



Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente  
Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe  
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

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

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

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

**Distribution:**

Limited

**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/8**

Thursday 15 October 2009

**Original: Spanish**

**Conclusions and Recommendations of  
the Meeting of the Working Group on  
Environmental Indicators.  
Heredia, Costa Rica, 26 to 28 August  
2009**

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS**

HEREDIA, COSTA RICA, 26 TO 28 AUGUST 2009

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1. At the start of this session there was a recap of the different agreements reached. Also revised is the current state of the ILAC indicators, summarized in Annex I. The group appeared pleased with the progress made at the meeting, on the 23 revised indicators and the agreed emergent indicators.
2. Mr. Álvaro Aguilar (Costa Rica) proposed taking it to the national level and evaluating the final results of this meeting to feed them back to the countries. To this proposal, other participants such as Mrs. Ileana Saborit (Cuba) gave ideas on possible ways for increased involvement of persons in each country who manage the relevant information on the ILAC.
3. Mr. Jesús Romo and Garcia (Mexico) proposed that the group recommend to the Forum of Ministers that they complement this effort of the Environmental Indicators Working Group by strengthening the national statistical efforts that they support, a proposal that was supported by Mr. Fabio Herrera (Costa Rica).
4. Mr. José Actis (Dominican Republic) proposed that the news brief to be presented to the Ministers shows the agreed on indicators and those for which information is available, to draw attention to those indicators which countries cannot address due to a lack of data, so that more resources can be allocated. In this connection, Mr. Fabio Herrera (Cosa Rica) indicated that interesting opportunities for horizontal cooperation existed, and not only with multilateral organizations, for example.
5. Other participants emphasized the importance of scheduling the completion of all the agreements reached and the development of news briefs to present to the Ministers' Forum. Likewise, emphasis was placed on the utility of the Virtual Forum for the progress that could be made using this and other electronic media. Highlighted is the importance of not duplicating efforts and the progress that could be achieved through close collaboration between UNEP and ECLAC, in particular on the indicators which have been homogenized. In addition, suggestions were given on the format of presenting the EIWG report to the Forum of Ministers on the construction of indicators using direct information from countries.

**ANNEX I – SUMMARY TABLE OF THE ILAC INDICATORS**

<b>THEMATIC AREA</b>	<b>GOAL</b>	<b>INDICATIVE PURPOSE</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>1. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY</b>	1.1 Increase in wooded surface area:	1.1.1 Ensure the sustainable management of forest resources of the region, significantly reducing the current rate of deforestation.	<b>1.1.1.1</b> Proportion of land area covered by forest	AGREED ON
	1.2 Land falling under protected areas.	1.2.1 Significantly increase amount of regional land under protected areas, including in the definition, transmission zones and biological corridors.	<b>1.2.1.1</b> Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected	AGREED ON
			<b>1.2.1.2</b> Proportion of species threatened with extinction	EMERGING
	1.3 Genetic resources and equal distribution of resources.	1.3.1 Adopt regulatory frameworks for access to genetic resources, as well as fair and equitable participation in benefits derived from their use, compatible with the Convention on Biological Diversity.	<b>1.3.1.1</b> Existence of laws and/or decrees, national regulations relating to access to genetic resources and the distribution of benefits.	AGREED ON
			<b>1.3.1.2</b> To be determined (indicator which incorporates management: process)	EMERGING
1.4 Marine Diversity.	1.4.1 Ensure the appropriate use and conservation of marine resources of the countries of the Caribbean Watershed, particularly the coastal-marine ecosystems.	<b>1.2.1.1</b> Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected	AGREED ON	
<b>2. MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES</b>	2.1 Water supply.	2.1.1 Improve technology to increase efficiency in water use in the industry, in agriculture and for domestic consumption.	<b>2.1.1.1</b> Proportion of total water resources used	AGREED ON
			<b>2.1.1.2</b> To be determined.	EMERGING
			<b>2.1.1.3</b> Domestic water consumption per household or dwelling	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
		<b>2.1.2</b> Introduce modern technologies to purify sea water.	<b>2.1.2.1</b> Water purification	EMERGING
		<b>2.1.3</b> Integrate management of coastal aquifers to prevent the entry of salt water	<b>2.1.3.1</b> Regulatory framework, quotas for the management of ground water	EMERGING

THEMATIC AREA	GOAL	INDICATIVE PURPOSE	INDICATOR	STATUS
	2.2 Watershed management.	<b>2.2.1</b> Improve and strengthen institutional capacity for the integrated management of watersheds and aquifers, through, <i>inter alia</i> , the establishment of watershed committees, the participation of all governments at the sub-national level, the civil society, the private sector and all stakeholders involved.	<b>2.2.1.1</b> Number of watersheds with management committees	AGREED ON
			<b>2.2.1.2</b> Proportion of land area managed under watershed criterion	EMERGING
			<b>2.2.1.3</b> Efficiency in the management of watersheds	EMERGING
	2.3 Management of coastal areas and their resources.	<b>2.3.1</b> Implement action plans for the integrated management of coastal and ecosystem resources, paying particular attention to the small island developing states.	<b>2.3.1.1</b> Fish extraction	AGREED ON
			<b>2.3.2</b> Adopt a comprehensive and integrated focus for the management of the Caribbean Sea through the development of a comprehensive strategy for its protection and management.	<b>2.3.2.1</b> Projects or amount of Money aimed at improving the management of the Caribbean Sea or the coasts
	2.4 Improved surface water quality.	<b>2.4.1</b> Improve the quality of effluents and reduce the discharge of contaminants into surface and underground water bodies as well as coastal area.	<b>2.4.1.1</b> Percentage of effluent that is collected and treated	EMERGING
<b>2.4.1.2</b> Population with access to sanitary facilities			AGREED ON	
<b>3. VULNERABILITY, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES</b>	3.1 Land-use Planning	<b>3.1.1</b> Implement land-use plans and policies, from the perspective of sustainable development.	<b>3.1.1.1</b> Proportion of national territory with management plans	AGREED ON
		<b>3.1.2</b> Incorporate instruments for risk management in planning	<b>3.1.2.1</b> Annual change of the different uses of land	AGREED ON
	3.2 Areas affected by degradation	<b>3.2.1</b> Significantly reduce the regional land area prone to erosion, saltiness and other soil degradation processes.	<b>3.2.1.1</b> Areas affected by degradation	AGREED ON
	3.3 Air Pollution	<b>3.3.1</b> Reduce the concentration of polluting emissions in the air.	<b>3.3.1.2</b> Carbon dioxide emissions	AGREED ON

THEMATIC AREA	GOAL	INDICATIVE PURPOSE	INDICATOR	STATUS
	3.4 Water Contamination.	<b>3.4.1</b> Expand the coverage of drinking water services and the treatment of waste water.	<b>3.4.1.1</b> Population with access to drinking water.	AGREED ON
			<b>3.4.1.2</b> Population with access to ground water	AGREED ON
	3.5 Solid Waste	<b>3.5.1</b> Significantly reduce the generation of solid wastes (domestic and industrial) and promote, among others, recycling and reuse.	<b>3.5.1.1</b> Population with access to garbage collection services	AGREED ON
			<b>3.5.2</b> Implement integrated solid waste management, including the treatment and appropriate final disposal.	<b>3.5.2.1</b> Collection and appropriate disposal of garbage
	3.6 Vulnerability to anthropogenic disasters and disasters caused by natural phenomenon	<b>3.6.1</b> Implement and strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms for risk management and mitigation of anthropogenic disasters and those caused by natural phenomena, including the formulation of a regional early-warning system and the formation of a quick-response group.	<b>3.6.1.1</b> National Emergency Commissions or quick-response groups.	AGREED ON
	3.7 Vulnerability and Risk Management	<b>3.7.1</b> Refine and implement vulnerability indicators.	<b>3.7.1.1</b> Population living in high-risk areas.	EMERGING
			<b>3.7.1.2</b> Occurrence of natural disasters	AGREED ON
<b>3.7.2</b> Incorporate indicators in the national development plans.			<b>3.7.2.1</b> To be determined.	EMERGING
<b>4. SOCIAL TOPICS, INCLUDING HEALTH, INEQUALITY AND POVERTY</b>	4.1 Health and the Environment.	<b>4.1.1</b> Implement comprehensive measures to control and reduce the spread of the AIDS virus, including the development of coordinated focus for research, education, treatment and access to retroviral drugs.	<b>4.1.1.1</b> HIV/AIDS prevalence in persons aged 15 to 49 years	AGREED ON
			<b>4.1.2</b> Implement policies and plans to reduce environmental risks that cause damage to	<b>4.1.2.1.</b> Morbidity rate attributable to acute respiratory diseases

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		health, particularly via water, vector, air pollution and exposure to chemical substances.	<b>4.1.2.2</b> Morbidity rate attributable to water-borne diseases.	AGREED ON
		<b>4.1.3</b> Increase the number of green and safe areas per capita.	<b>4.1.3.1</b> Hectares of green urban areas in relation to urban population	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
	4.2 The Environment and Job Creation	<b>4.2.1</b> Promote the formulation and implementation of sustainable development programmes and projects, which contribute to creation of jobs and prevent migration and uprooting.	<b>4.2.1.1</b> Sustainable development projects or programmes and the total number of persons in these projects	EMERGING
			<b>4.2.1.2</b> Job creation in sustainable development programmes	EMERGING
	4.3 Poverty and Inequality	<b>4.3.1</b> Drastically reduce the poverty levels in countries of the region.	<b>4.3.1.1.</b> Number of homes in precarious areas	AGREED ON
			<b>4.3.1.2</b> Population earning less than \$1 (PPP) per day.	AGREED ON
		<b>4.3.2</b> Create means of sustainable living through the development of microenterprises.	<b>4.3.2.1</b> Growth index of the number of small companies	EMERGING
		<b>4.3.3</b> Formulate and implement strategies for women, youth, indigenous people, afro-descendant communities and other minority groups of the region, in accordance with human rights and basic liberties.	<b>4.3.3.1</b> Social expenditure as a percentage of the gross domestic product	AGREED ON
			<b>4.3.3.2</b> Environmental expenditure as a percentage of total public expenditure	EMERGING
	<b>5. ECONOMIC ASPECTS INCLUDING TRADE AND PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION</b>	5.1 Energy	<b>5.1.1</b> Implement, in the region, the use of at least 10% renewable energy of the total energy percentage of the region by 2010.	<b>5.1.1.1</b> Population using combustible solids
<b>5.1.1.2</b> Amount of renewable energies				AGREED ON
<b>5.1.1.3</b> Energy use per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP)				AGREED ON

THEMATIC AREA	GOAL	INDICATIVE PURPOSE	INDICATOR	STATUS
PATTERNS	5.2 Cleaner Production.	5.2.1 Establish Cleaner Production Centres in all the countries of the region.	5.2.1.1 Consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons	AGREED ON
		5.2.2 Incorporate the cleaner production concept in a significant fraction of the main industries, with emphasis on small- and medium-sized industries.	5.2.2.2 Companies with ISO 14001 certification	AGREED ON
	5.3 Economic Instrument.	5.3.1 Establish an economic incentive system for productive and industrial projects transformation which preserve natural and energy resources, and produce the final reduction of effluents released into water, land and air.	5.3.1.1 Economic instrument implemented by the country	AGREED ON
			5.3.1.2 To be determined	EMERGING
6. INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS ASPECTOS INSTITUCIONALES	6.1 Environmental Education.	6.1.1 Improve and strengthen the incorporation of the environmental dimension in formal and informal education, in the economy and the society.	6.1.1.1 Existence of Formal Comprehensive Environmental Education Programmes in schools	EMERGING
	6.2 Education and training of human resources.	6.2.1 Eradicate illiteracy and make enrolment in basic and secondary education universal.	6.2.1.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education	AGREED ON
		6.2.2 Develop capacities to deal with vulnerability in the region.	6.2.2.1 To be determined/National Emergency Commissions on Disaster Prevention, by province, canton and district	EMERGING
		6.2.3 Establish programmes for the creation of capacities in sustainable development management, for the public and private sector, and at the community level.	6.2.3.1 Hours of instruction in environmental science in primary schools	EMERGING
	6.3 Evaluation and Indicators.	6.3.1 Develop and implement an evaluation process to monitor the progress in the	6.3.1.1 Reports on the state of the environment	AGREED ON

THEMATIC AREA	GOAL	INDICATIVE PURPOSE	INDICATOR	STATUS
		achievement of sustainable development objectives, including the results of the Johannesburg Plan of Action, adopting sustainability indicator systems, , at the national and regional level, that respond to the social, economic and political particularities of the region.	<b>6.3.1.2</b> Environmental statistics system	AGREED ON
	6.4 Participation of the society.	<b>6.4.1</b> Create and strengthen participation mechanisms in the areas of sustainable development, with governmental and non-governmental representation and the main groups in all the countries of the region.	<b>6.4.1.1</b> Existence of national councils for sustainable development	AGREED ON