objective was to present success experiences in the development of such schemes and to identify the applicability of such schemes in order to support sustainable management in the basin of the Panama Canal).

**195.** ECLAC, continuing with this line of work as requested by the environmental authorities of the region, held the Second (in 2004) and Third (in 2005) Regional Workshops on Fiscal Policy and Environment, which brought together authorities in the fiscal and environmental areas of the countries of the region in order to continue exploring the integration, coordination and consistency potential of public policies for the sustainability of development; of fiscal and environmental policies in this case. In 2004 and 2005 two national workshops on this topic were also held, in Brazil and in the Dominican Republic, respectively, with Haiti and Puerto Rico present at the workshop in the Dominican Republic, In both cases, they were initial experiences of joint efforts between the two spheres of public authorities.

**196.** In 2004 and 2005, ECLAC also carried out national studies and technical assistance efforts on the integration of fiscal and environmental policies in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Peru. A training activity on economic and fiscal instruments for environmental management was also carried out in cooperation with the World Bank and Mexico (Oaxaca, Mexico, March 2005).

**197.** In collaboration with the OECD, in 2004 and 2005, ECLAC conducted an Environmental Performance Assessment in Chile, with Argentina participating as an observer of the process and Mexico as a peer assessor. The purpose of this assessment was to analyse the environmental performance of the country on the basis of its national objectives and its international commitments. Institutional aspects of environmental management and integration of the economic system and environment, including an analysis of economic and regulator instruments were assessed, as well as other aspects. Environmental protection spending was also assessed.

**198.** Together with ECLAC, the World Bank supported a regional course, held in March of 2005 in Oaxaca, Mexico, on Environmental Economy.

**199.** The primary objective of the Country Environmental Assessments (CEAs) that the World Bank is undertaking is to internalize environmental policy in key sectors, including infrastructure, energy, water, tourism, and health. These analyses also incorporate elements of fiscal policy and incentives, and additionally define weaknesses within the framework of compliance and monitoring. In the case of Central America, the CEAs that are now taking place place special emphasis on topics pertaining to the environment and free trade agreements. During 2004 and 2005, the CEAs for the Dominican Republic and Colombia were concluded, and the CEA for Peru begun.

## DECISION 14

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### CLIMATE CHANGE

**200.** The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by 30 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**201.** In the framework of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC (Buenos Aires, Argentina; October 2004), the Regional Report on Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean was presented. It was jointly prepared by the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry of Mexico and UNEP/ROLAC. The report was widely recognized as a contribution of the region to knowledge and projection of this global environmental issue, and it has been widely distributed at regional and international levels.

**202.** In relation to capacity building for the clean development mechanism (CDM) of the UNFCCC, the activities undertaken by ROLAC are linked to projects under way in Bolivia, Ecuador and Guatemala. The activities that UNEP carries out in these countries is aimed at helping to establish projects that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are compatible with national sustainable development goals, especially those involving the energy sector. UNEP intervention is basically aimed at promoting capacity building for those responsible for analysing the financial and technical merits of projects and negotiating possible financial agreements with the Annex 1 countries or private investors.

**203.** In brief, UNEP participation in this field seeks to generate among the participating developing countries a broad understanding of the opportunities the CDM offers and to build the institutional and human capacities needed to formulate and implement CDM projects.

**204.** UNDP provides the governments of the region with support for participating in Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects, and has done so particularly in the case of Brazil, a country with great potential in this market. The UNDP country offices have implemented CDM capacity-building activities and have been supporting the development of CDM proposals, as well as providing the countries with technical assistance.



**205.** UNDP, together with the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (BLAC) and the Policy Development Office (PDO), developed and implemented preparatory assistance to support the governments and the negotiation entities in formulating proposals for the Kyoto Protocol, strengthening their Designated National Authorities and the establishment of their CDM registration. In the framework of this preparatory phase, the following activities were conducted: launching of instruments and methodologies for CDM (CDM Online); 20 regional and national training workshops on specialized themes such as climate change and energy; and workshops targeting national delegates in the framework of the UNFCCC, government officials, professionals and representatives of the private sector; and four publications on climate change, as well as the publication of concept papers on CDM and sustainable energy.

**206.** Subsequently, a capacity building programme was carried out through the field testing methodology from the CDM Manual published by UNDP and under the implementation of Eco-Securities in three pilot countries (Nicaragua, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago), favouring partnerships with public and private sectors.

**207.** In the framework of UNDP-GEF efforts, a portfolio of projects in the context of the new GEF financing windows is being carried out, specifically in the theme of Adaptation to Climate Change, a priority of both Strategic Priority Adaptation (SPA) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

**208.** At the present time a regional project of Capacity-Building for Stage II of Adaptation to Climate Change is being implemented in Mexico, Cuba, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, which has enabled the development and implementation of the global Adaptation Policy Framework. With this pilot experience, UNDP GEF, together with the Regional Development Knowledge and Services Centre, is supporting the governments of the region in developing their portfolios of GEF projects in the theme of Adaptation to Climate Change. In particular, several missions were carried out to formulate a "full-size" project in Ecuador and a "medium-size" project in Uruguay. Discussions with UNDP Chile are also under way to formulate a medium-sized project proposal.

**209.** For the Latin American and Caribbean region, activities were carried out to support the governments in the development of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) proposals, particularly in Brazil, a country with strong potential in this market. The UNDP country offices have implemented CDM capacity building activities and have been supporting the development of CDM proposals, as well as providing the countries with technical assistance.

**210.** The Forum of Ministers has specifically asked UNDP to support the countries of the region in facing the problems of climate change and the requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and finally in promoting CDM markets. In that regard, UNDP developed and implemented preparatory assistance phases to support the governments and the negotiation entities in formulating proposals for the Kyoto Protocol, strengthening their designated national authorities, and establishing their CDM registrations. In the framework of this preparatory phase, the

following activities were conducted: launching of CDM instruments and methodologies (CDM Online); 20 regional and national training workshops on special themes, such as climate change and energy, and aimed at national delegates in the framework of the UNFCCC, government officials, professionals and private sector representatives; and four publications on climate change, as well as the publication of concept papers on CDM and sustainable energy.

**211.** Subsequently, a capacity-building programme was carried out through a trial methodology in the field of the CDM Manual published by UNDP, and under the implementation of Eco-Securities in three pilot countries (Nicaragua, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago), favouring the partnership of public and private sectors.

**212.** In the framework of UNDP-GEF efforts, a portfolio of projects in the context of the new GEF financing windows is being carried out, specifically in the theme of Adaptation to Climate Change, a priority of both Strategic Priority Adaptation (SPA) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

**213.** A regional project for Capacity Building for Stage II of the Adaptation to Climate Change in Mexico, Cuba, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama is now being carried out and has enabled the development and implementation of the Adaptation Policy Framework. Through this framework, UNDP is supporting the governments of the region in developing their portfolio of GEF projects in the theme of Adaptation to Climate Change. In particular, several missions were carried out to a "full-size" project in Ecuador and a "medium-size" project in Uruguay. Decisions are also being adopted with the UNDP Office in Chile to formulate a medium-size project proposal.

**214.** Still in the preparation phase, a concept paper on integrated climate risk management is planned in order to gather experiences in local risk management and in environmental management of the subregions of Central America, the Caribbean and the Andean Region. This note is expected to help bring together two schools of thought and practice, which are the adaptation to climate change and the lessons learned in the field of natural disaster risk management.

**215.** The World Bank has supported the development of diverse initiatives and projects in the region designed to mitigate the effects of climate change. The Latin American region holds the largest portfolio of projects as concerns portfolio operations for *carbon financing* (52 activities) and for GEF operations that support the sustainability of sectoral policies on transportation, energy, solid waste management and the rehabilitation of ecosystems.

**216.** The World Bank Prototype Carbon Fund (PCF) has attained significant international approval for the new methodologies to certify CDM projects, such as the El Gallo Hydroelectric Project (Mexico) in the energy sector. The World Bank is in the process of finalizing methodologies for the transportation and water treatment sectors.

**217.** Within the World Bank portfolio there are seven funds set up to promote carbon sequestration projects designed to counter the effects of climate change and promote sustainable global growth. Though the carbon funds are defined by different developmental standpoints, they all share the need to: (i) generate

positive impact in favor of sustainable development in Latin America; (ii) reduce transaction costs and risk during project preparation; and (iii) generate value added for our clients through the mainstreaming of Carbon Finance within other World Bank operations. These funds are:

- a) Prototype Carbon Fund
- b) Carbon BioFund
- c) Community Development Carbon Fund
- d) Italian Carbon Fund
- e) Spanish Carbon Fund
- f) Japanese Carbon Fund
- g) The Netherlands Clean Development Facility

**218.** Through the month of August 2005, the World Bank branch for carbon financing has invested \$380.4 million dollars in the promotion of carbon sequestration projects in advanced stages of preparation. The projects in the region contribute 33% of the total value of global projects, of which 16 projects have already closed purchase contracts for carbon reductions in the amount of \$55 million dollars. The most important developments within the project portfolio are purchase contracts with carbon reductions for renewable energy projects (40%) and solid waste management (22%). These figures change to 20% and 39%, respectively, for the project portfolio with the most advanced degree of preparation.

**219.** In 2004, the World Bank approved the creation of CF-Assist, a training and technical assistance programme for developing countries and transition economies interested in the development of CDM projects. Also in 2004, the World Bank Institute designed and executed training courses on certification methodologies for four countries in the region, and participated in workshops on the potential of projects for the capture of gas in Mexico and Brazil. In 2005, CF-Assist developed important projects for the Latin American region:

- a) a programme in Mexico to train the public and private sectors on the design and implementation of CDM projects, particularly in sectors of high potential such as energy, cement, steel, gas and oil. The objective of the programme is to ensure the participation of all stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Energy (SENER), the Secretariat for the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and local intermediaries and experts;
- b) program to assist Argentina in the development of the Argentinean Carbon Fund (ACF) designed by the Secretariat of the Environment and Sustainable Development. The CF-Assist program will facilitate the ACF objectives: (i) to promote new local and foreign investment for environmental technologies in Argentina; (ii) increasing national capacity to maximize on the potential for the carbon market; (iii) to promote an alliance between the public and private sector for the design, preparation and delivery of high quality carbon reductions;
- c) regional assessment for Central America to: (i) analyze the institutional capacity of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala to participate in carbon

markets; (ii) identify institutional obstacles; and (iii) recommend measures to remedy these weaknesses and develop legal and institutional frameworks for the effective implementation of CDM projects.

**220.** The World Bank has also supported initiatives that combine GEF financing with other Bank operations. Urban transportation systems and the management of solid waste offer great opportunities for the development of regional initiatives that bring about considerable global repercussions. Part of the World Bank strategy is to maximize on the value and synergy that exists between all efforts to mitigate carbon emissions and the priorities of regional development. The combination of Carbon Finance activities, GEF and investment in projects for solid waste management represent one of the most important priorities for the region while at the same time they promote a partnership between the public and private sectors, as well as the multiplication of financial resources.

**221.** Transportation reflects the highest growth per sector in the world, and, indeed, in the region as concerns carbon emissions. Nonetheless, the region is also experimenting in sustainable transportation models. In the urban transportation sector, the World Bank has developed a regional transportation project with GEF co-financing in the amount of \$100 million dollars. The project not only includes a component for the reduction of gases that contribute to climate change, it also seeks to improve air quality through rationalization and measures that promote the efficient use of energy, seeking to influence the transportation sector and the management of urban land in the region of Latin America. The project is aided by the promotion of the Clean Air Initiative (CAI), the exchange of information, and technical assistance for cities with high levels of urban pollution (Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Santiago and Mexico City). The World Bank designed the first transportation project under Carbon Finance in Mexico City.

**222.** Together with UNEP, the World Bank supports the Compliance Assistance Program financed by the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund to assist the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean in the attainment and maintenance of their goals to eliminate the Ozone Depleting Substances that correspond to developing nations.

**223.** The World Bank is involved in the first and second stage of the Initiative for Adaptation to Climate Change, fostered by the new GEF policies. Following the implementation of the project for Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC), the World Bank approved, in 2003, the implementation of the project for Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC). The objective is to mainstream all efforts geared toward adaptation to climate change within economic planning for the region, through: (i) continuing to work on building institutional capacity; (ii) mainstreaming climate change adaptation initiatives within planning processes of the economic sector and through the design of sectoral policies and strategies; (iii) the promotion of national policies and regional strategies for adaptation to climate change. All MACC efforts focus on the study of environmental impact and vulnerability, and on recommendations for key sectors of regional economy, such as tourism, water resources, natural resources and the agricultural sector.

**224.** Given the development of MACC, in 2005 the CARICOM Climate Change Center (CCCC) was created, located in Belice. The CCCC will become a center of excellence for the promotion of training, technical assistance, regional coordination of institutions, and will also be a support mechanism for all adaptation and mitigation initiatives with the CARICOM countries. The CCCC will be in charge of the implementation of MACC and its continuity, and for the Small Pelagic Fishes and Climate Change Programme (SPACC).

**225.** In addition to the preparation of regional initiatives in the Caribbean and Central America, the portfolio of World Bank activities also includes the following initiatives:

- a) project for the implementation of SPACC (Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines);
- b) project for the restoration of wetlands and carbon sequestration (Trinidad and Tobago).
- c) Integrated National Adaptation Plan (Colombia)
- d) project for the implementation of adaptation measures to counter glacial melt in the Central Andes.
- e) Convention for Technical Assistance through use of the Earth Simulator, supercomputerized Japanese simulator, for the implementation of the Plan for Integrated National Adaptation (Colombia) and for the Small Pelagic Fishes and Climate Change Programme (SPACC)

**226.** The World Bank also leads –with the support of other implementing agencies– the execution of projects for the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, primarily in Central America and the Caribbean, but also in countries like Argentina (flooding) and Mexico (institutional strengthening).

**227.** Through IDB financing, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) is executing a project for improving the capacity of Caribbean municipalities to adapt to and prepare for the risk of high tides caused by hurricanes –a problem that is expected to increase due to climate change.

**228.** CONAMA of Chile is preparing the Second National Communication with information updated to the year 2001. For this communication, there are plans for holding a workshop for self-assessment of activities completed or being prepared in the field of climate change (financed by GEF through UNEP) and on the respective chapter referring to activities for mitigation, adaptation and vulnerability analysis.

**229.** In Chile, a project on mitigation is being prepared and a study on vulnerability in relation to climate change will be undertaken.

**230.** A National Advisory Committee on Global Change was established in Chile (DS No. 466/95 Minrel) to provide the Foreign Relations Ministry with advisory services regarding the position of the country in relation to the conventions in this field, to advise CONAMA on the implementation of plans and programmes, to advise the institutions dedicated to scientific research and to serve as a coordinating mechanism among all the entities linked to the theme.

**231.** A draft executive decree was prepared *“through which the National Policy on Climate Change, its principles, objectives and lines of action are approved”* for the formulation of Panama’s National Policy on Climate Change. With funding from PAN/IDB, the Environmental Authority (ANAM) carried out a process of public consultation to sound out different points of view, taking into account geographical and economic differences, vulnerability to climate change, economic dependence on fossil fuels and the fragility of their ecosystems.

**232.** Panama participated in the project of *Capacity-building for State II of the Adaptation to Climate Change in Central America, Mexico and Cuba*. And it has proposed different projects to gain the information necessary to determine the impacts of climate change and climate variability on biodiversity.

**233.** Among other initiatives such as the National Land Management Programme (PRONAT), the National Technical Unit on Climate Change has proposed a study on vulnerability and adaptation in two principal basins of the country: the Río La Villa basin and the Río Chiriquí basin, as well as an adaptation strategy in the Río Santa María basin.

**234.** Panama is conducting various activities in the field of mitigation, which include alternative technologies related to the use of renewable energy, roads and public transport.

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## DECISION 15

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

**235.** UNEP activities in the target sphere of this decision include support for implementing the Initiatives for the Development of Rural Energy Companies in Brazil, through which the private sector is expected to generate energy at accessible costs, applying clean and renewable technologies in three northeastern states of the country.

**236.** In the other hand, the Fund for Renewable Energy Technologies and Advisory Services for Investment in Energy Efficiency has been backing financial institutions in assessing the potential of renewable energy technologies or investments in energy efficiency in developing countries, including several that are in Latin American and the Caribbean. Activities to support these investments include projects that are being carried out in Argentina, Guatemala and Jamaica; other projects include the Central American countries as a whole. A specific project under way is “SWERA”, which is aimed at preparing wind maps.

**237.** In reference to energy efficiency, UNEP and the World Bank continue working together to promote financial mechanisms for energy efficiency and thereby encourage investment in this sphere in the developing countries, among which the case of Brazil is outstanding.

**238.** A more specific activity being promoted by UNEP, together with the Bariloche Foundation, the Universidad de Sao Paulo and the Universidad Federal de Río, is in the framework of the Global Network on Energy and Sustainable Development. In particular, the Bariloche Foundation heads the work of examining the links between renewable energy and the alleviation of poverty.

**239.** As one of the activities aimed at convincing financial institutions to contribute to the implementation of national, subregional and regional renewable energy projects, a project proposal was prepared to be submitted to the GEF on the Use of Biomass for the Generation of Electric Energy in Central America.

**240.** Support was provided for the participation of the countries of the region in the International Conference on Renewable Energy (Bonn, 2004) and the presentation of regional and subregional documents on the theme was backed.

**241.** ECLAC carried out a number of renewable energy activities that fulfil the mandate of the Forum of Ministers. Among others and in preparation for the International Conference on Renewable Energy in Bonn, a subregional preparatory meeting was held in the framework of the Andean countries, organized jointly by ECLAC and the Andean Community of Nations, including the participation of Andean energy authorities. The outputs included a proposal on providing energy to rural areas, preferably through the use of renewable energy. In the framework of preparatory activities for the Bonn Conference, a meeting was organized jointly by ECLAC, the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) and the Con Sur Sustentable programme.

**242.** UNDP forms part of the Global Village Energy Partnership in Latin America and the Caribbean (GVEP-LAC). The purpose of the GVEP partnership, which originated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, is to serve as a catalyst for programmes aimed at providing rural energy and to help achieve the Millennium Goals. Various institutions, including the World Bank, GTZ, USAID and others, participate in the partnership.

**243.** IDB, in collaboration with GTZ, is funding research on challenges and opportunities to increase the renewable energy use and energy use efficiency in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of regional integration.

## DECISION 16

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### TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

**244.** In the framework of IDB Environment Week (September 2004), a meeting of international agencies was organized and included the participation of representatives of the OAS, UNDP, UNEP, USAID, World Bank and ECLAC, as well as several NGOs. The meeting provided an opportunity to present the themes and priorities that are the purpose of the activities of the agencies, including particularly:

- a) support national environment authorities in gaining a better understanding of the implications of free trade agreements and greater participation in the negotiation processes;
- b) back efforts undertaken to achieve policy coordination between the trade and environment sectors;
- c) conduct integrated assessments, at the national level, of the sustainability of trade agreements;
- d) analyse national capacities to enforce and ensure compliance with environmental laws and examine needs for improvement;
- e) develop the capacity in the public and private sectors to be competitive in terms of environmental management in a free trade situation;
- f) improve rural community development in relation to free trade agreements;
- g) facilitate access to green product markets;
- h) support the work of the Forum of Ministers mechanism by creating a parallel technical forum;
- i) structure and coordinate international support from different entities and exchange information; and
- j) work with environment and agriculture authorities of various countries to improve environmental protection regulations.

**245.** UNEP/ROLAC, in turn, carried out various activities linked to capacity building and training in the field of trade and environment. Two workshops were carried out, one in Mexico in March 2003 and another in Jamaica in November 2003 to determine training needs in the region. UNEP/ROLAC, through the Environmental Training Network, together with the UNEP Economics and Trade Branch, is providing cooperation with the governments on three projects: a) "Integrated Assessment of the Environmental Agenda of the Agriculture Ministry of Chile", in Chile; b) "Capacity Building for Comprehensive Assessment and Planning in Brazil – the Sustainable Amazon Plan", in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Development of the Universidad de Brasilia, in Brazil; and c) Environmental impacts of free trade on Colombia.



**246.** In relation to training activities, in June 2004, a workshop was held in Panama jointly with UNEP and UNDP to discuss the environmental components and obligations stemming from free trade agreements. In April 2005, a training course on “Multilateral negotiations, international trade and sustainable development: current challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean” was held in Panama and was attended by representatives of the environment and trade ministries of the countries of the region. A training workshop on “The Post-Doha Agenda on Trade and Environment” was also carried out in Santo Domingo, organized by UNEP and UNCTAD.

**247.** UNEP also supported trade and environment initiatives of the member countries of MERCOSUR. In that regard, UNEP designed a joint cooperation strategy with the MERCOSUR Working Sub-Group on Environment (WSG6), which includes trade and environment issues with emphasis on the subregion. The preparation of this strategy responded to the request formulated by the countries participating in the Thirtieth Regular Meeting of WSG6 (Buenos Aires, Argentina; 14 to 16 June 2004). In follow-up on the established cooperation guidelines, UNEP has been invited to participate in the Regular Meetings of WSG6 in order to develop projects related to the fields of cooperation, such as, for example, the MERCOSUR GEO. This GEO, although it forms part of the GEO report series, is the first project whose principal focus has been on a trade integration process and not on a political territory. That is why the main issues in the report will deal with the relationship between the bloc’s trade practices and their impact on the environment. At the Iguazu Forum (30 March 2005), the MERCOSUR GEO was put into operation with the high-level consultation in which the approach, scope and priority themes of the report were determined.

**248.** At the Second Meeting of the Ministers of the Environment (Brasilia, Brazil; 8 November 2004), the Member States of MERCOSUR requested the cooperation of development agencies to promote a seminar on trade and development, with emphasis on the integration process in the Southern Cone. With this cooperation, on 31 March and 1 April, the MERCOSUR Seminar on Trade, Environment and Poverty, financed by United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID-UK), was held with the technical support of UNEP and ECLAC.

**249.** In conformity with decision GC21/14 of the Governing Council of UNEP, which refers to providing governments with assistance to incorporate the environmental dimension in macroeconomic policy planning and assessment, UNEP, together with the UNEP Economics and Trade Branch and with the Environment Ministry, carried out a project on economics and environment. The project included an assessment of environmental, economic and social impacts of soybean production on the Brazilian Amazonia in order to identify opportunities to advance towards sustainable development, especially in agriculture, to reduce poverty and to promote sustainable trade. The axis of the implementation of the methodology was highway BR-163, one of the most important poles of soybean production, which is currently one of the most controversial issues in terms of public policy in Brazil.

**250.** At the first national workshop in the above-mentioned project, which was carried out on 26 and 27 October 2004, more than 100 representatives of the

federal, state and municipal governments, in addition to representatives of social movements, non-governmental organizations, universities and private agricultural companies, participated in discussions on the basic guidelines that the study should apply. In the first half of 2005 the project focused on field research and conducting public consultations in the region. In August 2005, a second workshop will be convened and will include a report on the results obtained from the study conducted on socio-environmental and economic issues in the region.

**251.** In response to the decision of the Forum of Ministers, IDB agreed to draw the attention of the Regional Dialogue Network, whose members are environment vice-ministers of the region, to the challenges and opportunities posed by trade and environment. In this context, four meetings were held with the participation of countries from different subregions. They took place in Cartagena, Colombia (November 2004), Santiago, Chile (November 2004), San Salvador, El Salvador (January 2005), and Washington, D.C., USA, (July 2005).

**252.** In ECLAC, the linkage between trade and environment is addressed from a comprehensive approach, which implies a search for options and tools to make export growth in the countries of the region translate into sustainable development and to make national trade policies form part of the countries' basic sustainable development approaches (which goes beyond the trade and environment agenda).

**253.** This approach requires not only coordination among the economic, trade, technological, investment, production and environment entities in the countries, but also coordination in trade negotiations, so that the priorities linked to negotiation themes of importance to sustainable development, such as investment, services, environment and intellectual property, will be appropriately reflected in all trade negotiation processes at the bilateral, multilateral and regional level.

**254.** In 2005-2006, ECLAC will implement a project financed by the United Nations Development Account on Trade and Environment, in coordination with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and in close collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNEP and the International Centre on Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). To ensure that the project objectives and activities are based on the needs of the governments of the region, the governments of the region will be asked to provide ECLAC with orientation on their priority themes. For that purpose, a "Ministerial Dialogue Panel of the Countries of the Region of the Americas on Trade and Environment" was held in Buenos Aires on 16 December 2004, organized together with the Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat of Argentina.

**255.** The participants underscored two themes that are of major priority to the countries and will be addressed by the project:

- a) evaluate the barriers that are confronted in integrating sustainable development in trade negotiations and are frequently reflected in

- restrictions or minimal leeway for implementing innovative national policies that incorporate sustainable development priorities in national production and export strategies (subsidies, performance requirements, etc.). Identify the policy areas that can be taken advantage of within the negotiated restrictions and organize training courses;
- b) explore options for appropriately integrating sustainable development concerns and priorities in the regional links of selected export chains of importance to the countries of Latin America; and ensure that these options, in turn, are compatible with the challenges of production innovation needed to gain access to increasingly demanding international markets and consumers.

**256.** In the framework of a World Bank Institute/ECLAC/SIDA project, two training courses on “Multilateral Negotiations, International Trade and Sustainable Development: current challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean” were organized and held in Brasilia from 1 to 5 December 2003 and in Panama City from 4 to 8 April 2005. The second workshop was organized jointly with the Regional Office of UNEP.

**257.** ECLAC has been collaborating with the countries of the Andean Community in the theme of environmental goods and services, emphasizing the role of small and medium-sized companies in this market and analysing the possible implications of trade negotiations for these economic agents, in view of their socio-economic importance and their particular vulnerability in relation to this environmental theme.

**258.** The World Bank supports the Country Environmental Assessments (CEAs) for the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama. These assessments help define environmental priorities based on studies on the cost of environmental deterioration. The focal point of the study is on the environmental implications of free trade agreements and the expansion of infrastructure.

## DECISION 17

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### REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**259.** ECLAC, in accord with the Secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, considering the prevailing shortage of resources for holding a regional preparatory meeting and welcoming the recommendation of CSD to use sectoral forums, participated in three preparatory activities aimed at the new CSD biannual implementation cycle (year of review and year of policy recommendations). Since the themes to be dealt with at CSD-12 were water, sanitation and human settlements, three regional meetings were used to deal with these themes, namely: the Forum of Ministers and Maximum Authorities of Housing and Urbanism in Latin America and the Caribbean - MINURVI (Costa Rica, October 2003), the Latin American Meeting on Water Resources and Water (Brazil, October 2003) and the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin

America and the Caribbean (GEF) (Panama, November 2003). These meetings were held in cooperation with the Regional Office of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Regional Office of UNEP.

**260.** The contributions of these meetings, at which preliminary diagnostic documents prepared by ECLAC were presented and enriched by the contribution of the countries of the region, provided input for the Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. During CSD-12 (April 2004), a Regional Session on Sustainable Development was held, including the participation of authorities of Brazil (Minister of Cities), Chile (water) and PAHO (sanitation), among others. The regional diagnostic study on the situation regarding the three themes was presented in the Regional Session.

**261.** Addressing the need to discuss policy perspectives on the three themes dealt with by the CSD, with the year of policy (CSD-13) approaching, ECLAC, in the framework of the meeting of its governing body, the thirtieth session of ECLAC, organized a regional session on sustainable development, which dealt with the themes of water, sanitation and human settlements. The session included the participation of not only environmental authorities, but also representatives of the different sectors of public management involved in the themes addressed and delegations of the ministries of foreign affairs. On that occasion all the countries of the region unanimously approved the creation of a Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, which would fulfill the double role of, on the one hand, being a regional forum for discussion and agreement in the field of sustainable development in the region and, on the other, be a preparatory meeting for the CSD meetings.

**262.** For the CSD new biannual implementation cycle (2006-2007), where the themes will be energy, climate change, air pollution/atmosphere and industrial development, ECLAC has foreseen organizing the Regional Forum on the Implementation of Sustainable Development in the month of October 2005 (date to be confirmed), in accordance with accords in the Plan of Implementation of the Johannesburg Summit.

#### **Additional information to this document**

**263.** In response to the request of the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers, UNDP has prepared a report on the activities it has carried out in the framework of its GEF-related endeavours. Detailed information on this theme is attached to the present document as Annex V.

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## Annex I Regional distribution of UNEP Resources

The resources UNEP will channel into the region for the biennium 2006-2007 are presented below in a summary table, as considered and approved at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi, February 2005).

<i>Subprogramme</i>	<b>Environment Fund</b>	
	<b>Proposed allocation of the Environment Fund for 2006-2007</b>	<b>Estimated percentage of the Environment Fund resources of each subprogramme that will be implemented at the regional level.</b>
<i>Environmental assessment and early warning</i>	25,350,000.00	36.0%
<i>Policy and law development</i>	17,901,000	15.0%
<i>Policy implementation</i>	11,370,000	24.0%
<i>Technology, industry and economy</i>	25,964,000	7.6%
<i>Regional cooperation and representation</i>	24,675,000	100.0%
<i>Environmental agreements</i>	8,625,000	39.7%
<i>Communications and public information</i>	8,125,000	5.0%

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## Annex II

### **Recommendation to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.**

**The experts participating in the «Regional Workshop on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from Their Utilization», and Associated Traditional Knowledge, held in Havana, Cuba, on 21 and 22 June 2005,**

**Recalling** that the access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization is unquestionably one of the most complex themes of greatest international discussion in relation to biological diversity and, at the same time, is of particular importance to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, where one of world's greatest endowments of genetic resources is found;

**Taking into account** that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, at its Fourteenth Meeting (Panama City, Panama; 24 and 25 November 2003), adopted decision 8, which requests the support of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee for holding workshops or experts meetings, with a view to exchanging experiences and strengthening institutional capacities of the countries for the implementation and fulfilment of international legal mandates in this field;

**Considering** that decision VII/19 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity mandated the preparation and negotiation of an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, aimed at the adoption of an instrument or instruments to effectively implement the provisions of Article 15 and Article 8 (j) of the Convention and its third objective, fair and equitable sharing; and at the presentation of a report on the progress made in this theme to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

**Recognizing** that the meeting of the Special Open-ended Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (Bangkok, Thailand; 14 to 18 February 2005), in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, made it evident that we were entering into a complex process of negotiation on an international regime in this field, in compliance with the successive mandates of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and decisions IV/8, V/26, VI/24 and VII/19 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**Considering also** that the objective of the present Regional Workshop has been to align criteria in a very preliminary manner in a group of experts of the countries of the region on some of the very complex technical issues being discussed at the beginning of the process for the development of the international regime agreed to in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**Agree to ask the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean to:**

- 1. Advocate** the activities necessary to include the policies and priorities of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the negotiation of the international regime.
- 2. Ask** the countries of the region to advocate, at the national level, the processes to identify national priorities in the theme of access and benefit-sharing through mechanisms to coordinate trade and environment agendas.
- 3. Consolidate** national participation processes in the discussion of the themes of access and benefit-sharing.
- 4. Create** regional opportunities for discussion of the negotiations on the international regime revolving around this theme, in view of the importance of traditional knowledge.
- 5. Continue promoting** regional and subregional activities, including meetings, workshops and other means of expanding knowledge and exchange on the theme of access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing and traditional knowledge in the identification of priorities and demands of the region and on its optimum positioning in the negotiation process on the international regime.
- 6. Use** the considerations arising from this workshop as a contribution to the discussions and to the formulation of a common regional position (Annex I to this document).



## Appendix 1 to Annex I Considerations

### A. International Regime on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing

1. It is recognized that an international regime or system is composed of various elements, some of which already exist and others that should be developed in the negotiation framework initiated at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
2. It is also recognized that this regime requires binding elements.
3. There is agreement on the need to promote effective compliance with the CBD obligations and, in particular, article 15.
4. Elements which the international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing could influence or have as objectives were identified, as follows:
  - I. *The development of measures in the countries that use genetic resources, including:*
    - The promotion of adjustments and modifications in the intellectual property regime to include requirements of origin and legal provenance in applications for intellectual property rights;
    - Mechanisms for fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
    - Measures to guarantee technology cooperation and transfer, in compliance with the CBD.
  - II. *The development of resource follow-up and monitoring mechanisms to help verify the agreed access conditions. A certificate of legal provenance could be an alternative mechanism, as well as the disclosure of the country of origin on applications for intellectual property rights.*
  - III. *The development of measures to guarantee fulfilment of and compliance with the CBD obligations and of the conditions agreed to in the access contracts and other instruments, particularly those referring to Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and other obligations arising from the international regime itself.*
5. The need to explore mechanisms to obtain economic benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and channel them into the genetic resources' countries of origin was suggested.
6. It was recognized that this theme was being dealt with more or less directly in various international forums, pointing up the need for closer ties among the different State representatives and entities (economic-trade and environmental) revolving around negotiations on access and benefit-sharing, so as to arrive at a unified position among the countries of the region.



## **B. The use of terms, definitions and/or glossaries, as appropriate**

### **1. General considerations**

*I. The scope of the definitions should refer only to the legal inclusion of a specific juridical instrument, without prejudice to the technical or juridical definitions in each country.*

### **2. Specific considerations**

*II. Clear negotiation strategies must be established so that progress in the negotiations is not subject to the definition of terms, and viceversa, and to prevent obstacles to the discussion in this sense. The region should produce its own process for advocating the theme.*

*III. Not all the definitions proposed in this item of the negotiating process are necessary for an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.*

*IV. Efforts should be made for more in-depth construction of definitions that will be decisive to the scope and sphere of the international regime.*

*V. Practical exercises with existing definitions are needed to clarify the associated problems. The exercises should be granted priority for certain terms.*

*VI. In the theme of derivatives, a great deal of target technical information should be available and their scope and sphere should be very well defined, just as in the definition of genetic resources, since they may be comprehensive definitions.*

## **C. Other approaches; Certificates of Origin, Source or Legal Provenance**

**1.** The certificate is a useful instrument and its inclusion in the international regime should consequently be supported.

### *I. Objective*

i. The objective of the certificate should be associated with the possibility of monitoring and verifying compliance with the conditions under which access was granted.

ii. The idea of the certificate initially arose as legal provenance, and this idea of legality in access is the central concept, more than the country of origin or the source.

### *II. Desirable characteristics of the certificate*

i. It is basically, but not exclusively, reviewed in applications for patents, which remains the most difficult point in the negotiation.

ii. It is used for review at the end of the process and not for step-by-step tracing.

iii. It accounts for the legality of the access.

- iv. It should be a positive sign and, consequently, should serve as an incentive for users.
- v. It should remain a simple concept.
- vi. It should be practical and low-cost.
- vii. It should be issued by whoever grants the access permit.

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## **Annex III Meeting of Ministers of Health and Environment of the Americas (HEMA)**

### **Declaration of Mar Del Plata - June 17, 2005**

We, the Ministers of Health and Environment of the Member States of the Organization of American States, gathered in the meeting of Mar del Plata, Argentina, in compliance with the agreement reached during the Summit of the Americas held in Quebec 2001, with the aim to strengthen our hemispheric alliance, to review progress made since our last meeting, and set directions for future actions aimed at achieving the improvement of the health and the environment conditions in the Region,

**Complying** with the mandate of the Special Summit of the Americas held in Monterrey in January 2004, as regards the instructions given to the Ministers of Health and Environment of the Americas (HEMA) to develop a cooperative agenda to prevent and minimize negative impacts on the environment and health;

**Re-affirming** the commitments, priorities and goals agreed to at the 1995 Pan American inference on Health and Environment in Human Sustainable Development held in Washington, the Meeting of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas held in Ottawa in March 2002 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002;

**Acknowledging** that health conditions of the population depend on their interrelations with the physical and social environment in which they live, and also depend on the relationship between poverty, environmental quality and human health; Aware that eradication of poverty and overcoming inequality are the major challenges of the governments of the Region, and that they are crucial for the achievement of sustainable development;

**Considering that** the Millennium Declaration constitutes a priority in the agenda of our Region's countries, we are committed to contribute both at a national and regional level by means of a better integration of the actions addressed to achieve the goals; Taking into account the theme selected for the Fourth Summit of the Americas: "Creating Employment to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governability", to which the health and environmental issues are closely related;

**Observing** the progress made in the implementation of these commitments and acknowledging that there is still a lot to be done;

### **WE DECLARE**

#### **Cooperative Agenda**

**1. To advance** a cooperative agenda focused on:

- a) Action at a national level,
- b) Regional cooperation on priority issues,

- c) Provision of tools and resources for decision-makers,
- d) Expansion of the participation of civil society organizations and major groups as defined in Agenda 21.

### ***Action at a National Level***

**2. We reiterate** that the most important context for action is at a national level and, in this sense, we reaffirm our commitment to lead the efforts to strengthen and consolidate alliances between the Health and Environment Ministries and the sectors related to health and environment in our countries.

**3. Further, we recognize** the essential importance of the synergy developed by the coordination of efforts and actions with other government sectors with common or related areas of interests.

**4. We commit ourselves** to encourage public policies on sustainable development that endeavor to alleviate poverty and inequality, to protect the environment and public health in the framework of human rights.

### **Regional Cooperation on Priority Issues**

**5. We recognize** that our countries are facing difficult and complex challenges related to the health and environmental areas. Our efforts, both at the regional and subregional levels, will be aimed at supporting the progress and achievement of the results on the following three priority issues:

#### ***a) Integrated Management of Water Resources and Solid Waste***

Access to safe drinking water, hygiene and basic sanitation, and solid waste management services are critical factors for the protection of human health and are particularly important for the reduction of children's morbidity and mortality. We are committed to improving such access, as well as to promote Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems.

#### ***b) Sound Management of Chemicals***

We are committed to developing and implementing strategies to manage risks, reduce threats to ecosystems and to human health in our region from pesticides and other chemical pollutants, particularly with respect to vulnerable populations, including indigenous groups, industrial and agricultural workers, women and children. This will be done in order to comply with the obligations under the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions.

#### ***c) Children's Environmental Health***

We commit to improve the understanding between environmental quality and children's health, considering that children are particularly vulnerable throughout the different stages of their development. Similarly, we commit to continue and strengthen the actions aimed at the prevention of the adverse effects of the environment on children.

We also recognize the threats posed by emerging and re-emerging diseases and commit ourselves to developing a better understanding of the conditions that give rise to them.

***d) Provision of Tools and Resources for Decision-makers***

**6. We are committed** to strengthening capacity and providing the tools and resources that will assist decision-makers at national, sub-national, local and community levels to better link and integrate environment and health factors.

***e) Expansion of the Participation of Civil Society Organizations and major groups as defined in Agenda XXI.***

**7. We reiterate** our strong conviction regarding the importance of the role that Civil Society and major groups as defined in Agenda XXI must play in shaping national and regional action to mitigate and prevent threats to human health and the environment. We commit to expand their participation in this process.

***f) Implementation of the Cooperative Agenda***

**8. We will concentrate our efforts** on the implementation of the Cooperative Agenda by developing actions that cover environmental and health factors to solve priority problems, taking care of specificities proper of each nation, achieving closer technical cooperation and achieving exchanges of information among countries and within themselves.

**9. In order to move forward** on the Cooperative Agenda, the commitment of all the countries of the Region and the continued strong support of the associated partners is required, as well as additional financial resources. We look towards subregional, regional and global development banks and other financial institutions to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the Cooperative Agenda.

**10. The HEMA Working Group will be in charge** of the follow-up concerning the progress made in the cooperative agenda. To do so, we request the support of international financial institutions, organizations of regional and subregional integration as well as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ROLAC), and the Organization of American States (OAS) in the context of their mandate. We emphasize the need to give a new direction to the role and the Working Group functions according to the cooperative agenda, considering the need to expand the participation of the countries of the region.

**Building Strategic Alliances**

**11. We commit** to encourage the creation of alliances with the Ministries of Labor and Education and other Ministries to increase synergies in order to make progress towards the internationally agreed goals of the Millennium Declaration.

**Final Messages**

**12. We acknowledge** the importance of the actions that have been taken by the subregional organizations of countries to develop the commitments made at the Meeting of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas held in Ottawa in

March 2002, and we recognize this level as an important factor in the future implementation of the cooperative agenda.

**13. We thank** the participants of the civil society and major groups as defined in Agenda XXI for the coordination of the preparatory consultation work on the themes discussed, and for the contributions made to this meeting.

**14. We urge** PAHO, UNEP/ROLAC, and OAS, in the context of their mandates, and other development organizations and financial institutions at a national, regional and global level, to continue with the actions aimed at the contribution of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

**15. This meeting** has given us the opportunity to renew and strengthen our commitment to improving the Environmental Health of our countrymen. We do believe that by formulating this Cooperative Agenda we will make progress in the development of the mandate derived from the process of the Summit of the Americas.

**16. We commend** Argentina to convey, on our behalf, the documents of this Meeting to all hemispheric leaders at the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

**17. We thank** the Government and the people of Argentina for their generosity and hospitality in hosting this meeting of Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas. We also thank all those who have, through their efforts, contributed to the success of this initiative.

### **Message to the Heads of State and Governments of the Americas**

**18. The Cooperative Agenda** that we have approved will contribute to the improvement of the health and environment of our communities in our countries and region, with special emphasis on children. Similarly, it will allow us to improve hygiene and safety conditions at working places in the path towards sustainable development.

**19 We ask** our Heads of State and Government to take into account these proposals and support their development, in order to strengthen the synergies between health and environment sectors and the contribution of these sectors to the improvement of the quality of life in the Americas.



## **Appendix I of Annex III Cooperative Agenda**

At the regional and subregional level, and taking into account the capacities, the countries will focus their efforts on:

### **1. Integrated Management of Water Resources and Solid Waste**

- a) Develop and implement water safety plans for the reduction of risks to human health.
- b) Implement and strengthen the systems of surveillance regarding the quality of water for human use and consumption.
- c) Promote the use of health and environmental impact assessments in water and waste infrastructure decision-making, including water and waste effluents treatment systems.
- d) Develop and implement integrated solid waste management systems.
- e) Develop ecosystem assessment projects between water resources and health.
- f) Develop and update country sectoral analysis for the implementation of
- g) intersectoral collaborative water and sanitation strategies.
- h) Develop and implement technological collaborative strategies for the prevention or reduction of the risks derived from water pollution.
- i) Promote the safe storage and treatment of drinking water at the point of use to reduce adverse health effects.
- j) Develop responses and knowledge with an ecosystems approach to water management to prevent and control communicable diseases.
- k) Incorporate science and technology into the formulation of integrated policies for water resources and solid waste management.
- l) Promote hygiene education programs as part of a broader strategy for the prevention of health hazards with water.
- m) Promote and develop sustainable funding mechanisms for the management of water resources and solid waste with the aid of organizations and institutions, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, etc.

### **2. Sound Management of Chemicals**

- a) Support the implementation of national action plans for the reduction and elimination of persistent organic pollutants listed under the Stockholm Convention.
- b) Increase action to reduce the use and the emissions of mercury from chloralkali facilities, products containing mercury and artisanal gold mining through multistakeholders partnerships.

- c) Strengthen sub-regional and national actions to achieve a complete elimination of lead in gasoline and its reduction from other sources, and to decrease sulfur in gasoline and diesel.
- d) Strengthen knowledge and research on the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment.
- e) Establish and/or strengthen public access to information and knowledge of the adverse health and environmental effects as a result of the exposure to chemical substances.
- f) Develop and strengthen national systems of chemicals risk assessment.
- g) Control and assess the effects on health and the environment provoked or produced by the exposure to pesticides and heavy metals, particularly among vulnerable populations, in order to take actions for their mitigation.
- h) Promote the implementation of the Harmonized Global System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals.
- i) Promote the development and implementation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registries.
- j) Strengthen the surveillance to prevent illegal trafficking of chemicals.
- k) Promote the development of prevention, preparation and rapid response systems in case of chemical emergencies.
- l) Strengthen programs of education and incentive for public participation, as part of a broad strategy for the prevention of health risks associated with chemicals.
- m) Promote and develop sustainable funding mechanisms for the management of chemicals with the aid of organizations and institutions, such as the InterAmerican Development Bank, the World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, etc.

### **3. Children's Environmental Health**

- a) Strengthen the training with respect to children's environmental health at every level of health care.
- b) Strengthen programs of education and incentive for public participation, as part of a broad strategy for promoting children's environmental health.
- c) Incorporate the theme of children's environmental health into formal educational programs.
- d) Promote the organization of fora on children's environmental health, as well as incorporate this issue into other fora.
- e) Develop strategies for the implementation of initiatives on Children's Environmental Health.
- f) Promote cohort studies on the effects of pollution on children's health.
- g) Promote measures aimed at the reduction of environmental risks related to.



**Annex IV**  
**Document for the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers of Environment  
of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Second International  
Meeting of the 10- year framework of Programs on Sustainable  
Production and Consumption**

The drafting committee was integrated by Marlon Pérez (Nicaragua), Victoria Beláustegui (Argentina), Dora Cortijo (Peru), Elena Porrás (Mexico), Luciano Ramírez (Panama), Camilla Roopnarine (CEHI) and Diego Masera (UNEP/ROLAC, Secretariat) . The Document was analyzed, read in detail and discussed in a plenary session. This process allowed for a wide analysis and exchange of ideas in a positive and highly participative atmosphere.

The final document is presented bellow:

**Report of the Third Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable  
Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

Managua, Nicaragua  
August 3-5 2005

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**Whereas:**

The World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg established as one key area of its Plan of Implementation the need to promote a 10- year framework of programs in support of national and regional initiatives to accelerate change towards Sustainable Production and Consumption.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean expressed the need to incorporate cleaner production and sustainable consumption practices in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development presented in Johannesburg in 2002.

In response to trade liberalization and economic integration trends it has become more relevant the need to work towards addressing the priorities related to trade, environment and market access established in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Summit of the Americas Process.

As a sign of will and engagement, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have held two *Meetings of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption* in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Managua, Nicaragua, respectively. The principal results of these meetings were the creation of the *Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption* and the design of a *Regional Strategy on Sustainable Production and Consumption*, which were presented and approved during the XIV Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. They were also recognized as model actions in the XI Meeting of the Commission for Sustainable Development held in New York, in May 2003 and in

the International Meeting of the 10-year framework of Programs on Sustainable Production and Consumption held in Marrakech, in June 2003.

For the continuity of this important process, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Nicaragua (MARENA), the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP-ROLAC) and the Office for Sustainable Development and Environment of the Organization of American States (OAS) in collaboration with UNEP-DTIE and UNDESA, organized the *Third Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean*. This meeting took place in the city of Managua, Nicaragua from August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION, CONVENED IN MANAGUA, NICARAGUA, **RECOMMENDS** TO THE FIFTEENTH FORUM OF MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND TO THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE 10-YEAR FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMS ON SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

- 1. To develop** policies, national strategies and action plans for sustainable consumption and production in every country of the region.
- 2. To include** sustainable consumption and production in the national and regional policies for sustainable development and poverty reduction.
- 3. To create** National Consultative Councils on sustainable consumption and production integrated by representatives the private sector, the government, universities, consumer associations and other civil society organizations; as a contribution to participatory development of policies, strategies and plans of action.
- 4. To integrate** sustainable consumption and production policies, given their cross cutting nature into the policies and agendas of other ministries, in order to reduce environmental impacts, increase competitiveness, reduce poverty, eliminate negative health impacts and achieve sustainable development.
- 5. To capitalize** the experience of countries that have developed and implemented cleaner production (CP) policies in the region, in order to elaborate integrated policies for sustainable consumption and production.
- 6. To include** in the syllabus for all levels of education (elementary, secondary and higher education) the concepts of sustainable consumption and production in order to achieve a better understanding of these cross cutting concepts and create awareness regarding their importance.
- 7. To reinforce** collaboration with sub-regional organizations, such as the Central American Commission of Environment and Development (CCAD), the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) among others, to support and facilitate the adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices among their members.

**8. To design and implement** a cooperative program among the countries of the region, focused on capacity building, training and technical assistance on sustainable consumption and production building upon the experience and existing knowledge in the region.

**9. To establish** a specific area responsible for sustainable consumption and production within each Ministry of Environment in the region, given that this area integrates several aspects of environmental concern.

**10. To study, develop and/or adapt** the tools and methodologies for sustainable consumption and production to the social, economic and environmental conditions of the region, such as: eco-design, life cycle analysis and sustainable procurement, among others, in order to guarantee their usefulness and successful implementation.

**11. To include** sustainable consumption and production indicators in national statistics.

**12. To involve** the private sector, the government, universities, consumer associations and other civil society organizations, in the generation, gathering and exchange of information on sustainable consumption and production.

**13. To reinforce** the capacity of the Ministries of Environment to promote and follow up on the voluntary agreements with private companies, as well as on other tools to promote and improve the environmental management of companies.

**14. To reinforce** the information sources and systems of the Ministries of Environment to include sustainable consumption and production information, and/or establishing specialized information centers on the subject.

**15. To establish** economic incentives and other financial mechanisms to facilitate the implementation and adoption of sustainable consumption and production methodologies, tools and technologies for the productive sector.

**16. To develop and adapt** methodologies and instruments for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), in order to improve their competitiveness and environmental performance.

**17. To implement** programs focused on MSMEs based on a sectoral and/or cluster approach to reduce costs and increase the efficiency and scope of sustainable consumption and production initiatives.

**18. To execute** pilot projects to develop and evaluate sustainable consumption and production methodologies in the region.

**19. To implement** a recognition system to facilitate access to credit and/or social recognition of the businesses that advance in the implementation of sustainable consumption and production practices.

**20. To develop** a regional education and capacity building program on sustainable consumption directed to the youth.

**21. To implement** in the Ministries of Environment of each country of the region, sustainable procurement and environmental public administration programs.

**22. To conduct** -every six months- working sessions of the Regional Council of Experts for the monitoring and revision of the Regional Strategy, using teleconferences and other communication systems.

**23 To organize** thematic meetings and workshops at the regional and sub-regional level on relevant aspects of sustainable consumption and production.

**24. To modify** the structure of the Council of Experts in order for its Steering Committee to be integrated by a general coordinator selected by the Forum of Ministers, and four sub-regional coordinators, elected annually by the Council members.

**25. To recognize** the technical and financial support of UNEP's Regional Office through its Technology, Industry, and Economics Programme in the creation of the Council, the elaboration of the Regional Strategy and monitoring of national actions; and the need to strengthening the technical-financial capacities of the Secretariat of the Council for adequate monitoring and support in the execution of the Regional Strategy and of the national and sub-regional initiatives in the future.

**26. To request** the Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of Nicaragua, Minister Carlos Arturo Harding Lacayo, to present to the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers of Environment of the Region, the results and the recommendations of the Third Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption, for consideration and approval.

**27. To congratulate** the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua, through its Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, for the leadership in the theme of sustainable production and consumption and for his support in the conduction of the Third Meeting of the Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption.



## **Annex V**

### **UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

1. The presidency of the Secretariat asked the ITC member agencies in advance to make reference to their GEF programming and more precisely to the way in which national and regional initiatives financed by GEF are contributing to the priority themes of ILAC (25) and the Regional Action Plan (8).
2. Before going into detail about UNDP-GEF programming, it is important to note some GEF characteristics that enable us to appreciate the importance and potential of this financial mechanism in supporting sustainable development strategies in the region.
3. *The first* is the fact that the GEF is the financial mechanism of four global conventions: (1) biological diversity; (2) climate change; (3) desertification; and (4) persistent organic pollutants. Consequently its operational criteria and strategic priorities are closely linked to the guidelines of these conventions and recommendations from the meetings of the conferences of the parties. The fact that the countries of the region have signed and ratified these global conventions indicates and confirms the importance of this financial mechanism in supporting their national and regional environmental priorities.
4. *The second consideration* is that since it began in 1991, the GEF has disbursed US\$ 5 billion dollars in projects to developing countries. This figure immediately makes it the world's main financing fund for the environment.
5. And the importance of this figure is even greater when we note that GEF resources are channelled to beneficiary countries through the principal international cooperation institutions, regional banks and specialized agencies of the United Nations system. In the region we refer to seven agencies (UNDP, UNEP, WORLD BANK, IDB, FAO, UNIDO AND IFAD). The strategic objective of this GEF operational structure is to take advantage of the established structures and programming experience of each of these agencies in order to internalize the theme of environment in their respective operations at the global level.
6. In the case of GEF programming in UNDP, it should be noted that, together with UNEP and the World Bank, UNDP is one of the three *traditional* GEF agencies, since the other four agencies operating in the region have joined GEF in the past four years. The GEF portfolio in UNDP accounts for approximately 35% of the total resources disbursed by GEF and now amounts to US\$ 273 million. It is a portfolio composed of both national and regional projects, reflecting the demand and priorities of the governments and formed by a wide range of actors participating actively in the development and implementation of these initiatives. This figure is expected to reach US\$ 300 million by the end of GEF3 in June 2006 (GEF has been refinanced every four years based on fiscal periods – the next fiscal cycle, called GEF4, will begin in July).
7. With regard to UNDP-GEF programming in the region, it should be noted that the predominant focal area in the region is biodiversity (US\$143 million); followed by climate change (US\$79 million); integrated ecosystem management

(US\$23 million); international waters (US\$16 million); sustainable land management (US\$6 million); national capacity diagnostic studies (US\$4 million) and elimination of persistent organic pollutants (US\$2 million).

### **a) Financial mechanisms and economic instruments**

8. These mechanisms and instruments constitute a cross-cutting theme in UNDP-GEF projects, apart from the focal area in which they are presented. The theme of financial sustainability has been gaining ever-increasing importance in GEF, the agencies and in the viewpoint of donors, making it a consistent and innovative priority approach in our projects. Some examples of the financial mechanisms and economic instruments that are taking on increasing and notable value in our projects are the valuation of environmental services, notably in reference to water resources, and payment systems that provide equitable benefits and a lasting incentive for effective and sustainable management of natural resources. The payment mechanisms for environmental services are principally evident in the projects that promote the biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use. Another very characteristic theme in UNDP-GEF programming is financial mechanisms to support the sustainability of national systems of protected areas through ecotourism, the marketing of products derived from biodiversity or non-timber forestry products, as well as support for ecological certification processes in the agricultural and forestry sectors, the establishment of preferential loans for eco-friendly production, etc. The fundamental purpose of these initiatives is, through a variety of financial mechanisms and economic incentives, to ensure that conservation is transformed into good business that is profitable and sustainable in socio-economic terms. The theme of training in these diverse themes is an essential cross-cutting theme and an important component in UNDP-GEF programming.

### **b) Climate Change**

9. Several projects in the themes of energy efficiency and sustainable transport have been conducted in the UNDP-GEF framework, which contribute significantly to the reduction of GHG emissions and to the sound use of energy in the region. The main energy efficiency initiatives include the project of Energy Efficiency in the Industry and Trade Sectors in Central America and the regional standardization and labelling initiatives, both in the Andean countries and in the Southern Cone and Brazil. In the theme of sustainable transport, efforts are already under way in the city of Valencia, Venezuela, and projects have been programmed in Ecuador, Chile, El Salvador and Nicaragua. The UNDP/GEF Unit has also continued supporting all the countries parties to the UNFCCC by providing support in preparing the Second National Communications for the Convention.

### **c) Renewable Energy**

10. UNDP/GEF has continued supporting initiatives for electrification with renewable energy sources, both when isolated and when connected to the electric power network. At the regional level, together with the CABEI, a proposal was developed to facilitate access to financing sources for renewable

energy investments in Central America. A number of initiatives have also been developed for productive uses of renewable energy, resulting in the approval of projects in Nicaragua and Guatemala. With regard to renewable sources connected to the network, the wind project in Mexico is being implemented and a wind initiative is being developed in Uruguay, which will begin in mid 2006. All these efforts are aimed at reducing energy dependence on fossil fuels and providing remote and isolated communities with access to energy.

**11.** Two regional initiatives, implemented by UNDP/GEF and executed by Bun-Ca in Central America and CARICOM in the Caribbean, focus on identifying and removing political, legal and institutional barriers that prevent the development of renewable energy in the respective regions. As a result of these initiatives, the regulatory and institutional framework in these regions is being updated to enable greater openness to private and public investment in renewable energy. In the current context, with the upward trend in oil prices, investment in renewable energy sources is very interesting, both to private investors and to governments that need to reduce their dependence on imported oil. Through these two projects, optimum political and legal conditions are being created to enable greater openness of energy markets to renewable sources.

#### **d) Strengthening specific subregional activities**

**12.** Various regional projects are being carried out with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), including the project for consolidating the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and the regional project on Central American markets for biodiversity, together with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), making biodiversity and sustainable development cross-cutting components in schemes for financing micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises. Estimates indicate that, upon conclusion, the practices of 200 small- and medium-scale producers and service suppliers, as well as thousands of micro-producers, will have been transformed.

#### **e) Small Island Developing States**

**13.** UNDP-GEF assigns priority to the development of initiatives that provide the island countries of the Caribbean with tools to achieve integrated and sustainable management of their resources. Thus, the project implemented together with UNEP for integrated watershed and coastal area management will provide a framework and essential tools to address the management of water resources in the small island States.

**14.** Note should also be made of the projects that UNDP-GEF is promoting in the field of sustainable land management. Thirteen countries of the Caribbean basin are participating in this global project (Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) whose objective is not only to increase capacities at the individual, institutional and systemic level, but also to develop an investment plan for sustainable land management. The initiative will help the countries complete their plan of action in compliance with the obligations to the UNCCD, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Declaration of Saint George.

## **f) Water Resources**

**15.** UNDP-GEF has several regional projects in line with the focal area of international waters, supporting the sustainable management of the Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) of the region, such as the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, the Rio de la Plata and its marine front, and a project of integrated management of the Humboldt Current. Similarly, as previously mentioned, the theme of conservation and use of water resources is also being addressed by projects on biodiversity and sustainable land management through the integrated management of basins and micro-basins in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Colombia.

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