



**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  
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# **Final Report of the UNEP Regional Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean**

## Index

A. Background	1
B. Goals of the Meeting	1
C. Participation	2
D. Presentations	2
Opening of the Forum	2
Division of Work	3
Session 1: Introduction to UNEP’s Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum.	4
Session 2: International Environmental Governance for Sustainable Development	5
Session 3: Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Branch (COP-Former Extraordinary COP) – Chemicals Branch	6
Session 4: Biodiversity and Ecosystems	7
Session 5: Regional Issues	8
Session 6: The Green Economy	10
Session 7: Sustainable Consumption and Production	11
Session 8: Discussion on the outcome of the meeting and presentation of key messages	12
Session 9: Election of two sponsored regional representatives to the 11th GCSF and the 26th GC/GMEF	12
Session 10: Evaluation of the Meeting	13
Session 11: Closing of the Forum	13
ANNEX I - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	14

## **A. Background**

- 1.** The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has followed the practice of calling for meetings with representatives of major groups and stakeholders in civil society organizations, in order to take into account their points of view and positions at the different UNEP decision-making levels.
- 2.** In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP has promoted a Regional Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum before each Ministerial Environment Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean. The same consultation modality has been followed for the UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF).
- 3.** The previous Regional Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 24-25 November 2008, just before the 10th Global Civil Society Forum and the 25th Ordinary Meeting of the UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) that was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 16-20 February 2009.
- 4.** On this occasion, the Regional Civil Society Forum met to prepare for the 11th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) of the 26th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) that will be held in Bali, Indonesia on 24-26 February 2010.

## **B. Goals of the Meeting**

- 5.** The goals of the meeting were the following:
  - a) Discussing the main issues that will be addressed at the UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum, with special emphasis on its impact for the region.
  - b) Analysing potential activities that could strengthen the role of the Forum, and turn it into a venue for an ongoing exchange among regional civil society organizations.
  - c) Sharing and debating issues that are relevant for the region and that are related to the UNEP Programme of Work, such as: the Green Economy Initiative; International Environmental Governance for Sustainable Development; the next meetings dealing with chemical substances (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions); the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); and Biodiversity and Ecosystems.

## C. Participation

6. Representatives of 26 organizations from different countries were present at the Regional Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean. **Annex I** of the present report contains the list of participants.

## D. Presentations

### Opening of the Forum

7. In the opening session, Mr. Rody Oñate, who is UNEP's Regional Communications and Public Information Officer, was in charge of the first intervention. He welcomed the delegates and introduced Mrs. Mara Murillo, UNEP's Deputy Regional Director and Officer in Charge of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. Mrs. Murillo welcomed the participants, and stated that the region's civil society discussions and proposals are key, in order to bring her recommendations to the UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

8. UNEP's Deputy Regional Director pointed out the significance of the present time, when economic, food, climate and water crises threaten Millennium Development Goals. As a response, different initiatives have been launched, among them the global Green Economy Initiative. Mrs. Murillo added that we are facing a very important challenge regarding the Copenhagen Summit (COP 15) - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

9. Another important item was UNEP's new Programme of Work, which will be unified, and will guide the organization in six priority areas: Climate Change, Disasters and Conflict, Ecosystems Management, Environmental Governance, Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste, and Resource Efficiency.

10. Finally, Mrs. Murillo invited participants to continue cooperating with UNEP and to take the opportunity of making their contributions for the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum that will be held in Bali. She stated that 2010 will be the international Year of Biodiversity, 2011 will be the Year of the Forests, and 2012 will be the Year of the Oceans.

11. Mrs. Cecilia Iglesias, who chairs the present Regional Forum and attended the last Global Forum, was the next speaker. Mrs. Iglesias thanked delegates for taking the time to attend, and UNEP and the Regional Office for organizing the meeting. She also expressed her wish that significant agreements could be reached.

## **Division of Work**

### *a) Approval of the agenda and Programme of Work at the Forum*

**12.** The Chair of the Forum reviewed the two-day agenda in detail. In the section on regional issues, additional platforms were called for, besides the Regional Civil Society Forum, in order to strengthen its functioning and UNEP's work. One participant suggested applying the experience on integration of existing regional environmental networks. Another participant suggested learning from the multiple experiences of sustainable land management.

**13.** One additional delegate asked whether the items on the Forum agenda had been previously determined, if it was possible to add Climate Change and Vulnerability to Disasters as specific items, and if these issues would be addressed in a transverse manner. The Chair responded that, usually, the items that are included correspond to those which will be addressed at the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the Regional Ministerial Forum, in order to make recommendations for those meetings. Mrs. Murillo said that Climate Change and Vulnerability to Disasters are priorities for both UNEP and the Regional Ministerial Forum, and that this is shown in the Programme of Work and its priority areas, as well as in the decisions and regional action plan of the Regional Forum.

**14.** Another participant pointed out that it was important to consider gender issues in the agenda, and recommended including them as part of the Green Economy Initiative item.

**15.** After receiving these comments, the agenda was approved. Then, participants introduced themselves by giving their name, country of origin, organization and major group that they represented.

### *b) Report by outgoing Chair.*

**16.** The outgoing Chair of Regional Major Groups and Stakeholders presented her report on activities carried out and results obtained during her mandate. Different activities took place during the last mandate, including the Ministerial Forum, the Regional Consultation Meeting on TUNZA Strategy, the 10th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, and the 25th Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum, among others.

### *c) Election of Major Groups Facilitating Committee members.*

**17.** Before the election, participants insisted on the recommendation of strengthening the work of the Regional Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, by designing a structure through which all regions of Latin America and Major Groups can be represented at future meetings. The Chair noted that UNEP already has four sub-regions (Central American, Caribbean, Southern Cone and Andean). A proposal was made for electing a Chair from the host country (in this case, Panama), and a Vice-Chair from each of the other three

sub-regions. After a brief discussion, the proposal was approved. It was announced that the Vice-Chairs would also serve as Rapporteurs.

**18.** It was also agreed that on this occasion the Forum would not issue a final declaration. Instead, it would issue key messages to be presented at the Global Ministerial Forum and the Regional Ministerial Forum.

**19.** A Chair and Vice-Chairs were elected. Mrs. Alida Spadafora, Executive Director of the National Association for the Conservation of Nature of Panama, was elected as Chair by consensus. Mr. Pedro Aranha from Brazil, was elected as Southern Cone Vice-Chair. Mr. Calvin James, from Trinidad and Tobago, was elected as Vice-Chair for the Caribbean, and Mr. Sandro Chávez, from Perú, was elected as Vice-Chair for the Andean sub-region.

### **Session 1: Introduction to UNEP's Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum.**

**20.** Mrs. Mara Murillo described the characteristics of UNEP's Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum and how it works, and explained the cycle of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, while highlighting the opportunities for major groups' involvement.

**21.** Mrs. Murillo stressed that the main mission of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum is to allow Ministers to examine emerging environmental issues and provide guidance for the organization's work. Additionally, she pointed out that the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum seeks to include the contributions of these groups to UNEP's work. Some examples of these contributions are: the Global Environment Outlook (GEO); the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM); the work on sustainable consumption and production; the strategy on indigenous peoples and the environment; and the generation of green jobs (as part of the Green Economy Initiative) along with the International Labour Organization (ILO), among others. She also pointed out that, in order to improve follow-up work on issues related to civil society, the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch (MGSB) was established in Nairobi.

**22.** The session continued with a presentation by Mr. Rody Oñate on the criteria for selecting regional representatives to the GMGSF and the GC/GMEF. The criteria has been formally determined: it includes belonging to an organization that is accredited to UNEP; geographical representation; gender equity; technical knowledge; communications skills; summarising ability; being pro-active; work methodology, and others. The main roles of representatives were also reviewed. They include educating others on how the Regional Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum works; promoting regional exchange; incorporating regional points of view in the declarations of global groups, among others. The mandate of regional representatives is for one year.

**23.** One of the participants requested a clarification on the point of technical knowledge, explaining that it was not possible to have a deep knowledge in all areas. Also, a request was made for clarification on the requirement that representatives belong to an organization that is accredited to UNEP, because many of the region's organizations are not accredited. One participant expressed that the most important criteria must be the experience that has been acquired in the work that will be performed at the Global Forum, besides being able to absorb the existing regional expertise. Another participant pointed out that she thought another requirement should be the ability to represent all organizations and to defend all the issues that were agreed upon at this Forum. There was consensus on the point that being an expert is not a must, in order to be elected. Rather, the elected person should have the ability to represent regional interests.

## **Session 2: International Environmental Governance for Sustainable Development**

**24.** Mrs. Mara Murillo made a presentation, in which she explained that the Governing Council established –in its Decision 25/4, during its XXIV Session– a high level Consultative Group, in order to present to the 11th Special Session of the GC/GMEF, a series of options to improve international environmental governance, as a way of providing an input for the United Nations General Assembly.

**25.** Mrs. Murillo reported that the Consultative Group met on two occasions: in Belgrade, with the participation of 39 countries, and in Rome, with the participation of 43 governments (26-27 October).

**26.** At the Belgrade meeting, the Group agreed upon the procedures to be followed:

- a) Any reform of international environmental governance should be based on the principle that the form must match the function.
- b) Consultations about functions will have priority over discussions on forms, and will span from gradual changes to broader institutional reforms.
- c) The debate on international environmental governance should take place in a broader context of environmental sustainability and sustainable development.
- d) Developing different options to improve international environmental governance, should take place after studying the multiple challenges and emerging opportunities.
- e) Gradual changes to international environmental governance could be considered in parallel to other reforms that are more fundamental.
- f) The work of the Consultative Group should continue being political.

27. At the Rome meeting, the Consultative Group concluded its work, and will present a list of options to improve international environmental governance at the 11th Special Session of the GC/GMEF.

- a) The goals and functions of international environmental governance were considered in the context of the United Nations system.
- b) All the goals and functions are interrelated and must be addressed in a balanced manner.
- c) The goals and functions related to capacity building, technology transfers and financial support are inextricably linked to those of creating a solid, reliable and accessible interface between science and politics, and those of monitoring, compliance and accountability, in acknowledgement of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

28. The Chair of the Forum considered that UNEP, as the leading environmental agency, has not received enough support within the United Nations system. Additionally, she stated that the environment has not gotten all the necessary attention, taking into account the allocated budget and the decisions made by the General Assembly. One participant asserted that decisions regarding the environment must be binding, because otherwise they are not effective. He added that UNEP must become an organization whose decisions are binding. Another delegate pointed out that any decision regarding international governance must incorporate the concept of sustainable human development as a pillar. According to another participant, a strengthened UNEP will help local environmental authorities to become strengthened. Another delegate thought that it is important to influence the ongoing reallocation of GEF funds, to ensure that a significant part of those resources are made available to UNEP. One participant asked to include the recommendation of strengthening the capacities of Major Groups to participate in policy design at the different international fora.

29. The recommendations of Major Groups and Stakeholders from Latin America and the Caribbean about each of the items on the agenda, are summarised in Annex III.

### **Session 3: Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Branch (COP-Former Extraordinary COP) – Chemicals Branch**

30. Ms. Jacqueline Álvarez, a UNEP Officer, talked about the experiences of the Chemicals Branch. She explained the scope of each of the Conventions, as well as their principles and interrelations. Ms. Álvarez commented the future steps that the Branch will take in its work, including the draft agenda to be addressed at the next joint conference of the three conventions that will be held in Bali, Indonesia, in 2010.



**31.** Through their interventions, delegates expressed their points of view on this issue. One participant said that there should be joint work on biodiversity and the three Conventions. Ms. Álvarez also responded to questions about opportunities for civil society participation, and potential governance results from the Branch. Participants highlighted the significance of strengthening the seven regional centres, and their collaboration with civil society. They also pointed out that it is important to improve communication between civil society organizations and those who work with the Conventions, in order to better disseminate the information.

#### **Session 4: Biodiversity and Ecosystems**

**32.** Mrs. Mara Murillo made a presentation on this issue, and pointed out that the next meeting, COP10/MOP5, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – COP10/MOP5– will take place in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, knowing that it will not be possible to meet the 2010 target. She added that the meeting would be very relevant for the region, given the region's high endemism and its biological wealth in general.

**33.** Mrs. Murillo commented on the results obtained by the Open-ended Ad-hoc Working Group about Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) of the CDB, which is a priority issue for Latin America and the Caribbean, and where major efforts are still needed to achieve common positions. In that sense, civil society could contribute promoting proposals directed at reaching an agreement.

**34.** She also talked about the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). According to her report, at the last meeting in October, a general agreement was reached on the study of lagoons to strengthen the science-policy interface in biodiversity. This represents a major breakthrough, compared to previous negotiations. As a result of that meeting, a series of recommendations emerged, and were shared at the Forum. It was specially recommended that the UNEP Executive Director inform the 11th Special Session of the GC/GMEF (February 2010), in collaboration with the relevant United Nations agencies, in order to organize a third and last intergovernmental meeting, in which negotiations will take place and decisions will be made on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The results shall be conveyed to the 65th Session of the General Assembly in 2010.

**35.** One of the participants pointed out that civil society has achieved a high level of knowledge on environmental studies, such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO). She added that this must be taken into account in the proposal for a new platform. Another delegate highlighted the significance of adding universities (academic sectors in general) and indigenous groups in the process of building alliances. According to another delegate, the influence of the private sector must be carefully evaluated, because private companies have influenced scientific results, and having an independent scientific com-

munity is an urgent matter. Another delegate, who added that this is an important area for the initiative in question, brought up the issue of aquatic habitat pollution.

**36.** Mrs. Mara Murillo said that the academic community and other relevant sectors have participated at the recent meetings.

**37.** One participant pointed out that it is important to design a strategy to make sure that the agreements reached at the Convention are enforced at the local level. She added that there is a lack of connection between what is determined at the intergovernmental level, and what is done locally, and that this gap must be closed.

**38.** In this respect, another delegate said that not only must there be a hope that change will come with the adoption of a bottom-up approach, but also bottom-up strategies must be adopted in projects with indigenous communities. Another participant also expressed support for considering a territorial division as a tool for the protection of ecosystems, and for placing a financial value on them.

**39.** Mrs. Mara Murillo then ended the first day's session with a presentation on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB). She stressed that the ultimate goal of this initiative is to incorporate the value of ecosystems and of the services that they provide in the decisions that are made on development policies, including sectorial policies, and added that many economists and experts from around the world are involved. Mrs. Murillo described the main results that have been obtained, and added that very complete reports will be available between November 2009 and August 2010. She asked for everyone's support to disseminate the results.

**40.** Participants expressed their opinions, and asserted that the initiative that was presented is very important to get governments to change their approach to biodiversity. They also stated how important it is to reach synergies with the Climate Change Convention.

## **Session 5: Regional Issues**

**41.** Mr. Calvin James, Vice-Chair of the Forum, opened the session by reviewing the main recommendations that resulted from the previous day's work, and the agenda that was proposed for the second day. Participants made their contributions by mentioning the recommendations that were not included on the list.

**42.** For the session on Regional Issues, the list compiled the previous day was reviewed.

**43.** Some of the major regional points of interest were the following:

**44.** The first item was regional participation at the last Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum. Emphasis was made on the fact that only seven regional organizations attended the meeting. Regarding the main document discussed at the Forum, it was stressed that the region did not contribute to its development, because the document was not circulated broadly with enough time. A recommendation was made to ensure a greater contribution on future occasions.

**45.** Another point was the tight deadlines that are given to respond to consultations at the regional level, which makes it impossible to share the call for contributions with other national and regional organizations. This becomes an obstacle for the regional participation of civil society. Also, the documents that will be discussed at a Ministerial Forum are not available, because the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum meetings are held before the Ministerial Forum meetings, and the mentioned documents have not been drafted.

**46.** The Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC) has two regional representatives who are not part of the Steering Committee. They are just observers without the right to speak, and this does not work. Regarding transparency, there are many obstacles to have access to certain kinds of information, it was stated. The participant noted that the Steering Committee not always communicates efficiently with the regions, and that is why greater efforts are needed to integrate regions more effectively. On this note, delegates reasserted that it is necessary to provide the appropriate financing to the Regional Forum.

**47.** On the other hand, participants stated that the Facilitating Committee must take into account regional points of view in final declarations. The Committee has not allowed much participation in the development of those declarations, and has not considered the recommendations issued by the Forum. It was also recommended that the Major Groups cooperate more with the different sectors, because there is a great amount of sectorial work to be done, independently of other types of work.

**48.** According to another participant, an "original sin" is being committed due to the fact that all responsibilities are centralised in Nairobi. He proposed giving more responsibilities to the UNEP Regional Office, in order to ensure a greater participation of civil society organizations.

**49.** One delegate pointed out that although a system must be established for organizations to have access to UNEP structures, this must be done carefully so that this system does not represent a barrier for organizations that do not have a global influence. Large global organizations often lobby to guarantee their participation, in detriment of regional groups.

**50.** According to another delegate, even though UNEP organizes these fora, Major Groups and Stakeholders must demand respect for the work that is done during the fora, and ensure that their points of view are taken into account at the other regional and global fora. He suggested establishing a partnership with other regions, in order to defend a common position, and asking

countries to share the cost of regional meetings. Finally, he proposed designing basic statutes, so that the Forum would be ongoing, by taking advantage of technological platforms that will allow permanent communication, and defining a secretariat or similar office that would be in charge of the administration. He added that this coordination is essential to articulate the different sectors and achieve a true joint work around common interest issues.

**51.** The session continued with a presentation from one of the representatives of civil society, about the participation of the region at the Forum of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). He pointed out that up until now Major Groups and Stakeholders from Latin America and the Caribbean have not participated, and reviewed the mandate and structure of the CSD. He stressed that the CSD is one of the places where civil society has a guaranteed and significant participation space, and that this Forum can take advantage of that space.

**52.** As a response, another participant said that if an organization is not accredited to UNEP, this is due to a lack of interest, and added that there is enough support to do it. She also mentioned that one of the documents from the Ministerial Forum stipulates that Major Groups and Stakeholders must be consulted, and that they have used this document to demand from the government that their contributions be taken into account.

**53.** One participant asserted that there are plenty of opportunities for civil society organizations to work for the goals established in the Earth Charter and Agenda 21. As an example, he mentioned the work carried out in Mexico, where Agenda 21 has been implemented in several cities with the crucial support of his organization.

**54.** According to another delegate, the members of this Forum must focus their attention on the Ministerial Forum, rather than the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, because the first can offer more decisive support.

**55.** Mrs. Cecilia Iglesias volunteered to write a first draft of the statutes for this Forum, with the support of some other member.

**56.** Finally, another point that was highlighted by several participants was that it is necessary to strengthen the knowledge of countries' representatives during negotiations on climate change. They added that many governments have sent to the meetings officials who are not well informed, and who in many cases do not work on this issue full-time.

## **Session 6: The Green Economy**

**57.** Mr. Gabriel Labbate, a UNEP Officer, explained the background and the goals of the Green Economy Initiative. He presented a list of global investments in green economic activities, and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Report. Mr. Labbate mentioned the three main conclusions of the first report from this study: there is a direct link between poverty and loss of ecosystems; the economic and social dimension of the loss is

huge; and the discount rates to be used depend on an ethical decision that must be made on a social basis.

**58.** Mr. Labbate presented a brief summary of the main areas of investment for this initiative, and talked about the challenge of producing more food-stuffs in the midst of population growth and the present food crisis. He ended by mentioning the different fora at which the initiative is being promoted and future steps to be taken.

**59.** One participant requested more information about the possibility of supporting the initiative from civil society, and Mr. Labbate responded that civil society has the main responsibility of making sure that this initiative is implemented.

**60.** Another delegate asked about the degree of participation of international financial organizations in the initiative. Mr. Labbate said that this must be looked at on a case-by-case basis, because some organizations are deeply involved, and others have begun their work only recently. He stressed that the supervising role of civil society is essential, to put pressure on institutions, so that their investments will be greener. He added that it is necessary that civil society disseminate this information among the different organizations.

**61.** One delegate pointed out that the Green Economy was not born in 2007, and has been working for decades, although he acknowledged that the present efforts are an additional step. He also questioned the position according to which it is a great challenge to produce enough food for everyone, given that there are different techniques that can be used. The challenge is how to make their use widespread, he added. He also said that although money has no ideology, working for the Green Economy does respond to an ideology.

**62.** Another participant expressed her wish that UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO) work together to study the economic burden of disease, particularly in the cases of illnesses derived from environmental degradation.

## **Session 7: Sustainable Consumption and Production**

**63.** Ms. Elisa Tonda, a UNEP Officer, gave a presentation on the Marrakesh Process and its link to the Green Economy Initiative.

**64.** Ms. Tonda stressed that a commitment at the governmental institutional level is necessary to promote a change in the production methods of corporations, along with efforts to change the consumption pattern of the general population. She mentioned three working groups: private corporations, governments, and general population.

**65.** Ms. Tonda referred to the Marrakesh Process, which intends to promote a program and different sustainable consumption and production (SCP) processes for the next ten years. She explained how the process is developing in

the framework of the CSD, and its future steps. The UNEP Officer pointed out that one of the participation mechanisms for civil society is a Global NGOs Forum, in which active participation is being requested. A SCP Latin America and Caribbean Initiative has been launched, and five priority regional issues are being proposed to the CSD: a regional information network on SCP; an ongoing dialogue to develop national strategies and policies; SCP in small and medium-size companies, and sustainable public acquisitions.

**66.** As a point of clarification, it was announced that the NGOs Forum is organized by the NGOs themselves, and that contact information will be posted so that interested parties can consult on participation criteria.

**67.** Ms. Tonda added that the present Chair of the CSD is the Minister of Environment of Guatemala. She explained the future steps and asserted that in order to obtain better results at the next CSD meeting, the request is that representatives from all agencies of the United Nations are present, so that parallel initiatives can be avoided. Also, a YouTube channel has been created, so that experts who cannot attend may send their messages. Additionally, government delegates will be offered training.

**68.** The final outcome of the next CSD session shall be a 10-year framework programme (10YFP). A regional consultative meeting will be held, and comments on the draft (which has been uploaded on the website) are being received.

**69.** One delegate thought that this initiative is essential in order to achieve a change towards environmental conservation. She said that if the initiative is to be successful, not only Ministers of Environment must be involved, but also Ministers of Economy, Agriculture, Industry, and others. She added that civil society is a key partner, because it includes consumers.

### **Session 8: Discussion on the outcome of the meeting and presentation of key messages**

**70.** The Vice-Chair of the Forum reviewed the key messages that were conveyed during the discussions. After analysing and editing the content, consensus was reached on the recommendations of Major Groups and Stakeholders from Latin America and the Caribbean. The messages are listed in **Annex III**.

### **Session 9: Election of two sponsored regional representatives to the 11th GCSF and the 26th GC/GMEF**

**71.** After a discussion on the number of delegates, the selection criteria, and voting procedures, the representatives of civil society organizations named their representatives, who will be part of the delegation that will attend the 11th GCSF and the 26th GC/GMEF.

**72.** After voting, Mrs. Alida Spadafora –as Chair of the Forum– and Mrs. Cecilia Iglesias were selected to attend the Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF). Mr. Calvin James will be the alternate delegate, in case one of the two delegates cannot attend.

**73.** Also, Mr. Carlos Gómez, Mr. Sandro Chávez, Mr. Pedro Aranha, and Mr. Calvin James were selected as representatives to the Ministerial Environment Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **Session 10: Evaluation of the Meeting**

**74.** As has been the practice during previous meetings of the Forum, a form was distributed to gather the opinions of participants about the Forum format and content, so that improvements can be made for the next occasion.

### **Session 11: Closing of the Forum**

**75.** The Regional Consultative Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean was closed on Tuesday, 1 December 2009, at 5:30pm. Mrs. Alida Spadafora, the Forum Chair, and Mr. Gabriel Labatte, who represented UNEP, offered closing remarks.

**76.** On behalf of all participants, Mr. Sandro Chávez acknowledged the work of Mr. Rody Oñate, Communications and Public Information Officer of UNEP, who for many years has efficiently acted as a link between UNEP and civil society from Latin America and the Caribbean.

## ANNEX I - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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## ANNEX II – AGENDA

### Day 1: Monday, 30 November 2009

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening Session <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Opening remarks from the Adjunct Regional Director, and Official in Charge UNEP/ROLAC.</li> <li>1.2 Opening remarks from the Civil Society Regional President.</li> <li>1.3 Inauguration of the Civil Society Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Organization of the works <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Approval of the Agenda</li> <li>2.2 Outgoing President's Management Report.</li> <li>2.3 Election of President and Vice President.</li> <li>2.4 Debate on the final result of the meeting</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
10:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:15 a.m.–11:00 a.m.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Introduction to UNEP's Global Civil Society Forum <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Description of UNEP's Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GC/GMEF) and opportunities for the involvement of major groups.</li> <li>3.2 Purpose of the Global Civil Society Forum (GMGSF) and its achievements during the past period.</li> <li>3.3 Presentation of the criteria for the selection of regional representatives at GCSF and the GC/GMEF</li> <li>3.4 Questions and answers Session</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
11:00 a.m.–12:30 a.m.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. International Environmental Governance for Sustainable Development <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Follow-up on Decision 25/4 of the GC/GMEF (24th Session) regarding International Environmental Governance</li> <li>4.2 Civil Society Recommendations</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
12:30 p.m.–13:45 p.m.	Lunch
14:00 a.m.–15:30 p.m.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Basle, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Cluster (Extraordinary COP-ExCOP) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1 Cluster experience and lessons learned</li> <li>5.2 Civil Society Recommendations</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
15:30-17:00 p.m.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Biodiversity and Ecosystems <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1 International Year of Biodiversity.</li> <li>6.2 The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Report</li> <li>6.3 Follow-up of the debate on the establishment of the</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>Inter-Governmental Scientific-Regulatory Platform on Biologic Diversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES)          6.4 Discussion on lessons learned from the chemicals cluster and its application to the biodiversity convention.          6.5 Civil Society Recommendations</p>
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**Day 2: Tuesday, 1 December 2009**

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	7. Regional Topics
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Coffee Break
10.45 - 12:30 p.m.	<p>8. The Green Economy              8.1 Multiple crisis and opportunities for a green economy              8.2 Description of the green economy proposal              8.3 Participation in global policy processes              8.4 The role of consumption and sustainable production in the green economy, the Marrakesh and CSD 18 contributions.              8.5 Civil Society Recommendations</p>
12:30 – 13:30 p.m.	Lunch
13:45-14:30 p.m.	9. Discussion on the results of the meeting
14:30-15:00 p.m.	10. Selection of the two regional representatives for GMGSF and GC/GMEF
15:00-15:30 p.m.	11. Meeting Evaluation
15:30-16:00 p.m.	<p>12. Closing              12.1 Remarks by the Forum's Chair              12.2 Remarks by the UNEP</p>

## **ANNEX III – RECOMMENDATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

### **With respect to International Environmental Governance**

- It is necessary that the diverse levels of environmental governance management be differentiated, because each one of them has specific characteristics and, therefore, require specific efforts. In that sense, the following is recommended:
  - ⇒ At the Global level, it is important that dialogue and program agreements be promoted between UNEP's Governing Council and governance instances in international trade matters, such as WTO, and financial institutions like the World Bank.
  - ⇒ At the Regional level, it is essential that the environmental governance topic be taken to the regional integration processes (MERCOSUR, CARICOM, CCAD, among others) as well as to the financial institutions of the region, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank and the Organization of American States (OAS).
  - ⇒ At the National level, it is essential that the diverse national agencies or ministries articulate, complement and harmonize their work managing environmental topics; in such a manner that the implementation of national policies on sustainability is truly efficient and effective.
- It is necessary that the international environmental architecture reform is resolutely aimed at strengthening UNEP in its structure, capacities, resources and regional presence, especially the regional offices. Likewise, greater transparency, ample participation of the main groups and accountability mechanisms must be guaranteed.
- It is essential that a process be undertaken to for the creation and strengthening of capacities with respect to international environmental governance within and jointly with the main groups, in such a way so as to increase their potential of influencing in an articulated manner the international organizations with influence on the environmental policy of the region and the world (UNEP, CSD, WTO, World Bank, IDB, OAS, etc.).
- We encourage UNEP and national governments to provide greater dissemination to the agreements and consultations of the GC/GMEF, in order to strengthen the articulation and implementation at the local levels.
- It is essential that the political will of the Governments, United Nations Agencies and others be buttressed so as to take definite steps forward with the reforms that arise from negotiations and consultations related to International Environmental Governance.
- Guarantee that the International and Regional Financial Institutions incorporate in their priorities the commitments arising from Multilateral

Environmental Agreements, so as to enable the financing of the necessary actions for their enforcement.

### **With respect to the ExCOPs**

- During the extraordinary simultaneous meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, which will discuss the Decisions on joint activities, we request that a place be allotted to the recommendations of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group (AHJWG) in what respects to the dissemination and awareness creation activities. Likewise, we remind the broad capacities base and successful experiences existing in the civil society to contribute to the process.
- It is important that support be given to the developing integration process and request awareness and education instances for the civil society on the consequences of their management of synergies between the three conventions and their implication in the national implementation of the same.
- Enhance the activities of Regional centers of the conventions.
- Strengthen financing, implementation and better articulation between conventions at the Regional level.
- Strengthen financing and adopt financing mechanism of chemical follow-up process.
- Include line items in the financial institutions to empower the articulation and supply the financial needs for the implementation of the conventions at the Regional level.
- The convention should adopt the model used by SAICM where the actors including civil society, participates in the national planning processes and in the decision-making committees.
- Strengthen links with the chemical safety process in:

Pesticide Management ⇒ Ecosystems

Toxic Chemicals ⇒ Biodiversity

Contamination ⇒ aquatic habitat

### **Biodiversity and Ecosystems**

- Creation of economic instruments to support the involvement of the main groups in general, and the scientific-academic sector in particular, in the current ongoing initiatives in biodiversity and eco-systemic services matters (IPBES, TEEB, etc.).
- Guarantee that the worldview of the indigenous peoples be incorporated in the processes for the evaluation and management of the ecosystems' assets and services.
- In accordance with the timetable for the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity) initiative, its second phase will produce five reports, one of which -D4- will be aimed at citizens and consumers, and will take the shape of a website. Regarding this matter, it is re-

requested that diverse dissemination tools be considered (including audiovisual resources), that these be available in different languages and that the capacities of civil society organizations in pedagogic mediation be considered in their elaboration.

- With respect to the IPBES it is of vital importance that, in their conformation, this platform considers the relations between science, politics and business, particularly paying attention to the economic interests behind the financing of the scientific research and that it is concerned with guaranteeing an independent and comprehensive science.
- Training for technocrats and politicians so that they acquire the capacity to communicate with each other in this matter.
- Create an alliance with indigenous communities to translate indigenous knowledge, expertise, and technologies in relevant solutions and programs.
- Gender-related needs must be broadly incorporated in all work programs.
- With respect to international agreements related to biodiversity, we recommend that a process of articulation and search for synergies be undertaken, similar to the model applied to the chemicals cluster.

### **Green Economy**

- Economic support that favors developing countries in the matter of knowledge heading towards the creation of green jobs, training workers.
- Creation of fiscal and economic instruments by each one of the countries to support the green economy, in particular small and medium enterprises.
- We construe as essential that the Council of Experts of the Marrakech Process establishes clear, transparent and effective mechanisms to expand participation of the civil society involved in diverse topics linked to sustainable production and consumption.

### **With respect to other matters,**

- We express our support to the holding of the Children and Youth International Conference for the Environment (CONFINT) to be developed in Brazil, on June 5 – 10, 2010, in the understanding that it will constitute an important space for education and awareness-creation regarding global environmental challenges.