



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

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

**Panama City, Panama  
26 to 30 April, 2010**

A. PREPARATORY MEETING of HIGH LEVEL EXPERTS  
April 26 to 28, 2010

**Distribution:**  
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## **Provisional Annotated Agenda for the Preparatory Meeting of High Level Experts**

## I. Introduction

1. At the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; January 27 to February 1, 2008), 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. Seven areas of priority action were selected, and the specific activities that are part of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) 2008-2009 were identified and thus was initiated a fourth biennial period of implementation of the ILAC.

2. Seven years have passed by since the ILAC was approved. In this period, the countries in the region have made progress on the implementation of the ILAC and have developed experiences to make the RAP an instrument to carry out operations and focus on regional priorities in order to move towards environmental sustainability, as outlined in numeral 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, and the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building.

3. During the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, it was agreed to conduct a review of lessons learned and challenges arising from the implementation of the RAP, and to prepare during the inter-sessional period, a conceptual review of its structure and implementation modalities, in order to assess the establishment of joint programs with the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee, without prejudice to the activities carried out by agencies individually.

4. In the intersessional period elapsed since the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum, consultations were made to address issues dealing with the structure and execution modes of the Regional Action Plan as the mechanism that operationalizes the ILAC. These exchanges triggered various ideas and proposals, which were considered at the Intersessional Meeting of Government Experts that took place on 20 and 21 October 2009, in Panama City.

5. The Intersessional Meeting of Government Experts agreed to create a Contact Group (mechanism outlined in Argentina's proposal) to finalise the proposal entitled "Options for the Integration of the RAP," which will be considered by the Forum of Ministers. The Contact Group hosted several virtual sessions and a final meeting, held in Brasilia, Brazil, on 3 and 4 February, 2010, which drafted a recommendation on the structure and activities of the 2010-2011 RAP<sup>(1)</sup>. The recommendation was disseminated in order to get comments from all countries in the region, and it will be presented for consideration in the current meeting of the Forum. In addition, for this segment a presentation of the follow-up report on the decisions<sup>(2)</sup> and the implementation of the 2008-2009 Regional Action Plan<sup>(3)</sup> starting from the past Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## II. Objectives of the Meeting

6. The Meeting of High-Level Experts of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from 26th to 28th April, 2010, in Panama City.

7. The main objective of the Meeting of High-Level Experts is to make a balance of the lessons learned and the challenges posed by the implementation of the RAP and to consider a conceptual revision <sup>(1)</sup> of its structure and modes of execution carried out in the intersessional period, as well as to make recommendations in this regard. In addition, the experts will review the reports of the Secretariat on the implementation of the decisions <sup>(2)</sup> adopted at the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers on the implementation of the 2008-2009 RAP <sup>(3)</sup>.

8. The purpose of the following annotations to the provisional agenda for the meeting is to facilitate the consideration of the diverse matters to be discussed therein. It is worth noting that the Secretariat has prepared the working documents that shall allow for the discussion of the items on the agenda, as well as the reports that describe the progress of initiatives and activities of interest to the Forum, which have taken place since the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum which was held in the Dominican Republic. .

## III. Comments on the Points of the Agenda of the Meeting

### Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

9. The meeting shall start with an opening ceremony on Monday, April 26, 2010, at 9:00 am, with statements by a representative of the Government of the Dominican Republic, as well as a representative from the Government of Panama, countries which respectively defer and receive the Chairmanship of the Forum, and a representative from UNEP as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Representatives of the Agencies integrating the ITC will make general statements.

### Agenda Item 2: Work Organization

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

10. It is proposed that the Experts adopt, *mutatis mutandi*, the Regulations of UNEP's Governing Council in order to guide the procedures of the meeting.

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

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

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

12. Under this item, the Experts will consider the Provisional Agenda <sup>(4)</sup> and the Provisional Annotated Agenda <sup>(5)</sup> and its Calendar of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat, and they will adopt them after incorporating the changes deemed necessary. The Calendar of Sessions appears herein as Annex 1 to this document.

### **Agenda Item 3: Follow-up to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; January 27 to February 1, 2008)**

#### ***3.1 Implementation of the 2008-2009 Regional Action Plan***

13. The High Level Experts shall receive a report on the implementation of the RAP in the last biennial period <sup>(3)</sup>. Based upon this report, the High-Level Experts will be able to make the corresponding recommendations to the Forum of Ministers.

#### **3.2. Proposal for structure and content of the RAP 2010-2011**

14. In order to consider this item of the Agenda, the Preparatory Experts Meeting will take into consideration the deliberations and recommendations of the Meeting of Government Experts and the Contact Group , who met in Panama City on 20 and 21 October, 2009 <sup>(6)</sup> and in Brasilia on February 3 and 4, 2010<sup>(7)</sup>, respectively. The main recommendation resulting from this last meeting was to propose the use of a new matrix to integrate the Regional Action Plan.

#### ***3.3 Operation of the Working Groups and the Network of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean***

15. The Working Groups coordinating countries, as established by the Forum of Ministers, will have the opportunity to present the activities carried out in the period between sessions, such as the Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising From Their Use (Quito, Ecuador; April 29-30, 2008; Panama City, Panama, January 15 and 16, 2010), the Network of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Cartagena, Colombia; 16-18 September, 2009), and the Working Group of Environmental Indicators (Heredia, Costa Rica; August 26-28, 2009), among others; as well as to report, on a preliminary basis, on the contribution made by the Group for the implementation of the ILAC, making comments on the actions carried out and the specific products generated or about to be generated. Likewise, they will present to the consideration of the High-Level Experts the recommendations made by the Working Groups <sup>(8 and 9)</sup>, which will be endorsed or modified to be presented at the ministerial segment for their possible adoption.

### **Agenda Item 4: Report on the compliance with the decisions made at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers**

16. As has been the practice at Meetings of Experts that precede the work of the Forum of Ministers, under this item of the Agenda, a report <sup>(2)</sup> on the

implementation of the decisions made at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers will be conducted under this item of the Agenda.

**17.** In order to discuss this item, the Meeting of Experts will have access to a report prepared by the Secretariat, outlining the results of the implementation of the decisions made at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

**18.** Likewise, the Secretariat will present the recommendations that resulted from the actions implemented in compliance with the decisions, for the consideration of the High-Level Experts, who will endorse or modify them to be presented to the Forum of Ministers for adoption. Recommendations, such as the proposal on the Framework Agreement on Atmospheric Pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>(10)</sup> and the document drafted by the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification<sup>(11)</sup>, will be considered.

**Agenda Item 5: Report on the Results of the Eleventh Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (Bali, Indonesia; February 26-28, 2010)**

**19.** The Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers will report on the results of the Eleventh Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Bali, Indonesia; 26-28 February, 2010), emphasizing issues of priority for the region that might require follow-up actions, such as international environmental governance, a consultative process on financial options for chemicals and waste, and the intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, among others.

**Agenda Item 6: Other issues**

**20.** Under this agenda item, the Experts shall address other issues relevant to the objectives of the meeting that have not been covered by the specific Items of the Agenda.

**Agenda Item 7: Revision and approval of the Draft Report of the meeting**

**21.** Under this Item of the Agenda, delegations shall review the draft the draft of the Final Report that will shall be submitted the Rapporteur, and they shall approve it after making those changes they deem necessary.

**Agenda Item 8: Closing of the Meeting**

**22.** The meeting will close on Wednesday, 28 April, at 5:30 pm.

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(1) See document entitled "Proposal for the 2010-2011 Regional Action Plan (RAP) of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/5)

(2) See document entitled "Report of the Secretariat on the fulfillment of the decisions adopted at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/3)

- (3) See document entitled "Report of the Secretariat on the Implementation of the 2008 - 2009 Regional Action Plan of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean." (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/4)
- (4) See document entitled "Provisional Agenda" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/1)
- (5) See document entitled "Provisional Annotated Agenda" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/2)
- (6) See document entitled "Final Report of the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean , Panama City, 20 and 21 October, 2009" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/Ref.1)
- (7) See document entitled "Final Report of the Meeting of the Contact Group created at the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. Brasilia, Brazil, 3 and 4 February 2010" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/Ref.2)
- (8) See document entitled "Conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of the Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Latin America and the Caribbean. Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 16 to 18 September, 2009" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/7)
- (9) See document entitled "Conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators. Heredia, Costa Rica, 26th to 28th August, 2009" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/8)
- (10) See document entitled proposal of "Draft Elements of a Framework Agreement on Atmospheric Pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/6)
- (11) See document entitled "Toward the design of a Regional Strategy: Modalities and actions to increase the flow of financial resources aimed at its implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean – Regional Strategy for the mobilisation and better use of resources for the fight against desertification and drought in LAC" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/10)

## Annex I

### Calendar of the Sessions of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts

Monday, 26th April, 2010

<b>8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</b>	Participant Registration
<b>9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.</b>	1. Opening of the meeting
<b>9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</b>	2. Organization of works 2.1. Adoption of the regulations of the meeting 2.2. Election of the Officers 2.3. Approval of the Agenda and programme of sessions of the meeting
<b>9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.</b>	3. Follow-up on the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; 27 January to 1 February, 2008)  <i>3.1 Implementation of the 2008-2009 Regional Action Plan</i>
<b>10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.</b>	Break
<b>11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b>	3.2 Proposal and structure of the content of the RAP 2010-2011
<b>1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.</b>	Lunch
<b>2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</b>	3.2 Proposal and structure of the content of the RAP 2010-2011 (continued)
<b>4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.</b>	Break
<b>4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.</b>	3.3 Operation of the Working Groups and the Network of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

**Tuesday, 27th April, 2010**

<b>9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.</b>	3.3 Operation of the Working Groups and the Network of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (continued)
<b>10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</b>	Break
<b>11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</b>	4. Report on compliance with the decisions made at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers
<b>1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.</b>	Lunch
<b>2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.</b>	4. Report on compliance with the decisions made at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (continued)
<b>4:30 p. m.- 6:00 p.m.</b>	5. Report on the results of the 11th Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum

**Wednesday, 28th April, 2010**

<b>9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</b>	5. Report on the results of the 11th Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (continued)
<b>11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.</b>	Break
<b>11:45 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.</b>	<i>Other matters</i>
<b>1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.</b>	Lunch
<b>3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.</b>	7. Revision and approval of the draft of the report of the meeting
<b>5:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.</b>	Closing of the meeting