



**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

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

**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
27th January to 1st February 2008**

Distribution:

Limited

UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/2/Rev.1

Friday 7th December, 2007

Original: Spanish

A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS
27th to 29th January 2008

Provisional Annotated Agenda of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts

I. Introduction

1. At the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, (Panama, November of 2003), necessary agreements were adopted in order to proceed with the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), which is part of the Implementation Plan of Johannesburg, and in particular, eight priority action areas were selected and concrete actions were identified that are part of the Regional Action Plan (RAP). Later, at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) RAP 2006-2007 was approved and thus was initiated the second biannual period of ILAC's implementation.

2. Five years have elapsed by since ILAC was approved. During this period, the countries in the region have achieved clear progress in the implementation of ILAC, and have developed valuable experiences that will make the RAP an instrument to get regional priorities into focus, the purpose being to progress towards the environmental sustainability as set forth under number 7 of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technological Support and Capacity Building.

3. During the period between sessions that has transpired since the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum, consultations have been held amongst the member Agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (CTI) at which matters have been addressed concerning the tools and mechanisms that the Forum has selected for the implementation of their decisions in general and, in particular, for the implementation of ILAC. These exchanges generated a diversity of ideas and positions that were considered at a Meeting of High Level Government Experts, held in Panama City, Panama, on the 30th and 31st August 2007.

4. The Meeting of High Level Government Experts generated a list of recommendations that shall now be submitted to the consideration of the Segment of High Level Experts of the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers. In addition, in this Segment, a report of the progress achieved on the application of ILAC⁽¹⁾ as well as a report from the Forum of the Secretariat concerning the application of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technological Support and Capacity Building⁽²⁾ will be presented.

II. Objectives of the Meeting

5. The Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from Sunday 27th January to Friday 1st February 2008, in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

6. The primary purpose of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts is to elevate decision proposals to the Ministers and Heads of Delegation present at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum, based on the recommendations approved at the Meeting of High Level Government Experts, on the issue of the implementation of ILAC concerning its implementation mechanisms, such as, the RAP, the ITC and the Working Groups as established by the Forum of Ministers. The Meeting of Experts shall also evaluate the implications that future international environmental negotiations on climatic change and biologic diversity shall have for the region. Likewise, this instance shall also agree on the matter concerning the participation of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in initiatives relative to the improvement of air quality and fuels. In addition, the experts will review the reports of the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers concerning the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum, the implementation of the RAP 2006-2007⁽³⁾, and the application of the Bali Strategic Plan for Capacity Building and Technology Support⁽⁴⁾.

7. The purpose of the following annotations to the provisional agenda for the meeting is to facilitate the consideration of the diverse matters to be discussed therein. It is worth noting that the Secretariat has prepared the working documents that shall allow for the discussion of the items on the agenda, as well as the reports that describe the progress of initiatives and activities of interest to the Forum, which have taken place since the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum was held in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and, especially, the ones pertaining to the Bali Strategic Plan for Technological Support and Capacity Building⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See document "Report on the Implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development after five years of its adoption" (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/3/Rev.1**).

⁽²⁾ See document "Report on the application of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building" **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/8**.

⁽³⁾ See document "Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the 2006 - 2007 Regional Action Plan of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean" (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/7**).

⁽⁴⁾ See document "Report on the application of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building" (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/8**).

III. Comments on the Agenda Items of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

8. The meeting shall start with an opening ceremony on the Sunday 27th of January of 2007 at 3:00 p.m., with an address by the representative of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as well as with remarks by the representative of the Government of the Dominican Republic, countries which respectively defer and receive the Chairmanship of the Forum, and by UNEP, in its capacity of Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Representatives of the Agencies integrating the Interagency Technical Committee will make general statements.

Agenda Item 2: Work Organisation

2.1. Adoption of the rules of the meeting

9. It is proposed that the Experts adopt, *mutatis mutandi*, the Regulations of UNEP's Governing Council to govern the discussions of the meeting.

2.2. Election of the Meeting Directors

10. It is proposed that, according to the custom established at prior Forum meetings, the Bureau shall be comprised by one Chairperson, seven Vice-Chairs and one Rapporteur, as per the criteria of geographical representativeness and rotation and established by the ministerial meetings.

2.3. Approval of the Agenda and Calendar of Sessions

11. Under this item, the Experts shall consider the Provisional Agenda⁽⁵⁾ as well as the Provisional Annotated Agenda⁽⁶⁾ and its Sessions Calendar as proposed by the Secretariat and they shall adopt them after having incorporated those modifications deemed necessary. The Calendar of Sessions appears herein as **Annex I** to this document.

Agenda Item 3: Recommendations of the Meeting of High Level Government Experts (Panama, Panamá; 30th -31st August of 2007)

3.1. Evaluation of the progress in the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)

12. The High Level Experts shall receive a report⁽⁷⁾ on the progress achieved concerning the application of ILAC, as well as recommendations from the Meeting of

⁽⁵⁾ See document "Provisional Agenda" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/1).

⁽⁶⁾ See document "Provisional Annotated Agenda" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/2/Rev.1).

⁽⁷⁾ See document "Report on the Implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development after five years of its adoption" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/3/Rev.1).

the High Level Government Experts. Both contributions shall serve as a platform from which to formulate specific recommendations and proposals to the Ministerial Segment concerning:

- a) Modalities for the application of the Priority Action Areas to continue the implementation of ILAC;
- b) Options available to strengthen the progress achieved in the implementation of ILAC and to overcome the obstacles faced by the countries as they go through this process.

3.2. Regional Action Plan (RAP)

a) Implementation of the 2006-2007 RAP

13. The Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers shall make available to the High Level Experts a report that corresponds to the last biennial period, concerning the implementation of the RAP. Based on this report, the High Level Experts may submit the appropriate recommendations to the Forum of Ministers.

b) Options for the integration of the RAP

14. In considering this item of the agenda, the Segment of Experts shall consider the deliberations and recommendations of the Meeting of High Level Government Experts, held in the City of Panama on the 30th and 31st of August of 2007⁽⁸⁾. The primary recommendation of that encounter is to propose the use of a new matrix in order to integrate the Regional Action Plan. The newly proposed matrix includes three main elements: the areas of concentration of ILAC where continued work is proposed, the strategic directions of the Plan, and the compliance indicators.

c) Elements for the proposal of the RAP 2008-2009

15. The High Level Experts may debate and agree on the elements that should make up the RAP 2007-2009 proposals, based on the matrix proposed for the next biennial period⁽⁹⁾.

3.3. Contribution of the Interagency Technical Committee on the implementation of the decisions made by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

16. This subject was the source of broad exchanges amongst the representatives of the Agencies that comprise the ITC, exchanges during which the agencies reaffirmed their will to continue to work with the countries of the region within the framework of the Forum of Ministers of Environment. Recommendations from the ITC Agencies were considered at the Meeting of High Level Government Experts who formulated the proposals as addressed below:

⁽⁸⁾ See document "Report on the High Level Government Experts Meeting (Panama, Panama; 30 and 31 August, 2007)" - **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/4**.

⁽⁹⁾ See document "Elements for the 2008-2009 Regional Action Plan (RAP) proposal" (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/6**).

a) Analysis of the ITC mandate

17. The High Level Experts will be able to discuss the ITC mandate with the purpose of, in accordance with the guidelines that have been applied within the United Nations System, generating a joint and coordinated effort of ITC Member Agencies. Likewise, the Expert Segment will be able to identify the tasks and results expected from the participation of the agencies that make up the Committee.

b) Composition of the ITC

18. The Expert Segment shall consider the proposals from the intergovernmental meeting prior to the work of the Sixteenth Forum and shall formulate germane recommendations to the Ministers on the consideration to be given to membership applications from new members and to the participation of agencies, from within or without, the United Nations System in the Meetings of the Forum of Ministers.

3.4. Operating Procedures for the Working Groups of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

a) Review of the Experience of the Working Groups

19. The Working Groups coordinating countries, as established by the Forum of Ministers, will have the opportunity to present a report concerning the activities performed during the inter-session period. These reports may be discussed along with the recommendations submitted by the Meeting of High Level Government Experts, from which the necessary recommendations may be submitted to the Forum of Ministers.

b) Alternatives to continue to support the implementation of the decisions of the Forum of Ministers through the Working Groups

20. The Segment of Experts will be able to present proposals to the Forum of Ministers concerning the criteria and modalities to decide in which cases the creation of Working Groups is the most appropriate way to apply the decisions of the Forum of Ministers.

3.5. Air Quality

a) Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum

21. The High Level Experts shall consider the recommendations of the Meeting of High Level Government Experts and will be able to propose modalities of participation of the countries of the region in this initiative to the Forum, a matter in which UNEP has actively been working on.

b) Improvement of the Quality of Fuels

22. The Segment of High Level Experts may debate those actions that the Latin American and Caribbean countries can apply in this area, being mindful of the recommendations from the intergovernmental meeting held prior to the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers.

Agenda Item 4: Report on the fulfilment of the decisions of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers

23. As has been the practice at Meetings of Experts that precede the work of the Forum of Ministers, a detailed evaluation⁽¹⁰⁾ of the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of Ministers will be conducted under this item, and the time necessary to cover the item has been scheduled in the calendar of sessions⁽¹¹⁾ for the Meeting of Experts.

24. To deal with this item, the Meeting of Experts will have a report⁽¹²⁾ prepared by the Secretariat to provide an account of the outputs obtained by implementing the decisions adopted at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, including particularly the measures adopted by UNEP in relation to the theme of natural disasters, climate change and environmental indicators. It will also have the Report on the First Meeting of the ITC in 2007⁽¹³⁾, held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 19 and 20 March 2007, in which the representatives of the ITC member agencies and experts invited by the Presidency of the Forum of Ministers extensively discussed the experience gained in the three principal implementation mechanisms of the ILAC, namely: the Regional Action Plan, the ITC and the Working Groups. In response to a proposal formulated at this meeting on the implementation of ILAC, the Presidency of the Forum decided to assume the task of coordinating the evaluation of advances made in implementing the ILAC.

25. The Experts will also receive the report on the Meeting of the Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, which was held in Paipa, Colombia, on 21 and 22 September 2007⁽¹⁴⁾. This Meeting was convened to follow up on the agreements of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of the Meeting of the Working Group was to address the agenda items of the meetings of the special Open-ended Working Group on this subject in the sphere of the Convention on Biological Diversity, facilitating the exchange of information, perspectives and viewpoints related to this international process. The results of the deliberations of the Open-ended Working Group at its Fifth Meeting (Montreal, Canada; 8 to 12 October 2007) and Sixth Meeting (Geneva, Switzerland; 21 to 25 January 2008) will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, to be held in Bonn in May 2008.

26. In the last semester, there has been reactivated interest among various sectors in resuming the international dialogue on the theme in the framework of United

⁽¹⁰⁾ See document "Report on the fulfillment of the decisions of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/5).

⁽¹¹⁾ See **Annex I** to present document.

⁽¹²⁾ See document "Report on the High Level Government Experts Meeting (Panama, Panama; 30 and 31 August, 2007)" UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/4.

⁽¹³⁾ See document "Minutes of the First Meeting of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee of 2005 (Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 19 and 20 March, 2007)" UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/Ref.1. Available only in Spanish.

⁽¹⁴⁾ See document "Report on the Meeting on the Work Group on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization (Paipa, Colombia, September 20-21, 2007)" - UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/9.

Nations bodies such as the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the next meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP, as well as various national initiatives. The High-level Experts will receive the report on the regional consultations on climate change⁽¹⁵⁾, which will be circulated by the Secretariat of the Forum, and they may formulate pertinent recommendations on it for the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

27. Finally, the Meeting of High-level Experts will receive information on the establishment in November of the River Plate Basin Centre for Socio-environmental Knowledge and Care, in collaboration with Itaipú Binational Entity, the Itaipú Technological Park and the Environment Ministries of the countries in the River Plate Basin.

Agenda Item 5: Report on the application of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technological Support and Capacity Building

28. The Bali Strategic Plan⁽¹⁶⁾ was approved at the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi Kenya; February of 2005) by decision 23/1, item 1. It is considered as an important political instrument for the achievement of the goals, objectives and purposes of the Johannesburg Summit, especially of those that are highlighted in the Application Plan of the decisions of the Johannesburg Summit. Likewise, the Plan includes, amongst other objectives, the creation of short and long-term systematic and selective technological support and capacity building measures, keeping in mind international agreements, and based on national and regional priorities and needs, as well as improving the supply of UNEP services to developing nations and to nations with economies in transition.

29. Pursuant to what was agreed on during the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, the High Level Experts shall receive a report⁽¹⁷⁾ prepared by UNEP, which shall be the basis for the preparation of pertinent recommendations to the Ministerial Segment.

Agenda Item 6: State of implementation and future perspectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (statements by the High Level Representatives on the Multilateral Environmental Agreements)

30. Representatives of the Secretariats of the Conventions and Protocols present shall submit information of interest to the Latin American and Caribbean nations concerning activities performed in the framework of the various conventions.

⁽¹⁵⁾ See document "Report of the Preparatory Meeting for Negotiators and National Focal Points of Latin American countries during the period prior to the Convention of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Conference of the Parties serving as a Meeting of the Parties (CMP) of the Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC COP13/CMP3) - Panama City, Panama; 22 - 23 October 2007" - **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/10.**

⁽¹⁶⁾ See document <http://www.unep.org/GC/GC23/documents/GC23-6-add-1.pdf>

⁽¹⁷⁾ See document "Report on the application of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building" - **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/8.**

Agenda Item 7: Other matters

31. Under this agenda item, the Experts shall address other issues relevant to the objectives of the meeting that have not been covered by the specific Items of the Agenda. One of those issues, for example, might be the confirmation of the date and venue of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Region.

Agenda Item 8: Review and approval of the Draft Report of the Meeting of Preparatory Experts

32. Under this Item of the Agenda, delegations shall review the draft⁽¹⁸⁾ of the Final Report, which shall be submitted by the Rapporteurship, and they shall approve it after making those modifications they deem necessary.

Agenda Item 9: Closing of the Meeting

33. The meeting will be closed on Tuesday 30th January 2008, at 6:00 p.m.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

⁽¹⁸⁾ See document "*Final Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; 27th and 29th January 2008)*" - **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/12**. Available at the end of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts.

Annex I

Calendar of Sessions of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts

Sunday 27th January 2008

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Registration of participants
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	1. Opening of the meeting
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	2. Work organisation 2.1. Adoption of the rules of the meeting 2.2. Election of the Meeting Directors 2.3. Approval of the Agenda and the Calendar of Sessions
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	3. Recommendations from the Meeting of High Level Government Experts (Panama, 30 th -31 st , August of 2007)
4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	<i>Coffee-Break</i>
4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	Report on the progress in the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)
5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	3.1. Evaluation on the progress on the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) 3.2 Regional Action Plan (RAP) a) Implementation of the 2006-2007 RAP b) Options for the integration of the RAP c) Elements for the proposal of the RAP 2008-2009 3.3. Contribution of the Interagency Technical Committee to the implementation of the decisions made by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean a) Analysis of ITC mandate b) Composition of the ITC 3.4. Operating Procedures for the Working Groups of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean a) Review of the Experience of the Working Groups. b) Alternatives to continue to support the implementation of the decisions of the Forum of Ministers through the Working Groups 3.5. Air quality a) Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum b) Improvement of Quality of Fuels

Monday 28th January 2008

<p>9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>4. Report on Compliance with the decisions of the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers.</p> <p>Decision 3: Regional Implementation of the UNEP's Work Programme including the Regional Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan</p> <p>Decisión 4: Small Island Development States (SIDS)</p> <p>Decision 5: Financing and Economic and Fiscal Policy Instruments</p> <p>Decision 6: Participation of Civil Society</p> <p>Decision 7: Water Resources</p> <p>Decision 8: Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and participation of the Region in the negotiation of an international regime</p>
<p>10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.</p>	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
<p>10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.</p>	<p>4. Report on Compliance with the decisions of the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers (<i>continued</i>).</p> <p>Decision 9: Health and Environment</p> <p>Decision 10: Environmental Education for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Decision 11: Environmental Indicators</p> <p>Decision 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production</p> <p>Decision 13: Sustainable Management of Chemicals</p>
<p>12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
<p>1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.</p>	<p>4. Report on Compliance with the decisions of the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers (<i>continued</i>).</p> <p>Decision 14: Climate Change</p> <p>Decision 15: Renewable Energy</p> <p>Decision 16: Trade and Environment</p> <p>Decision 17: Preparation of a Plan of Action for the Prevention of Impacts from Natural Disasters</p> <p>Decision 18: Commemoration of 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification</p> <p>Decision 19: Millennium Ecosystems Assessment</p>
<p>3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m</p>	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
<p>3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>5. Report on the application of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technological Support and Capacity-Building</p>
<p>4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>6. State of implementation and future perspectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (statements by the High-Level Representatives on the MEAs)</p>
<p>5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>7. Other matters</p>

Tuesday 29th January 2008

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Final consideration and approval of the proposal decisions to the Ministerial Segment
11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<i>Coffee Break</i>
4:40 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Review and approval of the Draft Report of the Preparatory Experts Meeting
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	10. Closing of the Meeting

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘