



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

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

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

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

B. MINISTERIAL SEGMENT  
30<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008

**Distribution:**

Limited

**UNEP/LAC-IG.XVI/2/Rev.5**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008

**Original:** Spanish

## **Provisional Annotated Agenda of the Ministerial Segment**

### **Background**

1. When the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is held, five years will have elapsed since the approval of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), as part of the Action Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa, September-October 2002).
2. In the past five years, the Latin American and Caribbean countries have been devoting significant efforts for reverting environmental deterioration trends, improving the living conditions of their people and promoting the growth of their economies. Such achievements by the countries of the region in these areas are evidenced in the indicators and reports on compliance with the goals established in ILAC and also with respect to the Millennium Development Goals.
3. However, amongst the important challenges that persist is the pressure on natural resources generated by economic growth in most of the countries of the region and the infrastructure projects promoted by various productive and service sectors. Such challenges render ever more relevant the need to promote the environmental sustainability agreed to in the Millennium Development Goals.
4. Worth noting at the international level is the renewal of the international dialogue on climate change in response to the dissemination of scientific reports and economic evaluations that warn about the seriousness of the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the problem. Also worth highlighting is the continuation of debates on international environmental governance; sustainable management of the ecosystems and conservation of the biodiversity that continue to be priority issues for the international community as a whole and for the Latin American and Caribbean region in particular. These matters deserve the attention

of the Forum of Ministers which is the primary forum for dialogue and coordination of environmental policies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. One of the main inputs for the deliberations of the Forum of Ministers will be the report on progress of the implementation of ILAC<sup>(1)</sup>, prepared by a group of international experts under the Chairmanship of the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers, hosted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which will allow the Ministers of the region to evaluate the progress achieved and identify measures for continuing the implementation of ILAC.

6. During the inter-sessions period, Agencies that are members of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) have maintained an extensive exchange on the options for increasing their contribution to the application of the decisions of the Forum of Ministers. As a result of this exchange, several proposals have been developed in relation to the tools and means of action for the application of the ILAC, specifically with respect to the mandate and composition of the ITC, the Working Groups, as well as the structure and contents of the RAP. These topics were the subject of discussion at a Meeting of High Level Government Experts (Panama City, Panama; 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2007), which adopted a series of recommendations that are now submitted for consideration by the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **Objectives of the Meeting**

7. Taking into account the background information provided in the preceding paragraphs, the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers has been convened to address the following objectives:

- a) Evaluate progress in the implementation of ILAC five years after its adoption, identify the challenges posed by its future application and determine the areas upon which the countries of the region and the ITC Agencies should focus their actions;
- b) Consider the means of action for implementing the ILAC and in general, the decisions of the Forum of Ministers, in particular the RAP, ITC and the Working Groups;
- c) Exchange information and experiences on issues emerging from the international environmental agenda that are relevant for continuing the application of the ILAC; such as, for example, climate change, integrated management of ecosystems and environmental mainstreaming;
- d) Comment on some of the topics to be discussed at the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Principality of Monaco, 20-22 February 2008).

---

<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-IG.XVI/3).

8. The purpose of the following notations to the proposed agenda for the Meeting is to facilitate discussion of the various issues to be considered at the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers.

## Items of the Provisional Agenda

### Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

9. The meeting will begin with an opening ceremony on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 7:00 p.m. and a statement by a Representative of the Government of the Dominican Republic, by a Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and by a Representative of UNEP, in his capacity as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Representatives of the Agencies integrating the Interagency Technical Committee will present general statements.

### Agenda Item 2: Organization of the work

#### *2.1. Adoption of the meeting rules*

10. It is proposed that the Ministers adopt, *mutatis mutandi*, the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP to govern the procedures of the meeting.

#### *2.2. Election of Meeting Directors*

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

#### *2.3. Approval of the meeting agenda and schedule of sessions*

12. Under this agenda item, the Ministers will consider the Provisional Agenda<sup>(2)</sup> and the Annotated Provisional Agenda and Schedule of Sessions<sup>(3)</sup> proposed by the Secretariat and shall adopt them, following incorporation of the modifications deemed necessary.

### Agenda Item 3: Message from the UNEP Regional Forum for the Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean

13. The Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean have followed the practice of convening meetings of environmental organizations of the region to coordinate and submit to the Ministers of the Region their viewpoints and inputs for the deliberations and agreements of this meeting. The Meeting of the Forum was held in Monterrey, Mexico, on 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

---

<sup>(2)</sup> See document "Provisional Agenda" (UNEP/LAC-IG.XVI/1).

<sup>(3)</sup> See document "Provisional Annotated Agenda" (UNEP/LAC-IG.XVI/2).

14. In keeping with the request made by the organizations that participated in the Forum convened in 2005, it is proposed that the Message for Civil Society be presented at the beginning of the sessions of the Forum Meeting in order to take their viewpoints into account when discussing the different items of the agenda.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Message of the Second Latin American Congress on National Parks and other Protected Areas<sup>(4)</sup>**

15. The Congress was convened with the purpose of evaluating and planning the contribution of the region's protected areas to biodiversity conservation, environmental services, the creation of sustainable development, poverty alleviation strategies and regional integration processes among the Latin American countries. One of the specific objectives in particular, is to formulate new proposals, programmes, plans, activities and projects on this issue at a regional or subregional level and to develop recommendations to be applied in the next five years prior to the VI World Parks Congress. At the end of the Congress, a Message was approved and will be presented to the Ministers, with the purpose of taking its content into account in the adoption of the decisions at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development**

##### ***5.1. Evaluation of progress in the application of ILAC***

16. Under this item of the agenda, the Report on progress in the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) shall be submitted for consideration by the Forum of Ministers. It describes the process that goes from the adoption of ILAC as part of the Action Plan adopted at the World Summit on the Environment and Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002 and describes the steps taken for its implementation based on the decisions of the Forum of Ministers, as well as the actions undertaken by the countries which are consistent with the objectives, goals and purposes of the Initiative. Likewise, the report includes an evaluation of the Implementation of ILAC since 2003, based on a series of selected indicators.

17. The Forum of Ministers will also receive for its consideration and approval, as appropriate, the proposals of the Preparatory Meeting of High Level Experts with respect to the areas in which it is believed that the countries of the region and the ITC Agencies should continue to apply ILAC in the next four years.

##### ***5.2. Regional Action Plan 2008-2009***

18. The Forum of Ministers may analyze the role of RAP in the first four years in which it was used as primary tool for the application of ILAC. In the deliberations held during the period of inter-sessions the usefulness of this tool in the application of the eight priority action areas determined at the Fourteenth Forum of Ministers was recognized. However, it has also been proposed that, given the limited record

---

<sup>(4)</sup> Bariloche, Argentina, 30 September-6 October 2007.

of actions that have been reported as part of compliance with the RAP, a new structure and contents of said Plan would have to be considered.

19. Thus, the proposals of the Experts developed on the basis of a balance between lessons learned and challenges yet to be overcome so that the RAP may be consolidated as main tool for continuing the implementation of ILAC shall be submitted for consideration of the Ministers.

## **Agenda Item 6. Ministerial Dialogues on emerging and relevant issues for the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development**

### ***6.1. International Environmental Governance and the United Nations Reform<sup>(5)</sup>***

20. This issue has been considered in various occasions at meetings convened by UNEP and recently, several multilateral, official and informal consultations have been organized with respect to the future of the international environmental governance. For example, the Government of Brazil convened the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development: Challenges for the International Governance in Rio de Janeiro, on September, 2007. This agenda item will be introduced by Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, who will elaborate on the major challenges facing international community in order to reach consensus on a suitable policy architecture to address the international environmental agenda. UNEP Executive Director will also comment on the current and future efforts to strengthen results-based management in the United Nations Environment Programme within the context of the Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013.

21. It is deemed convenient that the Ministers of the Environment Exchange information and view points in order to:

- a) Receive updated information about recent developments in this issue;
- b) Comment the evolution of the various exchanges and options related to international environmental governance; and
- c) Review the options and challenges emerging from the debates on international governance and their implications for the sustainable development of the region.

---

<sup>(5)</sup> See document "General information that can be used by the Ministers and Heads of Delegations for the dialogue on Exchange on **Environmental International Governance**" (UNEP/LAC-IG.XVI/7).

## **6.2. Integrated Ecosystem Management<sup>(6)</sup>**

**22.** The natural wealth of the countries of the Region represents one of the alternatives for improving the population's welfare; for this reason its sustainable management is crucial for achieving said objective with an intergenerational perspective. The Latin American and Caribbean region is extremely bountiful in natural resources. LAC has the greatest reserve of arable land in the world: 576 million hectares, 30% of the total regional territory<sup>(7)</sup>. Notwithstanding the abundance and diversity of its natural resources, and environmental outlook of the region will be exacerbated by equity gaps and poverty with adverse impacts on stability, resilience and productivity of natural systems:

- a) Over the last 30 years over 40% of the region's natural forests have been lost as a result of the worst deforestation rates;
- b) The major threats to biodiversity come from the loss of habitats, land degradation, changes in land use, deforestation, un planned urbanization and marine pollution;
- c) 31 ecoregions in Latin America and the Caribbean are critically endangered;
- d) More than 300 million hectares of land are degraded in the region;
- e) 40% of the population lives in areas where only 10% of the region's water resources are available;
- f) The important water resources of the region are affected in their management and surface water and ground aquifers have been seriously deteriorated;
- g) The destruction of habitats and pollution of marine coastal areas is significant.

**23.** One of the main mechanisms for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity is the Natural Protected Areas (NPAs). Latin American and Caribbean countries have devoted significant efforts to administrative reorganization, under the concept of National Systems and the establishment of new protected areas in their respective territories. These actions have allowed for advancing toward the juridical and operational protection of ecosystems and wildlife species that were being threatened by demographic growth, expansion of the agricultural frontier and the overexploitation thereof<sup>(8)</sup>. While protected areas have grown in the last ten years, important ecosystems are not represented adequately and new pressures are affecting the conservation areas as a result of the economic growth based on the intensive use of natural resources.

---

<sup>(6)</sup> See document "General elements that may be used by Ministers and Heads of Delegations for the exchange on **Integrated Ecosystems Management**" (UNEP/LAC-IG.XVI/5).

<sup>(7)</sup> GEO ALC 2003.

<sup>(8)</sup> *Current Status of Natural Protected Areas of Latin America and the Caribbean*. UNEP/ROLAC. September 2003.

**24.** One of the Indicative Purposes of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development under the Goal relative to Biological Diversity is the one corresponding to "Territory within protected areas", in order to "Significantly increase the surface of the regional territory within protected areas, considering in its definition, transition zones and biological corridors."

**25.** ILAC and the Millennium Development Objectives identify the percentage increase of Protected Areas with respect to the total territory as a goal to pursue. At the same time, the increase in surface of these areas, as well as the management of the already established ones, face various difficulties of a political, institutional and legal nature. Consideration of these issues may contribute to clarify the ways for promoting and improving the Protected Areas Systems in the Region.

**26.** On the other hand, the ordering of the territory implies a process for planning the use of the land and natural resources, based on ecological principles, environmental management and handling of natural resources, for the purpose of determining the most adequate way of using the land and resources of a specific area, based on the characteristics of the physical-geographical conditions and the current use of the land and natural resources, considered jointly with population, economic and social factors, as well as the significant increase in the risks associated with considerable climate changes.

**27.** The debate as to how to render operational in the Region the Territory Ordering Tool is still in a very early phase, and for this reason an exchange of information and viewpoints is considered useful and necessary. ILAC, on referring to "*Vulnerability, human settlements and sustainable cities*", aims at the need to "implement territorial ordering plans and policies, based on a sustainable development approach" and to "Incorporate instruments for risk management in the ordering plans".

**28.** On the other hand, negotiations are underway for an International System of access to and distribution of benefits. The next round of negotiations is scheduled to be held in Bonn, Germany, in 2008. In this regard, the Forum of Ministers has stated it is in favor of the establishment of regional gatherings for discussing the negotiations of the international system which may take into account the relevance of traditional knowledge and genetic resources and the promotion of regional and sub-regional activities, including convening meetings, workshops and use of other means aimed at the increasing the knowledge and exchange on the issue of access to genetic resources, distribution of benefits and traditional knowledge, in the identification of priorities and demands of the region and in ensuring it a better position in the process of negotiation of the International System.

**29.** The Ministerial dialogue on the annotated topics in preceding paragraphs would allow the exchange of information and experiences on the use of the aforementioned environmental management tools. In this regard it would also allow for reviewing advances made in the international negotiation on the international regime for fair and equal access and distribution of benefits, with a view of establishing the strategy and shared interest that the region would be promoting in the last stage of said international gathering.

### ***6. 3 Latin America and Caribbean vis-à-vis the climate change<sup>(9)</sup>***

**30.** In the past twelve months we have witnessed important events in the international debate on climate change which are related to the distribution of three new reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which show that man-induced climate change is a reality, as well as the publication of economic evaluations that show that the costs of inaction are well above the costs of action for facing this global environmental problem.

**31.** To effectively face climate change, the international community must now overcome the challenge of achieving a transition toward an economy with low carbon emissions, as well as adapt itself to unavoidable changes. Achievement of these objectives calls for the mobilization of public and private financial sectors, as well as significant local and international investments. Nevertheless, such challenge affords an opportunity that may be taken advantage of through the adoption of mitigation and adaptation measures, for achieving the following benefits, among others:

- a) Facilitate new investment flows and markets for friendly climatic technologies;
- b) Achieve multiple environmental benefits such as improvement of the quality of air, conservation of biodiversity, sustainable management of ecosystems for ensuring sustainability of sweet water and food and improve public health<sup>(10)</sup>;
- c) Achieve multiple development benefits in a fair and equitable manner, such as energy security; generation of employment, availability of new sources of income in rural economies and eradication of poverty.

**32.** *“Globalization and Climate Change – Mobilizing Financing for Facing Climate Change”* will be the main theme of the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Principality of Monaco, 20-22 February 2008). This will be the first occasion on which Environment Ministers from all over the world will have the opportunity to:

- a) Discuss ways of mobilizing the necessary financial resources for adapting to climate change, with a view to moving forward to an economy with low carbon emissions and, while promoting said objective, to interact with the private sector participants; and
- b) Provide policy and advisory guidelines to the member countries and institutions within the United Nations system regarding the existing diversity of regulatory and policy responses to climate change so as to facilitate a favorable investment climate.

---

<sup>(9)</sup> See document *“General elements that may be used by Ministers and Heads of Delegations for the exchange on Latin America and the Caribbean on **Climate Change**” (UNEP/LAC-IG.XVI/4).*

<sup>(10)</sup> The Ministers may exchange information and viewpoints on the relationship between Climate Change and Health.



**33.** It is intended that at this Meeting of UNEP's Governing Council the Ministers will focus on determining a fair and equitable way of developing a stable and favorable political environment to:

- a) Determine the financing required for adapting to change, particularly in the most vulnerable countries which require new and better financing mechanisms;
- b) Finance the transition toward a sustainable economy with low carbon emissions, through new investment flows, markets for friendly climatic technologies, facilitate access to sustainable and economic energy services and public-private associations;
- c) Finance the sustainable production of biomass for bio-fuels;
- d) Achieve multiple environmental objectives and the identification of unforeseen environmental consequences through transition and adaptation methods; and
- e) Identify the links between the generation of wealth and the eradication of poverty through transition and adaptation measures.

**34.** In view of the foregoing, it may be said that the climate change issue is undergoing a *political momentum* that had not been experienced since the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol. It is thus evidenced by the various international dialogue initiatives on the subject, particularly those convened by entities of the United Nations system.

**35.** The current circumstances in the discussion on climate change offer opportunities and challenges for the countries of the region, particularly taking into account that what is at stake is the opportunity to relaunch the international cooperation necessary to mobilize resources and undertake efforts that will strengthen commitments and activities to be implemented in the framework of the international climate system.

**36.** Without prejudice to the negotiation mechanisms and groups in which the countries of the region are participating, it is believed that an exchange among environment ministers is necessary, particularly with regard to the implementation of the Bali Action Plan, approved at the 13<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Conference (Bali, Indonesia, 3 to 14 December 2007), through which it was agreed to launch the Bali roadmap, which should be a comprehensive process to help attain the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention on Climate Change through joint cooperation activities from now, up to and beyond 2012, with a view to achieving an agreement and adopting a decision at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

**37.** The agreement approved by 187 countries includes a programme on key issues that should be negotiated up to 2009 and several cooperation mechanisms that are necessary to back the success of global efforts to address this problem, namely:

- a) A commitment on the part of the developed countries to reduce emissions further and the conclusion of negotiations in this regard in Copenhagen in 2009.

- b) The developing countries agreed to consider reducing their emissions in the understanding that the principal of common but differentiated responsibility is related to financing and technology.
- c) The administrative structure of the Adaptation Fund was approved.
- d) The inclusion of deforestation in the climate agreement after 2012 and the expansion of reforestation and afforestation projects.
- e) More than twenty agencies of the United Nations, funds and programmes, through the coordination of the Environmental Management Group sponsored by UNEP, are compensating for the emissions associated with their trips to and from Bali.
- f) Norway will provide about US\$3 billion dollars to address deforestation.
- g) Denmark also announced that it would grant resources of approximately US\$10 million dollars for UNEP to provide assistance to the countries in protecting their economies in relation to climate effects.

**38.** UNEP has actively participated in the work of the IPCC and carried out various activities in the field of sustainable consumption and production linked to climate change. It has also participated and backed initiatives launched by the General Secretariat of the United Nations in the field of political dialogue regarding climate change. In the future UNEP will direct its efforts towards four specific spheres – mitigation, adaptation, investment or financing, and technology transfer or transition – to work towards a society and a world with low carbon emissions and a secure climate.

**39.** The conclusion of the negotiations in 2009 will guarantee that the new agreement can enter into force no later than 2013, following the end of the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol. For the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer, with the adoption of the Bali Roadmap the *"Parties have recognized the urgency of action on climate change and have now provided the political response to what scientists have been telling us is needed."*

**40.** On the other hand, the improvement of energy efficiency and the use of more environment friendly energies amongst them, renewable energies, has been considered as an option vis-à-vis consumption of fossil fuels. In fact, the Latin American and Caribbean countries decided to commit themselves, through ILAC, to increase the inclusion of renewable energies in their corresponding energy matrices. This commitment was recognized at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002 and seven years after holding said Forum and two years prior to evaluation of compliance with said goal, it is appropriate for the countries of the region to undertake an exchange on progress achieved and challenges that have been faced.

**41.** The need to speed up efforts toward greater energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies has been recognized as a result of high oil prices and given the importance of expanding energy alternatives that may reduce environmental impacts, particularly the generation of greenhouse gases caused by climate change.

42. On the other hand, high oil prices and increasing consensus regarding the need to undertake actions in view of climate change have made bio-fuels a possible option in view of environmental impacts generated by the production and consumption of fossil fuels. The viability of bio-fuels from the economic and environmental standpoint has become an issue for discussion at various international gatherings. Impacts on world food availability and subsidies to agriculture in developed countries have also become subjects for discussion.

43. It is deemed convenient that Environment Ministers of the region discuss the issue for considering possible common criteria in relation thereto, in light of broader international debates.

#### ***6.4. Incorporation of the Principles of Sustainable Development in National Policies and Programmes: Mainstreaming of Environmental Policies<sup>(1)</sup>***

44. Objective 7 of the Millennium Development Goals provides for incorporating the principles of sustainable development in the national policies and programs and revert the loss of environmental resources. According to the report *"The Millennium Development Goals: A Latin American and the Caribbean Perspective"*, prepared by ECLAC, UNEP and around twenty international agencies *"the environmental sustainability of Latin American and Caribbean development is increasingly under threat. The region's most serious environmental problems are generally getting worse and are only partially and imperfectly addressed by the targets and indicators set forth under Goal 7"*.

45. Target 9 under Goal 7 is to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. There is, however, no indicator relating to such integration. This process involves incorporating environmental criteria into sectoral policies and into planning, tax, economic, credit, investment, institution-building and legal instruments, among others, in order to steer production and consumption practices in the desired direction.

46. The same report also points out that *"one outstanding challenge is to strengthen mechanisms for guaranteeing appropriate integration, coherence and coordination between public policies and between the different levels of government and economic agents involved in achieving sustainable development targets. The consolidation of environmentally sustainable development calls for complementarities between the different approaches taken by environmental management policies and instruments and for active participation by all stakeholders"*.

47. On the other hand, the incorporation of the principles of sustainability in policies and programmes is also necessary due to existing interlinkages between poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability. A Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP and UNDP has poverty as one of its main objectives.

---

<sup>(1)</sup> See document *"General information that can be used by the Ministers and Heads of Delegations for the dialogue on the Incorporation of the Principles of Sustainable Development in National Policies and Programs: Mainstreaming of Environmental Policies"* (UNEP-LAC-IG.XVI/6).

This agreement is based on the fact that the interlinkages between the environment and poverty have not been addressed appropriately in development and poverty reduction programmes. For this reason UNDP and UNEP have prepared the Environment and Poverty Initiative as a mechanism to broaden capacities in developing countries, and to promote mainstreaming of environmental policies and development strategies.

**48.** There are experiences of mainstreaming environmental policies in countries of the region particularly with respect to policy integration in three areas: the building of legal and institutional frameworks, environmental expenditure and its financing and the use of economic instruments for environmental management.

**49.** One of the tools that may contribute to the promotion of environment mainstreaming is the national account system. Integrated accounts constitute the mechanism established by the United Nations for reflecting the costs of economic development in terms of the wearing away or degradation of the natural patrimony. National accounts should include the value of natural resources, by explicitly recognizing them as part of the national patrimony and registering the economic cost resulting from its deterioration, as a consequence of its increasing use in various productive activities.

**50.** Although some countries have initiated environmental valuation processes, there is need for a greater thrust in order to make use of the comparative advantages of the region, by incorporating in the National Accounts indicators with respect to environmental liabilities and assets. To this end, it is necessary to coordinate efforts among organizations producing, compiling, processing, disseminating and using environmental statistics and obtaining greater technical cooperation for developing and strengthening national capabilities.

**51.** Consideration of mainstreaming of environmental policies and the use of national account systems will allow for exchanging experiences and identifying measures to continue making progress towards sustainability by the adoption of public policies aimed at achieving sustainable development.

### **Agenda Item 7: Recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of High Level Experts**

**52.** Under this agenda item, the recommendations and specific proposals resulting from the exchanges of the Preparatory Meeting of High Level Experts<sup>(12)</sup> which precedes the Forum will be presented for considering the adoption of decisions on this matter. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation may wish to discuss the content of the draft decisions submitted by the Preparatory Meeting of High Level Experts and as appropriate, adopt such proposals. They can also agree on the adoption of other decisions on other agenda items.

---

<sup>(12)</sup> See document *"Recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts"* (UNEP/LAC-IG.XVI/8).

**Agenda Item 8: State of implementation and future perspectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (Messages by the High Level Representatives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements)**

53. When this agenda item is addressed, the representatives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements invited to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers will have the opportunity to present information on the activities carried out in the countries of the region, as well as on the implementation of their respective international instruments.

**Agenda Item 9: Other Matters**

54. Under this agenda item, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation will consider other matters relevant to the objectives of the meeting which may not have been covered by the specific Agenda items. One of these topics could be, for example, the confirmation and venue for the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

**Agenda Item 10: Review of the Draft of the Final Report of the Sixteenth Meeting**

55. Under this agenda item, the delegations will review the draft Final Report to be presented by the Rapporteur, including the series of decisions of the meeting and will be adopted following the modifications that may be necessary.

**Agenda Item 11: Closing of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

56. The meeting will be closed on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

## Annex I Schedule of Sessions of the Ministerial Segment

### Wednesday 30th January 2008

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	1. Opening of the meeting
-----------------------	---------------------------

### Thursday 31st January 2008

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	<p>2. Organization of the meeting</p> <p>2.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting</p> <p>2.2. Election of Officers</p> <p>2.3. Approval of the meeting agenda and schedule of sessions</p>
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	<p>3. Message from UNEP's Regional Forum for the Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>4. Message from the Second Latin American Congress on National Parks and Other Protected Areas</p>
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.	<p>6. Ministerial Dialogues on emerging and relevant issues for the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>6.1. <u>International Environmental Governance and the United Nations Reform (Introductory remarks by Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director)</u></p>
12:00 a.m. - 12:15 a.m.	<b>Coffee Break</b>
12:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	<p>5. Implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>5.1 Evaluation of advances in the application of ILAC.</p> <p>5.2. Regional Action Plan 2008-2009</p>
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	7. Recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts
3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	<b>Coffee Break</b>
3:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	<p>6. Ministerial Dialogues on emerging and relevant issues for the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>6.2. <u>Integrated Management of Ecosystems</u></p>

Friday 1st February 2008

<p><b>9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>6.</b> Ministerial Dialogues on emerging and relevant issues for the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development. <i>6.3. <u>Latin America and the Caribbean vis a vis the climate change</u></i></p>
<p><b>11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b><i>Coffee Break</i></b></p>
<p><b>11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>6.</b> Ministerial Dialogues on emerging and relevant issues for the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development. <i>6.4. <u>Incorporation of the Principles for Sustainable Development in National Policies and Programmes: Crosscutting Environmental Policies.</u></i></p>
<p><b>1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b><i>Lunch</i></b></p>
<p><b>2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>8.</b> State of implementation and future perspectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (Messages by High Level Representatives of the Multilateral Environmental Conventions)</p>
<p><b>3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>9.</b> Other matters</p>
<p><b>4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b><i>Coffee Break</i></b></p>
<p><b>5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p>Consideration of the Declaration of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (Declaration of Santo Domingo).</p>
<p><b>5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>10.</b> Review of the Draft Final Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum</p>
<p><b>6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>11.</b> Closing of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of LAC</p>

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘