



**Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe**

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

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

**Panama City, Panama
20-21 October 2009**

Distribution:

Limited

UNEP/LAC-IGWG(1S).XVII/5

Tuesday 20th October, 2009

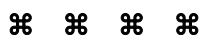
Original: Spanish

Report of the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

**Panama City, Panama
20-21 October 2009**

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I. Introduction

1. At the XVI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; January 27-February 1, 2008) the necessary agreements were adopted to continue the execution of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) for its initials in Spanish), which forms part of the Johannesburg Implementation Plan. More precisely, seven priority areas for action were selected and concrete actions were identified which make up the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for 2008-2009, commencing a third biennial period of application of the (ILAC).

2. Seven years have passed since the ILAC was approved. Over this period of time, the countries of the region have realized specific achievements in the implementation of the ILAC and have developed mechanisms to make the RAP serve as an instrument to operationalize and focus regional priorities so that progress can be made towards the environmental sustainability outlined in Millennium Development Goal No. 7, as well as in the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan which promotes technological support and development of capacities.

3. At the XVI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, it was agreed that an evaluation would be done of the lessons learnt and the challenges faced in the implementation of the RAP. It was also agreed that, during the intersessional period, a conceptual review would be done of its structure and modes of execution, in an attempt to assess the establishment of joint programmes with the agencies of the Inter-agency Technical Committee (ITC), without prejudice to the activities carried out by these agencies individually.

II. Objectives of the Meeting

4. The XVII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held February 1-5, 2010 in Mexico.

5. The main objective of the Intersessional Meeting is to evaluate the lessons learnt and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the RAP, and to prepare a conceptual review of its structure and mode of execution, with a view to establishing joint programmes with the agencies of the Inter-agency Technical Committee (ITC), as well as formulating recommendations in this regard.

III. Participation

6. The Intersessional Meeting was attended by representatives of 21 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as representatives of the member agencies of the Interagency Technical Committee. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this document.

IV. Carrying out the Work

Agenda Item 1: Opening session

7. The Chairperson of the meeting, representing the Dominican Republic, which is responsible for the Chair of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, opened the meeting with words of welcome to participants and thanked the organizers. She said she expected that at the end of these two working days of the meeting, participants leave with the certainty that the recommendations that will be achieved will help strengthening the Forum of Ministers, support the implementation of the decisions of the Forum and ensure that the Regional Action Plan and Working Groups are instrumental of the environmental priorities of the Region.

8. Then she opened the floor for a round of presentations by participants and from the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean team of officers.

9. At the opening session, UNEP Regional Director, and Officer in Charge (OIC) greeted the participants and invited countries to contribute actively to the deliberations of the meeting.

10. The Chairperson of the meeting proposed that the Forum Secretariat carries the report of the meeting and this was not contested.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of the agenda and schedule of meeting sessions

11. The Chairperson of the Intersessional Meeting submitted to the consideration of the participants the Provisional Agenda (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG (IS).XVII/1**) and the Provisional Annotated Agenda (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG(IS).XVII/2**) as well as the schedule of the meeting. Delegates from countries approved the proposals.

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

3.1 Options for integrating the RAP

12. The representative of Argentina referred to the document "Elements for the discussion of Agenda Item 3: Follow-up to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment Latin America and the Caribbean, Dominican Republic, 2008-Options of the integration of the Regional Action Plan (PAR), Argentina's Proposal" (**UNEP/LACIGWG(IS).XVII/4**) which has been presented as a proposal for consideration by the Intersessional Meeting and, subsequently, to take it to the next Forum of Ministers with the inputs received during the discussion.

13. She explained that in the XVI Forum of Ministers of Environment held last year in the Dominican Republic, Argentina had offered to host this meeting to discuss the RAP. For reasons beyond this meeting she apologized her country because they could not make it. She thanked UNEP for providing the means to conduct the meeting in Panama.

14. She noted that Argentina's proposal intends to start discussions to arrive at what may be a new regional strategic plan.

15. The representatives of Chile, Uruguay, Peru and Brazil supported the proposal by Argentina. Brazil also considered it a good document to discuss and refine the PAR (in terms of its objectives, functions, structure and implementation), and noted the need for a debate with the participation of all countries.

16. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago requested to devote a few minutes to peruse the proposal, since the English Speaking countries and Haiti, did not have the benefit of seeing it before.

17. For the benefit of participants, the representative of Argentina explained the structure and contents of the document.

18. The representative of Brazil took the floor to explain that the proposal proposes a methodological tool with clear goals and a single matrix that contains the objectives, the agencies involved or to get involved and the role of each stakeholder. The matrix also includes aspects of implementation. He commented that the proposal considers the UN joint programming idea for execution of regional and national programs. The proposed programming process includes 4 stages: joint planning, approval and adoption of the programme, programme implementation and monitoring, evaluation and reporting).

19. He stressed that this is an initial proposal and will only be effective if it captures all comments from all countries.

20. UNEP Regional Director OiC commented that it is important to note that UNEP Governing Council is the body that approves the overall UNEP work programme, in which 6 areas have been identified as priorities. In this regard, she said the UNEP budget for projects and activities is determined by its Governing Council. She commented that regional issues that arise within the Regional Fora as well as national priorities are promoted to be incorporated in the draft work programme.

21. The representative of Nicaragua also gave its approval to the proposal of Argentina based on two criteria: 1) it is based on country ownership and 2) he supports the proposed planning tool. It is important to aim for a regional facility that is in line with the criteria of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of Development Assistance (2005).

22. The representative of ECLAC coincided with the approach of Nicaragua, and the considerations presented by UNEP, indicating that Argentina's approach could promote the alignment of activities between the programmes adopted by countries and the agencies, wherever possible, with the decision of the Forum of Ministers under the proposed joint programming.

23. The representative of Cuba noted that in principle seems an excellent proposal but given the short time for analysis requires more time for a thorough analysis. Still he considered that there is enough time until February to see it in detail. He concurred with Nicaragua in the sense that regional priorities are considered in the next UNEP Governing Council.

24. The representative of Mexico expressed its appreciation to Argentina for the proposal. He considered that it allows for more effective regional cooperation. He

emphasized that priorities should be dictated by the countries. He said it is important to learn about the financial and programmatic capacity of the agencies. He also mentioned that the proposal includes a stage of negotiations and stressed that it is important to anticipate potential timing differences between the Regional Fora and the work programmes approved by the countries for the agencies. Finally, he proposed to establish, as a pilot, a virtual portal to address some specific issue.

25. Uruguay, proposed resuming the second day after delegates have had more time to discuss the details of the proposal. Also raised the possibility of establishing a Contact Group (CG) to further refine the proposal, this is envisaged in the proposal.

26. As a general impression, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda pointed out that the proposal is positive in general terms but it is unclear how SIDS will be involved. She said she would like to discuss how this proposal can help SIDS to achieve more co-financing for GEF projects.

27. The UNDP representative agreed with ECLAC and UNEP interventions. He noted that UNDP does not have funds that can be dedicated solely to the decisions of the Forum. In the case of UNDP, it is also important to take into consideration that programming is done nationally. In this regard, UNDP Regional Office can promote better strategic alignment between regional environmental priorities and national priorities.

28. The Chairperson of the meeting called upon having a refined proposal before the seventeenth meeting of the forum Ministers.

29. In addition, with regard to the analysis of the proposal by Argentina and, under the section Lessons Learned:

a) The representative of Barbados, on behalf of CARICOM countries suggested looking at improved mechanisms to enhance participation by Caribbean SIDS in the Working Group (WG) process. One area highlighted was improved access to translated documents.

b) Representatives of Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico and Costa Rica suggested adding the need for countries to undertake a mapping of existing initiatives that promote environmental synergies between regional and subregional forums.

30. For the purpose of understanding how to complete the matrix of the proposal by Argentina, the group carried out the exercise of filling the table with the example of environmental indicators (see Annex II). In this sense, the terms and scope of each of the columns of the matrix were refined.

31. The group also agreed to establish a Contact Group (mechanism envisaged in the proposal of Argentina) to finalize the proposal "Options for integrating RAP" to be presented for consideration by the next Forum of Ministers.

32. As a result of the discussions, countries also agreed on the terms of reference for the Contact Group:

Composition

- The following subregional composition of the Contact Group: Mesoamerica: Mexico and Costa Rica; Caribbean: St. Kitts and Nevis and the Dominican

Republic; Andean subregion: Ecuador and Peru; Southern Cone: Argentina and Brazil. Also, members of the ITC will be part of the CG.

Objectives

- Revision of the proposal made by Argentina to incorporate additional comments such as, for example, lessons learned discussed at the meeting, and any amendments to the headings of the columns of the matrix proposal, considering paragraph 5 of decision 1 adopted by the XVI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Based on the matrix agreed at the previous point, prepare a draft RAP 2010-2011 under the Joint Programming conceptual model which is explained in the proposal by Argentina to present for consideration by the Expert Meeting prior to the Forum of Ministers, who will prepare the final recommendation for submission to the Forum of Ministers.

Expected outcomes:

- Document UNEP/LAC-IGWG (IS). XVII/4 Revised
- Draft RAP 2010-2011

Means of work:

- The Contact Group will meet virtually and English will be the working language for such meetings.
- The Secretariat will circulate the list of designated focal points of the Forum of Ministers of the 33 countries of the region and those of the ITC.
- In the intersessional period, the Contact Group will communicate through email or telephone.
- The Forum Secretariat will facilitate virtual meetings (translations of documents, virtual communication tools, among others).

Timetable:

Activity	Responsible	Deadline
UNEP/LAC-IGWG (IS). XVII/4		
Comments to the document UNEP/LAC-IGWG (IS). XVII/4	All countries´ focal points and forward to the Secretariat	9 th November 2009
Consolidation of comments and distribution of the Document UNEP/LAC-IGWG(IS).XVII/4 Rev.1 to the CG	Secretariat	11 th November 2009.
CG virtual meeting to agree the final draft document UNEP/LAC-IGWG (IS). XVII/4 Revised	Countries of the CG, ITC agencies	13 th November 2009.
DRAFT RAP 2010-2011		
Compilation of inputs on the Recommendations of the Working Groups of the Forum.	Secretariat	9 th November 2009

Proposal on the RAP 2010-2011 (expected outcomes and activities) to be sent.	All countries send to the Secretariat	20 th November 2009
Compile the proposals for RAP 2010-2011 to be sent to Secretariat	CG	27 th November 2009.
CG virtual meetings	CG , ITC agencies	To be defined by the CG
Submission of Document UNEP/LAC-IGWG (IS). XVII/4 Revised and Draft RAP 2010-2011	CG to the Secretariat	8 th January 2010.

3.2 Operation of the Working Groups of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

33. The representative of UNEP explained that 4 of the 6 Working Groups are in operation (access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use, climate change, environmental education and environmental indicators). The working groups that are inactive are risk management and management of marine coastal areas and resources.

34. The Forum Secretariat made presentations of the papers on the “Report on the Meeting of the Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution in Latin American and the Caribbean” and “Conclusions and Recommendations of the V Meeting of Council of Government Experts of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Production and Consumption” (UNEP/LAC-IGNAP/4 and UNEP/LAC-IGWG (IS).XVII/Ref.5, respectively).

35. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago said her country is not part of the Working Groups because just before the respective decision of the Forum, the country had elections and their representatives could not participate in the Forum. She expressed interest to be part of several Working Groups, especially in the Climate Change one.

36. The group expressed no opposition and the representative of UNEP requested the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago the designation of focal points in the Working Groups, in order to integrate them in the current work.

37. Graciela Metternicht, Regional Coordinator of Early Warning and Assessment of UNEP gave a presentation on the Working Group on Environmental Indicators.

38. The presentation generated very positive feedback from the representatives of the countries. In particular, the representative of Costa Rica expressed his agreement with the data presented by UNEP and supported the WG continue work towards meeting next Forum of Ministers of the Environment.

39. The representative of Peru also expressed satisfaction with the results achieved by this Group. He noted that the WG has also served as a forum for exchange not only at the level of GT but among the WG members for issues related to the WG in terms of receiving feedback or information quickly based on the experiences of other countries. He also supported the WG to continue.

40. The representative of Saint Lucia expressed concern regarding the participation of the English speaking Caribbean countries and the existence and production of documents in English and dominance of the discussions in Spanish.

41. The representative of Barbados congratulated the WG. Furthermore she highlighted the importance of linking this work with that of UNDESA on the indicators on sustainable development indicators published recently. She recalled that the 25th Special Meeting of Council of Trade and Economic Development (COTED), held from 14 to 18 April 2008, agreed that CARICOM should have a common environmental policy. In this sense, the availability of environmental indicators agreed among all countries is very important. Barbados has given priority to the issue of sustainable development indicators at Government has decided to invest in strengthening its national statistical systems through, a loan from the Interamerican Development Bank (IADB) to support this effort.

42. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda joined in congratulating the WG. She noted that some indicators were not used by the apparent lack of data, but she noted that such information is actually available in her country and in other CARICOM countries. She drew attention to the opportunity that GEF projects can provide. These projects have indicators as they are formulated according to the results-based management approach. So, much information needed on indicators can be linked to GEF projects, and in this sense it is also important to focus on a core set of indicators. Also suggested to submit to the consideration of the GEF Secretariat a minimum set of indicators in the GEF projects and from which they obtain information. She said that indicators constitute a costly exercise. She commented that having 7 or 8 countries that have succeeded in making their ILAC reports can be considered success.

43. Regarding St Lucia's observation, UNEP representative explained that the meeting of the WGEI held in Costa Rica (26-28 August 2009) had two participants from St Lucia, these participants actively contributed to the discussions held for the agreement of the 31 indicators, the advancement of the discussion on the indicators being developed, and those defined as "in development". Translators were available for the St Lucia participants at that event. She stressed that UNEP is making all possible effort to hold discussions both in English and Spanish. The WGEI and UNEP will have the methodological sheets that have been agreed available in English for the next Forum of Ministers of Environment.

44. Regarding the point raised by Antigua and Barbuda, she explained that before the last meeting, the countries had a very rich exchange to agree on indicators (e.g. what does forest cover mean for each country). She agreed that it is important for countries to agree on a minimum set of common indicators. She stressed that UNEP is working closely with ECLAC that a very strong team on statistics. Efforts are also made to bring together environmental and statistics authorities.

45. Furthermore, the representative of UNEP reported that UNEP is incorporating components on capacity building in the Programme of Work 2010-2011, for example, on the issue of building information systems.

46. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda also suggested to involve university students in collecting data for indicators. UNEP representative welcomed this proposal.

47. Andrea Brusco, Coordinator of UNEP Regional Environmental Law Programme presented the results of the Working Groups on Climate Change and on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Use.

48. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago suggested that this meeting could be an excellent opportunity to reach consensus on some issues to be discussed at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

49. The representative of UNEP clarified that the Working Group meeting of this year (Panama, 21 and 22 May 2009) agreed that the Group would focus on information exchange rather than negotiations. Therefore, the Group decided not to produce a report of the meeting. She clarified that the meetings were conducted with the participation of some Caribbean countries, as a link to share the results of the discussions with other Caribbean countries, indicating that the Caribbean countries participate in the AOSIS (Alliance of Small Island States) group to carry out relevant negotiations.

50. With respect to the Working Group on Environmental Education, UNEP Regional Director OiC noted that after the separation of the Coordinator of the Environmental Training Network in the middle of last year and until a new officer was hired the work had been slowed down. She gave the word to Isabel Martinez who is currently in charge of the subject.

51. The representative of UNEP explained that 3 months contact was resumed with Brazil that is the current Coordinator of the Group. UNEP also supported the organization of the VI Latin American Congress on Environmental Education (September 2009) with participation in working sessions and the distribution of publications. It also supported Brazil in the Third Meeting of Experts on Environmental Education held in Argentina in the framework of the VI Congress to discuss the state of implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Programme of Environmental Education (PLACEA in Spanish). With respect to activities in the Caribbean, she said the UNEP is supporting the initiative of the University of the West Indies on mainstreaming of environmental education in universities in the Caribbean, both in terms of the programmatic and operations aspects.

52. The representative of Brazil explained that his country had internal institutional changes, for which they had difficulty in tracking the Working Group. This has been overcome and as a result of the meeting in Argentina, the Group coordinated by Brazil and supported by Chile and UNEP, will focus on an assessment of environmental education initiatives in the region in recent years. The Group will present a proposal at the next meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment. He also reported that the meeting agreed that Argentina will be the next Coordinator of the Working Group. Then added that Brazil is organizing the International Conference on Child and Youth - Care for the Planet, in Brasilia from 5 to 10 June 2010.

53. The Chairperson of the meeting stated that the Working Group on Management of Marine Coastal Zone and Resources, under the coordination of the Dominican Republic, was not active due to internal institutional changes, which brought as a consequence lack of follow-up and disengagement to that working group. In this regard she called for reflecting on the elements of commitment necessary for the Working Groups to function effectively in the future.

Agenda Item 4: Progress Report on the Implementation of Decisions of the XVI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers

54. UNEP representative delivered a presentation on the contents of the document UNEP/LAC-IGWG(1S).XVII/3" Progress Report on the Fulfilment of the Decisions of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (March 2008 - August 2009)" and focused on highlighting the most relevant aspects the 19 decisions adopted y the Forum of Ministers XVI to date.

55. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda congratulated the Secretariat for the report. And, regarding the point on the initiative of the "Sustainable Energy Advisory Facility" at the "Bangkok Climate Change Talks" (Bangkok, 28 September- 9 October 2009) SIDS requested that the Clean Development Mechanism gives special consideration to small projects and regional or multi-country countries and not have to make an initial fee. She stressed the importance of following up this initiative for the results thereof.

56. UNEP Regional Director OiC indicated that UNEP will follow up the initiative and provide information in the report of implementation of decisions to be submitted to the next Forum of Ministers

57. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago also congratulated UNEP for the report.

58.The representative of Barbados referred to the decision 10 on Sustainable Consumption and Production and suggested that the GEF includes this issue as one of its focal areas. She recalled that the next meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (4th Implementation Cycle: Review Session) will examine among others the 10 Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns. For this reason a group of regional consultations are needed for the following months and it will be important for Latin America and the Caribbean to promote strong inputs.

59. UNEP Regional Director OiC reported that UNEP will implement a wide range of activities on sustainable consumption and production under subprogramme 5 (Resource Efficiency) of the Work Program 2010-2011.

60. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda asked if within the Working Group on Climate Change Latin American countries are objecting to the idea of differentiating products that are traded internationally in light of their production standards.

61. The UNEP Regional Director OiC of UNEP indicated that as far as she knows, this approach has not been mentioned in the Working Group.

62. The representative of Brazil commended the Secretariat for a very constructive report. He stressed that the Forum provides a platform for joint regional environmental policies and should be kept as a forum for regional dialogue. He highlighted the fact that there is progress but that actions require to be strengthened. He noted the importance of focusing the themes of the forum and reducing the number of decisions.

63. Then the representatives of ECLAC and UNDP each made detailed presentations on the contributions of their organizations to comply with the decisions of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The reports of both agencies will be integrated into the working papers for the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

64. The representative of Cuba, requested more information on the activities on REDD discussed by the representative of ECLAC. The representative of ECLAC clarified that that this is a regional project funded by the German cooperation (GTZ) and offered to send further information.

Agenda Item 5: Report on the outcome of the 25th Session of the Governing Council/ World Ministerial Environmental Forum (Nairobi, Kenya; February 16-20, 2009)

65. The UNEP Regional Director OiC, briefly outlined the 17 decisions adopted at the last session of the UNEP Governing Council, explaining in depth the most important decisions for the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

66. Following this, she also made a presentation on UNEP's "Green Economy" initiative.

67. This presentation generated a broad discussion on the subject. In their interventions, the delegates of the countries expressed their support for the initiative.

68. The representative of Cuba reiterated the comments made by his country in other bodies, such as the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP at its headquarters in the sense that the initiative must also incorporate the issue of consumption patterns.

69. The representative of Barbados gave details of how her country aims to become the "greenest" country in the western hemisphere, and how the Government and private sectors are working together on this vision. She explained that from Barbados' perspective, the "green economy" actually includes changes in consumption patterns as it includes green procurement, a sustainable finance program, issues of trade and environment, and the involvement of society through campaigns (such as those carried out during Environment month celebrated in June every year centered around World Environment Day), among others.

70. Mexico's representative said that we need to go further to convince the ministers of economy and finance. He highlighted that studies made by ECLAC, such as those related to the costs of inaction on environmental issues, help guide the integration of the green economy in national policies. In this sense, he also

stressed the importance of having communication channels to reach decision makers on these issues.

71. The representative of Ecuador reported that his country also gives the highest importance to green economic policies. The environmental goods and services in Ecuador are reported as a contribution to the national economy.

72. He added that the UN should establish mechanisms for foreign trade, in order for the countries of the region to have the conditions to promote and integrate green economy policies without negatively affecting jobs, productive or service sectors.

73. The UNEP Regional Director OiC explained that UNEP's programme of work, allows links to issues of sustainable consumption and production, in the resource efficiency priority area, which is the area the Green Economy initiative is under.

74. The representative of ECLAC noted that an important preliminary stage to promote sustainable production measures is the analysis of life cycles.

Agenda Item 6: Other matters

75. The representative of Mexico addressed the issue of multiplicity of forums addressing these issues at regional level. He cited the Ibero American Forum of Environment Ministers, the Forum of the Americas on Sustainable Development hosted by OAS as secretariat, and the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

76. Several countries took the floor and called for ensuring synergies between these forums. They clarified that each responds to specific mandates, objectives, memberships and historical circumstances.

77. The representative of Chile stressed that the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is the main regional political forum to promote dialogue on environmental policies in the region.

78. The representative of El Salvador pointed out that there is a challenge in two directions, namely that regional considerations are integrated into global decisions and for global decisions to help strengthen or introduce environmental policies at national level.

79. The Chairperson of the Meeting emphasized that it is important to work towards what was mentioned by Brazil at the beginning, with regard to seeking mechanisms that will ensure the sustainability of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. Therefore she called upon the meeting to arrive at forums with clarity of what needs to be achieved and how it can be achieved.

80. Delegates were informed of two upcoming meetings to be held at UNEP headquarters, to discuss the drafts of the guidelines for developing national legislation on Liability (9 to 11 November) and for access to information, public participation and access to environmental justice (12 and 13 November).

81. These issues were already addressed by the Governing Council at its last meeting, which decided (Decision 25/11 on Environmental Law) to note the draft

and requested the Secretariat to continue its work for the adoption of the guidelines in the next special session of the GC. The purpose of these meetings is to finalize this work and prepare papers for consideration by the Governing Council in February 2010. UNEP invited countries to submit comments on the drafts and to participate in the meetings referred. The countries have received such an invitation by the Executive Director's note dated 29 September.

82. It was noted that these are two important issues for the legislative development of the countries of the region in environmental law. Mostly countries have national legislation on both issues, but these are complex issues of great doctrinal and jurisprudential debate, in which the guidelines could provide a framework for adjustments or legislative reforms. It is therefore important to involve the countries of the region in the process of finalizing the documents, because they can make substantive contributions to the discussions. "

7. Draft Report of the Intersessional Meeting

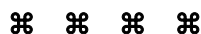
83. The draft report was circulated to the meeting, and after a few observations its final version was approved. The Secretariat of the Intersessional Meeting announced that the final version integrating the observations made, will be circulated among the participants on 22 October 2009.

8. Closure of the Intersessional Meeting

84. In the closing session of the Intersessional Meeting the Chair thanked the active participation and collaboration of the participants, given that its recommendations will provide input for the work of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment.

85. Representatives of the countries expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the work of the Chair of the meeting and considered the results served to strengthen regional cooperation for the next meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

86. The Chair thanked the hospitality of the people and Government of Panama and declared the Intersessional Meeting adjourned on Wednesday 21st October, 2009 at 16:30 hrs.



Annex I List of Participants

Delegaciones de Gobierno/Government Delegations

Antigua and Barbuda

Ms. Diann Black-Layne, Ambassador Ministry of Foreign Affairs Queen Elizabeth Highway St. John's, Antigua	Tel.: (+ 1-268) 464-6410 Fax: (+ 1-268) 462-2482 E-mail: dcblack11@yahoo.com Web Site: www.environmentdivision.info
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Argentina

Sra. María Carrizo, Consultora, Unidad de Asuntos Ambientales Internacionales Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación Reconquista 555, entrepiso Buenos Aires, Argentina	Tel.: (+ 54-11) 4348-8308 (directo) Fax: (+ 54-11) 4348-8355 C.E.: mcarrizo@ambiente.gov.ar Sitio: www.ambiente.gov.ar
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Barbados

Ms. Amrikha Singh, Environmental Officer Ministry of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage 1st. Floor, Musson Building, Hincks Street Bridgetown, Barbados	Tel.: (+ 1 246) 467-5704 (direct) Fax: (+ 1 246) 437-8859 E-mail: singha@gob.bb/amrikhas@yahoo.com
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Brazil

Sr. Rafael Jacques Rodrigues, Analista Ambiental Ministerio de Medio Ambiente Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco "B", Sala 532 Zona Cívico – Administrativa, Brasília, D.F., Brasil	Tel.: (+ 55-61) 3317-1533 Fax: (+ 55-61) 3317-1983 C.E.: rafael.rodrigues@mma.gov.br Sitio: www.mma.gov.br
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Chile

Sr. Raúl Campusano, Jefe Departamento de Asuntos Internacionales Dirección Ejecutiva Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente (CONAMA) Teatinos No. 258, piso 6 Col. Centro, Santiago, Chile	Tel.: (+ 56-2) 240-5780 Fax: (+ 56-2) 240-5620 C.E.: rcampusano@conama.cl Sitio: www.conama.cl
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Colombia

<p>Sr. Mauricio Molano Cruz, Asesor Oficina de Asuntos Internacionales Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Vivienda y Desarrollo Territorial Calle 37 No. 8-40, 4º piso Bogotá, D.C., Colombia</p>	<p>Tel.: (+ 57-1) 350-5231/40/49 Fax: (+ 57-1) 350-5240 ext 23 C.E.: mmolano@minambiente.gov.co Sitio: www.minambiente.gov.co</p>
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Costa Rica

<p>Sra. Enid Chaverri, Oficial de Cooperación Dirección General de Cooperación y Relaciones Internacionales Ministerio del Ambiente, Energía y Telecomunicaciones Calle 25, Avenida 8 y 10, Barrio Francisco Peralta Apartado Postal 10104-1000 San José, Costa Rica</p>	<p>Tel.: (+ 506) 2233-4533 ext- 165-169 Fax: (+ 506) 2257-0697 C.E.: enid.chaverri@gmail.com Sitio: www.minaet.go.cr</p>
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Cuba

<p>Sr. Enrique Moret Hernández, Director Adjunto Dirección de Cooperación Internacional Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente Industria y San José, Capitolio Nacional 12000 La Habana, Cuba</p>	<p>Tel.: (+ 53-7) 867-0606 Fax: (+ 53-7) 867-8054 C.E.: emoret@citma.cu Sitio: www.medioambiente.cu</p>
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Ecuador

<p>Sr. Guido Mosquera, Viceministro del Ambiente Ministerio del Ambiente Ave. Amazonas y Eloy Alfaro, Edificio MAGAP, piso No. 7 Quito, Ecuador</p>	<p>Tel.: (+ 593-2) 256-3485 Fax: (+ 593-2) 256-3422 C.E.: gmosquera@ambiente.gov.ec Sitio: www.ambiente.gov.ec</p>
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El Salvador

<p>Sr. Salvador Ernesto Nieto Cárcamo, Asesor del Despacho Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales Kilómetro 5 ½ Carretera a Santa Tecla, Calle y Colonia Las Mercedes, Edif. MARN San Salvador, El Salvador</p>	<p>Tel.: (+ 503) 2267-9452/30 Fax: (+ 503) 2267-9420 C.E.: snieto@marn.gob.sv Sitio: www.marn.gov.sv</p>
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Grenada

<p>Mr. Christopher Joseph, Environmental Protection Officer Ministry of the Environment, Foreign Trade and Export Development Ministerial Complex, Tanteen, St. George's, Grenada</p>	<p>Tel.: (+1-473) 415-2226 Fax: (+1-473) E-mail: krispjj@hotmail.com</p>
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Guatemala

<p>Sra. Enma L. Díaz Lara, Viceministra de Recursos Naturales Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales 20 Calle, 28-58 Zona 10 Edificio MARN Guatemala, Guatemala</p>	<p>Tel.: (+502) 2423-0507 Fax: (+502) 2360-0506 C.E.: viceministro.rnaturales@marn.gob.gt Sitio: www.marn.gob.gt</p>
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Haiti

Mr. Daniel Brisard, General Director Ministry of Environment 181, Haut de Turgeau Port-au-Prince, Haiti	Tel.: (+ 509) 3443-1890 Fax: (+ 509) E-mail.: daniel_brisard@yahoo.com
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México

Sr. Santiago Lorenzo A., Director General Adjunto Dirección General Adjunta de Acuerdos Ambientales Multilaterales Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) Lateral del Anillo Periférico Sur No. 4209 Fraccionamiento Jardines en la Montaña 14210 – México D.F., México	Tel.: (+52 55) 5628-3901 Fax: (+52 55) 5628-0694 C.E.: santiago.lorenzo@semarnat.gob.mx Sitio: www.semarnat.gob.mx
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Nicaragua

Sr. Juan Rodolfo Delgado, Asesor Presidencial para la Participación Ciudadana Coordinador Ejecutivo PNDH Edificio Secretaría de la Presidencia Avenida Bolívar, costado Sur Asamblea Nacional Managua, Nicaragua	Tel.: (+505) 2228-2017 Fax: (+505) 2228-7507 C.E.: rodolfo.delgado@appc.gob.ni
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Panamá

Sr. Jair Urriola, Asesor Legal Oficina de Asesoría Legal Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (ANAM) Albrook Edificio 804 - Balboa, Ancón Panamá, Republica de Panamá	Tel.: (+ 507) 500-0813 Fax: (+ 507) 500-0800 C.E.: jair.urriola@anam.gob.pa Sitio: www.anam.gob.pa
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Perú

Sr. César Villacorta Arévalo, Secretario General Ministerio de Ambiente Javier Prado Oeste 1440, San Isidro Lima, Perú	Tel.: (+ 51-1) 225-5370 ext. 267 Fax: (+ 51-1) 225-5369 C.E.: cvillacorta@minam.gob.pe Sitio: www.minam.gob.pe
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República Dominicana

Sra. Rosa Otero, Directora de Comercio y Ambiente Subsecretaría de Cooperación Ambiental Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales Calle Presidente González esq. Av. Tirantes Edificio La Cumbre, Ensanche Naco 10123 Santo Domingo, República Dominicana	Tel.: (+ 1-809) 567-4300 ext 238 Fax: (+ 1-809) 368-2667 C.E.: rosa.otero@medioambiente.gob.do Sitio: www.medioambiente.gov.do
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<p>Sra. Isabel Guzmán, Enlace RD-Haití Dirección de Comercio y Ambiente Subsecretaría de Cooperación Ambiental Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales Calle Presidente González esq. Av. Tirantes Edificio La Cumbre, piso 10, Ensanche Naco 10123 Santo Domingo, República Dominicana</p>	<p>Tel.: (+ 1-809) 567-4300 ext. 302 Fax: (+ 1-809) 368-2667 C.E.: isabel.guzman@medioambiente.gob.do Sitio: www.medioambiente.gov.do</p>
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St. Lucia

<p>Ms. Caroline Eugene, Sustainable Development and Environment Officer Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment Greaham Louisy, Administrative Building The Waterfront – P.O. Box 709 Castries, St. Lucia</p>	<p>Tel.: (+ 1-758) 451-8746, 468-5801 Fax: (+ 1-758) 451-9706 E-mail: caroline.eugene@gmail.com, ceugene@sde.gov.lc</p>
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St Kitts and Nevis

<p>Mr. Randolph Edmead Director Department of Physical Planning and Environment Ministry of Sustainable Development Bladen Commercial Development, Basseterre, St Kitts, and Nevis</p>	<p>Tel.: (+1-869) 465-2277/4970 Fax: (+1-869) 465-5842 E-Mail: phyplskb@sisterisles.kn, raedmead@sisterisles.kn Web Site:</p>
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Trinidad and Tobago

<p>Mrs. Juliana Johan-Boodram, Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment 44-46 South Quay Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies</p>	<p>Tel.: (+1 868) 623-4663 ext. 2009, 625-7663 Fax: (+ 1 868) 625-2793 E-mail: jjohanbo@hotmail.com, boodramj@housing.gov.tt Web site:</p>
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Uruguay

<p>Sr. Diego Pastorín, Asesor del Ministro Ministerio de Vivienda, Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente Calle Zabala No. 1432, 4to piso, entre 25 de mayo y Rincón CP 11000 Montevideo, Uruguay</p>	<p>Tel.: (+ 598 2) 917-0710/1406 Fax: (+ 598 2) 916-2719 C.E.: dpastorin@mvtoma.gub.uy Sitio: www.mvtoma.gub.uy</p>
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B. Sistema de las Naciones Unidas/United Nations System

Programas y Comisiones/Programmes and Comissions

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

<p>Mr. Nick Remple, Coordinador Area de Práctica de Energía y Medio Ambiente para América Latina y el Caribe PNUD Casa de Las Naciones Unidas, Edif. 129 Ciudad del Saber, Clayton</p>	<p>Tel.: (+507) 302-4767 Fax: (+507) 302-4549 C.E.: nick.remples@undp.org Sitio: www.regionalcentre-lac-undp.org</p>
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Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

<p>Sr. Humberto Soto de la Rosa, Oficial de Asuntos Ambientales División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe Av. Dag Hammarskjöld 3477, N-24, Vitacura Casilla 179-D, Santiago, Chile Santiago, Chile</p>	<p>Tel.: (+ 56-2) 210-2368 Fax: (+ 56-2) 208-0252, 208-0484 C.E.: humberto.soto@cepal.org Sitio: www.eclac.org</p>
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C. Organismos Intergubernamentales Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)

<p>Sr. Rodrigo Coloane, Especialista en Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo Avenida Samuel Lewis, Obarrio, Torre HSBC, Piso 14 Panama, Rep. de Panamá</p>	<p>Tel.: (+507) 206-0911 Fax: (507) 206-0900 C.E.: rodrigoc@iadb.org Sitio: www.iadb.org</p>
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D. Secretaría del Foro/Sekretariat of the Forum

<p>Sra. Mara Murillo, Oficial a Cargo y Directora Regional Adjunta Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe</p>	<p>Tel.: (+507) 305-3135 Fax: (+507) 305-3105</p>
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Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber Clayton, Panamá	C.E.: mara.murillo@unep.org Sitio: www.pnuma.org
Sra. Graciela Metternicht, Coordinadora Division de Alerta Temprana Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber Clayton, Panamá	Tel.: (+507) 305-3150 Fax: (+507) 305-3105 C.E.: graciela.metternicht@unep.org Sitio: www.pnuma.org
Sra. Mirian Vega, Coordinadora Regional de las Redes de Acción por el Ozono de America y el Caribe Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber Clayton, Panamá	Tel.: (+507) 305-3158 Fax: (+507) 305-3105 C.E.: mirian.vega@unep.org Sitio: www.pnuma.org
Sra. Andrea Brusco, Oficial Jurídico División de Derecho y Convenciones Ambientales Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber Clayton, Panamá	Tel.: (+507) 305-3138 Fax: (+507) 305-3105 C.E.: andrea.brusco@unep.org Sitio: www.pnuma.org
Sra. Jacqueline Alvarez, Coordinadora de Químicos Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber Clayton, Panamá	Tel.: (+507) 305-3109 Fax: (+507) 305-3105 C.E.: jacqueline.alvarez@unep.org Sitio: www.pnuma.org
Sr. Alex Pires, Punto Focal -Biodiversidad Acuerdos Multilaterales sobre Medio Ambiente (MEA) Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber Clayton, Panamá	Tel.: (+507) 305-3119 Fax: (+507) 305-3105 C.E.: alex.pires@unep.org Sitio: www.pnuma.org
Sra. Isabel Martinez, Oficial de Programa Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber Clayton, Panamá	Tel.: (+507) 305-3139 Fax: (+507) 305-3105 C.E.: isabel.martinez@unep.org Sitio: www.pnuma.org
Sra. Maria Eugenia Recio, Consultora Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber Clayton, Panamá	Tel.: (+507) 305-3173 Fax: (+507) 305-3105 C.E.: isabel.martinez@unep.org Sitio: www.pnuma.org
Sra. Shaherah Cumberbatch, Asistente de Reportes Dirección Regional Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber Clayton, PanamaP	Tel.: (+507) 305-3144 Fax: (+507) 305-3105 C.E.: shaherah.cumberbatch@unep.org Sitio: www.pnuma.org
Sra. Vilma Aguina, Asistente Personal Dirección Regional Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber Clayton, Panama	Tel.: (+507) 305-3135 Fax: (+507) 305-3105 C.E.: vilma.aguina@unep.org Sitio: www.pnuma.org

Annex II
INDICATIVE EXAMPLE FOR FILLING OUT THE MATRIX
ILAC Joint Programme Matrix

ILAC Area/Priorities	Expected Outcome	Key Activities/annual goals	Schedule				Responsible Party	Estimated Budget/Funding Source
Institutional Aspects/Environmental Indicators	Adequate knowledge on work on Environmental Indicators	Publication of document	30	11			Country 1, country 2, country, 3 y agency 1, agency 2.	\$\$\$\$\$
		Website with indicators		04	02		Country 1, country 2, country, 3 y agency 1, agency 2....	\$\$\$\$\$
		Workshop			20	03	Country 1, country 2, country, 3 y agency 1, agency 2....	\$\$\$\$\$
AREA 2	Product 1							