



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

PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL AMBIENTE  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

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

**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
27<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008**

A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS  
27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008

**Distribution:**

Limited

**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/Ref.7**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007

**Original:** Spanish

# **Final Report of the UNEP Regional Forum for the Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Monterrey, Mexico  
12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2007**



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## **A. Background**

**1.** UNEP has adopted the practice of convening meetings of representatives from Civil Society organizations, with the objective of acquiring and incorporating their points of view and considerations, for decision-making in the UNEP's main action areas.

**2.** In the case of the Latin American and Caribbean region, UNEP has promoted the realisation of the UNEP Regional Forum for the Civil Society of the region prior to each biennial meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The same consultation modality has been used for the meetings of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

**3.** On this occasion, UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Forum is held just prior to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin American and the Caribbean to be held in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, on November 8 to 14, 2007 and the Tenth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Principality of Monaco, February 20 to 22, 2008).

**4.** Both meetings are convened under circumstances in which important events have taken place, such as, the renewal of the international dialogue on climate change, continuation of discussions regarding international environmental governance; considerable increase of the production and consumption of biofuels and issues dealing with the integrated management of ecosystems are being discussed from different perspectives. On the other hand, the sustained economic growth being experienced in the region in the past years renders more relevant the need to promote the environmental sustainability agreed in the Millennium Development Objectives.

**5.** In particular, the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum is held five years after having adopted the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) as part of the Action Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in September-October 2002. For this reason, the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers will evaluate the progress achieved in the application of ILAC, in order to determine the necessary actions for continuing with the implementation of this Initiative.

## **B. Objectives of the Meeting of the Forum**

**6.** Taking into account the celebration of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of the Region and the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the meeting of the UNEP Latin America and Caribbean Civil Society Regional Forum would pursue the following objectives:

- a) Consider the main topics to be addressed by the Ministers of the Environment of the Region, particularly in relation to the application of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC);

- b) Review the main agenda items of the Tenth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in particular those dealing with climate change and UNEP's medium term strategy;
- c) Develop the region's perspective regarding enhancement of civil society's participation in UNEP's Environmental Governance.

## **C. Participation**

**7.** Representatives from thirty seven entities (mainly from civil society) of several countries in the region participated in the Latin America and Caribbean Civil Society Regional Forum. The list of participants appears as **Annex I** to this Report.

## **D. Development of the Meeting**

### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Forum**

**8.** In the opening session the first speaker was Mr. Ricardo Sanchez Sosa, UNEP's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean who, after welcoming the participants noted the importance of this Forum which gives continuity to the one successfully held in Bogota, Colombia, on November 1 and 2, 2006 and which will contribute to the discussions that will take place at the Tenth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to be held in the Principality of Monaco ON February 20 to 22, 2008. He pointed out that it is being held within the framework of the International Forum of Cultures sponsored by UNESCO and coincides with the natural resources week within the activities of said Forum. He introduced the topics to be discussed and which cover: the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC); globalization and the environment; mobilizing financing for facing climate change; and UNEP's medium term strategy; the debate on enhancement of Major Groups participation in environmental governance.

**9.** On behalf of Mr. Juan Elvira, Mr. Enrique Lendo from the Secretariat for the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) of Mexico expressed his wishes for the success of the meeting and underlined the fact that such meeting would cover a wide range of topics. He said it offered a unique platform for promoting participation processes in the formulation of public policies for sustainable development. He went over the most relevant aspects of Mexico's actions at the international level to support these processes. Among other things he highlighted the fact that Mexico supported the creation of UNEP and actively contributed to the discussions and agreements of the Rio and Johannesburg Summits. At the country level, he noted that in Mexico there are ever more opportunities for civil society participation; and thus several laws provide for civil society participation in decision-making; there are such opportunities as the thematic councils that provide counseling to the government and, there are also consultative councils with the participation of various sectors. He highlighted a series of national sectoral strategies which explicitly include information and civil society discussion mechanisms. As an example, he mentioned the national oceans and coasts strategies, the environmental education strategy and the process of formulation of

the 2007-2012 National Development Plan (NDP). Although achievements are not sufficient, NDP has incorporated the principle of social participation and has proposed the national participation and transparency strategy for the gradual incorporation of society in the formulation and follow-up of international and national policies.

**10.** Also, Mr. José Ignacio González on behalf of the Dean of the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon, José Antonio Gonzalez, welcomed the participants. He called the attention to the fact that this is one of the largest universities in Latin America. He said it was an honor to have such an important representation from Latin America and the Caribbean. As University, they are aware that the environment and civil society are sensitive and important issues; they are convinced that the solution of environmental problems is the responsibility of all members of civil society and governmental authorities. In this sense, the University plays a vital role for generating synergies and alliances. He hoped that the meeting will achieve its objectives, since they constitute incentives need by society.

**11.** Mrs. Yolanda Díaz, from the Latin America Ecological and Environmental Observatory / Latin America Environmental Communicators Network thanked UNEP for making this meeting possible. The process of incorporation of civil society to UNEP's fora is becoming more effective. She pointed out agenda items deal with sensitive issues and even go beyond the countries and the region. She thanked the organizers for coming to Monterrey.

**12.** On behalf of the Sustainable World Foundation, Mr. Carlos Gómez said it was a privilege to hold the meeting of the Civil Society Forum and to hold it in the city of Monterrey. The historical characteristics of the city have turned it into a metropolitan city, although with a considerable cultural mixtures. The Foundation hopes that the joint work and information will go beyond this group and in the future the relationship between the United Nations and civil society should be strengthened.

**13.** Mr. Olivier Deluze, Director of UNEP's Major Groups Unit noted that the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to former Vice-president Al Gore and to the United Nations Climate Change Panel for their efforts against global warming. He highlighted the fact that it is the second time that the award is granted to issues dealing with climate change and hoped that civil society activities will move from the periphery to the center of UNEP. He added that civil society provides UNEP a mechanism for the verification of reality and, on its part, UNEP provides civil society, among other things, information to follow up the environmental actions of their governments, while also facilitating the opportunity for dialogue and the structuring of Exchange networks. On concluding he appealed to the need for joint work so that civil society may be ever more involved in the decision-making processes.

## **Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting.**

### ***a) Election of officers***

**14.** Mr. Carlos Gomez, representative of Mexico's Sustainable World Foundation and Mrs. Monique Essed-Fernandes, representative of Women and Environment

Movement of Suriname were designated by consensus, Co-Presidents of the Forum. Additionally, Mrs. Cecilia Iglesias from Argentina's Environmental Network, Mrs. Sandra Salazar from the Latin American Association of Radiophonic Education of Costa Rica and Mr. Kenneth Ochoa from GEO Juvenil Colombia were appointed members of the Reporting Group on behalf of the different subregions.

### ***b) Approval of the Agenda and Work Schedule of the Forum***

**15.** On this item, the participants received an introductory explanation from Mr. Carlos Gómez, regarding the Provisional Agenda and the Annotated Provisional Agenda and Schedule of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat which is under the responsibility of UNEP/ROLAC.

**16.** A participant proposed that some time should be devoted in the morning of the second day to submit reports on the activities carried out by the Forum since the last meeting held in Bogota in 2006. Mr. Ricardo Sánchez called the attention regarding the possibility of using the discussions on climate change that may take place in this Forum and transferring them to the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held on December 3-14, 2007 in Bali, Indonesia. Likewise, another participant requested information on sustainable consumption and cleaner production, which were addressed by Mr. Sánchez. Thus, he explained that the following week the Network of Government Authorities on Sustainable Production and Consumption will meet in Sao Paulo, Brazil; and it is expected that an action plan will result from this meeting. He also informed that the Small Islands Caribbean States will also establish a Center for handling these issues within the framework of an agreement between the Caribbean Environment and Health Institute (CEHI) and CARICOM. After reviewing the contents of the Provisional Agenda and the Annotated Provisional Agenda and its Schedule of Sessions, the participants in the Forum adopted the proposals. The Schedule of Sessions appears in **Annex II** to this report<sup>(1)</sup>.

### **Agenda Item 3: Progress made in the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)**

**17.** Prior to discussing this agenda item, Mr. Enrique Provencio, UNEP/ORPALC consultant made a presentation on the contents of the report dealing with the progress made in the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC). In this respect he said that the evaluation had been coordinated by the current presidency of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of the Region, headed by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

**18.** The report describes the process that begins with the adoption of ILAC at the World Summit on the Environment and Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002 and highlights the decisions of the Forum of Ministers for implementing ILAC.

**19.** The report analyzes several aspects of the environmental reality of the Region since 2003 based on a series of selected indicators, on which experts of the Region

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<sup>(1)</sup> The working documents, including the presentations of the speakers are available at: [http://www.pnuma.org/sociedad\\_civil\\_n/agenda.html](http://www.pnuma.org/sociedad_civil_n/agenda.html)



have been working. Reports began to be submitted in 2006 by taking into account ILAC's reports and the Inter-Agency Technical Committee of the Forum of Ministers proposed that an evaluation be made this year.

**20.** The initiative, Mr. Provencio explained, is the logbook of the Forum of Ministers for better orienting the priorities of the region and covers guiding goals and indicative purposes. It covers six main topics: biological diversity; water resources management; vulnerability, human settlements and sustainable cities, social issues, including health, inequity and poverty; economic aspects, including competitiveness, commerce and the patterns of production and consumption (energy) as well as institutional aspects that are broken down in a group of thematic goals.

**21.** Some of the most important findings of the evaluation are:

- a) The forest surface of the region continues to diminish at a very high rate, although behavior is quite differentiated by subregions;
- b) There is greater fragility in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and greater deterioration of the marine environment;
- c) The Region, in average, has 40% less water available, due to demographic and water consumption increase;
- d) Atmospheric pollution continues to increase in medium-sized cities;
- e) There is greater access to drinking water mainly in the cities;
- f) In terms of vulnerability, there are no adequate indicators, but several bring us close to the issue;
- g) There is an accelerated increase of population in risk zones;
- h) The population in poverty conditions has decreased, except in four countries, but the levels and magnitude are very high and similar to those existing fifteen years ago;
- i) As for health, indicators are insufficient and PAHO reports a high incidence of diseases associated to the environment, especially to vectors;
- j) The region continues to depend highly on fossil fuel sources;
- k) With respect to ozone, the region has complied with the goals of the Montreal Protocol and is capable of complying with the revised commitments agreed at the last Conference of the Parties (Montreal, Canada; September 12 to 21, 2007);
- l) There is greater mobilization of civil society under the framework of UNESCO's "Decade of Environmental Education" (2005-2014);
- m) As regards information, there is currently more information and it is more readily accessible, although most of ILAC's indicators have not updated or comparable information;
- n) There is more legislation providing for participation in decision-making and access to environmental fairness.

**22.** Following this presentation, there was a considerable amount of positive and constructive interventions. The Forum coincided in the quality, clarity and usefulness of the presentation. At the same time, additional elements and suggestions were offered to clarify or improve some aspects of the report, including in particular:

- a) Expand the issue of climate change to show scenarios and especially consequences to human health;
- b) Provide numbers in addition to percentages to cause a greater impact on the dissemination of the results of the evaluation;
- c) Differentiate better between the situation in rural and urban areas;
- d) Make ILAC known in decision-making forums dealing with planning, finances, economy and sectors other than the environmental ones;
- e) Highlight the efficient operation of the Consultative Councils, especially in Mexico;
- f) Consider in depth the institutional arrangements in the sense of determining the levels of knowledge of the population and local decision-makers of environmental issues and such instruments as ILAC;
- g) Show the actual protection situation of the protected areas beyond the official declarations;
- i) Reflect cultural and ethical values;
- j) Explain in greater detail the methodology applied and the information sources used, since many times this type of government reports do not consider academia and research institutions;
- k) Include data on "Official Development Assistance" and further disaggregate the information by sub-regions, according to the groups most affected (for example, indigenous people) and which are the major risks;
- l) Review some indicators that are not useful for making the pertinent measurements because there is no information (and in that case, use it as indicator of the situation) or because it does not contribute to adequately analyze the situation;
- m) Emphasize further the issue of disasters;
- n) Consider health indicators in greater depth to go beyond the vector-borne diseases.

**23.** According to one participant, the report is limited to a description of the situation and no elements were provided in for the adoption of measures. Another participant considered that the importance of youth contributions to environmental management was not reflected and, on the other hand, suggested the addition of a section with best practices. Other interventions coincided in the need to further explain how to articulate the issue of access to information and how these reports contribute to alert decision makers and to improve decision-making as such. Other contributions were made with respect to the importance of producing communication strategies and designing adequate economic instruments.

**24.** Thereafter, Mr. Provencio thanked the contributions received and he comment on the interventions made by the participants; he also invited them to send other views via e-mail as soon as possible, so as to consider them in the final version of the document to be presented to the Sixteen Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**25.** Mr. Provencio explained that the methodology used was based on environmental indicators selected by experts, which were discussed in a workshop held in 2003 that were later endorsed by the Forum of Ministers. The Working Group on the Environmental Indicators of the Forum of Ministers is analyzing these indicators to render them compatible with the indicators developed by other instances such as the indicators of the Millennium Development Goals. He highlighted the fact that ILAC has 50 indicators but only one third of them have comparable and harmonized information. He recognizes the need to modify several indicators. In this evaluation, national statistics and reports from other United Nations agencies, such as ECLAC, were used.

**26.** Mr. Provencio agree with the comments made concerning climate change and how this issue can be used to determine linkages with other aspects (health, energy and others); the need to illustrate differentiated information at the rural and urban levels; to improve health data and reflect the relationships between biofuels and economic instruments. With respect to mainstreaming environmental, he explained that it would be discussed at the next GEO-LAC (anticipated for 2008). As for protected areas, he considered appropriate to take into account the results of the Second Latin American Congress on National Parks and other Protected Areas (Bariloche, Argentina; September 30 to October 6, 2007). He commented that, given the framework of ILAC and the methodology selected, the underlying issues of environmental degradation are not being evaluated, nor the issues on environmental communication or the dimension of values or ethics. He also emphasizes the lack of vulnerability indicators. With respect to youth, the ILAC report is not focused on specific groups, but there are several GEOs Youth.

**27.** Mr. Ricardo Sánchez thanked for the substantial contributions received during the debate.

#### **Agenda Item 4: International Environmental Governance**

**28.** The Forum decided to leave agenda items closely related to UNEP for the end of the discussion, therefore the environmental governance issue was discussed.

**29.** This agenda item was introduced by Mr. Rubens Harry Born, Coordinator of the Climate Change Working Group of the Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for the Environment and Development (FBOMS) who pointed out that it was impossible to talk about "sustainability" without taking into account "governance" and that this is a way of living in society, of generating decisions that promote equity, justice and everyone's participation. It includes access to information and constitutes a way of appraising and creating rights for the defense of citizens, and it also includes obligations.

**30.** He added that the challenge is not only to influence in the Forum of Ministers or other events (summits, workshops, seminars) but in the processes (development of

agenda, agreements and compliance with commitments). He noted that rejecting the agendas predetermined by the governments is also a valid challenge of governance. He highlighted the importance of training the people and organizations so that they may influence the decision-making processes. Additionally, he underscored that the capacity of civil society to participate in decision-making processes depends not only on the capacity for mobilization, but rather its capacity to become a critical sector. With respect to the availability of international financing for environmental issues, he noted that the FMAM is not sufficient. He also warned that the World Trade Organization should not be a forum for discussing environmental issues, but since these debates were taking place, it is important for civil society to be present. He concluded by stating that he would like to see and support more civil society initiatives from the countries of the region.

**31.** Thereafter, the participants in the Forum had a fruitful exchange on the topic, wherein they made the following contributions:

- a) The Biological Diversity Convention has a participation mechanism at the national level, whereby nongovernmental parties may interact directly with the focal points designated by governments. In this sense, the level of participation depends on the persons who determine how far they can go with their information, dissemination and network tasks;
- b) Participative democracy has allowed a greater influence in making policy decisions; however, there are situations wherein civil society is used to legitimize certain international processes that are ultimately not beneficial for the people. It was noted that the participation criteria and mechanisms are not yet clear; but, nevertheless, the situation is far better than 15 or 20 years ago;
- c) Alliance policies are of paramount importance as well as to return to the grassroots to verify that the benefits of participation are reaching everyone;
- d) The decade of 2000 was the decade of summits. However, in spite of the summits, the security agenda recently began to acquire a preponderant weight. And this competes with environmental governance. Likewise, the climate change issue itself is a major issue in the global environmental agenda. The importance of complementariness was also pointed out;
- e) When talking about sustainability, what are we talking about? Is it natural resources that exist or restorations? It would be necessary to discuss the development model we want. The truth, one participant noted, is that there are disguised tyrannies and people subjugated by poverty and ignorance;
- f) How can one make governments understand that when they make decisions, they are doing so on behalf of the persons that elected them and they need to consult them? How can we ensure that political parties incorporate the environment and sustainable development as something serious and not merely use them in electoral situations?

- g) The environmental issue has once again gained strength as a result of climate change. Governance is deepened in the strengthening and the more preponderant role that may be played by UNEP.

**32.** Mr. Deleuze noted that UNEP is working hard with the workers. Thus, guides are being prepared to control the use of chemicals in the working areas. In addition, UNEP cooperates with the International Labor Organization and workers organizations in the preparation of a document on the so-called "green works". The document, financed by the Government of Spain will be ready in February 2008.

**33.** Additional contributions from the participants then followed, such as:

- a) How to ensure respect for agreed areas of consensus?
- b) How to guarantee mechanisms for complying with decisions and develop capabilities for compliance with international commitments?
- c) It was highlighted that presently, in environmental struggles there are economic interests versus ideologies;
- d) Comments were made on the importance of linking civil society to the regional agendas for discussing environmental policies; of inserting civil society in limited spaces and in new developments such as "ONE UN". It was highlighted the usefulness of information technologies to facilitate communication and optimize resources. Likewise, the need to increase UNEP's presence at the national level was underscored;
- e) With the purpose of providing continuity to the agreements and discussions between the Forum of Ministers and the Civil Society forum, it was suggested that a topic be chosen and to strengthen the links around it;
- f) The viability of sustainable economy and development of organic agriculture was highlighted; however, this implies changes in the behavior of the producer as well as the consumers;
- g) It was recommended that successful experiences that solve specific problems of the people be identified and that this information be exchanged;
- h) From the perspective of contemporary theater, it was commented that the environment seems to be disappearing.

**34.** To summarize, Mr. Rubens Born, noted that UNEP provides an opportunity to act and underscored the importance of "domesticating" international environmental agreements.

**35.** The Co-Chairs invited the participants to identify elements for the Forum's declaration, dealing with ILAC and the issue of governance. These included recommendations in order that:

- a) ILAC may be a living document, appropriate for civil society actors and that it may also be a framework for highlighting the efforts of this sector of society in improving environmental quality;
- b) ILAC should be available in the web and may be the subject of broader consultations;

- c) That society not leaves decisions up to the open market that it be demanded that the State defend the environment;
- d) UNEP should promote a strategy for disseminating environmental issues regarding ILAC that may allow for strengthening assessment processes and indicate the areas where progress is being achieved and which ones are lagging behind; also, that these may be more widely disseminated and reach the communities;
- e) ILAC may reflect the principle of proportional responsibility;
- f) At the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, the issue of mainstreaming environmental issues should be strengthened;
- g) The fifty ILAC indicators should be reviewed so they better reflect the relationship between health and environment; and they should also provide disaggregated information. Additionally, it was pointed out that the lack of data should not be taken as a barrier, but rather as an indicator in itself;
- h) ILAC may also focus on commercial issues and the consequences of treaties of such a nature; it was pointed out that those treaties are affecting sovereignty and intellectual property rights among other things;
- i) Governments should make greater efforts to promote environmental education as well as to promote the use of renewable energy issues; it was noted that in the case of small island developing states, the Mauritius Strategy affords a clear action framework;
- j) Workers should not be the object of adverse impacts derived from actions or lack of measures that may affect a healthy environment in the working place;
- k) That ILAC implementation assessments should include information with respect to support provided for organic production that uses no chemicals and which, considering that it contributes not only to the preservation of the soil but also that of the aquiferous layers
- l) With respect to governance, indigenous people should be taken into account and heard;
- m) That, at the request of the Co-Chairmen, a presentation be made concerning the activities carried out since the last meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Forum (Bogota, Colombia; November 1 and 2, 2006)

**36.** Thereafter, Mr. Sandro Chavez from the Ecological Forum of Peru explained the activities carried out by the Latin America and the Caribbean Environmental Organizations platform since the last meeting of the Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Forum (Bogota, Colombia; November 1 and 2, 2006):

- a) The Regional Coordination, that includes the Subregionaql Coordinators, Mrs. Esther Neuhaus (South), Mr. Víctor Campos (Meso-America), Mrs. Jenny Grubenger (Andean) and Mr. Gordon Bishop (Caribbean) and the Regional Coordinator Mr. Sandro Chávez has given priority in this year's working plan to the exchange of information, through its List of virtual

interest, wherein most participants in the Regional Civil Society Forums have been registered, with the task of incorporating the current ones being pending. They have also convened virtual sessions to exchange opinions on the activities that have been carried out by the elected representatives within the framework of activities of the Global and Regional forums of Ministers, among other activities;

- b) It was underscored the participation of the Representatives of the Civil Society Forum in the Civil Society Global Governing Council, the Global Civil Society Forum associated to the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Nairobi, Kenya; February 2007). Thus, Esther Neuhaus, Gordon Bishop Jenny Gruberger, Carlos Gómez have fulfilled their responsibility to inform about their active participation to the members of the platform registered in the list of interest for their knowledge and opinion;
- c) Based on the opinions of the participants in this Regional Forum, the need creating a web page is under consideration, to develop greater synergy with other specialized regional networks in order to have a greater influence and make contributions to the decisions made in the Forum of Ministers (UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum);
- d) It has also been considered necessary to expand the number of participants in major groups in the platform and their representation.

**37.** One participant mentioned the importance of not disregarding the organizations that are not present in the Forum and which work in living and dynamic networks.

**38.** In response to the offer made by Mr. Juan José Villalobos from the Consultative Council for Sustainable Development of Mexico (CCDS –South-Southeast), it was agreed that they will develop the web page of the Coordination Platform.

**39.** Another participant warned about the need to disseminate the activities of the Coordination Platform and to incorporate information from other relevant processes such as the indigenous people forum.

**40.** Mr. Rody Oñate, UNEP/ORPALC Information Officer, highlighted the work of the youth. He mentioned that at the TUNZA meeting (International Youth Conference, Leverkusen, Germany; August 26 to 30, 2007) and that the participation of the youth of the region was recognized. He also acknowledged and commended the numerous activities carried out by many of the organizations present in the meeting, which included workshops with journalists and awareness campaigns, among others.

**41.** The first day' session concluded with the projection of a video of the S.O.S. Campaign Earth.

**Agenda Items 5 and 6: Review of the discussion of the document: "Enhancing Major Groups participation in UNEP's governance" and UNEP's Medium Term Strategy**

**42.** In order to count on elements for discussing these issues, Mr. Olivier Deleuze made a presentation on the document on "Guidelines for improving the

participation of major groups at UNEP governance” and UNEP’s Medium Term Strategy.

**43.** Mr. Deleuze explained that UNEP is fully aware of the need to strengthen the alliance between UNEP and civil society. However, he noted that tensions with the governments do not cease to exist, since not all members of UNEP have the same visions with respect to the participation of civil society.

**44.** Thereafter, Mr. Deleuze explained the draft Guidelines which civil society has formulated for its participation in the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/Global Forum). He pointed out that one important aspect is that decisions need not be taken by consensus. Thus, all Major Groups will have equal opportunity to speak and make interventions. Mr. Deleuze explained the background on the participation of civil society in the GC/Global Forum. He also described the new formula with respect to the participation of civil society which includes two representatives from each of the regions of the World and incorporates a representative from the Major Groups<sup>(2)</sup> (the so-called 12+9 formula). The guidelines are to be applied for the next three years.

**45.** Additionally, Mr. Deleuze mentioned that UNEP would promote the participation of the civil society in the preparation of specific policies as well as in their implementation.

**46.** With respect the integration of UNEP’s Medium Term Strategy (2010-2013), Mr. Deleuze explained that this process will be slow and careful, in order to reach a common ground among the governments, UNEP and civil society. He noted that it is the first time that UNEP will formulate a medium term strategy and efforts will be made for focusing UNEP’s working around six priority issues: climate change, ecosystems management, chemicals, natural disasters and post-conflicts, energetic efficiency and environmental governance.

**47.** Several participants pointed out that it was important that this strategy take into consideration UNEP’s regionalization, as well as articulate ILAC’s objectives.

### **Agenda Item 7: Globalization and the Environment – Mobilizing financing for facing Climate Change**

**48.** One of the Co-Chairmen presented this item, indicating that the climate change issue as part of the international environmental agenda is undergoing a political *momentum* that had not being experienced since the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol (Kyoto, Japan; December 11, 1997). This can be confirmed by the various international dialogue initiatives on this issue, in particular, those convened by the United Nations system. It is the question of a juncture that poses opportunities and challenges for the Latin American and Caribbean countries, because one can generate international cooperation flows under different modalities, including the

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<sup>(2)</sup> Nine major groups are identified in Agenda 21 (Rio de Janeiro, 1992): 1. Trade and industry, 2. Childhood and youth; 3. Farmers; 4. Indigenous peoples; 5. Local authorities; 6. ONG; 7. Scientific and technological community; 8. Women; and 9. Workers and trade unions.



mobilization of financial resources to undertake adaptation activities in the developing countries <sup>(3)</sup>.

**49.** He continued on to comment that, in the past twelve months, they had witnessed important events in the international debate on climate change that are related to the distribution of three new reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which show that man-induced climate change is a reality and the publication of economic evaluations that show that the costs of inaction are well above the costs of actions to face this global environmental problem.

**50.** He added that, in order to effectively face climate change, it is necessary to mobilize public and private financial sectors, as well as significant domestic and international investments. Nevertheless, this challenge poses an opportunity, through the adoption of mitigation and adaptation measures with a view to achieving, among other things, the following benefits:

- a) Facilitate new investment and market flows for friendly climatic technologies;
- b) Achieve multiple environmental benefits such as the improvement of the quality of air, preservation of biodiversity, sustainable management of ecosystems for ensuring sustainability of fresh water and the offer of food and improvement of public health;
- c) Achieve multiple development benefits in a fair and equitable manner, such as energy security; generation of employment, availability of new sources of income in the rural economies and the eradication of poverty.

**51.** The Co-Chairman also reported that the Tenth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Principality of Monaco, February 20 to 22, 2008) will discuss "Globalization and Climate Change – Mobilizing financing for facing Climate Change".

**52.** Mr. Rubens made a presentation on "Alert on heating and climate changes": Threats and challenges for society. He covered the following topics:

- a) Focusing on the mechanisms of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol;
- b) Going beyond those instruments and discussing the development models;
- c) What are the sources of the greenhouse effect?
- d) What are the amounts of carbon emissions?
- e) Contribution to global warming is not standard;
- f) The consequences of climate change;
- g) The impacts of climate change especially on the poorest people;
- h) Where to act in terms of who is responsible for what (equity, justice, common but differentiated responsibility)?

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<sup>(3)</sup> The documents dealing with this agenda item can be access in:  
[http://www.unep.org/civil\\_society/GCSF/index.asp](http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF/index.asp).

- i) Challenges (preserve or restore natural capital, transform productive systems, social and environmental responsibility, among others).
- j) What to do in terms of capabilities, responsibilities, the characteristics of the region, other criteria?

**53.** Thereafter, Mr. Marcelo Furtado, Greenpeace Campaign Director/Brazil made a presentation on the mobilization of financing to face climate change. The presentation was focused on the following:

- a) Financing opportunities for combating climate change (for example, investments in renewable energies);
- b) Need for change ~~in~~ the development model;
- c) Sharing responsibilities, but in a differentiated manner;
- d) Civil society is currently divided (the environmentalist and that of economic development);
- e) Working together involves strategic alliances with sectors with which the environment has not worked;
- f) Examples of Greenpeace experiences that have served to generate resources or changes in initiatives, programs and actions to face climate change:
  - i) Coca Cola initiative in the People's Republic of China with the use of refrigerators (during the coming 2008 Olympic Games, Coca Cola will use refrigerators and vending machines free from hydrofluorocarbon gases;
  - ii) Initiative in Brazil regarding the cultivation of soya beans and the Cargill and McDonalds companies (moratorium in production of soya beans in deforested zones of the Amazon jungle);
  - iii) Combined strategies for the use of funds to combat deforestation in the Amazon, among others, using scientific studies and talking to those responsible for the greenhouse effect, as well as those having the power to introduce changes (the private sector, the government, Parliament, others)<sup>(4)</sup>.
- g) Opportunities for obtaining funds and devoting them to necessary actions;
- h) Using the power of action of the people;
- i) The importance of basing actions on serious scientific reports.

**54.** Following the presentations summarized in the foregoing paragraphs, the participants in the Forum commented on how, in a fair and equitable manner a sustainable and appropriate political environment can be constructed in order to:

- a) Determine financing required for adaptation to climate change, particularly in the most vulnerable countries, which require new and better financing mechanisms;

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<sup>(4)</sup>Greenpeace-Brazil web page includes information on these experiences <http://www.greenpeace.org/brasil/>

- b) Finance transition toward a sustainable economy with low carbon emissions, through new investment flows, markets for friendly climatic technologies, facilitate access to sustainable and economic energy services and public and private associations;
- c) Achievement of multiple environmental objectives and the forecast of unforeseen environmental consequences through transition and adaptation measures; and
- d) Identify the links between the generation of wealth and the eradication of poverty through transition and adaptation measures.

**55.** The participants expressed different views regarding financing and sustainable production of biomass for biofuels. Several participants mentioned the lack of studies on arid zones which makes it difficult to determine the effects of climate change. In response to questions raised by the participants, the speakers draw attention to on the importance of: analyzing the specific energy consumption items to adopt more efficient and specific measures (for example, how much energy is used to heat water that eventually would not need to be heated); introducing changes in the regulatory frameworks to generate reforestation opportunities at the community level; creating alliances between different groups; exploring the generation of resources through creative public policies, in counter position to the resources that may be generated through the clean development mechanism which are minimal; increasing communication and information regarding these issues (through communications media, academia and other actors).

#### **Agenda Item 8: Declaration of UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Regional Forum**

**56.** In the afternoon session of the first day of the Forum the participants held informal consultations, in order to consider this agenda item. Following these consultations, a proposal was submitted to the plenary, which was adopted on October 14, after the participants made general considerations on the issues discussed in said document. The Declaration of UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Regional Forum appears as **Annex III** to this report.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Selection of the representatives of the Major Groups to the Tenth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Principality of Monaco, February 20 to 22, 2008) and the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 27<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008)**

**57.** The representatives of Civil Society Organizations appointed to take part of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in Dominican Republic were Mrs. Cecilia Iglesias (Argentina) and Mr. Sandro Chávez (Peru), Ennio Arcia (Panamá) and Mr. Albert Deterville (Saint Lucia). Their representatives in the tenth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Monaco will be Carlos Gomez (México), Keneth Ochoa (Colombia), Rubens Born (Brasil) and Gordon Bishpam

(Barbados). Rubens Born and Gordon Bispham were elected for the Global Steering Committee/Major groups facilitating Committee.

**Agenda Item 10: Evaluation of the Meeting**

**58.** Continuing with the practice adopted in previous meetings the Forum, a format was distributed, so that the participants provide their views on the structure and the contents of the Forum. After this information was compiled, this agenda item was closed.

**Agenda Item 11: Closing of UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Forum**

**59.** The UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Regional Forum was closed at 16:00 hours on Sunday, October 14.

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## Annex II Calendar of Sessions

### *Tuesday 11th October 2007*

<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Inauguration: Art for the Earth.</b> <b>Venue:</b> CINTERMEX Parque Fundidora, Headquarters of the Universal Forum of Cultures
<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Reception prior to the Ceremony to Create the Trust of the Chipinque Ecological Park. <b>The delegates of the Civil Society Forum will be special guests.</b> <b>Venue:</b> Teatro de la Ciudad de Monterrey
<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	Remarks by Ricardo Sánchez Sosa, Regional Director of UNEP/ROLAC, at the Ceremony to Create the Trust of the Chipinque Ecological Park by local authorities and environmentalist entrepreneurs. <b>Venue:</b> Teatro de la Ciudad de Monterrey
<b>8:20 p.m.</b>	Presentation of the Ballet "Giselle" by the Monterrey Dance Company <b>Venue:</b> Teatro de la Ciudad de Monterrey

### *Friday 12th October 2007*

<b>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</b>	Registration of Participants in CASA UANL
<b>9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>1.</b> Opening of the Forum Mr. Ricardo Sánchez Sosa Mr. Juan Elvira Quesada Mr. Olivier Deleuze Mr. José Antonio González, Dean, Universidad de Nuevo León. Mr. Alberto Garza Santos (Mundo Sustentable A.C.)
<b>9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>2.</b> Organization of the Meeting. a) Election of Officers b) Approval of the Agenda and Work Schedule of the Forum.

<b>10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>3.</b> Progress made in the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)
<b>11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>4.</b> International Environmental Governance
<b>1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</b>	Consultations to prepare the Declaration of the UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Regional Forum
<b>4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.</b>	Consultations to prepare the Declaration of the UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Regional Forum
<b>9:00 p.m.</b>	Special performance of the play <i>Amor es más laberinto</i> , with text by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz from the year 1689 and the participation of the Fénix Novohispano Classical Theatre Company, for the participants in the Civil Society Forum.  <i>Aula Magna of the University Cultural Centre of the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (UANL)</i>  <i>Reception</i>

**Saturday 13th October 2007**

<b>9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>5 and 6.</b> Review of the discussion of the document "Enhancing Major Groups participation in UNEP's governance" and UNEP's Medium Term Strategy
<b>10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>7.</b> Globalization and the Environment – Mobilizing financing for facing Climate Change
<b>11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</b>	Consultations for preparation of the Declaration of the UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Regional Forum
<b>12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>8. Final adoption of the Declaration of the UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Regional Forum (postponed to Sunday, 14 October 2007)</b>
<b>1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>

<b>2:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>9.</b> Selection of the representatives of the Major Groups to the Tenth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Principality of Monaco, February 20 to 22, 2008) and the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 27 <sup>th</sup> January to 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2008)
<b>3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>10.</b> Evaluation of the Meeting
<b>4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>11.</b> Closing of the UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Forum (adoption of the Declaration made in Bustamante)
<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Transportation to Bustamante</b>
<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Dinner at the Alameda facilities, followed by a tour of the children's drawing exhibit in the contest "draw your irrigation canal" to choose the best drawings, which will be awarded prizes the next day.

**Sunday 14th October 2007**

<b>9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>GEO 4 processes and outputs</b> GEO-4 Analysis and Key Messages Questions and Answers
<b>9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.</b>	The Role of Civil Society in the GEO Process. Silvia Giada, UNEP/ROLAC
<b>10:15 am-10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>10:30 am-12:00 p.m.</b>	Civil Society and Evaluations: How can we disseminate messages on sustainable development? Work in four groups
<b>12:00 pm-1:00 p.m.</b>	Sharing the outputs of the groups.
<b>1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.</b>	Closing of the session.
<b>1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Final adoption of the Declaration of the UNEP Regional Forum</b>

<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	Lunch with members of the Citizen Council for Sustainable Development of Bustamante and mayors of neighbouring communities.
<b>3:30 p.m.</b>	Visit to tourist sites in Bustamante (Bring a swimsuit if you want to swim).
<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	Public ceremony in the central plaza of Bustamante, Presentation of Certificates as Guests of Honour to the delegates of the Civil Society Forum, Presentation of prizes to the winners of the children's "Draw your irrigation canal" contest.
<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	Inauguration of the Bustamante Radio Community.  Special delegate guests of the Civil Society Forum

***Monday 15th October 2007***

<b>7:00 a.m.</b>	Departure from Bustamante to the International Airport of Monterrey.
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**Annex III**  
**Declaration of the UNEP Regional Forum**  
**for Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean**  
**Monterrey, Mexico; 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2007**

*Our greetings and recognition to the environmental authorities and organizations of the state of Nuevo León, as well as the Municipalities of Monterrey and Bustamante, for the warm welcome they extended to our delegations and their important contribution to building sustainable development. We also express our most sincere thanks to the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, the Universal Forum of Cultures 2007 and the Sustainable World Foundation.*

Considering,

**That a very positive step is** the fact that for the first time the Declaration of the UNEP Regional Forum for Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean, which took place in Monterrey, Mexico, from 12 to 14 October 2007, will be presented as the first item on the agenda of the Sixteenth Forum of the Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**That the outputs obtained through the five-year assessment** of the Latin America and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) show that, although some specific variables have undergone improvement, many environmental problems of the region not only persist but have even increased and become more complex.

**That it is important to underscore the advances made in the past five years** in the field of generating information, which has translated into numerous national reports on the state of the environment and GEO overall environmental assessments; understanding, however, that advances in citizens' access to and appropriation of such information are still lacking.

**That the lack of data for preparing some relevant indicators** to measure our degree of progress towards the ILAC objectives should not be seen only as a barrier, but also as an indicator itself, and that this information should be of use for decision making.

**That there are significant differences** between the realities of our countries.

**That although the priorities** originally established for the ILAC continue being valid, concerns expressed in this Forum indicate that major groups perceive emerging issues that must be incorporated into the Initiative.

**That the problem of climate change** is of a global scope and therefore requires a collective response. At the same time, scientific evidence is sufficiently sound and economic assessments warn us that the cost of not taking action may be higher than the cost of preventive measures.

**The message issued by the 80 heads of State** who participated in the special event on climate change convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations last September in the framework of the General Assembly regarding the need to

enter into multilateral cooperation agreements that are fair and equitable for all countries,

**That in the period 2010-2013**, UNEP will, for the first time, have a medium-term strategy, which will, in principle, focus its work around six priority themes: climate change, ecosystem management, hazardous substances, natural disasters and post-conflict situations, energy efficiency and environmental governance.

**That the United Nations system** is in a period of testing a strategy to integrate its programmes under one umbrella, which implies one office, one budget and one leader, called "One UN".

**That the document "Guidelines to improve the participation of the principal groups at the governance level of UNEP"** seeks to motivate greater regional balance and representation among the new principal groups, recognizing that they have common interests, as well as individual interests.

**That the long-term Strategy** for the participation of youth in environmental issues, known as the TUNZA Strategy, indicates that UNEP will organize, support and facilitate the participation of young leaders in the sessions of the Governing Council of UNEP; and, at the same time, will establish a Tunza Advisory Council to represent youth at the Governing Council sessions to provide coordinated inputs on behalf of youth.

**That the organizations gathered here** look favourably on the efforts being made by UNEP to establish increasingly more effective mechanisms for such participation.

***We declare,***

### **I. Advances in the implementation of the Latin America and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)**

- 1.** That we are concerned about the results of the ILAC follow-up and assessment report and we understand that efforts to attain its objectives should be expanded. This leads us to rethinking our development model, with firm and active State intervention in social management and market control.
- 2.** That, in the framework of the ILAC, a participatory communication approach giving priority to local spaces should be adopted so that citizens may know about this Initiative and adopt it as their own in order to actively and constructively participate in its definition, follow-up and implementation.
- 3.** That we are committed to collaborating in the dissemination of ILAC and the ILAC assessment results presented to this Forum through our organizations, networks, dialogue spaces and other means available to us.
- 4.** That there is a need to evaluate the pertinence and usefulness of the ILAC indicators in order to propose alternatives for cases in which the experience accumulated over five years indicates they do not reflect the reality and needs of our region. This process should be carried out in conjunction with civil society, comparing the relevance of indicators and the veracity of data with the principal groups.



- 5.** That there is a need to invest in initiatives for data generation, compilation and harmonization for cases in which the indicators found to be pertinent lack sufficient statistics for their construction. The Forum specifically recommends concentrating efforts on evaluating the existence and operation of the National Councils on Sustainable Development and other similar entities for participation of the principal groups.
- 6.** That, because of the interrelations among the issues addressed by the ILAC, it is necessary to incorporate some indicators to establish cause-and-effect relationships. This Forum specifically recommends analysing and reporting on the linkage between climate change and health.
- 7.** That in the compiling, analysis and presentation of the advances of the ILAC it is imperative for the indicators to provide a breakdown by different sub-regions. Similar criteria should be adopted whenever possible for cases of urban and rural communities. Similarly, to gain a more realistic vision of the regional situation it is essential for the percentage values to be accompanied by their corresponding absolute numbers.
- 8.** That this Forum considers it vital for the ILAC to incorporate, as a priority, the measurement of environmental risks and impacts of trade liberalization processes, agreements of a neo-liberal nature and infrastructure megaprojects in the region, with special emphasis on IIRSA and the Puebla-Panama Plan. We understand that these hinder sustainable development, which is why civil society is paying increasingly more attention to these efforts.
- 9.** That we demand monitoring of the progress achieved in the field of institutional frameworks, both in terms of the consolidation of governmental environment authorities and in relation to their intersectoral links, to address the need for cross-cutting management that includes other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

## **II. Globalization and Environment: Mobilizing financing to face climate change**

- 10.** That it is important for the international community to apply the principle of common but differentiated responsibility with regard to climate change, so that those who generate the most greenhouse gases will change their production and consumption patterns, assume the weight of the compensatory measures and facilitate mechanisms to favour the prevention, mitigation and adaptation to the impacts in the countries affected, especially those that are most vulnerable.
- 11.** That there is a need to introduce and implement political, economic, institutional, and legal reforms that will translate into improvements in energy efficiency and the development of alternative energies.
- 12.** That we are concerned about the uncontrolled progress of biofuels, since they compete with food sovereignty and security and endanger biodiversity, forests, water, etc. and, at the same time, consolidate a production model based on extensive landholdings (latifundios) and single-crop farming, which generates agriculture without farmers and expels millions of men and women into rural migration, causing strong social and environmental tensions.

**13.** That it is essential to generate and strengthen alliances among the environmental and socioeconomic sectors in the framework of the National Strategies for Sustainable Development in order to implement climate change prevention, mitigation and adaptation policies and projects.

**14.** That it is important to analyse the barriers that have prevented this theme from being addressed in spite of the strong scientific evidence that has existed for more than a decade.

**15.** That addressing this problem will generate benefits that are not only environmental, but also economic and social, in terms of job creation, improved balance of payments and incentives for local industry and communities.

**16.** Recognize that climate change can be addressed not only in the framework of an environmental proposal but also from the perspective of development. Consequently, we declare it necessary to identify and make use of mechanisms that are alternatives to environmental compensations to finance projects to address climate change.

### **III. International Environmental Governance and the UNEP Medium-term Strategy**

**17.** That increasing and effective participation of civil society in the UNEP decision-making bodies is of fundamental importance, that the opportunity to formulate declarations in ministerial dialogues should continue being provided and that these declarations should be included in the related reports.

**18.** That it is essential for the UNEP Medium-term Strategy to include mechanisms to increase the influence of national environmental authorities, principally in the countries' economy, finance and planning cabinets.

**19.** That it is important for this strategy to promote the decentralization of UNEP activities and, in this line, to incorporate regional initiatives such as the ILAC. For that purpose institutional strengthening of the Regional Offices is of fundamental importance, especially with regard to their capacities for dissemination and civil society involvement.

**20.** That it is vital to strengthen UNEP and its participation in the joint programming processes of the United Nations in the national sphere, especially in terms of "One UN" and in projects to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

### **IV. Guidelines for improving the participation of the principal groups at the governance level of UNEP**

**21.** That it is important to establish mechanisms to ensure that the Global Civil Society Steering Committee serves as a channel for the voices of the principal groups and that the regions express themselves at global entities in which UNEP participates through consultation and collective agenda building processes.

**22.** That we ask UNEP to continue supporting the efforts of civil society organizations to strengthen our capacities and consolidate our participation, all through training activities on a national and regional scale.

**23.** That we are interested in UNEP taking into account that the new participation models of the principal groups should improve and not endanger the space won over the years by civil society. In this framework, the Tunza Council members are selected by their peers to represent the youth of each region and their capacities should therefore be strengthened and their opportunities to participate in the meetings of the Governing Council of UNEP should be expanded.

**24.** That the organizations present, accredited by the GC/GMEF, are committed to collaborating with those who may decide to request their own accreditation.

**25.** That we request UNEP to distribute the civil society consultation documents within three months simultaneously in the official languages of the United Nations. If there is a genuine desire to incorporate the recommendations of the interested parties, it should translate into a commitment to gradually eliminate these barriers.

**26.** We wish to salute the efforts of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in recognition of the experiences our organizations have gained to improve global environmental governance; and we are confident that the national environmental authorities will appropriately value and incorporate them into the related political instruments.

**27.** Finally, we reiterate the commitment of our organizations to continue contributing to the sustainable development of our societies, in a broad spirit of partnership and cooperation between civil society and governmental authorities.

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