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Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean**

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the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

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26th to 30th April 2010**

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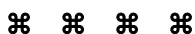
Final Report of the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts

**Panama City, Panama
26th to 28th April 2010**

Table of Contents

I. Introduction	1
II. Objectives of the Meeting	1
III. Attendance	1
Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting	2
Agenda Item 2: Organization of the work.....	3
2.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure for the meeting.....	3
2.2. Election of the Board	3
2.3. Adoption of the Agenda and Calendar of Sessions of the Meeting.....	3
Agenda Item 3: Follow-up to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean	3
3.1. Implementation of the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009	3
3.2. Proposal for structure and content of the Regional Action Plan 2010-2011	4
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	6
Agenda Item 4: Report on compliance with the decisions of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers	9
Agenda Item 5: Report on the Results of the eleventh special session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GC/GMEF)	12
Agenda Item 6: Other issues	13
Agenda Item 7: Revision and approval of the Draft Report of the meeting	13
Agenda Item 8: Closing of the Meeting	13
Annex I. Decisions of the Preparatory Meeting of High Level Experts	15
Decision 1. Regional Action Plan for 2010-2011 and assessment of implementation instruments	15
Decision 2. Biological Diversity and Ecosystems	16
Decision 3. Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and Participation of the Region in the Negotiation of a Protocol	18
Decision 4. Environmental Indicators.....	21
Decision 5. Sustainable Consumption and Production	23
Decision 6. Atmospheric Pollution.....	24
Decision 7. Chemicals	26
Decision 8. Sustainable Land Management	28
Decision 9. Small Island Developing States (SIDS)	30

Decision 10. Climate Change	32
Decision 11. Gratitude to the People and Government of Panama	34
Appendix 1 to Annex I on decision 1: "Regional Action Plan for 2010-2011 and assessment of implementation instruments"	35
Appendix 2 to Annex II on decision 1 "Regional Action Plan for 2010-2011 and assessment of implementation instruments"	45
Annex II List of Participants	47
I. Governments	47
II. Observers	52
A. United Nations system	52
1. Programmes and Comissions	52
2. Secretariats and Conventions	53
B. Intergovernmental Organisations	53
C. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO)	54
D. Special Guests	54
E. Secretariat	¡Error! Marcador no definido.



I. Introduction

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

2. Seven years have passed 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 objective 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, and the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building.

II. Objectives of the Meeting

3. The High-Level Preparatory Meeting of Experts of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was held from 26th to 28th April, 2010, in Panama City, Panama.

4. The main objective of the High-Level Meeting of Experts is to make an assessment of the lessons learned and the challenges posed by the implementation of the RAP and to consider a conceptual revision ⁽¹⁾ of its structure and modes of execution during 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 ⁽²⁾ adopted at the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers and of the RAP 2008-2009⁽³⁾.

5. 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 took place since the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum held in the Dominican Republic.

III. Attendance

6. The Preparatory Meeting of Experts was attended by 35 Government representatives from 23 countries of the region, as well as 9 attendees from 4 programmes, Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, 3 representatives from Intergovernmental Agencies, 3 representatives from 3 Non-Governmental Organizations, and 2 special invitees. The List of Participants of this Meeting is available as **Annex II** to this document.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

7. The meeting began with an opening ceremony at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 26th April 2010, with keynote speeches by the United Nations Environment Programme, (UNEP) Regional Director Ms. Margarita Astrálaga, the Director of Trade and Environment of the State Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic, Ms Rosa Otero, and the Director of Environmental Quality of the National Environment Authority of Panama, Mr Julio Cesar Castillo. The representative of Dominican Republic gave thanks for having the honour of being the Chair of the Forum for the past two years, and transferred the chairmanship to Panama, wishing them success during this period. In turn, the Government of Panama, on behalf of the countries present at the meeting, acknowledged the leadership and the work carried out by the Dominican Republic. He also thanked participating countries for their trust, and urged the formulation of pertinent recommendations to be presented to the Ministerial Segment of this Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean.

8. UNEP's Regional Director took the opportunity to thank the Government of Panama for their hospitality and the support provided in the preparation of this meeting as well as the Dominican Republic, who has led the efforts of the Forum over the last two years. She highlighted that the challenge for the region is to tackle the increasing levels of poverty while integrating environmental and social concerns, emphasizing the need for transversal actions across sectors. She added the importance of emerging issues related to trade and environment, vulnerability to climate change, health, and use of economic instruments for environmental management, among others. Finally, she added that UNEP together with the Interagency Technical Committee (ITC) agencies will continue supporting the countries of the region in the implementation of the RAP, within the frameworks of their mandates and their respective work plans, through the promotion of capacity building and exchange of experiences.

9. For their part, the representatives of the agencies of the ITC present at the meeting (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC; the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP; and the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB) expressed their support to the Forum of Ministers, and indicated that a number of their programmes include the majority of the priority areas established by the Forum.

10. ECLAC highlighted its active and permanent work on analyses of topics such as climate change and its implications from the economic, social and environmental perspective, biodiversity conservation, reducing deforestation, the implementation of sustainable consumption and production patterns, the generation and efficient use of clean energies, the fight against desertification, and the promotion of sustainable cities.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the work

2.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure for the meeting

11. It was proposed that the Experts adopt, *mutatis mutandi*, the regulations of UNEP's Governing Council in order to dictate the procedures of the meeting.

2.2. Election of the Board

12. It was proposed to the Preparatory Meeting of Experts that, according to the usual practice established at prior Forum Meetings, the Board shall be comprised by one Chairperson and seven Vice-Chairs, including the Rapporteur, as per the criteria of geographical representativeness and rotation established by ministerial meetings. By acclamation, the following Board was elected: for the Caribbean subregion, Suriname and the Dominican Republic; for the Andean subregion, Ecuador and Peru; for the Southern Cone, Brazil and Uruguay; and Costa Rica was elected as Rapporteur.

2.3. Adoption of the Agenda and Calendar of Sessions of the Meeting

13. Under this item, the Experts considered the Provisional Agenda¹, the Provisional Annotated Agenda² and the Calendar of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat. UNEP's Deputy Regional Director, made a brief summary of the items on the agenda, after which and in the absence of any objections, the Chair declared the Agenda approved.

Agenda Item 3: Follow-up to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

3.1. Implementation of the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009

14. Under this point, UNEP's Deputy Regional Director made a presentation of the activities carried out by the ITC in the implementation of the RAP 2008-2009³. In her presentation, she highlighted the activities carried out to strengthen national and regional capacities, the support provided to the region for international negotiations, South-South cooperation, the UN REDD Programme, the Poverty and Environment Initiative, and the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) programme, among others. The countries appreciated the information presented.

¹ See document "Provisional Agenda" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/1).

² See document "Provisional Annotated Agenda" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/2).

³ See document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/4/Rev.1

3.2. Proposal for structure and content of the Regional Action Plan 2010-2011

15. In order to consider this item of the Agenda, the Preparatory Meeting of Experts took into consideration the deliberations and recommendations of the Intersessional Meeting (Panama City, Panama; 20st and 21st October 2009) and of the meeting of the Contact Group⁴ (Brasilia, Brazil; 3rd and 4th February 2010)⁵.

16. In this regard, the Secretariat presented a summary of the consultation process carried out to enable the Contact Group to prepare the RAP 2010-2011 proposal.⁶

17. The Secretariat explained that 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 intersessional 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 (ITC), without prejudice to the activities carried out by agencies individually.

18. In the intersessional period elapsed since the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum, consultations were made to address issues dealing with the structure and execution of the RAP as the mechanism that operationalizes the ILAC. These exchanges triggered various ideas and proposals, which were considered at the Intersessional Meeting of Government Experts (Panama City, Panama; 20th and 21st October 2009).

19. 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," to be considered by the Forum of Ministers. The Contact Group hosted several virtual sessions and a final meeting (Brasilia, Brazil; 3rd and 4th February 2010) at which a recommendation on the structure and activities of the RAP 2010-2011 was drafted. The recommendation was disseminated in order to get comments from all countries in the region, and will be presented for consideration at the current meeting of the Forum.

20. In addition, for this segment, a presentation was made on the report on the decisions⁷ and the implementation of the RAP 2008-2009 since the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

⁴ The Contact Group was established at the Intersessional Meeting and comprises two countries per subregion: for Meso America (Mexico and Costa Rica; for the Caribbean: St. Kitts and Nevis and the Dominican Republic; for the Andean subregion: Ecuador and Peru; and for the Southern Cone: Argentina and Brazil), as well as the Interagency Technical Committee (UNEP, WB, UNDP, ECLAC and IDB).

⁵ 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).

⁶ See document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/5.

⁷ See document entitled "Report of the Secretariat on the fulfilment of the decisions adopted at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/3).

21. After UNEP's presentation, the representative of Brazil further explained the reasons why Argentina and Brazil made a proposal for a conceptual and structural reform of the RAP at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers. Brazil mentioned the need to prioritize regional topics, identify financial resources for the implementation of the ILAC as well as attain high institutional commitment from the countries on its implementation through the RAP. Uruguay supported this position and added that political will is key for effectively implementing the RAP.

22. The representative of Barbados emphasized the need for a bottom up approach that takes into consideration both national and subregional priorities. The representative also affirmed that the RAP 2010-2011 should be linked with the UNEP Medium Term Strategy.

23. The representative of the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD) alluded to the work that is being undertaken by UNEP in collaboration with the Caribbean Small Island Development States (SIDS) in the area of sustainable land management. In this regard, specific reference was made to the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM). The representative emphasized the importance of this topic for Caribbean SIDS and recommended that it should be included in the RAP. He also made reference to the adoption of the PISLM by the Committee of Trade and Economic Development of the Caribbean Community (COTED) and the mandate given to the PISLM to address the land management chapter of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA).

24. Furthermore, the representative of the Global Mechanism for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stressed the importance of sustainable land management and strongly recommended its inclusion in the 2010-2011 RAP. They also offered resources that in the region are at the disposal of Member States for addressing this issue. Uruguay also agreed on the importance of Sustainable Land Management.

25. Moreover, the representative of the Peru Ecological Forum suggested that the focus on biodiversity should be broadened to include the promotion of forest management and the strengthening of capacities in that area.

26. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda indicated that one of the main sources of financing for the Caribbean SIDS is the Global Environment Fund (GEF), and that in this regard, the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean needs to demonstrate its relevance as an Implementing Agency, in terms of value added for countries in the implementation of GEF projects and in identifying the amount of resources to be allocated for co-financing. The representative also called for flexibility in the RAP, to allow the consideration of subregional activities that are being undertaken, and stressed the need for a specific focus on SIDS within the RAP.

27. Following these interventions, the UNEP Deputy Regional Director mentioned that the areas identified as priority areas are those that the Ministers adopted for the period 2008-2009 at the previous XVI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

28. In terms of additional activities considered important for the RAP, the representative of Nicaragua highlighted the issue of Risk Management, and Ecuador

in turn underlined the importance of including traditional knowledge; together with Colombia, they agreed on the need for clarity in the Action Plan.

29. The representative of Peru mentioned a group of additional activities that could be integrated into the proposed RAP 2010-2011, including the promotion of campaigns for awareness-raising on the conservation of primary forests and biological diversity, human settlement issues, health and environment, and emphasized South-South cooperation and environmental indicators.

30. UNEP's Regional Director clarified that the agencies contribute to the RAP in the framework of their own mandates. She added that the implementation of the RAP is everyone's responsibility and that on account of the ILAC and the RAP, the agencies have been working in a joint and more coordinated manner.

31. At the request of the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, the meeting agreed that time should be allocated for the respective subregional groups to meet and review the proposed RAP matrix.

32. Upon resumption of the plenary, the various groups presented the results of their discussions and viewpoints. Speaking on behalf of the Caribbean subregion, Antigua and Barbuda indicated that the group had concluded that the RAP, as it stands, does not adequately reflect the vulnerabilities and peculiarities of the Caribbean SIDS. She however explained that the Caribbean group will accept the RAP as a general framework with the addition of Sustainable Land Management.

33. Brazil spoke on behalf of the Southern Cone, emphasizing the regional focus of the proposed RAP and the need to act in unity with respect to its implementation.

34. The Representative of Peru presented comments on the RAP on behalf of the Andean Region, specifying new products and activities to be considered for the RAP, underlining the importance of this tool in facilitating the link between stated activities and the initiatives and ITC programmes.

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

35. The following Working Groups had the opportunity to present the activities carried out in the period between sessions: a) the Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising From Their Use, b) Climate Change, and c) Education for Sustainable Development. In addition, there was a presentation on the results of the most recent meeting of the Network of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).

36. The information presented by the Secretariat on behalf of the Working Groups and the Network are summarized in document of the Report on the Fulfilment of the Decisions adopted at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/3).

37. The meeting resumed the discussion about the existence of the working groups. The representative from the Dominican Republic said that the six working groups

defined at the 16th Forum of Ministers⁸ should continue to exist throughout the 2010-2011 period. She said that even though only two of them (environmental indicators and access to genetic resources) worked in an active manner, the topics of the other groups continue to be relevant.

38. A numerous group of countries, including Peru, Panama, Saint Lucia, Costa Rica and Uruguay, supported the Dominican Republic's proposal and added that the deficiencies and reasons why some groups did not function appropriately should be assessed for the purpose of strengthening them. In this regard Peru suggested that, for example, there should be closer cooperation between the Coordinator and the members of the working group, or alternate members could be appointed and the responsibilities distributed between the members of the group. The representative from Brazil said that his country has made a critical assessment of the operation of the working groups and considers that only the groups on environmental indicators and on access to genetic resources should be maintained, but in view of the majority opinion he agreed that they should continue operating.

39. Participants expressed appreciation for all presentations. Regarding Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing, the representative of Mexico informed that a proposed decision on this topic had been circulated to the countries for their consideration. Likewise, Panama informed that they had done the same in relation to the topics of Climate Change, and Sustainable Consumption and Production.

40. The work on Sustainable Consumption and Production was welcomed by many delegations. Antigua and Barbuda stated that the subject is very important, particularly the implementation of sustainable consumption patterns and the management of solid wastes in SIDS. They proposed a study on the consumption patterns and opportunities for Island States to be conducted taking into consideration trade opportunities and economies of scale.

41. Barbados expressed that, considering that the 10 Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production is on the political agenda of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the Latin American and Caribbean region should prepare a position before the Commission.

42. With this in mind, Barbados added that wider stakeholder participation is important and reiterated the need for a Caribbean focus on the subject. In addition, the potential for synergies with issues such as the green economy and maintaining trade competitiveness was highlighted.

43. Uruguay mentioned that it was worth considering economies of scale for small countries and in the context of small to medium size enterprises. This delegation reaffirmed the importance for this topic in the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and highlighted the success in obtaining financing from the European Union (EU) to support the implementation of 60% of the Regional SCP Strategy for MERCOSUR.

⁸ In Decision 4 on the operation of the Working Groups the following were proposed: a) Environmental Indicators; b) Risk Management; c) Access to Genetic Resources; d) Climate Change; e) Management of Marine and Coastal Areas and their Resources; f) Environmental Education for Sustainable Development.

44. It was also indicated that this subregion had developed successful cases that are available for distribution.

45. On their part, civil society representatives reaffirmed the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to SCP as a cross-cutting subject, providing opportunities for integration in negotiation processes.

46. After the various interventions by the countries, the Secretariat clarified that there is both a subregional and a national approach in the work programme of the Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production of Latin America and the Caribbean, that reflect their specific needs.

47. The Secretariat also confirmed that the 10-year Framework Programme for SCP will be discussed in a meeting that will take place in October 2010, and it will be presented in the Nineteenth Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (May, 2011).

48. Continuing under this agenda item, the Secretariat made a presentation on the activities and progress made by the Working Group on Environmental Indicators.

49. Numerous delegations thanked the Working Group on Environmental Indicators for their presentation. They likewise praised Costa Rica's work as coordinator of the Working Group and thanked UNEP and ECLAC for all the support provided.

50. In turn, the Costa Rican representative said that the role of coordinator had been a great experience over the last two years and that Costa Rica would like to share this process with other countries, consequently proposing that the role of coordinator be rotated.

51. The representative of Mexico said that it would be an honour to assume the coordination of the Group, and participants unanimously accepted this nomination.

52. The representative of Saint Lucia gave thanks for the translation of the ILAC indicator methodological sheets into English, and said that they hoped that in the future the Working Group will focus more on the English-speaking Caribbean.

53. The representative of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) mentioned that at the most recent Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP 9, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 27th September to 2nd October 2009) the countries approved 11 indicators (two of which are compulsory to report and have to do with poverty and land cover). The representative called for harmonization of the various efforts involving indicators.

54. The representative of Barbados brought to the meeting's attention the limited institutional capacities in the Caribbean (in the statistics departments, for example) to access data and process information in order to incorporate these into decision-making processes and in the development of policies. He proposed that training be planned to help overcome these limitations by means of the Environmental Training Network and by granting scholarships for this purpose.

55. Additionally, the representative mentioned the importance of harmonizing and integrating projects with respect to indicators and in the context of reports on the Millennium Development Goals, national reports and other processes (for example, in reviewing the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados

Programme of Action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States, Mauritius +5), and the development of indicators for sustainable development by the United Nations Department for Economic Affairs (UNDESA), UNDP and UNEP.

56. The representative of Suriname noted that the environmental indicators, which are part of Goal 7 of the MDG's, are more related to poverty alleviation and not as such to the environment. She asked how the Environmental Indicators mentioned in the Working Group document on environmental indicators relate to the ones that are mentioned in Goal 7 of the MDGs.

57. The UNEP representative agreed and thanked everyone for their comments.

Agenda Item 4: Report on compliance with the decisions of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers

58. To begin the discussion under this item, UNEP's Deputy Regional Director provided a summary of the main advances in the fulfilment of the decisions adopted at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean⁹.

59. Following the presentation, the Chair emphasized that some of the Working Groups did not fulfil their commitments, and so he called for a discussion on whether these Working Groups should continue to exist.

60. The delegate from Mexico mentioned the areas of work of Genetic Resources and Chemical substances. Nevertheless, during the ensuing debate, he underscored that other priority work areas should be identified.

61. The delegate from El Salvador stressed the flexibility of organizing the working groups of the Forum of Ministers where the existence of such a group is determined as a function of the importance of the topic. Considering this he proposed that the creation of a group should be dependent on the importance of the topic and the commitment by an institution in addition to the availability of resources.

62. Following this line of thought, the delegate from Brazil stressed that the groups wishing to work on a theme also require support by an Agency, and recommended that a Group should not be formed unless the required support is available. The delegate proposed completing the analysis of the RAP before deciding on the number of Working Groups.

63. The representative of Barbados highlighted that trade and environment are very important topics and critical to the Region. He noted the substantive work done by UNEP in this area, including the presentation of studies and lessons learned in other regions, and their applicability in the Caribbean region. He added that UNEP's work addresses the issue of competitiveness in trade, particularly in regards to certain standards that could act as barriers to trade. The work also enhanced the competitiveness of producers in the region and possibly helped to create niche markets. He then spoke about the growing importance of the use of Multilateral

⁹ See document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/Ref.10

Environmental Agreements and environmental policies that facilitate negotiations in the World Trade Organization and other international fora.

64. Following several queries regarding the information to be included in the column entitled focal points in the RAP matrix, the delegate from the Dominican Republic clarified that it refers to the person responsible for following up on the topics the country committed to. This is precisely why, she pointed out, it is necessary to have someone in charge of the topic who can provide continuity.

65. In closing the debate, the Chair recommended that, as part of the discussion and finalization of the RAP, the working groups that will be required for the RAP 2010-2011 be identified, in addition to the Working Group for Environmental Indicators that was set up during the morning session. These groups will be in charge of managing the RAP.

66. Likewise, in compliance with Decision 16 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD¹⁰ made a presentation on the document entitled "Proposal Towards the Design of a Regional Strategy: Modalities and Actions To Increase the Flow of Financial Resources Aimed at Implementation of the UNCCD in Latin America and the Caribbean."

67. Following this presentation, Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda mentioned the difficulties in gaining access to resources, particularly within the framework of the GEF.

68. The representatives of Uruguay and Mexico gave thanks for the presentation and underscored the need to promote synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements.

69. The representatives of the Global Mechanism gave thanks for the comments made and clarified that the Strategy promotes an integrated and cross-cutting approach to the topic. They stressed that the Strategy does not aim to create new bureaucratic bodies but to operate through existing institutions. They are confident that the Strategy will help those countries with the most limitations to overcome the bottlenecks they face when gaining access to financial resources, including those from the GEF.

70. The representative of Panama recognized that the problem of land degradation is very significant in this country and also supported the need to create synergies with other conventions. He mentioned that Panama and other countries have proposed a decision on the topic for the Ministers' consideration.

71. The representative of the Dominican Republic welcomed the Strategy added that in the case of her country and Haiti, which share the same island, the topic of desertification is a priority, not only because of climate change, but also because of food security, given the vulnerability of these two countries.

72. Following on, the Secretariat made a presentation on the Regional Network on Atmospheric Pollution, in compliance with decision 7 adopted at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment.

¹⁰ UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/10.

73. Chile gave thanks for the presentation and praised the work done. The representative highlighted the problem of atmospheric pollution and the need to incorporate two activities, one within the transport sector and another related to fuel standards. In the transport sector, with regard to vehicle standards, they would like to promote the harmonization of emission standards for new and used vehicles, as well as develop capacities for strict control of the norms of emission applied to new vehicles, promoting cooperation for capacity building in the region that would allow for a better control of them. Additionally, on the issue of fuel standards, they would like to encourage countries to make efforts to achieve a standard of 50ppm sulphur fuels in urban areas by 2015.

74. The representative from the Global Forum on Atmospheric Pollution gave thanks for the opportunity offered, and provided a few substantive comments. He highlighted the impact of pollution on health, pointing out that almost a million deaths occur at the global level due to problems related to atmospheric pollution. Regional cooperation is becoming more and more important. He also highlighted the priority areas to be included in the work program, endorsing Chile's emphasis on transportation. Another issue is the early establishment of a coherent regional process for constructing a data base for monitoring and assessment to facilitate cooperation. Finally, he referred to the benefits of combining the way air pollution and climate change are tackled.

75. The representative of Panama gave thanks for such a comprehensive presentation, and pointed to the proposal for a decision on atmospheric pollution that they submitted.

76. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela applauded the Network's proposal, and added that this topic should be made part of the development programmes of poor countries so that it does not become a restraint on the development of their peoples. Venezuela also stressed that all mechanisms for financing and support should be used to compensate for the sacrifices made for these people to take part in a measure of global importance, particularly taking into account that the countries entailed are those that emit the least in global terms. He also underlined that the debate and participation of poorer and developing countries should be broaden, taking into account that the preliminary consultation were not broad.

77. The representative of Brazil stressed that this is a very important topic and that the discussion should continue; he recognized the importance of the Network and of the work being accomplished by the Global Forum on Atmospheric Pollution. He informed that Brazil has made some progress with monitoring networks, and has compiled a national inventory of emissions from mobile sources. He emphasized that the proposal presented by Panama is very good and incorporates important elements, such as the society's right to information. The debate on this topic should continue.

78. El Salvador then intervened, mentioning that little progress has been made on standardization and the issue of control policies on this topic. Even though El Salvador has been supported by international cooperation, the country does not have a transportation control system. He supported Brazil's position that the document should be further discussed to determine the scope of the agreement and especially its legal character (whether or not it should be binding).

Agenda Item 5: Report on the Results of the Eleventh Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GC/GMEF)

79. Under this item, the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers reported on the results of the Eleventh Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (Bali, Indonesia; 26th to 28th February 2010), and made reference to the Declaration of Nusa Dua¹¹, where the Ministers underlined issues of priority for the Region including: climate change, sustainable development, international environmental governance, green economy and biodiversity and ecosystems.

80. An additional presentation by the Secretariat was made on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The main issues presented were: pressing needs, background information and milestones for the processes including GC decisions, key considerations, options for the legal basis of a new platform, options for a Secretariat, functions for the proposed platform (if established) and finally, scenarios for the 3rd IPBES meeting to take place in June 2010 in Busan, Korea. The Secretariat concluded by stressing that bridging the gap between the scientific community and policy makers is at the heart of this process.

81. Following the presentation, the Chair opened the floor for comments.

82. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed their support of the IPBES process, recognizing it as a necessary interface. However, the delegate expressed concern that despite the apparent high level of consensus, effective progress seemed elusive. He suggested taking advantage of the present Ministerial Forum and encouraged the countries of the region to reach a consensus. This could be done by establishing a Working Group to foster the necessary accords from the region, in order to provide useful inputs to the Global Forum.

83. Barbados took note of the comment made by the delegate of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, further emphasizing capacity building as a key element of the platform, which in turn enhances the decision making process and better demonstrates the added value of the global platform. Additionally, he encouraged countries to participate in order to strengthen the region's representation with a view to lobbying for priorities.

84. Brazil referred to this process within the GC, exhorting countries to become more engaged. He stressed the importance of a regional delivery, by asking the GC for clearer support to Regional Offices, as this is essential for acceding to demands. The discussion on international environmental governance (IEG) and the rearrangement of the international cooperation system, including the role of UNEP, were presented as examples. Finally, the representative highlighted the importance of promoting regional dialogue on this subject, especially considering that the IEG is one of the topics of the Ministerial Round Table within the Rio + 20 process.

¹¹ See document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/Ref.9

85. In response, the Secretariat agreed and indicated that in terms of final outcome, the process is as important as a consensus to develop the platform. A parallel to the Climate Change Framework was drawn, pointing out that biodiversity and ecosystems are considered more sensitive and complex technical and political issues. Capacity building was acknowledged as a key component of the platform. Finally the recommendation for regional delivery was welcomed, given the fact that UNEP's mandate, bestowed by the GC, is of global and regional scope; countries were further urged to participate in the GC.

Agenda Item 6: Other issues

86. Under this agenda item, the Experts did not raise any other issue.

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

87. Under this Item of the Agenda, delegations reviewed the draft of the Final Report that was submitted by the Rapporteur, and they approved it after making changes they deemed necessary.

Agenda Item 8: Closing of the Meeting

88. The meeting closed on Wednesday, 28 April, at 7:30 pm.

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Annex I

Proposal of Decisions of the Preparatory Meeting of High Level Experts

The Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Governments present at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, from 26th to 30th April 2010, taking into account the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts and the deliberations of this Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, recommend the adoption of the following decisions:

Decision 1

Regional Action Plan for 2010-2011 and assessment of implementation instruments

Taking into account that the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is the main regional intergovernmental political forum on environmental matters and offers environmental authorities a venue to agree upon actions and ponder the main challenges of the global and regional environmental agenda within the context of sustainable development;

Whereas the Regional Action Plan (RAP) is the main instrument of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean for the implementation of agreed upon regional strategies;

Highlighting the need for the RAP document to clearly show the interests and capacity of the financial and technical support of the ITC Agencies and for them to be taken into account by the work programmes of their respective government bodies;

Recalling decision 1 of the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

Recognizing the usefulness of the work done during the intersessional process aimed at operationalizing the 2010-2011 RAP and that this exercise must refer to the effective implementation of the ILAC.

Underscoring the duties of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) as a venue of support for the Forum to make regional cooperation, as well the rational use of the available financial resources, more effective, coherent, and harmonious;

DECIDE:

1. To request the Agencies of the ITC to support the implementation of the RAP 2010-2011¹², with technical and financial resources, within their existing capabilities, according to the areas on which they have experience and comparative advantages and within the framework of their respective mandates.

2. To invite the Agencies of the ITC, along with the members of the Forum, to conduct a conceptual revision of the implementation structure and modalities of the RAP with a view toward assessing the effectiveness of and compliance with their objectives, identifying implementation problems, and presenting options to implement the programmatic decisions of the Forum.

3. To promote a process of intersessional discussion, which in terms of the aforementioned assessment and the lessons learned, would facilitate the establishment of programmes along with the Agencies of the ITC, without prejudice for the activities carried out by the Agencies individually, in order to support the efforts made by the countries in the region to continue to implement the ILAC.

Decision 2
Biological Diversity and Ecosystems

Recalling that Latin America and the Caribbean is the region with most biodiversity in the planet, and the growing recommendation of the governments and society regarding the value of biodiversity and its services associated to ecosystems therefore many countries have adopted regulatory frameworks for biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components;

Recognizing the need of reverting biodiversity loss and increasing to the maximum the provision of services from ecosystems in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Reaffirming that States are responsible for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of natural resources;

Emphasizing the opportunity offered by the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, to promote actions, at the national, regional and international level, contributing to increase awareness on the role of biological diversity in ensuring the subsistence and the well-being of human kind, and to present it as a viable, long term and necessary component to promotes sustainable development for which means of implementation are essential.

Underlining the relevance of the decision relating to the celebration in 2011 of the International Year of Forests, as an opportunity to promote actions, at the national, regional and global levels, promoting sustainable forest management and their recognition as a key element for the sustainable development of the region due to the services and benefits they provide.

¹² See **Appendix 1** to **Annex I**, which is part of this decision.

Recalling decision 9 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers on the sustainable management of natural protected areas and recognizing the efforts made by the countries of the region in more than doubling the number of protected areas in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1990 and 2008.

DECIDE:

- 1. To cooperate**, at the maximum extent possible, in the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity in the sectoral and intersectoral plans, programmes and policies.
- 2. To encourage** the development and adoption of new national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity in countries within the region through specific participatory plans in the CBD framework and in concordance with national development plans.
- 3. To promote** the exchange of experiences among countries in the region related to the scope of application of their national conservation plans.
- 4. To promote** synergies among the biological diversity related conventions, respecting their relevant mandates, as a way towards facilitating effective national, regional and global implementation and the accomplishment of their objectives.
- 5. To design and implement** effective mechanisms and regulatory frameworks for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the internalization of environmental, economic and social benefits derived from its conservation and the costs derived from its loss.
- 6. To promote** the establishment and strengthen the management of natural protected areas systems in order to achieve an adequate representation of biomes and ecosystems.
- 8. To promote** the implementation of adaptation to climate change based on an ecosystem approach.
- 8. Encourage**, in conformity with national priorities, the creation of biological corridors in the region as effective conservation measures for biodiversity, taking as a reference the positive results and lessons learned from the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and the Caribbean Biological Corridor.
- 9. To promote** the importance of the conservation of biological diversity, through mass media and the implementation of education and public awareness programmes.
- 10. To recognize** the compromises adopted in several international fora to elaborate and implement risk management strategies, and to reduce threats to ecosystems, biological diversity and human health, in particular on vulnerable populations, caused by pesticides and other chemicals.
- 11. To participate** actively in the deliberations at the third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting in June 2010 to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

12. To request the United Nations Environment Programme to support efforts by Governments and relevant organizations to finalize the above-mentioned deliberations and, in accordance with the decision SS.XI/3 of the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, transmit the outcomes of and necessary documentation from the third and final meeting to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session for consideration during the High-Level Segment on Biological Diversity in September 2010.

13. To encourage and support where possible the United Nations Environment Programme to continue playing a leadership role in advancing understanding of the economics of biodiversity and ecosystems services and its policy implications, through disseminating the initiative "The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity".

Decision 3

Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and Participation of the Region in the Negotiation of a Protocol

Reaffirming that the adoption in Nagoya, Japan, of a Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a high priority for the region, which harbors the large share of the biodiversity on the planet;

Acknowledging the value that the traditional knowledge of the indigenous and local communities of the region has in the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity and the need to promote their prior informed consent and the fair and equitable benefit sharing arising from of the utilization of that knowledge associated to genetic resources;

Acknowledging that a *Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing Arising from their Utilization* will contribute to eradicate the cases of misappropriation and misuse of such resources and the associated traditional knowledge;

Recalling that decision 12 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; 27th January to 1st February, 2008) agreed the importance to guarantee the participation of developing countries in the multilateral negotiations in order to avoid lack of representation, transparency and legitimacy of the proposals and agreements to be reached in such forums;

Taking into consideration the common understanding on key elements of the Protocol achieved by the countries of the region in the *Access and Benefit Sharing Regional Consultations for Latin America and the Caribbean Countries* (Panama City, Panama; 15th and 16th January, 2010);

Expressing gratitude to the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the support provided for the organization of the regional consultations on Access and Benefit Sharing for supporting the participation of the delegates from Latin America and the Caribbean countries;

Taking note of the recent course of the international negotiations on this issue and

in particular the outcome of the *First Part of the Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity* (Cali, Colombia; 22nd to 28th March 2010);

Considering that in the draft report of the *First Part of the Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open- Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing* it was agreed to resume the meeting between June and July 2010, in Montreal, Canada, in order to negotiate the *“Revised Draft Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the Access to the Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing”* (refer to UNEP/CBD/WG-ABC/9/L-2);

Confirming that the *status quo* of the negotiation for the adoption of the Protocol demands more than ever the full involvement of the countries of the region to ensure that the regional needs and interest be protected and respected in the negotiation process and in the final text to be adopted in the Tenth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, Japan; 19th to 29th October 2010);

Underlining with particular attention the agreement reached by the countries of the region to organize regional consultations with the aim to promote the regional interest on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from of their utilization heading to its participation in the resumed meeting of the Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

DECIDE:

1. To consolidate and further the common understanding achieved in the *Access and Benefit Sharing Regional Consultations for Latin America and the Caribbean Countries* (Panama City, Panama; 15th and 16th January 2010) with the aim of strengthening our positions in the resumed of the Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

2. To ratify the need to implement the corresponding actions to guarantee the participation of the countries of the region in the multilateral negotiations scheduled by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open- Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing to ensure the representation, transparency and legitimacy of the proposals and agreements to be reached in such forums.

3. To acknowledge the tireless efforts and reaffirm its support to the work of the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open- Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing, to enhance the negotiations of the Protocol, in particular with the submission of a *“Revised Draft Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity”*.

4. To organize a new meeting of regional consultations before resuming the Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open- Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing, in order to allow countries of the region to consolidate, strengthen and continue developing its position, by which requests to the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate to the Latin

America and the Caribbean countries all the support possible, including financial support.

5. To reaffirm the following priorities of the Latin American and the Caribbean countries in the negotiations of the Protocol:

- a) Since the core of the Protocol is the issue of Compliance, it is a priority to establish tools and procedures for monitoring and follow up the utilization of the genetic resources, such as the Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance issued by a national competent authority, the disclosure requirements and the Check Points, disclosure of origin where appropriate, and to facilitate access to justice in foreign jurisdictions with the aim of ensuring compliance with national legislation in this matter;
- b) The Prior Inform Consent (PIC) as precondition of access to the genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and the Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) as the basis for the benefit sharing;
- c) Promote mechanisms and measures that ensure the fair and equitable sharing of all the benefits arising from all kind of utilization of the genetic resources and their derivatives;
- d) To recognize the category of Country of Origin in replacing the Provider Country according the terminology of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- e) The harmonic and mutually supportive relation between the Protocol and other international agreements, without affecting the obligations of the countries with other international agreements provided these do not contravene, undermine or otherwise circumvent the provisions of the Protocol;
- f) The implementation of a mechanisms to provide support to developing country Parties in cases of dispute, and;
- g) The implementation of the obligations of Non-Party countries.

6. To ratify the political willingness of the countries of the region to participate in a proactive and constructive manner in the resumed Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open- Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity that exhort to other regions and groups of countries to show political willingness in order to conclude, in Montreal, Canada, the negotiation of the Protocol. To that effect, decide that GRULAC keep working with other regions towards moving forward in the negotiations.

7. To promote the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of the traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources of the indigenous and local communities of the region.

8. To ensure the full and effective participation of the indigenous and local communities of the region in the above mentioned meeting of regional consultations.

9. To transmit this decision to the Delegations of participating countries in the negotiations of the Protocol.

10. To entrust the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environmental Program to transmit this decision to the Executive Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the purpose of obtaining the necessary support for the organization of the Regional Consultations and give it the appropriate dissemination.

Decision 4 **Environmental Indicators**

Taking into account that the proposed indicators for the Guiding Goals and Indicative Purposes of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) strengthens the capacity of countries to measure their achievements and progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Noting the need to increase the availability, access, harmonization and coordination of environmental data and information and sustainable development, to assess the progress made in the implementation of ILAC, the MDGs and other international and regional initiatives;

Underlining the need to to increase efforts at the regional level, so that all countries have a national system of environmental statistics and indicators;

Reaffirming the commitment of countries in the region to harmonize the methodologies used for collecting environmental statistics and indicators within the framework of the Forum;

Recognizing the progress in the implementation of decision 11 of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; November 2005) on environmental indicators, *under the leadership of the Government of Costa Rica as coordinator of the Working Group*;

Taking into account the Inter Agency cooperation between UNEP and ECLAC whose main objectives are to strengthen and develop the national technical capabilities, helping to improve production and quality of environmental statistics in the country, , and promote the dissemination and use of environmental information to strengthen decision-making and assessments;

Given the approval of the proposal for the creation of the working group on environmental statistics to support the development of the relevant statistics on natural resources and environment and their integration into the national statistics systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean during the Fifth Conference of the Americas, in which UNEP and ECLAC act as the secretariat of the working group;

DECIDE:

1. To endorse the recommendations of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum resulting from the meeting held from 26 to 28 August, 2009;

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

- 3. To support** the continuation and strengthening of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum, coordinated by Mexico, and its Technical Advisory Committee on Geospatial Information and Earth Observation Systems of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI), coordinated by Panama;
- 4. To request** the Working Group and TAC to reach consensus on the indicator and methodology sheets, and identify missing indicators for the ILAC goals;
- 5. To request** the Working Group to review the relevance of indicators for regional and subregional priorities, on a regular basis, as well as the priority lines of work of the RAP 2010-2011;
- 6. To promote** the implementation of the ILAC indicators with methodological sheets at the national level, within the framework of the Forum, in order to assess the progress on the implementation of ILAC, and to request UNEP, ECLAC and other ITC agencies to contribute and support the mobilization of financial resources required for countries in the region that have a system of indicators for ILAC;
- 7. To promote**, jointly with the "Statistical Conference of the Americas Working Group on Environmental Statistics", capacity building in the development of environmental statistics and indicators, through the use of virtual tools, virtual education forums and seminars
- 8. To encourage** training activities in the use of geo-spatial tools for the development of ILAC indicators, in conjunction with the TAC;
- 9. To strengthen** the Working Group on Environmental Indicators, by incorporating technical capacity building for their focal points and the promotion of horizontal cooperation among member countries;
- 10. To promote**, within the region and in international forums, the use of ILAC indicators to complement MDG indicators, to ensure appropriate measurement of environmental elements, particularly in Goal 7;
- 11. To revamp** the proposal of the Regional Environmental Statistics System of Latin America and the Caribbean (SIREA for its initials in Spanish) and formulate a strategic plan for implementation and capacity building at national level, to generate, process and disseminate statistics and indicators, including the development of national information systems and with particular attention to strengthening the national capacities of Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean;
- 12. To exchange** national experiences in order to identify alternatives for advancement in the inclusion of environmental management into National Accounts;
- 13. To continue** supporting the preparation of Integrated Environmental Assessments (IEA) at regional, subregional, national and subnational level, reflecting both ILAC and specific priority areas;
- 14. To request** the ITC agencies, in accordance with their respective mandates, and other regional and subregional organizations, to cooperate with the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum of Ministers for the strengthening and consolidation of environmental indicators, geo-spatial information and Earth observation systems.

Decision 5

Sustainable Consumption and Production

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

Recognizing that the Marrakech Process is a global process to support the implementation of concrete projects on SCP and the elaboration of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on SCP which will be presented at the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) during its 2010-2011 cycle;

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

Recognizing the results of the meetings of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the existence of the Regional Council of Governmental Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production; and the previous decisions approved by the Forum of Ministers in Panama (2003), Venezuela (2005) and Dominican Republic (2009) ratifying their agreement on implementation of the Regional SCP Strategy;

Taking into account that the Marrakech Process has achieved significant results in the development and implementation of national and sub-regional policies and projects on SCP;

Considering the valuable contributions made by sub-regional organizations, NGOs, the network of national cleaner production centers, scientific and technical communities, trade unions, and business and industry during the Fifth Regional Meeting of Experts on SCP.

DECIDE:

1. To endorse and support the implementation of the priority areas of SCP those are common to all sub-regions, taking into consideration the themes identified in the Final Report of the Fifth Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption of Latin America and the Caribbean (Cartagena de las Indias, Colombia; 16th to 18th September 2009) and initially include inter alia the following priority themes: :

- a) National SCP Policies, Programmes and Strategies;
- b) Small and medium enterprises;
- c) Sustainable public procurement;
- d) Sustainable lifestyles.

- 2. To recognize** the significant developments achieved in the establishment and update of the Regional Information Network on SCP, as a tool to disseminate information, link different stakeholders and strengthen the capacities required to contribute to the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- 3. To promote** the strengthening of institutions responsible for SCP in each country and to ensure the active participation of these institutions in the regional activities related to SCP.
- 4. To foster** the active participation of the sub-regional institutions, the Non – Governmental Organizations, the academic sector, the trade unions, the industrial sector, the Cleaner Production Centres and the civil society in the regional process of implementation of the SCP priority areas.
- 5. To promote and support** the mainstreaming of SCP in economic and social development policies of the countries of the Region.
- 6. To request** to United Nations organizations, development agencies, financial mechanisms and institutions such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as other intergovernmental organizations including the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, to identify and make available financial resources dedicated to support the proposal of regional and sub-regional actions for LAC, including technical assistance, transfer of technologies and successful experiences.
- 7. To promote** the inclusion of the priority areas for SCP common to all sub-regions in the proposal of 10-Year Framework Programme which will be presented at the CSD 2010-2011.
- 8. To ratify** the composition of the Operative Committee of the Regional Council of Experts on SCP for the 2009-2011 period.
- 9. To include** the topic of the Marrakech Process and chapter III of the Implementation Plan of Johannesburg in the agenda for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment in order to define the modalities of implementation in the region of the CSD 2010-2011 decisions in the area of SCP.

Decision 6 **Atmospheric Pollution**

Recognizing that the region has experienced increasing air pollution, primarily of urban origin, affecting public health, environment, productivity and quality of life;

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

Noting that there is a clear understanding of the key factors in the region's urban atmospheric pollution, namely extensive urban development with serious problems in regulating land use, increased levels of automobile densities, rapid expansion in population urban centers, and planned economic development accompanied by higher energy consumption;

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

Recognizing also the need for the region to contribute effectively to dialogues on the control of long-range transboundary air pollution at the inter-regional, hemispheric and global scales, through the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum and other fora;

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

Noting the positive experiences with the implementation of more efficient systems of transport, as well as fuels with less impact and the use of other sources of renewable energies and vehicles in some cities and countries of the region;

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

Taking into account the results of the Meetings of the Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Panama City, Panama (March 2009) and Mexico City, Mexico (December 2009) and the Decisions on Atmospheric Pollution and Better Fuels for Better Air Quality approved by the Forum during the meeting in Dominican Republic (2008), which ratify the compromise and decision to proceed in the development of a regional action plan targeting the reduction of air pollution;

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

DECIDE:

1. To recognize the Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean as an entity aiming at:

- a) Facilitating technical exchanges;
- b) Promoting capacity development;
- c) Assessing and proposing policy options for reducing air pollution; and
- d) Supporting the development and implementation of a regional action plan with the objective of reducing air pollution in the region.

2. To continue the discussion on the Framework Agreement on Air Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean, proposed by the Intergovernmental Network on

Air Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean at its second meeting in Mexico, to continue with an effective regional dialogue on the issue.

3. To request the Experts Network on Atmospheric Pollution and the High Level Experts Group of the Forum the development of a proposal of a regional action plan, during the Intersessional period, that use as reference, inter alia, the activities foreseen in the Framework Agreement on Air Pollution, to be presented to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

4. To promote the strengthening of the institutional areas in each country, which are responsible for air pollution control and to maintain an active participation of these institutions in the regional activities related to this topic.

5. To express the willingness to strengthen the public-private dialogue and the role of all sectors involved in the promotion of commitments and actions oriented to reduction of air pollution for all the priority areas defined, within regional, sub-regional and national planning.

6. To request technical, financial and capacity support from relevant financial, international cooperation agencies and donors, within and outside the region aiming at reducing atmospheric pollution in the region.

Decision 7 Chemicals

Recognizing that chemicals play a vital role to boost growth, improve living standards and protect public health; and at the same time, acknowledging that they can cause severe problems to the environment and society if they are not environmentally sound managed.

Recognizing the technological, technical and financial limitations faced by the countries of the region to address sound management of chemicals as well as the lack of monitoring capacities to enforce the assessment of national, regional and global measures to fully comply with the international instruments related to hazardous chemicals and waste;

Highlighting the importance of the decisions arising from the Extraordinary Meetings of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, for the Enhancement and Coordination among the three conventions, with a view to supporting governments for an effective implementation of these international instruments;

Considering that in June 2010 inter-governmental negotiations will begin for the drafting of a legally-binding instrument on mercury, under the chairmanship of the region, and recognizing that the regional experts have underscored in the meeting held in Panama City, Panama, on April 15 and 16, 2010, the role of facilitator for the exchange of information, the regional discussion and the technical support that UNEP through the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean can continue offering in this process.

Reiterating the importance of mobilizing necessary new and additional financial resources to strengthen global, regional and national efforts to comply with chemicals and waste conventions;

Stressing the importance of maintaining and ensuring the full and effective participation of all Latin American and Caribbean countries in international fora and negotiations on chemicals and waste;

Recognizing the importance of continuing and strengthening regional cooperation in the field of chemicals, through the regional and subregional centers of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

DECIDE:

1. To request UNEP and other ITC agencies continue to provide technical assistance to countries for conducting inventories and profiles of hazardous chemicals and waste; strengthening surveillance and monitoring capacity, to develop policies for management of hazardous chemicals and waste, as well as dealing with their environmentally sound of chemicals and waste during their life cycle.

2. To request UNEP to offer the technical support necessary to the region during the meetings of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations Committee on Mercury, as well as support for the related process and projects during the intersession periods, as requested by the regional experts on mercury at the regional meeting held in Panama City, Panama, on April 15th and 16th 2010.

3. To express our willingness to contribute to the effective implementation of decisions on synergies among the three conventions on chemicals and waste at the national, regional and global levels, with the purpose to move towards enhanced international governance of hazardous chemicals and waste.

4. To continue and strengthen the coordination among countries of the region within the framework of the intergovernmental negotiations to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, with the purpose to ensure a balance between the obligations and the provision of implementation means, including financial resources and transfer of technologies, which are necessary for proper implementation of agreed commitments, and will be complemented with voluntary measures for the reduction and/or elimination of mercury.

5. To highlight the importance the region gives to the possible opening of a GEF Focal Area for chemicals with new and additional resources that allow the effective implementation of MEAs and SAICM, taking into account the synergies approach;

6. To express their interest in participating actively, through contributions from the Parties and other stakeholder in the actions undertaken by UNEP related to the identification of financing alternatives for chemicals and waste, in accordance with decision SS. XI/7 on the continuation of the Consultative Process on Financing Options for Chemicals and Waste, adopted at the 11th special session of the Governing Council of UNEP/Forum/ Global Environmental Ministerial level, celebrated in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 26 February 2010.

7. To call upon UNEP and the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to continue supporting all countries in the region, through the funding of its delegates, with the purpose to ensure full and effective participation in the forums and international negotiations on chemicals and hazardous wastes.

8. To encourage the UNEP through the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to provide their support to regional and subregional centers of Latin America and the Caribbean for the achievement of its objectives and functions.

9. To exhort the countries of the region to strengthen mechanisms for exchanging information regarding best management practices for hazardous chemicals and wastes, including the implementation of the public awareness programs.

10. To request UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean to transmit this decision to the Executive Director of UNEP, and the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for their knowledge and implementation, as appropriate.

Decision 8

Sustainable Land Management

Recalling that in decision 16 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) held in Santo Domingo between January 27th and February 1st, 2008, the Ministers decided to ask the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) and the Secretariat of the Forum, in coordination with the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, to draft a proposal of regional scope that would indicate the patterns and actions necessary to increment the flow of financial resources to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at the national, subregional, and regional levels;

Recalling that in the same decision 16, the ITC and the Secretariat of the Forum, in coordination with the Global Mechanism, was asked to strengthen the interaction among other international cooperation agencies, particularly multilateral development banks and international funds, including the Global Environment Fund (GEF), in order to establish budget programmes and allocations aimed at combating desertification and sustainable land management;

Considering the Governments allocate resources that contribute, in several manners, to mitigating the effects of land degradation, desertification, and the effects of drought (DTDS), albeit not always in the amount or efficacy desirable to overcome the existing conditions and dynamics, and these allotments follow the framework of policies of each country. This is why it is necessary to contribute to defining such policies and giving importance to sustainable land management, thus encouraging the contribution of resources from the State and other stakeholders.

Considering the (public and private) investments necessary to overcome the existing DTDS conditions, especially for productive activities to internalize the principles of sustainable land management, must be financed by resources coming from many possible sources and through different mechanisms.

Recognizing that countries must make efforts to internalize the principles of shared responsibility to combat DTDS and that the multilateral financial organizations have their own criteria and lines of financing, as well as established procedures for the allocation of resources to specific countries, programmes, projects, and actions, they do not always respond to national policies and plans, and therefore it is desirable to define the policies, strategies, actions, and resources required to guide and collaborate with these agencies, so that their contributions would be larger and conveniently coordinated in order for countries to make better use of them;

Cognizant of the need to give explicit importance and consideration to the DTDS in the strategies or programmes of financial agencies and the recognition of their links to other programmatic areas;

Bearing in mind the Ministers Declaration of Santo Domingo, which agreed upon the promotion of the effective implementation of the UNCCD and its linking to initiatives of mitigation and adaptation to climate change and the integrated management of ecosystems and that this requires a profound revision of the lines of financing, particularly those of the GEF;

Whereas decision 8 of the Eighth Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD held in Madrid in 2007, which commits the affected party countries to aligning their programmes of national action to the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD and, to formulating the integrated investment frameworks some countries in the region are developing based upon this, Integrated Financial Strategies for the move of financial resources aimed at combating the DTDS, which will enable in the short run the preparation of Integrated Investment Frameworks (IIF) with predictable and sustainable resources;

Taking into account that within the framework of the Ninth Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD held in September 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the development of Regional Coordination Mechanisms was agreed upon for the implementation of the UNCCD and that they should play an important role to help countries better position the DTDS topics in the region;

Welcoming the document of the Regional Integrated Financial Strategy, RIFS, *"Towards the Design of a Regional Strategy: Patterns and Actions to increase the flow of Financial Resources Aimed at its implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean"*, which was requested by the Forum in decision 16 of its Sixteenth Meeting and facilitated by the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, in consultation with the Secretariat and the members of the Interagency Technical Committee.

DECIDE:

1. To adopt the proposal of the Regional Integrated Financial Strategy (RIFS) drafted with the help of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, in coordination with the Agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC), which outlines general guidelines to develop a process that promotes the move of financial resources aimed at supporting the effective implementation of the UNCCD at , under a focus of synergy.

2. To request the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and the Regional Coordination Unit of the UNCCD, in consultation with the Regional Executive Committee of the UNCCD and with the support of the Secretariat of the Forum and the ITC, to draft a proposal for the operationalization of the RIFS, to be submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum, in line with the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD. This proposal shall define its financial mechanisms – including the possibility of specific financing from the GEF in the context of its fifth replenishment cycle – as well as the operational modalities, actions, and institutional responsibilities that are needed.

3. To request, as pertinent, to the Forum Secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the Regional Coordination Unit of the UNCCD that in permanent consultation with the Parties by means of the Regional Executive Committee, the results achieved in monitoring this decision are reported in line with corresponding institutional mandates and at the next meeting of the Forum.

Decision 9

Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

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

Recognizing the importance of the role of the UN Agencies in particular the GM/UNCCD, UNCCD Secretariat, UNEP and FAO in facilitating the implementation of the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management and also the investment made by Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the establishment of the support office hosted by the Caribbean Network, for Integrated Rural Development

Taking into account decision 4 of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, and decision 5 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

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

Recognizing the ongoing processes toward the development of a ten year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and UNEPs role in facilitating the preparation of the Caribbean sub regional action plan on SCP within the Marrakesh process.

Taking into account the results of the five-year review meeting on the progress of the BPOA/MSI that was held in Saint George's, Grenada in March 2010, and its Outcome Statement which includes priority issues and the way forward.

DECIDE:

- 1. To request** the agencies of the ITC to take into account the special circumstances of SIDS in the implementation of the RAP, when implementing their programme of work addressing the environmental component of the BPOA and the MSI.
- 2. To request** the Inter-agency Technical Committee of the Forum to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the BPOA and the MSI, as well as to facilitate the strengthening of the institutional capacity for the Caribbean SIDS at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.
- 3. To call** on UNEP to maintain and further develop its technical programme for Small Island Developing States in the LAC region and to allocate dedicated technical and financial resources to facilitate its implementation, within available resources.
- 4. To request** UNEP to continue its support to the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) as a means of strengthening the sub-region's institutional and technical capacity.
- 5. To request** UNEP to provide additional support, within available resources, for the efforts being undertaken by Caribbean SIDS in greening their economies, in particular the transformation of Dominica into an environmentally sound organic island, the low carbon development strategy being pursued by Guyana and the Barbados and Suriname green economy initiatives.
- 6. To request** UNEP to continue support to the sub-region towards achieving economic sustainable development, particularly the full and effective implementation of the entering into force of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).
- 7. To request** ITC agencies to continue supporting Caribbean SIDS participation in the Marrakech Process for the development of the 10 YFP on SCP; including the development, mobilization of resources and execution of the Caribbean Sub-Regional Action Plan as proposed by the 4th Regional Meeting of Government Experts on SCP and reaffirmed at the second sub-regional meeting in Guyana in 2010, and the mainstreaming of SCP principles in national policies, programmes and projects.
- 8. To request** ITC agencies to support countries of the region in identifying gaps in the existing data, information and capacity for environmental monitoring, assessment and decision-making, including ILAC Indicators in SIDS, and make the efforts to fill the gaps through institutional building.
- 9. To encourage** all development partners to support Caribbean SIDS to develop and strengthen their environmental awareness programmes, campaigns and materials targeting all stakeholders including decision makers public and private sectors and the civil society.
- 10. To request** UNEP to continue working with their partners to provide technical and financial support, within available resources, for the ongoing Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management.

11. To re-establish the Ministerial Support Group, to facilitate deeper South-South cooperation between Latin American countries and Caribbean SIDS.

12. To urge that greater effort be made by the ITC, the Forum Secretariat and other relevant partners, including the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Environment Programme, to seek to coordinate their interventions in Caribbean SIDS with a view to maximizing the benefits for member states.

13. To request the support of ITC agencies so that the initiative being undertaken by Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti to establish a Caribbean Biological Corridor in the insular Caribbean continue to achieve positive results and commend its extension to include the other Caribbean SIDS.

Decision 10 Climate Change

Recalling decision 17 of the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; January 2008);

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

Emphasizing that actions against climate change should be compatible with the sustainable development of the countries in our region;

Recognizing the need to increase the global response to climate change in the light of the scientific knowledge, promoting more participation of all countries, considering common but differentiated responsibilities, according to their own capacities and national circumstances;

Concerned by the delay of concrete actions by developed countries to fulfill their commitments, referring to technology transfer and financial support to address inevitable climate change.

Emphasizing, the global interest to adopt policies and measures for adapting to climate change in order to contribute to social development, economic growth and environmental conservation, which must receive quick and sufficient attention related to financial support and technology transfer; and convinced that the results of the Nairobi Action Plan on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change will allow the better coordination of efforts, initiatives and cooperation in the matter;

Taking note of the usefulness of the technical preparatory meetings for climate change negotiators of Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those jointly organized by UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention;

Reaffirming our commitment to actively participate in the negotiations towards the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change/Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol,

as well as our support to Mexico as the host of this event to be held in the city of Cancun, Mexico, from 29th November to 10th December, 2010.

DECIDE:

- 1. To promote and strengthen**, within our countries, the design and implementation of effective policies and measures to address adaptation to climate change and promote the exchange of experiences and successful programmes as well as national, sub-regional and regional plans on adaptation to climate change.
- 2. To promote** the successful conclusion by 2010 of the negotiation process initiated by the Bali Road Map, encourage the dialogue on issues of common interest of the international negotiations, and, where feasible, coordinate regional positions before and during the negotiating sessions.
- 3. To encourage** developed countries by virtue of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities to comply with and increase their financial and technical support to the countries of the region for actions on adaptation and mitigation, and to comply with their existing obligations considering their historical environmental debt to mitigate emissions, and to engage into new ambitious commitments for emission reductions beyond 2012.
- 4. To integrate** measures into national development policies, taking into account the social, economic and environmental vulnerability of the Region, particularly of Small Island Developing States, low-lying coastal States and those with fragile mountain ecosystems.
- 5. To urge** for the exchange of experiences, tools and methodologies among countries in the region and assess the Clean Development Mechanism, *inter alia*, and the need to have a better regional distribution of projects.
- [6. Cooperate closely** in the design of appropriate multilateral schemes for the financing of activities for the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation of forest, forest conservation, sustainable forest management and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), and to support the development of interim financial mechanisms for the implementation of actions in the short term.]
- 7. To promote** practical adaptation actions in the countries of the Region aimed at increasing their adaptive capacity to face the impacts of climate change, linked to an effective disaster risk management; and to urge countries in the region, Forum, UNEP, the ITC, and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system and international financial organizations to work towards this end.
- 8. To recognize** the need to promote, at the global and regional level, innovative financing mechanisms and clean technology centres, permitting capacity building and the facilitation of technology transfer to undertake actions related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 9. To request** UNEP, and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant international organizations, to continue strengthening the regional capacity to participate actively in the process of implementing the Convention.

10. To request UNEP, in cooperation with the ITC and other relevant organizations, to facilitate access to climate change finance and associated technical assistance, especially in the areas of its priorities including ecosystem based adaptation.

11. To encourage and support regional, sub-regional and national initiatives to conduct vulnerability assessments, and improve collection and processing of regional data relevant for the support of climate change policy and decision making.

12. To promote education, public awareness and capacity building with regards to prevention, reduction of vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change in the Region, as well as to share information and relevant experiences to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and the establishment of alliances among civil society and governments.

Decision 11

Gratitude to the People and Government of Panama

To express the deep gratitude of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Panama City, Panama from 26th to 30th April 2010, to the People and Government of Panama for the generous hospitality shown during this Meeting.

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Appendix 1 to Annex I on decision 1 “Regional Action Plan for 2010-2011 and assessment of implementation instruments”

Background

1. Following up on decision 1, *Evaluation of the Implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)*, paragraph 5 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (the Forum), the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum held on 20 and 21 October in Panama City, decided to establish a Contact Group to revise the structure and contents of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) 2010-2011. The Contact Group is composed of two countries per subregion (Mesoamerica: Mexico and Costa Rica; the Caribbean: St. Kitts and Nevis and the Dominican Republic; Andean sub-region: Ecuador and Peru; and Southern Cone: Argentina and Brazil), and members of the Interagency Technical Committee (UNDP, ECLAC, IDB, WB and UNEP)¹³.
2. After the Intersessional Meeting, the Contact Group had electronic exchanges and four virtual meetings facilitated by the Secretariat (UNEP), to advance on a proposed structure of the RAP. In order to finalize the proposed structure and its contents, the Brazilian government offered to co-sponsor with UNEP a meeting of the Contact Group in Brasilia, Brazil on 3rd and 4th February 2010.
3. At this face-to-face meeting, the Contact Group reached consensus on the format and contents of the draft proposal of the RAP 2010-2011, which was circulated to the countries to obtain their inputs. The Contact Group also agreed that the Secretariat should develop a format, to be used by the countries to report progress in the implementation of the RAP-2010-2011 on a bianual basis. This format is attached as Appendix 2 to this Annex. The RAP 2010-2011 is presented as follows.

⁽¹³⁾ The report of the meeting is available at: <http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/17-reunion/documentos/FinalReport%20of%20theIntersessional%20Meeting.pdf>.

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) 2010-2011 OF THE FORUM OF MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT

The Contact Group established at the Intersessional Meeting celebrated on 20 and 21 October 2009, in Panama City, Panama, in compliance with its mandate presents the Proposal for the Regional Action Plan 2010-2011 for consideration of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
CLIMATE CHANGE	The linkage between climate change and all ILAC areas (including renewable energy and energy efficiency) is recognized	Development or strengthening of capacities for adaptation Regional Strategy on adaptation to climate change and strengthening of capacities for adaptation to the effects and mitigation of the causes of climate change	Climate Change <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exchange of knowledge and experiences regarding the implementation of actions for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change (i.e. through workshops, virtual meetings, networks, among others) 2. Dissemination of results and exchange of knowledge and experiences (for example, through publications, internet use, virtual libraries, blogs, etc.) 3. Promote inter sectoral research programmes on climate change, focusing on compilation, analysis and dissemination of data 4. Development of a regional strategy for climate change adaptation built on existing subregional strategies or those being developed 5. Develop regional renewable and efficiency energy programs 	UNDP-UNEP and other agencies. Joint Program to achieve the MDGs focused on strengthening the capacity of the populations and countries to adapt to climate change and the capacity to carry out mitigation actions in Panama, Peru and Nicaragua (2008-2011) UNEP-UNDP-FAO. Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation UN-REDD WB-IDB. Investment Program in renewable energy and energy efficiency, agreed in country strategies IDB. Implementation of IDB Strategies and Action Plan for Climate Change in the Region ECLAC-IDB. Economic Studies on Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean ECLAC and Spanish, English, German and French Cooperation Agencies. Courses on CDM, Adaptation to climate change, environmental economics; seminar on fiscal policy; support for the COP-Mexico process policy UNDP-CARICOM. Development of renewable energy projects in the Caribbean UNEP-BCIE. Accelerating investment on renewable energies through CABI Central American Bank for Economic Integration in Central America (ARECA) UNDP-WB Action Plan for the removal of barriers in the implementation of wind energy for commercial purposes UNDP-IDB. Development of micro and mini hydro electric plants to support the access to rural areas UNDP-IDB. Transformation of markets to develop energy efficiency UNEP. GEF projects in Climate Change in the region		

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY	1. Increase of forest area	Strengthening of capacities in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	<p>1. Forest Cover</p> <p>1.1. Identify areas of regional cooperation</p> <p>1.2. Support awareness campaigns and strengthen management capacities for the conservation of primary forests and biological diversity, and the reduction of deforestation rates</p> <p>1.3. Increase the amount of certified forest cover through sustainable forest management</p> <p>1.4. Share experiences related to the use of information technologies for decision making</p> <p>1.5. Develop and strengthen reforestation campaigns with native species</p> <p>1.6. Promote technical cooperation amongst countries that are interested in exploring the possible benefits to countries that wish to participate in REDD+ actions</p>	<p>UNDP-UNEP-ECLAC. Biodiversity and Ecosystems Project: Why they are important for Sustainable Growth and Equity in Latin America and the Caribbean?</p> <p>IDB-WB. Implementation of the REDD Programme by countries in the region within the framework of the Forest Investment Fund (FIF)</p> <p>IDB. Implementation of loan and technical assistance programs for the conservation of protected areas and management of marine and land ecosystems, according to agreed country strategies.</p> <p>UNDP-UNEP. Sustainable Management of Transboundary Forests of the American Gran Chaco</p> <p>UNDP-UNEP. Payment for ecosystem services</p> <p>UNEP and regional partners. Strengthening national capacities for implementing access and benefit sharing regimes (GEF project)</p> <p>UNEP-GEF. Biosafety information clearing house (BCH) of the Cartagena Protocol for Biosafety (GEF project).</p> <p>UNEP-European Commission. Caribbean Biological Corridor</p>		
	2. Genetic resources- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use		<p>2. Genetic Resources</p> <p>2.1. Develop and strengthen institutional capacities for the implementation of the international regime on access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits</p> <p>2.2. Promoting the fair and equal distribution of the benefits derived from the use of traditional knowledge from indigenous and local communities from the region associated with genetic resources</p>			
			<p>3. Forest cover and genetic resources</p> <p>3.1. Develop studies on the economics of biodiversity and ecosystems</p>			

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
<p style="text-align: center;">WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>1. Watershed management</p>	<p>Strengthening of capacities in the area of integrated water resources, marine and coastal zones management</p>	<p>1. Watershed management</p> <p>1.1. Develop participative processes for integrated management of water resources</p> <p>1.2. Develop indicators of water potential at the national level</p> <p>1.3. Promote studies and research of the water potential at the regional level both on a qualitative and quantitative levels</p> <p>1.4. Develop participative processes that link integrated water resources management and sustainable land management</p>	<p>IDB-WB. Implementation of loan and technical assistance programs agreed in the country framework strategies</p> <p>IDB. Support to National Strategies for the Management of Hydric Resources (Brasil, Costa Rica and Peru)</p> <p>ECLAC-University of Cantabria. Evaluation of CC impacts in coastal zones</p> <p>UNEP. Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) in the Caribbean SIDS (GEF project)</p> <p>UNEP-Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors. Creation of capacities on IWCAM in Latin America</p> <p>UNEP and Regional Partners. Integrated and sustainable management of water resources in the Amazon River basin (GEF project)</p>		
	<p>2. Management of marine and coastal areas and their resources</p>		<p>2. Management of marine and coastal areas and their resources</p> <p>2.1. Promote strategies and plans to incorporate international standards for the sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems</p> <p>2.2. Exchange knowledge and experiences regarding the implementation of actions related to the management of marine and coastal areas and their resources (i.e. through workshops, virtual meetings, networks, among others)</p>			

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
VULNERABILITY, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES	1. Vulnerability and risk management	1. Strengthening of regional institutional capacities for risk management	<p>1. Vulnerability and risk management</p> <p>1.1. Implementation of land planning instruments</p> <p>1.2. Support the improvement and operationalization of early warning, monitoring and immediate response systems</p> <p>1.3. Exchange knowledge, experiences and use of tools developed in environmental risk management in the areas of public investment and environmental damage assessment</p> <p>1.4. Strengthen existing and support new partnership approaches to sustainable land management</p> <p>1.5. Support training of land users (for example land experts, technicians and workers) on soil conservation techniques and sustainable land management</p>	<p>ISDR. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction</p> <p>ECLAC-WB. Agreement on socio-economic evaluation of impacts and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction plans</p> <p>IDB. Country Risk Profiles in five countries in the region</p> <p>IDB. Implementation of integrated programs for risk management and reduction of vulnerability (Honduras and Peru).</p> <p>UNEP-UNDP-WFP-FAO. Haiti Regeneration Initiative</p>		
	2. Waste management	2. Strengthening of capacities for the prevention, minimization and efficient eco-management of solid wastes	<p>2. Solid wastes</p> <p>2.1. Promote the use of cleaner production technologies and for the reduction of solid waste</p> <p>2.2. Exchange of knowledge and experiences and use of technologies in the integrated management of solid waste (i.e. through workshops, networks, fora for local authorities regarding regulations, and management systems, among others)</p>			

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
SOCIAL ISSUES, INCLUDING HEALTH, INEQUITY AND POVERTY	Health and environment (pollution and chemicals)	Mainstreaming of the intersectoral approach to environmental management and health, and promoting cooperation on integrated management of chemicals, considering their life cycles	Pollution / Chemical Substances 1. Promote discussion fora and information exchange between environment and health sectors 2. Strengthening South-South exchange of experiences on sound and integrated management of chemicals and hazardous waste in related multilateral agreements.	<p>UNEP-Basel Centres. Latin America and the Caribbean mercury storage project. Study on options and regional consultation meetings</p> <p>UNEP-Basel Centres. Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining Regional Project in South America (Peru and Bolivia)</p> <p>UNEP-GEF. Supporting the Implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan of POPs in Latin America and Caribbean States (GEF regional project: Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay) executed jointly with UNEP and the Regional Centre of the Stockholm Convention in Uruguay¹⁴</p> <p>UNEP-SAICM. Capacity building for POPs analysis to support the Global Monitoring Plan of POPs for effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti (co-financed by UNEP Chemicals and SAICM and supported by Stockholm Convention Secretariat)²</p> <p>UNEP-Convention Secretariats on Chemicals and Wastes Implementation of activities in collaboration with the Secretariats on chemicals and wastes</p> <p>SAICM-UNEP. Mainstreaming into Developing Plans Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC). Priorities for Key Development Sectors in Belize and Associated SMC Governance</p> <p>UNEP-UNDP. Partnership initiative for the implementation of SAICM (Belize, Ecuador, Honduras)</p> <p>UNEP-OAS-PAHO. Support to the dialogue process between the Ministers of Health and Ministers of Environment of the Americas</p> <p>UNDP-UNEP. Poverty and Environmental Initiative</p>		

¹⁴ These projects are being interlinked to enhance coordination, cooperation and capacity building of recipient countries.

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
<p>ECONOMIC ISSUES, INCLUDING COMPETITIVENESS, TRADE AND PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS (ENERGY)</p>	<p>Sustainable Production and Consumption</p>	<p>1. Incorporation of sustainable consumption and production in development policies</p>	<p>Development policies</p> <p>1.1. Promote the use of green purchasing systems</p> <p>1.2. Incorporate Cleaner Production and Sustainable Public Procurement policies in the Action Plans of Public institutions</p> <p>1.3. Identify and evaluate instruments including economic and financial to promote the adoption of changes in production and consumption patterns</p> <p>1.4. Support the implementation of the recommendations made by the Fifth meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption for LAC.</p>	<p>UNEP-UNDESA. Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production, including task forces on Sustainable Public Procurement and Sustainable Lifestyles</p> <p>UNEP. Implementation of Sustainable Public Procurement in pilot countries</p> <p>UNEP-ECLAC. Capacity Building for the Sustainable Resource Management in the region</p> <p>UNEP-UNIDO. Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Programme</p> <p>UNEP and Regional Partners. Supporting biodiversity-based businesses in the Andean region (GEF project)</p> <p>UNEP-ECLAC. Subregional Action Plan on SCP for the Caribbean</p>		
		<p>2. Elaboration of patterns and indicators of production and consumption</p>	<p>Indicators and patterns</p> <p>2.1. Studies and research to identify patterns of production and consumption</p> <p>2.2. Production and consumption indicators: industrial production index, electric energy consumption, trade index, etc.</p> <p>2.3. Studies and research to obtain production and consumption indicators: industrial production index, electric energy consumption, trade index, etc.</p>			

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	1. Assessment and indicators	1. Strengthening capacities for generating, processing and disseminating of the ILAC indicators	<p>1. Assessment and indicators</p> <p>1.1. Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on Indicators</p> <p>1.2. Develop a virtual capacity building module for the generation, processing and dissemination of the ILAC indicators</p> <p>1.3. Continue the integration of the GEO Data Portal with national information systems</p> <p>1.4. Integrate the compilation of environmental data within national statistical processes</p>	<p>ECLAC-UNEP. Development of environmental indicators</p> <p>ECLAC-UNDP-UNEP. Quantification studies of environmental expenses and financing in Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>UNEP-UNDP-WB. Creation of Centro Tierramerica aiming at organizing training courses for media journalists, companies, and NGO, and for granting awards and scholarships to researchers in the area of sustainable development and the environment</p> <p>UNEP-Universities of the Caribbean. Mainstreaming environmental issues in the curricula and operations of Caribbean universities</p>		
	2. Environmental education	2. Strengthening capacities to integrate environmental education into all levels of formal and non formal education	<p>2. Environmental education</p> <p>2.1. Review and analyse environmental education programmes and plans (for example, networks including the Environmental Training Network of LAC, PLACEA, PANACEA, among others) and make recommendations</p> <p>2.2. Support the dissemination of all activities contained in the RAP 2010-2011</p> <p>2.3. Implement PLACEA in the region</p> <p>2.4. Support the processes of subregional integration and establish a mechanism of institutional support for diverse sub regional emerging initiatives</p> <p>2.5. Carry out workshops to strengthen capacities of negotiators of the region</p>			

DEFINITION OF COLUMN HEADINGS OF THE PROPOSED RAP 2010-2011 MATRIX

ILAC PRIORITY AREAS (Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development)

The ILAC priority areas are those that are identified in the document entitled "Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development" (UNEP/LAC-SMIG.1/2 Friday, 30 August 2002).

See: http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/16-repdominicana/ILAC_EnglishVer.pdf.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Regional priorities are those that were agreed upon decision 1, paragraph 3 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment and those revised in accordance with paragraph 5 of the same decision

See: http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/16-repdominicana/rde09tri_FinalReportSixteenthMeeting_08Feb2008.pdf).

STRATEGIES

- The strategies are the expected results of the strategic lines of action
- The strategies must show a contribution towards the attainment of the regional priorities.
- They require the effort of two or more countries or two or more agencies and other partners.

STRATEGIC LINES OF ACTION

Strategic lines of action are intended to achieve the strategies. These tasks should be undertaken by countries, agencies and other partners (see 'Focal Points ")).

ITC AGENCIES WITH RELEVANT PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES (NON EXHAUSTIVE LIST)

It refers to programmes or initiatives of the work programmes of the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) of the Forum of Ministers of Environment (United Nations Development Programme-UNDP, World Bank-WB, Inter American Development Bank-IDB, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC, United Nations Environment Programme-UNEP) approved by their governing bodies and which are associated with the strategic lines of action of the RAP 2010-2011.

FOCAL POINTS

Focal points are the administrative body within each Ministry of the Environment designated by the Minister as person responsible for monitoring and reporting on progress made on the strategic lines of action or regional priority. Active Working Groups will report to that focal point.

2010-2011 CALENDAR

This column heading refers to the estimated date of completion of events related to the activities of the RAP 2010-2011 by countries and ITC agencies, as well as for the submission of biannual reports.

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**Appendix 2 to Annex II on decision 1
"Regional Action Plan for 2010-2011
and assessment of implementation instruments"**

PROPOSED FORMAT FOR THE BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL
ACTION PLAN FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (RAP) 2010-2011
(TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE FINAL REVIEW OF THE MATRIX)

Country: _____

Governmental Entity: _____

Focal Point: _____

(Name of the person in charge and responsible unit within the governmental entity)

Semester: May to December: 2010 _____

Semester: January-June 2011: _____

Semester: July-December 2011: _____

Guide for completing the report

The following format shows:

- The approved contents of the RAP namely: Priority ILAC Area, Regional Priority, Strategies and Strategic Lines of Action (marked with *)
- Empty cells that must be completed by the countries, namely: Title of the Project or relevant actions implemented or under implementation, national or international agencies and institutions involved, and status of implementation (marked with +)

The definitions of the contents of the RAP 2010-2011 (upon approval by the Forum of Ministers) appears at the end of the document, and the explanation of the information that must be filled in each column.

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