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Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean**

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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**

B. MINISTERIAL SEGMENT  
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# **Final Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts**

**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008**



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## 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 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007.

4. The Meeting of High Level Government Experts generated a list of recommendations submitted for 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<sup>(1)</sup> 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<sup>(2)</sup> 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 was scheduled from Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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<sup>(1)</sup> 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).

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

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.

7. The Meeting of Experts evaluated the implications that future international environmental negotiations on climate change and biological diversity shall have for the Region. Likewise, this instance also addressed 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 reviewed 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, and the application of the Bali Strategic Plan for Capacity Building and Technology Support. They also considered priorities and mechanisms to improve the implementation of RAP.

## **Attendance**

8. The Preparatory Meeting of Experts was attended by **41** government representatives from **28** countries of the Region, as well as **6** attendees from **4** programmes, secretariats and conventions of the United Nations system, **2** from intergovernmental agencies, **8** from **7** Non-Governmental Organizations, plus **5** special invitees. The List of Participants of this Meeting is available in the information document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/Inf.2**.

## **Agenda Item 1: Opening session**

9. The opening ceremony took place on Sunday 27 January 2008 at 3.00 p.m. Omar Ramírez, Secretary of State for the Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic expressed his satisfaction that the meeting was being held in his country and urged the participants to contribute to achieving its primary objective, that of formulating decision proposals for the Ministerial Segment. Rafael Almonte in his capacity as leader of the Dominican Republic's delegation at the meeting took the chair as regards the work to be undertaken at the meeting.

10. The opening session was also addressed by Lissett Margarita Hernández, as representative of the chairmanship of the XV Forum of Ministers. She gave a brief account of the tasks performed during the period between sessions.

11. On behalf of the secretariat of the Forum of Ministers, UNEP Director for Latin America and the Caribbean Ricardo Sánchez confirmed the disposition of his office to continue supporting the activities of the Forum, and in particular the work and deliberations of the current Forum.

## **Agenda Item 2: Organization of tasks**

### **2.1. Adoption of the Rules of the Meeting**

12. The Meeting of Experts agreed to adopt, *mutatis mutandi*, the relevant UNEP Administrative Council's rules, for regulating the conduct of the meeting.

## 2.2. Election of the Meeting Directors

13. In accordance with established practice, the meeting elected the Chairperson, Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur who would comprise its Bureau. The Dominican Republic was elected chairman by acclamation. The Bureau comprised:

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Dominican Republic
<b>Vice-Presidents:</b>	Argentina
	Dominica
	Ecuador
	El Salvador
	Mexico
	Peru
<b>Rapporteur</b>	Cuba

## 2.3. Approval of the Agenda and Calendar of Sessions

14. The UNEP/ROLAC Regional Director explained that the proposed agenda included the items whose discussion had been started at the Meeting of Government Experts held in Panama in August 2007. It was proposed that, to continue the debate on these points, the meeting should make recommendations as to the best way forward as regards the implementation of the ILAC. Similarly, a new approach to the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009 and restructuring of the working groups were being proposed.

15. The meeting approved the Provisional Agenda<sup>(3)</sup> and the Annotated Agenda<sup>(4)</sup> and its Calendar of Sessions, with the proviso that consideration of some of the points included under the Regional Action Plan (RAP) should be handled with flexibility, to allow the delegates time and sufficient opportunity for presenting their proposals.

16. Several delegations were in favour of radical revision of various proposals for restructuring the Regional Action Plan and regarding the usefulness and contribution of the working groups tasked with implementing the decisions of the Forum of Ministers. It was noted that the RAP priorities could be reviewed every four years and the actions and goals every two years

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<sup>(3)</sup> See the document "Provisional Agenda" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/1).

<sup>(4)</sup> See the document "Provisional Annotated Agenda" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/2/Rev.1).

## **Agenda Item 3: Recommendations by the Meeting of High-Level Government Experts<sup>(5)</sup>**

### **3.1. Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)**

**17.** The representative from Chile, Alvaro Sapag, as Chairman of the Meeting of Experts held in Panama in August 2007, presented a report on the deliberations at and recommendations from that meeting.

**18.** Enrique Provencio presented a document<sup>(6)</sup> whose production he had coordinated, regarding the progress made in implementing the ILAC.

**19.** Both inputs were presented as a starting point for framing recommendations and concrete proposals to the Ministerial Segment, regarding ways of applying Priority Action Areas for continued implementation of the ILAC and options to strengthen the advancement in the implementation of the ILAC and for overcoming the obstacles faced by the countries in this process.

**20.** The delegations that intervened to comment on the report called for greater emphasis in ILAC implementation with regard to urban issues and the problem of vulnerability. It was also proposed that reports on the implementation of the initiative should be short and succinct. They should reflect the prevailing situation in the light of the established indicators. Also stressed was the need to formulate indicators to measure progress made in the implementation of the initiative, including the setting of specific targets. Most of the delegations, while acknowledging that certain advances had been made, acknowledged that there were also many areas where work was still needed.

**21.** There was discussion also, as to whether progress reports should be prepared every four years or every two years. While most of the countries inclined to the former, so as to reveal significant movements in the indicators, other favoured the biennial basis, underlining the importance of such evaluations. It was also pointed out that not all the countries were covered in the ILAC report and that this information needed to be completed. On the other hand it was pointed out that it was necessary to provide support to countries in order to make progress in the compliance of the ILAC goals.

**22.** The UNEP/ROLAC Regional Director said the report presented contained a first assessment on which work could continue, and explained how the information for the indicators they were working with was gathered. He also agreed that greater emphasis on urban environmental problems was needed, including waste management, air quality, urban development and the problem of populations living in areas at risk. He also stressed the need for taking account of the size of the country concerned when performing an analysis of the problems it faced, especially in the case of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

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<sup>(5)</sup> Meeting of High-Level Government Experts (Panama, Panama; 30 and 31 August 2007).

<sup>(6)</sup> See the document *Report on the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) five years after its adoption* (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/3/Rev.1).



**23.** There was a wide-ranging discussion of the ILAC areas for priority action and the different approaches that could be adopted to structure the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009 to make it an effective tool for implementing the ILAC. Following an extensive exchange of views and proposals, the Chairman tasked the working group comprising Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Jamaica, El Salvador and Dominica (although of open composition) to continue the debate on these issues with a view to submitting a report to the plenary session.

**24.** Following the discussion, the Mexican representative, on behalf of the Contact Group, presented to the plenary session the results obtained using a matrix that incorporated six areas of the ILAC and established the key issues. Those relating solid waste and environmental education were submitted for discussion, given the national or local character of the former and the cross-border approach to the latter.

**25.** Several delegations showed interest in keeping these as priority issues, partly to enable clear guidance to the ITC's agencies about identifying resources and a coordinated and synergistic exercise within the framework of other sub-regional forums.

**26.** After some discussion regarding the need to maintain fewer areas - so as to have a number that was practical and feasible within the timescale allowed by the Regional Action Plan - the plenary session agreed to include the above-mentioned issues, which would be reflected in the corresponding 2008-09 document, including: climate change, including energy and recognizing its relationship to all areas of ILAC, the increase in forest area, genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, handling basins, coastal resources, vulnerability and risk management, solid waste, health and the environment, with attention to pollution and chemicals-the sustainable consumption and production and area under the institutional aspects issues relating to evaluation and indicators, and environmental education.

### **3.2. Regional Action Plan**

**27.** As regards this agenda item, the Preparatory Meeting of Experts took account of the deliberations and recommendations of the Meeting of the Experts, held in Panama on 30 and 31 August 2007<sup>7</sup>. The main recommendation from that meeting was the use of a new matrix to complete the Regional Action Plan. The new matrix includes three main elements: the ILAC areas of concentration where it was proposed that work should continue the plan's strategic guidelines and indicators of success.

**28.** The UNEP/ROLAC Regional Director mentioned these resolutions and recommendations from the Panama meeting and the new guidelines that arose from the debate on this issue. He proposed that the plenary session authorize the Secretariat to adjust the Regional Action Plan 2008-09 on the basis of the

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<sup>7</sup> See the document *"Report of the Meeting of High Level Government Experts (Panama, 30-31 de agosto de 2007)" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/4)*.

agreements reached and to submit for revision and related commentary to the governments, within 30 days following the conclusion of the Forum.

**29.** Several delegations supported the Secretariat's proposal and stressed the need to intensify the work between sessions that enabled monitoring of progress against the agreed commitments and targets, as well as making available the resources needed to bring this about. The Argentinean delegation proposed that this exercise should be conducted in its country, in the second half of 2008.

### **3.3. Contribution of the Inter-agency Technical Committee**

**30.** Under this point UNEP and ECLAC reported on their activities and the link of these with the RAP in its current content and future projections. The Regional Director of UNEP stressed the background of cooperation and coordination between the ITC agencies, and referred particularly to the extensive exchanges and consultations carried out in ITC meetings held in Isla de Margarita and in Caracas in 2006 and 2007. He noted that in view of the experiences of cooperation and collaboration between such agencies and the importance of taking advantage of opportunities for cooperation with other international agencies, the composition and mandate of CTI and a result of such an exercise was discussed. The Meeting of Experts held in Panama in August 2007, had made a recommendation that was used as a basis for the proposed decision that would be reviewed by the participants in the Preparatory Meeting of Experts.

**31.** In turn, the representative of ECLAC reported on the activities undertaken by such Commission in countries of the region, he referred in particular to the support provided to Latin American delegations participating in the United Nations Conference on Climate Change held in Bali. Similarly, he highlighted the joint work that ECLAC and UNEP conducted on the topic of environmental statistics and indicators.

**32.** Delegations from countries participating in the Preparatory Meeting of Experts noted the importance they attached to the support provided by the ITC agencies to meet the environmental priorities of the region. Along those lines, they expressed concern because of the absence of representatives of agencies members of this committee. The Secretariat explained on the dilation of the presentation of this point on three occasions in order to allow the participation of the agencies that had not been presented so far.

### **3.4. Operation of 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***

**33.** The Secretariat mentioned the discussions held in Panama, where the following points were highlighted: the working groups have been more productive in the implementation of the decisions of the Forum of Ministers, when adequately funded and when they focussed on specific issues; those with greater ITC agency participation had obtained more results; a high degree of governmental commitment both institutional and to support enhancements of the working groups' capabilities is vital to making this mechanism work. In the light of these

considerations, the experts in Panama recommended to the XVI Forum that working groups should be established or maintained only in cases where they contribute to the implementation of the ILAC, by means of concrete measures that generate specific outputs to an agreed timetable, and that the groups should receive the funding they need for their operations.

**34.** Several delegations agreed with the views of the earlier Meeting of Experts, some countries also stressing the need to overcome language barriers, while it was essential that adequate resources were allocated and that the setting up of groups reflected the priorities. Some delegations supported the work of the existing groups, specifically mentioning those on education and environmental indicators; proposals were also made for the constitution of new groups, including one to consider the question of risk management. As Vice-President of the Meeting, El Salvador was requested to present concrete proposals for the new groups.

**35.** It was also commented that there were various possible bases for discussion and exchange forums that did not necessarily involve setting up a working group. The Secretariat recalled the existence of networks on certain issues, such as that regarding environmental education, and the expert advisory panel on sustainable production and consumption. Proposals were debated for encouraging the merging of groups, with a view to their more efficient operation. The need to share successful experiences and expand South-South cooperation was also stressed.

### **3.5. Air quality**

#### ***a) Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum***

**36.** The experts reviewed the recommendations of the Meeting of High Level Government Experts held in Panama. The Secretariat reported that it was recommended on that occasion that Latin America and the Caribbean should consider participating, together with other UNEP regions, in the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum, as well as the possibility of setting up a network of government agencies on air pollution at regional level, to be led by the UNEP Regional Office and in association with other strategic actors of the region. This would operate for two years, with the aim of building capacities in the region. A representative of the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum gave a presentation on the progress made in the implementation of such initiative.

**37.** The UNEP/ROLAC Regional Director commented that in this case, as with other issues already debated, there was a need to define the scope of the proposed decisions that had been circulated under the coordination of Mexico and supported by the Forum Secretariat and the Rapporteur of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts.

#### ***b) Improvement in fuel quality***

**38.** The Secretariat referred to the debate in Panama and the recommendation of the experts that the Region should take note of the recommendations and discussions at various relevant events that were taking place in the Region, as well as of the need to intensify public-private dialogues and the role of all sectors involved in cleaner vehicles and fuel, so as to promote commitment and action

within a regional, sub-regional and national planning framework. It was also recognized that the aim of cutting polluting emissions while taking advantage of the latest developments in vehicle and fuel technologies called for the countries to act to reduce the sulphur content of vehicle fuels. At this point, Gianni López, representing the Alliance for Cleaner Fuels, addressed the meeting.

39. One delegation proposed the presentation of a Decision on the issue, which was seconded by other countries. Also mentioned were measures being taken at national level in certain countries. Some countries highlighted the issues of the burning of solid wastes, development of cleaner fuels, pollution created by carbon black, and urban transport.

#### **Agenda Item 4. Implementation of the decisions of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers**

40. The meeting reviewed in detail the activities<sup>(8)</sup> involved in implementing the decisions of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

41. In order to discuss this point, the Meeting of Experts had a report<sup>(9)</sup> prepared on the Secretariat where the results of the implementation of the decisions adopted in the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers is explained, including in particular, the measures adopted by UNEP with regard to natural disasters, climate change and environmental indicators.

42. The participants in the Preparatory Meeting of Experts made a timely review of the activities undertaken to implement the decisions of the 15<sup>th</sup> Forum of Ministers. During this period, some coordinating countries of the Working Groups reported on the actions undertaken in accordance with their respective programs of work. Similarly, there were interventions by the representatives of the UNEP Caribbean Environment Program's Sub regional Office for the Caribbean, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Global Mechanism of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. For their part, the representatives of MERCOSUR and CCAD member countries, with the support of the CARICOM member countries, proposed the presentation of a draft decision to the Forum of Ministers on Sustainable Land Management within the framework of the UNCCD.

43. Consideration of the progress of the decisions of the Forum generated a lengthy exchange. The countries responsible for the various groups informed about the activities carried out. When draft decision concerning the Island Developing States was discussed, information was provided about the contributions from the UNEP Regional Coordination Unit for the Caribbean. The Secretariat referred to the progress of Small Island Developing States in compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

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<sup>(8)</sup> See document "Report on the implementation of the decisions of the XV Meeting of the Forum of Ministries of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/5).

<sup>(9)</sup> See document "Report of the Meeting of High Level Government Experts (Panama 30-31 August 2007)" UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/4.

44. In other interventions, attention was drawn to the need to continue to enhance the links between health and environment, to continue supporting PLACEA and that their coordination was undertaken by Brazil, who made several announcements regarding ongoing activities. On the other hand, Argentina reiterated its offer to host the Inter-American Congress on Environmental Education in that country and stated the convenience of involving youths, indigenous communities and the English-speaking countries.

45. With respect to the indicators, a report was submitted on the activities carried out during the five years that the group has been operating; in particular the alliances with universities and research institutions were underlined. It was recommended that the work continue under the chair of Costa Rica, on which a draft decision will be circulated.

46. Furthermore, the experts examined the report of the meeting of the Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Distribution of the Benefits Derived from their Use <sup>(10)</sup>, which took place in Paipa, Colombia, on 21 and 22 September, 2007. This meeting was convened to follow up the agreements of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of the Working Group was to examine the agenda items of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on this matter established under the Convention on Biodiversity, facilitating the exchange of information, perspectives and viewpoints on this international process. The results of the deliberations of the Working Group ended at its fifth meeting (Montreal, Canada, 8-12 October 2007) and Sixth Meeting (Geneva, Switzerland, 21-25 January 2008) will be submitted for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting to be held in Bonn, Germany in May 2008. The adoption of the recommendations made in Paipa was proposed, and considerations regarding the participation of indigenous peoples in these processes were also examined.

47. Consistent with the discussion sustained, the participants in the Preparatory Meeting of Experts proposed adopting a number of decisions to continue and strengthen the actions already undertaken.

### **Agenda Item 5. Report on implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building**

48. The Director of UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean presented a detailed report on the activities undertaken by the programme, as regards applying this important cooperation mechanism. The meeting took note of the report.

### **Agenda Item 6. Status of the implementation and future prospects of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)**

49. The meeting took note of the reports presented by the representatives of various Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other global environmental

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<sup>(10)</sup> See "Report of the Working Group Meeting on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits" (Paipa, Colombia 20-21 September 2007) - UNEP / LAC IGWG.XVI/9.

initiatives, such as UNEP Caribbean Environment Program's Regional Coordination Unit, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Global Mechanism of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, MERCOSUR and CCAD; the statements are reflected in paragraph of 42 of this Report.

### **Agenda Item 7. Other matters**

50. As this agenda item was submitted to the plenary, no initiatives were presented to address additional items.

### **Agenda Item 8. Closing of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts.**

51. The meeting was closed by Mr. Jose Almonte, Chairman of the Preparatory Meeting of Expert, on behalf of the Government of the Dominican Republic.

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## Annex II Decisions Proposals

*The Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Governments present at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 27<sup>th</sup> January through 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2007, taking into account the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts and the deliberations of this Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, adopted the following decisions:*

### DRAFT DECISION 1

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#### EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ILAC)

**Bearing in mind** that the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean is the main regional intergovernmental political forum on environmental matters and offers the region's environmental authorities a platform for organizing action and deliberating on the main challenges on the world and regional environmental agenda, in the context of sustainable development;

**Given** that the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for sustainable development (ILAC) recognizes the importance of the sub-regional and regional processes for promoting sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and addresses the need to bring practical sense to the process of sustainable development, reflecting the peculiarities, visions and goals of the region;

**Recognizing** that five years on from their adoption, the processes applied in implementing the ILAC need to be evaluated, with a view to defining priority areas and, where necessary, adjusting the Regional Action Plan for the ensuing two-year periods;

**Bearing in mind** the evaluation carried out on the implementation of the ILAC<sup>(11)</sup>, as well as the recommendations contained in that document;

#### DECIDE:

**1. To take note** of the report coordinated by the presidency of the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers on the progress achieved in applying the ILAC. In this context, they thank the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its leadership and contribution to this first assessment.

**2. To redouble** regional, sub-regional and national efforts in applying the ILAC, to be able to honour the commitments assumed at the Johannesburg summit and the Millennium Development Goals, especially those relating to the cross-border aspects of environmental policies.

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<sup>(11)</sup> See document UNEP/LAC-IG.XVI/3/Rev.2.

**3. To decide** that, with the aim of continuing the implementation of the ILAC, the priority action areas of the Initiative where the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean will be concentrating their efforts, during the period 2008-2012, shall be:

ILAC AREA	PRIORITIES
Climate change	It is recognized the linkages between climate change and all ILAC areas (including renewable energy and energy efficiency)
Biodiversity	Increase of the forest area
	Genetic resources- equitable sharing of benefits
Water management	Watershed management
	Management of marine and coastal areas and their resources
Vulnerability, human settlements and sustainable cities	Vulnerability and risk management
	Waste management
Social issues, including health, inequity and poverty	Health and environment (pollution and chemicals)
Economic issues, including competitiveness, trade and production and consumption patterns (energy)	Sustainable Production and Consumption
Institutional arrangements	Evaluation and indicators
	Environmental education

**4. To step up** cooperation initiatives, especially South-South cooperation, oriented towards implementation of the ILAC.

**5.** To conduct a review of lessons learned and challenges arising from the implementation of the RAP, and to prepare during the intercessional period, a conceptual review of its structure and implementation modalities, in order to assess the establishment of joint programs with the agencies of the Interagency Technical Committee, without prejudice to the activities carried out by agencies individually. In this respect, they accept the invitation extended by the Government of Argentina to hold an intercessional meeting of decision makers in that country during the second half of 2008.

**6. To thank** the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) for their efforts supporting implementation of the ILAC.

**7. To seek** contributions from the ITC's agencies in the areas where they have experience and comparative advantages and in the framework of their respective mandates, with a view to supporting the efforts of the nations of the region in continuing the implementation of the ILAC.

**8. To agree** to adopt a system for monitoring the implementation of the ILAC, every four years with the aim of regularly evaluating the progress of the Initiative leading to an overall assessment in 2012.



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**DRAFT DECISION 2**  
**REGIONAL ACTION PLAN 2008-2009**

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**Reiterating** that the Regional Action Plan is the primary tool of the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean for launching the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC);

**Taking into consideration**, similarly, that the Regional Action Plan 2006-2007 was approved by the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean was approved at its Fifteenth meeting, in Venezuela in November 2005;

**Highlighting** the need to maintain implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), prepared and adopted by the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean and approved at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, in Johannesburg;

**Bearing in mind** the evaluation of, and recommendations on, the implementation of the ILAC submitted to the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean at its Sixteenth Meeting<sup>(12)</sup>;

**DECIDE:**

**1. To reaffirm** that the Regional Action Plan is a basic tool for the progressive implementation of the ILAC.

**2. To develop** a new matrix for drawing up the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009, to reflect the following aims:

- a) Define the scope and perspective for implementation of the eight areas of ILAC priority action;
- b) Determine the objectives for each of the eight areas mentioned;
- c) Identify the main areas of work needed to carry the proposed actions forward;
- d) Agree on indicators for assess progress in the implementation of the eight priority-action areas;
- e) Record the actions taken by the countries and by the ITC's agencies in the context of the priorities set.

**3. To request** the Forum Secretariat to prepare a draft Regional Action Plan for 2008-2009, aimed at the implementation of ILAC, focusing on the lines of action agreed by the Forum of Ministers through decision 1 at its Sixteenth Meeting, incorporating the comments made during the preparatory expert meeting. This proposal should be distributed to countries in the region within 30 days from the conclusion of the meeting, so that they may send their observations within a maximum of fifteen days upon reception. The Secretariat will circulate the final version for approval fifteen days after receiving comments from the countries.

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<sup>(12)</sup> See document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/3/Rev.2.

**4. To adopt** the matrix appearing as Appendix 1 to this Annex which is part of this decision, for the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009, as a model for development of RAP 2008-2009.

**5. To urge** the ITC agencies to support the countries of the region and involve themselves actively in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009; in particular:

**6. To request** the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers to prepare a report on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009, in consultation with the countries and the ITC agencies, for submission to the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

### **DRAFT DECISION 3**

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#### **COMPOSITION AND MANDATE OF THE INTER-AGENCY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**In the light** of the process of reform of the United Nations, addressing the need to maintain progress in coordinating and supporting efforts to use resources more efficiently and to work together to produce concrete results responding to needs identified by the countries;

**Ratifying** the decisions adopted at the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Ministers in Lima, Peru, in March 1998, by means of decision 8 determining the composition and terms of reference of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC);

#### **DECIDE:**

**1. To maintain** the operation of the ITC under the coordination of UNEP, which will facilitate participation in the Committee by both the UN System agencies and programmes and other international institutions, based on the alliances forged with the UNDP, ECLAC, the IDB and the World Bank.

**2. To ratify** the decision taken at its Eleventh meeting, that it is the responsibility of the Forum of Ministers to review proposals for the addition of further agencies, based on their compliance with the following conditions:

- a) They offer comparative advantages and would add value as members of the ITC;
- b) They have experience and skills in the implementation of projects, programmes and other activities related to the priority issues on the region's environmental agenda and reflected in the ILAC;
- c) They contribute new, additional resources for the implementation of the ILAC, especially as regards the application of the Regional Action Plan;
- d) They demonstrate the ability and readiness to cooperate with all the countries represented on the Forum of Ministers.

**3. To express** its willingness to make use of the experience and comparative advantages of the various international agencies that carry out activities addressing environmental matters and sustainable development, as a mechanism for intensifying the efforts and activities and promote inter-agency coordination as

regards the programmes undertaken by such agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean, and thereby respond effectively to the priorities agreed by the Forum of Ministers, in the Regional Action Plan.

**4. To renew** the mandate of the Inter-agency Technical Committee, on the basis of terms of reference including the following:

- a) To work on a coordinated basis on the preparation, business and monitoring of the meetings of the Forum of Ministers.
- b) To submit alternatives for implementing the Forum's decisions regarding continued progress in the implementation of the ILAC.
- c) To seek technical support for design and development of projects to be implemented as part of the Regional Action Plan.
- d) To conduct activities aimed at identifying possible sources of funding for the projects.
- e) To obtain the agreement and coordinate the actions of the participating agencies and institutions, on the Forum agenda's priority issues.
- f) To support the performance of specific tasks assigned to the relevant ad-hoc working groups,

**5. To consider** the development of joint programs within the framework of ILAC for the effective implementation of such initiative.

**6. To thank** the UNDP, ECLAC, UNEP, the World Bank and the IDB for their contributions to the individual and collective efforts of the Latin American and Caribbean nations to improve the environmental conditions and living standards of their peoples.

**6. To urge** the ITC's agencies to continue supporting the dialogue, the efforts to get agreement and the regional, sub-regional and national projects undertaken by the Latin American and Caribbean nations, towards sustainable development and environmental safeguarding, in line with the relevant ILAC strategy.

#### **DRAFT DECISION 4**

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#### **FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUPS**

**Bearing** in mind decision 1 at the Eleventh Meeting of Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, Peru, 1998); decision 2 of the Fourteenth Meeting (Panama, November 2003) and other relevant decisions of the Forum of Ministers, which established the mandate and terms of reference of the working groups;

**Aware** that the working groups have been more productive in the implementation of decisions of the Forum of Ministers when they have focussed on specific issues;

**Acknowledging** that the working groups with greater representation by the ITC's executive agencies have achieved better results;

**Taking account** of the recommendations of the meeting of the ITC held in Panama on 29-31 August 2007;

## DECIDE:

**1. To reaffirm** that the criteria for setting up or maintaining the working groups include the following: that they contribute to the implementation of the ILAC, focussing on specific actions; that they generate specific outputs to a set timetable and receive the resources and/or support needed to undertake their given tasks.<sup>(13)</sup>

**2. Urge** countries to support the effective functioning of the working groups through the following measures:

- a) The member countries of the Working Groups shall designate appropriate focal points, which should have the ability to communicate with the appropriate institutions within their countries, and be committed to participate efficiently in the Working Groups.
- b) Languages requirements addressed.
- c) The technical and administrative support shall be provided by the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers.

**3. Establish**, based on the above criteria, for the biennium 2008-2009, the following Working Groups, which will be open to participation by all countries in the region:

- a) Environmental Indicators
- b) Risk Management;
- c) Access to Genetic Resources;
- d) Climate Change;
- e) Management of Marine and Coastal Areas and their Resources;
- f) Environmental Education for Sustainable Development.

**4. Request** that the coordinating countries of the Working Groups engage in consultations with the member countries of the respective Working Groups for the purpose of preparing a matrix that would set up (i) the group's objectives, (ii) the specific results, (iii) the resources that will be used to undertake the activities, and (iv) the agencies that should support the activities of the same groups. The coordinating countries of the Working Groups will report to the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers about the preparation of said matrix within 30 days as of the adoption of this decision. A precondition for the existence of the Working Groups is the adoption of the respective matrix by the member countries of the Working Group. A set of preliminary proposals were integrated in the course of the deliberations of the XVI Forum of Ministers, these are attached in Appendix 2, as an indicative source.

**5. Request** the ITC's agencies to support the tasks of the working groups and other interested partners, financially and otherwise, based on the agencies' mandates and work programmes.

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<sup>(13)</sup> **Annex II** to the present document contains the description of preliminary terms of reference for the five working groups approved by the Preparatory Meeting of Experts.

**6. To urge** the working groups to:

- a) Invite the secretariats of the regional integration organizations and forums to participate in specific activities, in line with the content of paragraph 2 *supra*;
- b) Meet between sessions following the ITC meetings to review progress and decide the future direction for obtaining the outputs sought, in accordance with their mandate from the Forum of Ministers;
- c) Inform the secretariat of the Forum of Ministers regarding progress in obtaining the output sought, to enable the secretariat to keep the chairman of the Forum informed, providing a report on the results of the inter-session meetings for circulation among the countries participating in the region's Environmental Forum of Ministers;
- d) Use electronic media for maintaining communication and the flow of information between physical meetings.

**7. To request** the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers to continue its operating support for and facilitation of the activities of the working groups, especially as regards calling meetings, including but not limited to electronic communications and simultaneous interpreting.

**8. To take note** of the focal points designated by the countries, the former assuming responsibility on behalf of the latter for the commitments by each working group to generate a specific output. The designation of the focal points will be notified to the secretariat of the Forum of Ministers.

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**DRAFT DECISION 5**

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**SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS).**

**Recognizing** the special vulnerabilities and particular structural circumstances as regards small size, extreme open exposure, the concentration of a narrow range of basic export products, limited capacity for diversification and high susceptibility to natural disasters as articulated by Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPOA), the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI);

**Taking into account** decision 4 of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean;

**Recognizing** and appreciating the work done by UNEP in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and the Caribbean Community in the development of the Caribbean SIDS Programme;

**Acknowledging** the role played by the Ministerial Support Group on South-South Cooperation between Latin American countries and Caribbean SIDS under the Chairmanship of Chile in supporting the implementation of the Caribbean SIDS Programme;

**Acknowledging also** the contribution made by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and other regional and international organizations including *inter alia*, the

GM/UNCCD, the UNCCD Secretariat, FAO and UNEP/ROLAC to the development of the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management as part of the Caribbean SIDS Programme;

**Taking note of** the adoption by the Heads of State and Governments of paragraphs 55(d) and 66 of Resolution No. A/60/L. 1 of the United Nations World Summit of September 2005 and the adoption in August 2005 of United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 59/31 concerning the International Meeting to review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS);

**Also noting** at a meeting in St. Kitts and Nevis in October 2005 that the Caribbean SIDS have engaged in follow-up activities on the implementation of the MSI;

**Further noting** the important contribution made by the Caribbean Environment Programme Regional Coordinating Unit in advancing the relevant priorities of the BPOA and MSI;

**Noting** also the considerable efforts that the Caribbean SIDS have made in the implementation of the BPOA and the MSI;

#### **DECIDE:**

- 1. To urge** further development and implementation of the Caribbean SIDS programme and the establishment of a review mechanism consisting of Caribbean SIDS to monitor its implementation and to ensure that it reflects the goals of the MSI and emerging development needs and priorities of the Caribbean SIDS.
- 2. To request** the Inter Agency Technical Committee of the Forum to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the Caribbean SIDS Programme, as well the strengthening of the institutional capacity of SIDS at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.
- 3. To call** on UNEP to maintain and further develop its technical programme for Caribbean SIDS.
- 4. To assist** Caribbean SIDS to address the environmental dimensions of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) through the development of appropriate policies and programmes at the national and sub regional levels.
- 5. To call on** UNEP to continue its support to the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) as a means of strengthening the region's institutional and technical capacity to adapt and respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and to develop cooperative initiatives with similar institutions within Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 6. To urge** the Inter Agency Technical Committee of the Forum to assist Caribbean SIDS in the development of programmes, strategies and action plans to prepare for and respond to the effects of global climate change and to develop a facility which encourages the development of technology transfer to assist with the implementation of these activities.
- 7. To call** on the Inter Agency Technical Committee and other relevant development partners to assist the Caribbean SIDS in strengthening their ability to

reduce risk and to mitigate and respond to the consequences of natural and man-made hazards, and to address issues such as insurance and re-insurance.

**8. To urge** UNEP to provide additional support in addressing trade and environment issues, particularly in view of the entering into force of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

**9. The request** to UNEP, GM/UNCCD, FAO and UNCCD Secretariat to continue supporting the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management as a main component of the Caribbean SIDS Programme and as a vehicle for enhancing synergistic implementation of related MEAs.

**10. To urge** the Forum of Ministers through its Ministerial Support Group, chaired by the Government of Chile to further explore the development of a modality for facilitating the South-South cooperation between Latin American countries and Caribbean SIDS, and to make specific recommendations to the Forum at its next meeting.

**11. To urge** the full and effective participation of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the work group on Access to Genetic Resources and the equitable sharing of benefits.

**12. To identify** gaps in the existing data, information and capacity for environmental monitoring, assessment, and decision-making, including ILAC indicators, in SIDS and make an effort to fill the gaps through institutional capacity building with the help of the ITC and the working Group on Environmental Indicators.

**13. To urge** that support be given to Caribbean SIDS for the development and strengthening of environmental awareness programmes, campaigns and materials targeting all stakeholders, including, *inter alia*, decision makers, the public and private sectors and civil society – using traditional and non-traditional means, such as: Caribbean artistic, cultural and sporting activities and experiences as the primary media.

**14. To urge** that a greater effort be made by the ITC, the Forum Secretariat and other relevant partners including *inter alia* the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Environment Programme to seek to coordinate their interventions in Caribbean SIDS, to increase complementarity between them as well as their effectiveness and to maximize the benefits to be derived there from.

## DRAFT DECISION 6

### ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

**Noting** that the indicators approved in relation to the guiding goals and indicative purposes of the ILAC enhance the ability of the countries to measure their achievements and successes against the Millennium Development Goals (MDG);

**Observing** the need to increase the availability, accessibility, harmonization and articulation of information on the environment and sustainable development, to assess progress in the implementation of the ILAC, the MDGs, and other international and regional initiatives;

**Underlining also** the need to double up regional efforts to equip every country with a national system of environmental statistics and indicators;

**Reaffirming** the commitment of the nations of the region to harmonize their methods for collecting environmental statistics and indicators, within the framework of the Forum led by the Government of Costa Rica as coordinator of the working group on the Forum's environmental indicators;

**Acknowledging** the progress in implementing decision 11 of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum (Venezuela, November 2005) on environmental indicators;

**In the light of** the inter-agency cooperation framework agreement signed by UNEP and ECLAC in May 2005, with the main goals of strengthening and developing national technical capacities, contributing to improvements in the production and quality of environmental statistics and in access to these within the countries, reducing the burden imposed by the preparation of information needed for integrating environmental statistics in the countries of the region and promoting the dissemination and use of environmental information to strengthen the decision-making processes and related assessments;

**Also taking into account** the resolution of the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas that created an initiative group, under the leadership of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee (Colombia) and with participation of ECLAC, UNEP, and interested member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas for the purpose of establishing the terms of reference and mandate of a future working group on environmental statistics for consideration and approval at the next meeting of the Executive Committee;

**Having regard to** the debates and recommendations of the meeting of High-Level Government Experts in Panama on 29-31 August 2007<sup>(14)</sup>;

#### **DECIDE:**

**1. To endorse** the recommendations of the Forum's working group on environmental indicators, arising from its meeting on 4 and 5 July, 2007 and of the Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee in Geo-Spatial Information and Systems of Observation of the Earth of the same working Group that was held on 6 July, 2007<sup>15</sup>.

**2. To accept** the work plan of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Geospatial Information and Earth Observation Systems of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum.

**3. To support** the continuation of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum, coordinated by Costa Rica, and its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Geospatial Information and Earth Observation Systems, coordinated by Panama.

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<sup>(14)</sup> See document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/4**.

<sup>(15)</sup> See documents **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/Ref.2** and **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/Ref.2/Add.1**.



**4. To request** the help of the said Working Group and its TAC to finalize the methodological sheets of the agreed indicators, and define missing indicators for ILAC goals, especially the Guiding goals 3.1 and 6.1.

**5. To request also** the Working Group a regular review of the relevance of the indicators to the regional and sub-regional priorities, as well as to main lines of PAR 2008-2009.

**6. To initiate** application of the ILAC indicators, with the schedules for calculating these, at national level, within the framework of the Forum, in order to assess progress in the implementation of the ILAC and request UNDP and ECLAC and other ITC Agencies to contribute and support the mobilization of the necessary financial resources so that in the 2010 all the countries of the region they count with a system of ILAC indicators.

**7. To request** the Working Group of Environmental Indicators to serve as body for consultation so that countries can obtain assistance in the application of ILAC indicators.

**8. To designate** national focal points to facilitate and promote the application of ILAC indicators in countries.

**9. To promote** use in the region and in the international forums of the ILAC indicators to complement those of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) so as to ensure proper measurement of environmental variables, especially as regards Objective 7.

**10. To renew** the proposal for the Regional Environmental Statistics System for Latin America and the Caribbean (SIREA) and draw up a strategic plan for its implementation and building of the capacities required at national level for generating, processing and disseminating statistics and indicators, including development of national information systems, with particular attention to the strengthening of national capacity of Caribbean island states.

**11. To initiate** exchanges of national experience in order to advance with the application of national accounts, for integrated management of the environment and natural resources.

**12. To continue** supporting the preparation of GEO reports at regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national levels, reflecting both the ILAC indicators and other specific priority issues.

**13. To request** the ITC's agencies, in accordance with their respective mandates, and other regional and sub-regional organizations, to cooperate with the Working Group of Environmental Indicators of the Forum on enhancing and consolidating the environmental indicators and geospatial information and Earth Observation Systems.

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**DRAFT DECISION 7**  
**ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION**

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**Recognizing** that the region has undergone increasing atmospheric pollution of primarily urban origin, affecting public health, productivity and the inhabitants' quality of life;

**Reaffirming** the importance of having reliable key information as the basis for accurate appraisal of such impacts and the associated costs;

**Noting** that there is a clear diagnosis of the key factors in the region's urban pollution, namely extensive urban development with serious problems in regulating land use, increasing levels of automobile traffic (ECLAC, 2006a), population growth, and economic development accompanied by higher energy consumption and erosion of the biogenic factors;

**Recognizing** also the efforts in the region to control air pollution and establish information systems that contribute to comprehensive management of air quality as a public policy;

**Reaffirming** the importance of pollutant emissions from transport, and of making progress in reducing the sulphur content in vehicle fuels, with the aim of cutting the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere and taking advantage of the latest automobile and associated technologies;

**Taking account of** UNEP's participation in the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum;

**DECIDE:**

- 1. To establish** a regional network of authorities tasked with addressing atmospheric pollution, to effect technical exchanges and promote the development of capacities during the period 2008-2009, and evaluate options to reduce the atmospheric pollution, including assessment of proposals for reducing the sulphur content of the fuels available in the region and setting a possible timetable for this.
- 2. To review** the operation of the network just mentioned at the 17th meeting of the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2009, and define the subsequent actions.
- 3. To express** its willingness to enhance the public-private dialogue and the roles of all the various sectors involved; to promote commitments and action to promote the reduction of atmospheric pollution, including the use of cleaner vehicles and fuels, within a regional, sub-regional and national planning framework.
- 4. To continue** participating, through the Global Forum on air Pollution in the activities on exchange of information, the capacity building and to evaluate the appropriate measures to reduce the contamination of the air.

## DRAFT DECISION 8

### BETTER FUELS FOR BETTER AIR QUALITY

**Recalling** the recommendation of representatives of governments and experts at the South American Conference on Sulfur Fuels held in Quito on February 13-14, 2007;

**Considering** that the introduction of cleaner fuels along with policies and programs for more efficient cars harmonized at the regional level is one of the most cost-effective and efficient ways to deal with the problems of urban air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

**Recognizing** that the high content of sulfur in gasoline and diesel increases emissions of pollutants from vehicles, including particulate matter, and affects the proper operation of emission treatment systems, such as, for example, catalytic converters;

**Mindful** that political and technological solutions exist and have proven their effectiveness in many places around the world; however, it is necessary to enhanced financial resources and strengthened technology support to developing countries;

**Noting** the positive experiences in the introduction of clean fuels and vehicles in some cities and countries of the region;

**Recalling** the work to date on clean fuels and vehicles to improve air quality by the UNEP-based Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), the Pan American Health Organization, the Latin American Initiative for Clean Air (now Clean Air Institute), the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CICAD), the Center for Inter-American Commission for Environment and Development (CICAD) and other regional organizations, their partners and collaborators.

#### DECIDE:

- 1. To advocate** improving fuel quality in order to enhance the protection of people's health through cleaner fuels and vehicles with lower-emission technologies, in line with the global goals of the UNEP-based Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV).
- 2. To highlight** the successful phase-out of leaded gasoline from the Latin American and Caribbean market and that the application of lessons learned can significantly help reduce the levels of sulfur in fuel.
- 3. To recognize and support** the commitments to reduce Sulfur content already programmed in several countries in the region.
- 4. To promote** the reduction of Sulfur content in fuels, targeting a goal of 50 parts per million of sulfur with an emphasis on countries with air quality problems in their metropolitan areas.

**5. To stress** that in order to comply with the target of improving the fuels quality and the living conditions it is necessary to take into account the national conditions and to promote access to financial resources and technology transfer.

**5. To include** enhanced fuels and vehicles in the priorities of the Forum of Ministers on matters of Health and Environment.

**6. To enhance** public /private dialogue in order to promote commitments and actions on clean fuels and vehicles and to ensure proper implementation and participation by all the sectors involved.

**7. To request** technical, financial and capability support from the above organizations, their partners and collaborators, especially at country level in Latin America and the Caribbean, to achieve the above desulphurization goals and promote cleaner fuels, as well as more effective standards and cars.

## DRAFT DECISION 9

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### NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS

**Confirming** the commitment of countries in the region to Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Application Plan, the Millennium Goals, and decision 5 of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, to promote sustainable and integrated management of natural resources;

**Recognising** that protected areas make a vital contribution to the conservation of the world's natural and cultural resources, and are indispensable instruments to achieve sustainable development objectives and improve the well-being of our peoples;

**Stressing** the important contribution that natural protected areas and their sustainable management make to achieve Goal 2010, to significantly reduce the present rate of biodiversity loss, and in helping to diminish poverty and following up on sustainable development;

**Bearing in mind** the celebration of the 2nd Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas, held from 30 September to 6 October 2007 in Bariloche, Argentina;

**Reaffirming** the importance of local communities and other organized groups of the society in defining and implementing natural protected areas management programmes;

### DECIDE:

**1. Reaffirm** its support of and commitment to the conclusions of the Declaration of Bariloche, put forward by the 2nd Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas.

**2. Support** the consolidation of the work of the Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on National Parks, Other Protected Areas and Wildlife (REDPARQUES) as a regional integration and cooperation mechanism.

**3. Thank** the Government of Mexico for the invitation to participate in the next meeting of the National Coordinators of REDPARQUES to be held in March 2008 in Merida, Yucatan (Mexico).

**4. Make** progress on the Programme on Protected Areas, agreed within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly in formulating goals designed to produce results concerning extension, representation and effectiveness of national protected areas systems, including terrestrial and marine and coastal areas.

**5. Strengthen** regional cooperation and technical assistance activities, in order to support the region's efforts to implement sustainable management of its natural protected areas.

**6. Promote** the international dissemination of information about the benefits of cooperation in the region during the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Protected Areas Programme, to be held from 11-15 February in Rome, Italy.

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#### DRAFT DECISION 10

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#### SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**Considering** that the World Summit on Sustainable Development that took place in Johannesburg called for the promotion of a 10-year framework of programs to support national and regional initiatives in order to accelerate the transition toward sustainable consumption and production patterns;

**Bearing in mind** that the Marrakech Process is a global process to support the implementation of concrete projects on SCP and the elaboration of a 10-year framework of programmes on SCP which will be presented to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) during its 2010-2011 cycle;

**Considering that** in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Latin American and Caribbean countries expressed the need to incorporate the concepts of cleaner production in industry and, at the same time, to work toward sustainable consumption;

**Bearing in mind** the results of the meetings of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the existence of the Regional Council of Governmental Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production; and the previous decisions approved by the Forum of Ministers in Panama (2003) and Venezuela (2005) ratifying their agreement on implementation of the Regional SCP Strategy;

**In view of** the Marrakech Process has had an important achievement in the development and implementation of national and sub-regional policies and projects on SCP;

**Considering** the valuable contributions made by sub-regional organizations, NGOs, the network of national cleaner production centers, scientific and technical

communities, trade unions, and business and industry during the Fourth Regional Meeting of Experts on SCP.

**DECIDE:**

**1. To approve** the Action Plan on SCP<sup>(16)</sup>, prepared according to the needs and priorities of each sub-region, taking into account the ILAC, the prior decisions made by the Forum of Ministers on this subject, the Regional Strategy of SCP, the pre-existing plans in the sub-regions, and the contributions made by the major groups (business and industry, NGOs, trade unions, scientific and technical communities, youth, and local authorities, among others).

**2. To ratify and provide support** for the implementation of the priority areas of SCP those are common to all sub-regions, taking into consideration the themes identified in the Final Report of the Fourth Meeting of Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption of Latin America and the Caribbean (Sao Paulo, Brazil; 18th and 19th October 2007) including inter alia:

- a) National Dialogues to be open and participative to all sectors of society and other processes
- b) Small and medium size enterprises
- c) Sustainable public procurement;
- d) National policies and action plans on SCP;
- e) Regional information networks on SCP.

**3. To take** the necessary actions to guarantee the fulfilment of the Regional Action Plan on SCP related to the mobilization and allocation of funds for national and regional activities.

**4. To promote** the strengthening of institutions responsible for SCP in each country and to maintain the active participation of these institutions in the regional activities related to SCP.

**5. To promote** the mainstreaming of SCP in other areas of economic and social development of the countries of the region.

**6. To request support** from development cooperation agencies as well as subregional organizations in order to secure additional funding to increase SCP activities in the region.

**7. To include** the topic of the Marrakech Process and Chapter III of the Implementation Plan of Johannesburg in the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment. The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production should be then reviewed and approved, so that it can be submitted to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in 2010-2011.

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<sup>(16)</sup> See **Annex IV** of reference document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVI/6/Rev.1**.

## DRAFT DECISION 11

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Considering** the decision adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, referring to the adaptation of the Environmental Training Network Work Programme and the implementation of ILAC and the incorporation of the Latin American and Caribbean Environment Education Programme (PLACEA), as well as the Andean-Amazon Plan on Environmental Education and Communication;

**Recognizing** the coordinating role of PLACEA by Venezuela during the biennium 2006-2007, as well as the rule established by PLACEA to rotate the leadership of the Programme among the countries of the region, and the initiative of Brazil to conduct the PLACEA in coordination with ROLAC during the biennium 2008-2009;

**Considering** the need to expand and strengthen current operational mechanisms of the Environmental Training Network Programme, especially regarding the adoption of decisions and the allocation of resources;

**Considering** the actions being taken by different governments of the region in the framework of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014, in particular the strengthening of public policies and National strategies of Environmental Education;

**Recognizing** the existence of a significant environmental education movement in Latin America and the Caribbean that reflects the growing commitment of communities to education processes and their contribution to the construction of sustainable societies;

**Convinced** of the need to make progress in strengthening environmental education programmes as part of the public policy of various countries in the region through cooperation, communication and exchange processes among countries;

#### DECIDE:

**1. To strengthen** the capacity of the Environmental Training Network to promote, articulate and coordinate the process of environmental education and training in the countries of the region, particularly in the development of the activities of PLACEA (and of other associated subregional programmes), and the establishment and development of National Environmental Training and Education Networks.

**2. To extend** the operation of the Network Trust Fund through the XVII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, asking UNEP to continue managing this Fund.

**3. To ask** the countries of the region to pay their pending contributions, and to meet their annual commitments to the Network Trust Fund.

**4. To continue** the activities of the Environmental Training Network in accordance to the guidelines approved at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment, adapted to the priorities of the ILAC and ROLAC's Regional Action Plan.

**5. To establish** regional strategies and inter-governmental, inter-institutional and inter-agency cooperation mechanisms, including consortia, alliances and

associations of Universities for the development of environmental training courses, and e-learning non-resident courses on priority subjects of the region that enable a multiplying process in the creation of capacities.

**6. To continue** supporting the organization of national, regional and sub-regional conferences and seminars on Environmental Education, in particular the VI Ibero American Congress on Environmental Education, in order to channel actions on behalf of environmental education and foster Ibero-American cooperation in this field.

**7. To continue** supporting the training of teachers, including local community teachers, within the basic education systems.

**8. To continue** promoting and developing the community training project for sustainable development.

**9. To assign** to the Government of Brazil the organization of the PLACEA during the biennium 2008-2009 in coordination with ROLAC.

**10. To reiterate** the request made to UNEP and the Inter-Agency Technical Committee to identify and manage financial resource, in accordance with their specific mandates and the contents of ILAC, to support the implementation of PLACEA.

**11. To support** the orientation and development of PLACEA training activities towards the furthering and strengthening of capacity-building at the national level, especially considering the priority topics identified by the Forum in the framework of ILAC, as well as the Johannesburg agreements and the millennium development goals, through formal and informal education.

**12. To exhort** the Ministers of the Environment of the countries to strengthen the environmental education units so that they may count with the necessary human and financial resources to comply with the PLACEA objectives and biennial programme of activities.

**13. To organize** a workshop with the participation of the representatives of the Network's National Focal Points during the first months of 2008, to define a Regional Action Plan 2008-2009 for PLACEA, as well as subregional plans, as well as the strategies for their implementation.

**14. To support** the organization of a subregional programme on environmental education, targeting all stakeholders, including *inter alia*, decision-makers, public and private sector and civil society, of the non-Spanish speaking Caribbean countries, and its integration to PLACEA.

**15. To make** progress in the promotion of new education strategies (including digital technology) that strengthen the participatory processes in the collective building of environmental knowledge, especially knowledge rooted in the poorest communities and other traditionally excluded groups, that permit an exchange of experiences and a dialogue of knowledge, while at the same time recognizing their contribution to nature conservation and socio-environmental sustainability, and furthering their linkage to the environmental management actions of the countries of the region.



## DRAFT DECISION 12

### **ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND BENEFIT SHARING AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REGION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL REGIME**

**Considering** the principles of the Rio Declaration, particularly the sovereign right of the States to their natural resources, including genetic resources, Decision 8 of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, which confirms the strategic importance for the region, as owner of the greatest biodiversity of the planet, of ongoing negotiation of the International Regime on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);

**Reaffirming** that Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing is an issue of crucial importance for the countries of the region and that the status of the ongoing multilateral negotiations, mainly in the frame of the Convention on Biological Diversity require greater attention and participation of these, so that the regional needs and interests are protected and respected;

**Recalling** that in decision 8 it was resolved to create a working group as a regional discussion opportunity for the negotiations of the International Regime, as well as the promotion of regional and sub-regional activities, including the organization of meetings, Workshops and other means directed towards furthering knowledge and information exchange on the issue of access to genetic resources, benefit sharing and traditional knowledge, in identifying the priorities and demands of the region and place it in a better position in the negotiation process of the International Regime;

**Taking into consideration** the meeting of the Working Group (Paipa, Colombia, 20 and 21 September 2007) called upon by UNEP with the main purpose of addressing the topics on the agenda of the Fifth and Sixth Meetings of the Ad-hoc Open-ended Working Group on this issue established within the scope of the Convention on Biological Diversity, enabling information exchange, perspectives and points of view to be considered at said international process;

**Realizing** the importance of the results and recommendations arising from the meeting of the Working Group in Paipa and the proposal to the Sixth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing of the CBD in Geneva, as an important contribution for the participation of the countries of the region in the multilateral negotiations on Access and Benefit Sharing;

**Taking into consideration** that the Convention on Biological Diversity acknowledges the value of traditional knowledge of indigenous people and local communities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and promotes the fair and equitable benefit sharing;

**Observing** that the complex technical characteristics of this issue justify that the group may continue its work so that it may continue the contribution of specific knowledge on the issue, specifically taking into consideration the accelerated pace of the multilateral negotiations of the international regime;

**Taking note** of the recent developments in the International negotiation on this issue, specifically the results of the Fifth and Sixth Meetings of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**Considering** that the Draft Recommendation to the Sixth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group, recognizes the role of UNEP in the future contributions towards the increase and development of capacities;

**Particularly** noting with that the draft Decision of the Sixth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on ABS of CBD invites UNEP in consultation with the CBD Secretariat, to continue supporting and facilitating regional consultations and actions to enable a better preparation on access and benefit sharing;

**Considering** the actions to be carried out for the Ninth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity must be performed to strengthen the regional positions on the issue of Access and Benefit Sharing;

**Concerned** about the restrictions regarding the provision of international financing for the attendance of delegations from developing countries to multilateral negotiations and in particular the meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**DECIDE:**

- 1. To adopt** the recommendations of the Meeting of the Working Group held in Paipa, Colombia, on 20 and 21 September 2007.
- 2. To take** into account, consolidate and promote the regional positions presented by the GRULAC at the Sixth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on ABS of the CBD, held in Geneva, from 21 to 25 January 2008.
- 3. To ratify** the need that appropriate measures are taken to ensure that developing countries participate in multilateral negotiations, thus not undermining the representation, transparency and legitimacy of proposals and agreements consolidated at said meetings.
- 4. To reaffirm** that the document "Annex to decision VIII/4A on the International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing"<sup>(17)</sup>, the GRULAC proposal made at the Sixth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group, and the Annex of the Draft Resolution adopted in the above-mentioned meeting constitute the texts for the negotiations of the Ad-hoc Open-ended Working Group on ABS of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 5. To continue** with the activities of the Working Group, with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and to request for UNEP to provide the greatest amount of support possible to such effects and likewise, to evaluate the options to enable the optimization of the resources that may be used, through the use of communication tools which will include electronic dialogue and debate.
- 6. To promote** the organization of a new meeting of the Working Group of this Forum prior to the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention

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<sup>(17)</sup> See document [UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/5/2](#).

on Biological Diversity, to which effect they entrust UNEP with taking measures to obtain financing.

**7. To communicate** this Decision to the representatives of their respective country in the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), and entrust UNEP with informing this to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological.

### DRAFT DECISION 13

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#### STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF MAJOR GROUPS OF THE AGENDA 21

**Reaffirming** the validity and importance of decision 6 on the Participation of Civil Society, which emerged from the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean;

**Recalling** that, in the context of Agenda 21, UNEP recognizes nine major groups; namely: indigenous peoples and their communities; women; youth and children; workers and unions; farmers; the scientific and technological community; enterprises and industry; non governmental organizations; and local authorities; whose mutual cooperation and articulation becomes absolutely necessary;

**Considering** that the report on the implementation of the decisions of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean shows significant progress with regard to the involvement of civil society, but at the same time recognizing that the efforts can and should be strengthened towards broadening and deepening consultation and participation processes into major groups;

**Considering** the Declaration of the UNEP Regional Forum for Civil Society in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Monterrey, Mexico, on 12-14 October 2007;

**Recognizing** that the Declaration offers viable proposals that are in the interest of the governments and citizens;

**Considering** the Guidelines for improving the participation of the main groups at UNEP governance level and recalling that they will be brought for consideration and approval by the XXIV session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

#### DECIDE:

**1. To strengthen and expand** the participation and coordination mechanisms of civil society at the national, sub regional and regional levels in environmental decisions, according to the Principle 10 of the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* regarding social participation and access to information.

**2. To consider** the recommendations of the UNEP Regional Forum for Civil Society in Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to the *Guidelines for improving the participation of major groups at UNEP governance*.

**3. To promote** the strengthening of the UNEP Regional Forums for Civil Society, encouraging the availability of the necessary resources for their implementation, as well as for the expansion, diversification and improved representation of the

delegates to these forums from the nine major groups, particularly the effective participation of indigenous people, requesting for this the support of the ITC.

**4. To promote** the realization of national and regional consultation processes prior to the Regional Forum for Civil Society and encourage the participation of representatives from all major groups, especially those from Consultative Councils in those countries in which they exist, as much as to promote their creation in those that have not yet established one.

**5. To promote** education, participatory communication, formation and development of capacity in terms of prevention, mitigation and adaptation to climate change in the region, with the support of UNEP, the ITC and the major groups.

**6. To promote** the establishment of a mechanism for the exchange of information and experiences, to be managed by UNEP with the support of the ITC and the major groups, in order to facilitate the communication, cooperation and the establishment of synergistic partnerships between civil society and governments from the region.

**7. To facilitate** the realization of Sub regional Forums on Climate Change, with broad participation by the major groups and international agencies from the ITC.

**8. To continue strengthening** regional, sub-regional and national youth networks under the TUNZA Strategies and GEO Youth, trying to maintain and expand the participation, as much as the effectiveness, of youth leaders in defining environmental policies and strategies, including meetings of the UNEP Governing Council.

**9. To give continuity** to the Global Environmental Citizenship Project incorporating other countries and national networks, as well as local civil society, seeking greater and better participation of the most representative organizations in each country, including those from National Consultative Councils.

**10. To encourage** UNEP, the governments and the ITC to devote the necessary resources to implement the commitments made in this forum and to support civil society in securing additional financial resources to facilitate the national, sub regional and regional coordination of civil society organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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## DRAFT DECISION 14

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### RENEWABLE AND/OR ALTERNATIVE ENERGIES

**Considering** the sovereign right of the Latin American and Caribbean countries to develop all the renewable and/or alternative energy sources according to their possibilities and interest;

**Taking into account** Decision 15 of the XV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean that establishes the goal of at least 10% of the energy matrix be renewable in the year 2010;

**Recognizing** the potential for renewable and/or alternative energies in the region and the need to further develop the maximum of their possibilities;

**Emphasizing** the need of the countries of the region to improve their energy performance;

**Considering** that access to energy is essential for the economical growth, environmental protection and social equality;

**Considering** that clean energy services contribute to the reduction of the environmental and health impacts caused by the use of fossil fuels and of low quality bio fuels and that renewable and/or alternative energies may offer advantages such as inter alia, job creation, and development of rural areas;

**Acknowledging** the important role that renewable and/or alternative energies may play in the supply of energy, in the case they are developed on a sustainable manner, and without imposing risks to food security in the region.

#### **DECIDE:**

**1. To support**, under the framework of the ILAC, the organization of meetings and development of studies and analysis of the situation of the energetic matrixes of the countries of the region, considering the inclusion of practical recommendations to increase the proportion of renewable and/or alternative energies in such matrixes, requesting support of the ITC for this.

**2. To promote** through South-South Cooperation the development and improvement of technologies and the programs of renewable and/or alternative energies, and the mechanism for this cooperation.

**3. To promote** the study and identification of the environmental impacts of renewable and/or alternative energies in the region, as well as the identification of strategies to minimize these impacts.

**4. To encourage** the development of strategies towards the incorporation of environmental and social criteria in the production and generation of renewable and/or alternative energies, and to provide assistance, technical or of other types, when necessary.

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#### **DRAFT DECISIÓN 15**

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##### **STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

**Considering** the meaningful diversity of peoples and cultures that inhabit and are a substantial part of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

**Taking into account** that indigenous peoples possess ancestral knowledge, linked to a sustainable management of natural resources and the environment;

**Bearing in mind** the recognition of the rights of the indigenous peoples of our continent for an active and full participation in political, economical, social and environmental decisions;

**Recognizing** the right of indigenous peoples to participate in decision making related to the policies or actions that may affect their livelihoods or their organizational forms, customs and cultural traditions;

**Considering** that the United Nations have adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

#### **DECIDE:**

**1. To encourage** the effective participation of indigenous peoples in the various plans and programmes of regional, subregional and national activities with UNEP and other agencies members of the ITC for the implementation of LACISD.

**2. To promote** capacity building of indigenous peoples for an effective and active participation in the various plans and environmental programs implemented by UNEP and LACISD.

**3. Recognize and promote** the recovery of expertise and traditional and environmental knowledge that remains with the indigenous peoples of our continent.

**4. To respect** the diversity, internal and local organizational forms, customs and traditions of indigenous peoples, as fundamental aspects of their participation in environmental decisions according to the legislation of each country.

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### **DRAFT DECISION 16**

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#### **SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT**

**Considering** that desertification, land degradation and drought gravely affect the lands of LAC, beyond any particular climatic condition, and intern ecosystems biodiversity and agricultural production systems sustain by those lands, as well as affecting the communities settled in those areas by increasing the vulnerability to climatic variations and climate change.

**That decision** Number 10 of the XIII Meeting of this Forum held in Brazil in 2001 highlighted the all countries of the region had ratified the UNCCD and acknowledging that the concentration the poverty in the region coincides with ecosystems threaten by land degradation, and stressed the importance of implementing the UNCCD in an effective and opportunity manner so as to alleviate the poverty associated by land degradation.

**That in light** of previous deliberations, the Forum encouraged to consider the UNCCD as one of the Conventions dealing with sustainable development and as a tool for poverty alleviation in LAC and in other parts of the world, and making a call to donor countries to contribute with adequate financial resources for an effective implementation of the Convention.

**That in** the framework of decision 18 of the Fifteenth Meeting of this Forum held in Venezuela in 2005, the Ministers and Environmental Authorities there present agreed to request to those funding agencies that are part of the Technical Interagency Committee, and as well other international agencies to strengthen their support to the implementation of the priorities identified in the National Action

Programs to Combat Desertification and Drought as well as to strengthen the synergies between the UNCCD and other Conventions.

**That the Ministers** and Authorities of the Environment present in this session of the Forum consider the need to address this issue again and promote a regional vision on combating desertification, land degradation and the mitigation of the effects of drought, emphasizing that sustainable land management is a key instrument to prevent or revert land degradation and to promote the implementation of sustainable agricultural, forestry and water management practices as well as to contribute to socioeconomic development, the fulfilment of targets for poverty reduction, food security and in general the achievement of the millennium development goals.

**That this regional** vision should accompany the process for strengthening the implementation of the UNCCD within the framework of the ten-year strategy adopted in September 2007, during the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP8), and contribute to the development of a proposal on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination for the implementation of the convention in line with the decisions adopted by COP8.

**That in line** with the above, and in spite of previous appeals the Ministers of the Environment and/or Environmental Authorities presented in this Forum, are concerned with the low profile and even absence of these issues, including sustainable land management, in the financing priorities of the programs of national and international constituencies. Likewise, there is a concern about the significant reduction in the flow of international financing of GEF funding to land degradation issues in LAC.

**That, not withstanding** the above, the significant efforts of some subregional groups are recognize such as the Regional Agroenvironmental Strategy for Central America which considers the Sustainable Land Management as one of the strategic axis, and the Mercosur Strategy to combat desertification, land degradation and the effects of drought, which was endorsed by the meeting of the Mercosur Ministers of the Environment thru an agreement signed in June 2007.

**That, it is necessary** to work in a synergistic and systematic manner for the implementation of regional actions towards sustainable development, highlighting the importance of harmonizing efforts and the mobilization of technical and financial resources.

#### **DECIDE:**

**1) To strengthen** and ensure, within the realm of the competences of each Ministry and relevant Authority of the Environment, the acknowledgement of the importance of implementing effective actions to combat desertification, land degradation and the effects of drought in the LAC region, assigning proper priority to sustainable land management as a contribution to sustainable development ensuring that the design and/or strengthening financing programs addressing explicitly the issues concerned.

**2) To encourage** under the framework of the UNCCD ten-years strategy, the development and implementation of regional strategies aimed at facilitating the

convergence and integration of national, subregional and regional Action Programs to Combat Desertification and the Effects of Drought with national, subregional and regional food security and poverty alleviation strategies, as well as with national, subregional and regional Plans related to Climate Change Adaptation, Biodiversity Conservation, Management of Water Resources and Sustainable Forest Management.

**3) To request** the Interagency Technical Committee and the Secretariat of the Forum to, in coordination with the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, prepare a regional proposal, including specific actions and modalities to facilitate and increase the flow of financial resources for UNCCD implementation at national, subregional and regional levels, consistent with the UNCCD's 10-years Strategy.

**4) To request** the Interagency Technical Committee and the Secretariat of the Forum, in coordination with the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, to strengthen the interaction with other international cooperation agencies, particularly multilateral development banks, international financial facilities, including the GEF, for the establishment of programs and budgetary provisions for supporting actions to combat desertification and sustainable land management, in order to include these issues into their corporate priorities by creating and/or strengthening technical and financial cooperation, and assigning appropriate priority to the Latin American and the Caribbean Region.

**5) To develop** linkages with other key sectors particularly agricultural and social-development, as a national priority and to ensure harmonization of public policies for land management.

**6) To request** the members of the Interagency Technical Committee (ITC) to inform to the Forum on these issues as relevant to its competences, and to Secretariat of the Forum, in coordination with the GM of the UNCCD, to establish the necessary mechanisms for following-up and assessing the actions undertaken to implement this decision and to report to the next session of the Forum.

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## DECISION 17

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### CLIMATE CHANGE

**Remembering** decision 14 of the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean;

**Agreeing** that we, the developing countries, are the most vulnerable to the negative impact of climate change, and that the poor and marginalized communities are even more vulnerable to these impacts, and that in our countries extreme climatic events have already been recorded with loss of lives and serious material damages that increase the level of poverty and make the economic growth of our nations more pressing;

**Recognizing** the need to increase the scale of global response to climate change promoting more participation of all countries according to their own capacities and national circumstances;



**Concerned** by the lack of concrete actions by developed countries that will fulfil their commitments, referring to technology transfer and financial support to address climate change and to give continuity, strengthen and increase the actions that as countries we have been taken to mitigate climate change;

**Emphasizing**, likewise, that it is in the global interest to adopt policies and measures for adapting to climate change in order to contribute to social development, economic growth and environmental protection, to which the matter must receive quick and sufficient attention related to financial support and technology transfer; and convinced that the Nairobi Action Plan on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change is an instrument that will facilitate the understanding and assessments of impacts related to climate change vulnerability and adaptation;

**Taken note** of the usefulness preparatory meetings for climate change negotiators of Latin America (Panama, Panama, October 20-21 2007) and the Alliance of Small Island States (Saint Kitts and Nevis, November 13-14, 2007) in the interest of the region within the process of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change; jointly organized by UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention and recognizing with satisfaction that several key positions of the region were included in the Bali agreements;

**Emphasizing** the importance of our active participation to achieve the goals set in the Bali Action Plan whose agenda includes the key subjects to be negotiated and which will be concluded in 2009, in order to establish directions on the commitments to be taken on from 2013 when the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol reaches termination, in regards to the pillars of mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology;

**Welcoming** the dialogue on climate change in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, called for by its Secretary General in September 2007, in which participated more than sixty Heads of State and Governments, many of them of our region;

**Welcoming also** the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) which recognizes the need to urgently address climate change through enhanced mitigation and adaptation, and congratulate the IPCC for the Peace Nobel Prize in 2007.

#### **DECIDE:**

**1. Strengthen and ensure** that within the functions of each Ministry of Environment and/or Environmental Authority, due importance is placed to the implementation of effective actions to develop effective mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change by all ILAC country members, as well as that programmes, national, subregional and regional plans on adaptation to climate change are dully shared.

**2. To urge** developed countries which by virtue of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities continue and increase their actions and adopt responsible policies to mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases.

**3. To promote** opportunities within the Kyoto Protocol, support initiatives which are presented in the framework of the Convention as it is the subject of Reducing

Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), as reported in the Bali Action Plan and the need to take actions increasingly ambitious in the light of recent scientific knowledge.

**4. To internalize** the outcome of the Thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali in December 2007, in particular its Bali Action Plan, which has initiated a process of a two-year negotiation, to multilaterally agree on a framework to respond to climate change after 2012, this process which will conclude in 2009, is based on four building blocks: mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing.

**5. To endorse** the other key results of the Bali Conference, such as promoting the work of the Ad-Hoc Working Group to get greater parties commitments to Annex I to the Kyoto Protocol, and the launching of the Fund for Adaptation.

**6. Integrate** measures into development policies, taking into account the social, economic and environmental vulnerability of the Region, particularly of the low-lying coastal and small island developing States with regard to the effects of climate change and to adapt to these effects.

**7. Recognize** the need to ensure an international regime post-2012, in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, consistent with their respective capabilities and particular conditions.

**8. Request** to UNEP, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant international organizations, to continue this practice to strengthen regional capacity to participate actively in the process of implementing the Convention through cooperation activities in the long term.

**9. To promote** the negotiation process initiated by the Bali Action Plan and where feasible, to coordinate regional positions before and during the negotiating sessions.

**10. Recognize** the progress made by Latin America and the Caribbean in the submission of projects under the Clean Development Mechanism and encourage the exchange of experiences, tools and methodologies among countries in the region and work with the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism and the Convention for a better regional distribution of these projects, particularly in small island developing countries in the region.

**11. To promote** that these advances are translated into practical adaptation actions in the countries of the region aimed at increasing their adaptative capacity to face the negative consequences of climate change, including a more effective disaster risk prevention and management; and to urge the working group on climate change resulting from this forum, the UNEP-regional office, the ITC, and other relevant organizations of the UN system and international financial organizations to work towards this end.

**12. Encourage** and support subregional initiatives such as the Mesoamerican Strategy on Climate Change, to conduct vulnerability assessments, improve data collection and implement measures of adaptation, as well as promoting dialogue on

issues of common interest relating to the international negotiations, while promoting synergies among these initiatives at the regional level.

**13. To promote** education, public sensibilization and capacity building in relation to prevention and reduction of vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change in the region, as well as to share information and meaningful experiences to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and the establishment of synergetic alliances among civil society and the governments.

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## DRAFT DECISIÓN 18

### CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

**Recognizing** the importance of the environmentally sound management of Chemicals and hazardous wastes including electronic wastes;

**Taking** into account the impact of poor handling and disposal of chemical on human health and the Environment;

**Acknowledging** the limited capacity of countries in the region in Particular Small Island Developing States in this regard;

**Noting** however, that through the development of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), some countries have developed some inventories of chemicals and that even now new chemicals are being considered for description as POPs under the Stockholm Convention;

**Recognizing** that at the Global level much attention is being given to chemicals and hazardous waste management in the UN system through the Strategic Approach to the International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and its Quick Start Programme, inter-linkages between the Chemicals conventions of Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam for cooperation and collaboration on improved management of chemical products for protecting human health, the environment and natural resources.

### DECIDE:

**1. Urge** the ITC and UNEP to continue to provide technical assistance to countries to carry out inventories of hazardous chemicals and wastes; to develop policies for the management of hazardous chemicals and wastes and address their storage and disposal.

**2. Encourage** countries in the region to share best practices in management of chemicals and hazardous wastes including the implementation of public awareness programs.

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## DRAFT DECISIÓN 19

### SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENTS/CONSTRUCTION

**Recognizing** that building sustainable housing is an essential tool for improving the quality of life of citizens of the region and that properly planned developments incorporating the principles of "green structures" can contribute to better environmental quality and conservation of natural resources;

**Aware** that unplanned and uncontrolled urbanization can affect ecosystems and environmentally important areas and increase environmental risks, and that among the challenges posed by urbanization are pressures on water and energy supplies, pollution and increased vulnerability to natural and environmental disasters;

**Recognizing** the need for strategic environmental assessments, sustainability criteria and the development of green building guidelines and codes of good practices as well as the need for the application of modernized planning principles and urban management.

**DECIDE:**

**1. Collaborate** on the development of a long term regional strategy on sustainable housing involving academic institutions and the private sector which could promote inter alia guidelines and building codes for environmentally sound construction which could be adapted at the national level, taking into account the particular legal, climatic, economic and social conditions of the country.

**2. Encourage** in the region the development of public awareness programmes for purchasers of new houses and real estate dealers on the economic and environmental advantages of green construction.

**3. Promote** studies on the cost benefit analysis of sustainable housing bearing in mind that the initial costs of such housing might be higher.

**4. Increase** regional cooperation to encourage carbon neutral or carbon zero construction.

**5. Promote** the identification of economic incentives to encourage the construction sector to become involved in sustainable housing.

**6. Encourage** sharing of information on new building materials that can contribute to energy saving and resistance to disasters.

**DECISION 20**

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**GRATITUDE TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT  
OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**DECIDE:**

**To express** the deep gratitude of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Santo Domingo, from 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008 to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008, to the People and Government of the Dominican Republic for the generous hospitality shown during this Meeting.

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## Appendix 1 to Annex II Proposed Structure for the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009

### 1. CLIMATE CHANGE

ILAC Area	Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
It is linked to all ILAC areas	To support region countries' efforts to implement the commitments arising from international agreements and meet the challenges of adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts	<p>To support the countries' efforts toward the development of technologies and capabilities for programs and studies on climate change issues</p> <p>To support countries at the stage of analysis of options and measures for the gradual elimination of GHG and CFCs, methyl bromide and other substances.</p> <p>To increase access to information technologies, options and opportunities for funding programs and projects for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.</p> <p>To support integrated and sectorial initiatives of the countries in the region to combat climate change, including the promotion of energy efficiency, use of renewables and the sustainable management of natural resources, among others.</p>	<p>Latin American and Caribbean countries have national /sub-regional strategies and plans on climate action, emissions inventories and other reports and studies required by the UNFCCC.</p> <p>All Latin American and Caribbean countries in compliance with the provisions of the Montreal Protocol.</p> <p>Latin American and Caribbean countries with proposals for national programs for the phasing out of GHGs in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol scope, the Bali plan, and so on.</p> <p>Program to achieve 5-10% improvement in energy efficiency indicators in each of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.</p> <p>10% use of renewables</p>	

## 2. BIODIVERSITY

ILAC Area	Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
Biodiversity	To promote the region countries' strengthening and development of the capacities to participate in the negotiation and implementation of the international regime on access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits.	Supporting development of institutional and legal in the countries of the region in terms of access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits. Active participation of Latin America and the Caribbean in the negotiation of an international regime on ABS in the context of the Convention on Biodiversity	Promoted and adopted national laws or regulations on access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits, to implement the international regime adopted in the Convention on Biological Diversity framework, and to systematize in 2008 the inventory of legislation or regulation in the field with electronic consultation and update systems to facilitate their comparison and use by all countries. National plans and measurable progress in each country to reverse the loss of biodiversity in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biodiversity.	
	To promote an increase and restoration of the forest area in the region.	Development of national and sub-regional programs, initiatives and campaigns to encourage the preservation, restoration and growth of native forests To strengthen the exchange of information, technologies and experience in the field.	Verifiable reversal in the deforestation trend in Latin American and Caribbean countries.	

### 3. WATER RESOURCES

ILAC Area	Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
Water Resource Management	To improve and strengthen the institutional framework for the integrated management of watersheds and aquifers.	To promote and support projects and to expand capacity, institutional development and shared management tools.	All countries in the region have completed and implemented the strategy of integrated water resource management with an emphasis on shared watersheds.	
Marine and Coastal Management and its Resources	To increase the capacity to manage marine and coastal areas	Development of assessments, inventories and Resource management capabilities	<p>All countries in the region have made or completed 80% of management plans for marine and coastal areas.</p> <p>At least 50% of countries in the region have environmental quality indicators of the marine and coastal waters for the preservation of their resources in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Convention on Biodiversity (marine and coastal biodiversity).</p> <p>Implementation of regular training programs on marine and coastal management in at least 50% of the countries in the region.</p>	

#### 4. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, VULNERABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES

ILAC AREA	Objective	Aims	Result Indicators	Specific activities
Vulnerability, Human Settlements and Sustainable Cities	To reduce vulnerability and increase risk management capacity	<p>To support and national sub-regional policies and programs aimed at addressing environmental vulnerabilities risks mainly in urban settlements.</p> <p>To develop skills and appropriate technologies, inventories, databases, legislation and experiences for the management of solid waste.</p>	<p>Inventory strategies for disaster prevention systematized until 2009 with electronic consultation and update systems in order to facilitate its comparison and use by all countries.</p> <p>Strategies for disaster prevention completed in each of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.</p> <p>Joint Program with UNEP / OCHA to produce assessments that contribute to disaster prevention.</p> <p>Management tools, best practices manuals and other tools available for strengthening initiatives as well as national and sub-regional programs.</p>	



## 5. SOCIAL ISSUES, HEALTH, POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

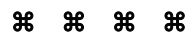
ILAC AREA	Objective	Aims	Results Indicators	Specific activities
Social Issues, Health, Inequality and Poverty	To advance integrated health and environment programs for combating inequality, poverty and for improving quality of life standards	To promote and support projects and to expand individual and institutional capacities for an adequate management of chemicals and to reduce water, air and soil pollution	Countries in the region have pollution management strategies and plans, including the phase out of chemical substances	

## 6. SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

ILAC AREA	Objective	Aims	Results Indicators	Specific activities
Sustainable Production and Consumption	Capabilities of Latin American and Caribbean countries strengthened through regional networks of experts, training programs and activities to increase sustainable consumption and production patterns in the region, in line with its priorities for international trade and competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training programs for the production and consumption of sustainable goods and services</li> <li>• Establishment of tables for national dialogue</li> <li>• Strengthening of SMEs capabilities for the adoption of Sustainable Consumption and Production</li> <li>• Promoting the adoption of sustainable public procurement systems</li> <li>• Promoting the development of national policies, strategies and information networks for Sustainable Production and Consumption; adjusting cleaner production, consumption, micro, small and medium enterprises, public procurement.</li> </ul>	<p>Each sub-region has at least one table of dialogue on CPS</p> <p>Increased number of SMEs that adopt CPS practices in the region</p> <p>An information network on SPC for LAC</p> <p>Countries have capabilities, plans and legislation on sustainable public procurement</p>	

## 7. INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

ILAC Area	Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
Environmental Assessment and Indicators	To consolidate existing and emerging efforts to monitor sustainable development	<p>To promote the systematization and institutionalization of ILAC monitoring indicators</p> <p>To strengthen institutional capacity for the generation, exchange and use of geo-spatial information on the environment</p> <p>To improve coordination among the national environmental authority, the national statistics office, and the geo-spatial information technical entity.</p> <p>To develop horizontal cooperation tools and activities for the harmonized monitoring of sustainable development.</p> <p>To develop a mechanism for the mobilization of resources to continue the regional dialogue and cooperation.</p>	<p><b>X% of approved ILAC indicators</b> have their methodology sheet consensual and completed in July 2009.</p> <p><b>X% countries in each sub-region</b> have their ILAC report in December 2009.</p> <p><b>X% countries of the Forum's Environmental Indicators Working Group</b> have an active and institutionalized mechanism to coordinate environmental assessment and monitoring.</p> <p><b>Mobilized Amount (in US\$)</b> to develop horizontal cooperation tools and activities for the harmonized monitoring of sustainable development.</p>	
Environmental Education	To promote the development of the Latin American and Caribbean Program for Environmental Education (PLACEA)	<p>Implementation of the training courses and workshops on selected topics.</p> <p>Publishing program and materials development.</p>	<p>X training projects in environmental education per sub-region</p> <p>Prepared and available training publications and materials</p>	



## Appendix 2 to Annex II Decision 4 – Working Groups

### A. WORKING GROUP OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

To continue with the activities of the Working Group on the Forum's Environmental Indicators, coordinated by Costa Rica, in order to strengthen and consolidate activities on environmental indicators and geospatial information, as well as Earth observation systems, addressing existing and new relevant initiatives, such as that of the Interest Group of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), with the participation of the ITC agencies, and other regional and subregional organizations. Likewise, it would request Panama to continue to coordinate the Technical Advisory Committee on Geospatial Information and Earth Observation Systems, as approved in Decision 11 of the Fifteenth Meeting Forum of Ministers held in Caracas in 2005.

This group will prioritize its work for the period 2008-2009 in the following areas:

Activity	Expected results	Timeline	Country, focal point, participating agencies	Source of cooperation or resource
To continue with the development of the methodological sheets for ILAC indicators identified and approved by the Forum	50% ILAC indicators will have methodological sheets on which the Working Group has reached a consensus	June 2009	Costa Rica/UCR and Panama/CATHALAC UNEP and ECLAC	UNEP ECLAC CATHALAC UCR Countries
To finish harmonizing ILAC indicators with those of MDG	Harmonized methodological sheets	June 2009		
To participate in and support the Initiative Group of the Statistical Conference of Statistics of the Americas (SCA)	A common strategy of work for the strengthening of national capacities in the generation of environmental statistics	September 2009		
To facilitate a link between the initiative of this Forum to the Statistical Conference of Statistics of the Americas (SCA)	Active participation of representatives from national statistics offices in the activities proposed herein, together with national environmental ministries and authorities.	September 2009		
To promote the development of ILAC national reports	More than 50% of the countries in each sub-region will have their ILAC national reports ready	December 2009		

Activity	Expected results	Timeline	Country, focal point, participating agencies	Source of cooperation or resource
To reactivate the proposal of the Regional System of Environmental Statistics of Latin America and the Caribbean (SIREA) and formulate a strategic plan for their implementation and capacity building at the national level for generating, processing and disseminating statistics and indicators, including the development of national information systems and particularly focusing on the needs of the Caribbean island countries.	Proposal drafted and agreed to be presented to international cooperation agencies	November 2008		
To undertake exchanges to identify options in order to make headway in the implementation of National Accounts, with a vision that incorporates environmental and natural resources management	National account methodology on water resources applied in at least four countries in the region.	December 2009		
To promote the use of geospatial and geo-referenced information to support ILAC indicators.	Implementation of the Work Plan of the Technical Advisory Committee on Geo-spatial Information and Herat Observation Systems of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators	December 2009		
To develop regional and national plans to strengthen Caribbean SIDS capacities to monitor, assess, and make decisions about the environment.	Guidelines on the collection of environmental data with appropriate resources	December 2009		
Through South-South Cooperation, to provide support to the development of a policy on institutionalization of environmental data collection as part of national statistics programme	Institutionalization of data collection within the data national statistical process	December 2009		

## B. WORKING GROUP ON RISK MANAGEMENT

Relevance	Expected product	Country, focal point, participating agencies	Sources of cooperation and/or resources
<p>The terms vulnerability and risks are part of one of the priority items of ILAC.</p> <p>The report of Working Group II of governmental experts on climate change, which focused its analysis on the theme: Climate change 2007, impact, adaptation and vulnerability, makes an analysis with accurate assessments on the risks that climate change can generate on the environment and natural resources.</p> <p>In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water resource</li> <li>• Ecosystems</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Water networks</li> <li>• Forest and food products</li> <li>• Coastal and low-lying areas</li> <li>• Industry</li> <li>• Society and health</li> </ul> <p>There are few tools developed by our countries to adapt to these changes by prevention</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Guide to assess the environmental risk for public investments</li> <li>2. Technical procedures for the evaluation of environmental damage</li> <li>3. To achieve these products, Nicaragua will circulate among group members a proposal on both instruments that must be examined enriched and improved with input from countries</li> </ol>	<p>Focal Point: Nicaragua</p> <p>Agencies: World Bank for Central America: CEPRENAD CCAD</p> <p>Countries:</p>	<p>World Bank</p>

### C. WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES

To continue the activities of the Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources coordinated by Ecuador, for the purpose of consolidating regional activities geared at protecting genetic resources and to facilitate the exchange of information, perspectives and strengthening of the position of the countries in the region during the negotiation of the international regime.

Relevance	Expected results	Coordinating country participating agencies	Cooperation and resources
<p>ILAC includes access and fair and equitable Benefit sharing of genetic resources as a priority in the area of Biological Diversity.</p> <p>The RAP 2008-2009 includes this issue as a apriority, due to the importance that the negotiation o fan international legal regimen under the framework of CBD represents for the region</p> <p>These negotiations will finalize in 2010, and active participation of LAC countries is essential to pursue their interests and priorities.</p> <p>This regional instance already in place is contributing to such objective (meeting of Paipa, Colombia, September de 2007) and it is pursued its consolidation until the conclusion of the multilateral negotiation process</p>	<p>National Capacities to participate in the negotiation of the international regime are strengthened.</p> <p>Consolidation of a platform to discuss and promote of common positions among LAC countries in international fora.</p>	<p><b>Ecuador</b></p> <p><b>UNEP</b></p>	<p><b>UNEP</b></p>

### D. WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

To continue the activities of the Working Group on Climate Change coordinated by Panama for the purpose of facilitating initiatives on joint activities at the regional level so that Latin American and Caribbean countries carry out more actions regarding the adaptation to and fight against climate change, taking into account their vulnerabilities.

Relevance	Expected Results	Country focal point, participating agencies	Cooperation sources or resources
<p>Climate Change is a priority in RAP 2008-2009 Decision 14 of the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers stated:</p> <p>Recognize the need to ensure the continuity of the international regime to combat climate change.</p> <p>Promote the consolidation and strengthening of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol</p> <p>To promote the advancement of a constructive debate on the future regime on climate change in the framework of UNFCCC integrating the adaptation and mitigation to adverse effects of climate change.</p> <p>Urge the CTI to intensify its contributions to countries in the region on climate change to help the work of observation networks, early warning systems, education, research and capacity building.</p> <p>The important to actively work in the achievement of the Bali roadmap milestones, including the key issues that will be negotiated and concluded in 2009.</p>	<p>To strengthen adaptation and mitigation capacities to climate change.</p> <p>To improve the indicators of energy efficiency in the countries.</p> <p>To support the preparation of national and sub regional strategies on Climate Change.</p> <p>To support education systems, capacity building and public awareness on Climate Change.</p>	<p>Panama UNEP Cuba</p>	<p>UNEP UNDP IDB WORLD BANK ECLAC</p>

### E. WORKING GROUP ON MANAGEMENT OF MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS AND THEIR RESOURCES

Relevance	Expected results	Participating country, focal point, agencies	Cooperation sources and/or resources
The topic on Management of Marine and Coastal Areas and their Resources is part of the priorities established by ILAC in the Report on the Fulfilment of Decisions of the 14 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diagnosis of natural resources and their usufruct over the marine and island shelf.</li> <li>2. Economic assessments of coastal marine resources (biomass productivity among others).</li> <li>4. To develop food policies and strategies that include sea products.</li> <li>5. Preparation of comprehensive management programs (monitoring, control of marine coastal zones, establishment of micro-enterprises for different uses: alternative tourism, crafts), commercialization of and manufacture sea products, social programs and production alternative to fishing</li> </ol>	<p>Focal point: Dominican Republic</p> <p>Countries: Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama, Peru, Ecuador</p>	<p>World Bank</p> <p>UNDP</p> <p>UNEP</p> <p>Swedish cooperation</p> <p>AECI</p> <p>TNC</p> <p>UNEP/CAR/RCU</p> <p>UNESCO</p>

### F. WORKING GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Follow-up and supervise the decisions of the Environmental Training Network, the activities on environmental education and the functioning of PLACEA.

Relevance	Expected results	Participating country, Focal point, Agencies	Cooperation sources and/or resources
1. Development of sub-regional programmes and plans on environmental education within PLACEA, as well as the preparation of projects to be developed under these programmes.	Establish and launch two sub-regional programmes associated to PLACEA; develop at least 6 cooperation projects among countries; web-page; exchange of successful experiences; EE projects in priority themes.	Brazil; ETN National Focal Points	UNEP; ITC; Governments; agencies for sub-regional cooperation.
2. Follow-up to the activities of the Center of Socio-environmental Knowledge and Care of the Plata Basin, and promote similar projects in other basins of the region.	Delivery of the education and training programme of the Center of Socio-environmental Knowledge 2008-2009 and establishing at least one new pilot project in another basin in the region.	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay; ETN National Focal Points.	Itaipu Binacional; UNEP; Governments of the Plata basin; Governments or other shared basins



Relevance	Expected results	Participating country. Focal point. Agencies	Cooperation sources and/or resources
<p>3. Supervise the implementation of the del General Programme of the Environmental Training Network, fostering in particular the following actions:</p> <p>a) Fulfil the pending and the annual contributions to the ETN.</p> <p>b) Strengthening of the units of environmental education on the Ministries of Environment.</p> <p>c) Establishing National policies and programmes on EE in the countries of the region.</p> <p>d) Establishing and functioning of an alliance of universities and an association of postgraduate studies on environment and sustainable development.</p> <p>e) Development of projects on community training for sustainable development in the countries of the region.</p> <p>f) Organization of the VI Ibero-American Congress on Environmental Education to be held in Argentina in 2009.</p> <p>g) Bring support to the preparation of the Infant-Youth International Conference on Environment to be held in Brazil in 2010.</p>	<p>Strengthen the ETN Trust Fund.</p> <p>Institutional strengthening</p> <p>National policies and programmes on EE in 8 countries of the region.</p> <p>Strengthen the cooperation among universities of the region</p> <p>Development of two pilot projects at the national or sub-regional level.</p> <p>Holding the VI Congress.</p> <p>Organize 8 National Conferences</p>	<p>Offices of International Affaires, Ministries of Environment</p> <p>Ministries of Environment.</p> <p>Ministries of Environment</p> <p>Colombia, Universities of the region; ETN National Focal Points.</p> <p>Ministries of environment</p> <p>Argentina; ETN National Focal Points</p> <p>Brazil; ETN National Focal Points.</p>	<p>Governments of the region</p> <p>Universities of the region</p> <p>Governments; International Agencies</p> <p>UNEP; UNESCO; UNDP; other agencies and enterprises.</p> <p>Fundación para el Progreso de la Humanidad.</p>

